Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2013

Jim Willis, Executive Secretary

Outline

- Background and mandate
- Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the COPs from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva
- Bureaux meetings
- Benefits
- Initial planning
- Organization of work
- Possible schedule of the meeting
- Effective participation by delegates
- Preparations for Permanent Missions
Background

• First ExCOPs were held from 22 to 24 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia
  – Omnibus decisions were adopted

Mandate

• BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27 asked for:
  – Holding 2013 COPs in a coordinated manner
  – Holding ExCOPs in 2013, back-to-back and at the same venue as the last ordinary meeting of the COPs
  – Provided main focus of ExCOPs agenda

Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the COPs from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland

• Proposal developed by the Executive Secretary
  – Discussed by the Presidents of the 3 COPs
  – Reviewed and approved by the three bureaux, in consultation with parties in their regions

• Thought starter developed on a possible approach for the organization of work during the two-week period

• Both documents available on Synergies website (http://synergies.pops.int)
Bureaux meetings

- Presidents’ Joint Meeting: 9 May 2012 (Geneva)
- Stockholm Convention COP Bureau:
  - Meeting from 10-11 May 2012 (Geneva)
- Rotterdam Convention COP Bureau:
  - Teleconference on 23 May 2012
  - Meeting from 13-14 September 2012 (Rome)
- Basel Convention COP Expanded Bureau:
  - Teleconference on 28 June 2012
  - Meeting from 12-13 November 2012 (Geneva)
- Joint Bureaux meeting: 13-14 December 2012 (Geneva)

Benefits

- Consider whole of the work ongoing under the conventions
- Ensure effective and coherent decision-making on policy, technical and budget matters
- Cross-fertilization of ideas
- COPs to identify best practices for implementing the conventions that could benefit all three conventions
- Collectively consider approaches for financing implementation and technical assistance
- Collectively decide on reallocation of administrative savings from 2012-2013 biennium (total estimated to be USD $2.7-3.0 million)
Benefits (cont.)

- Collective stock-taking for the review of the synergies process
- Help identify new areas where synergies can be achieved
- Increased visibility and awareness of conventions
- Administrative cost savings (USD $1.2 – 1.5 million) resulting from reduction in conference service costs and staff time

Initial planning

- COPs and ExCOPs to meet from 28 April-10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland
- ExCOPs to convene morning of first day and on the last day and cover topics agreed on the ExCOPs agenda (as per 2011 synergies decisions) – next slide
- Ordinary COPs could meet sequentially (or as otherwise decided) and cover specific items within the mandate of that COP
- ExCOPs can decide to establish contact group(s) (e.g. budget, synergies) that could meet during full 2-weeks
- Bureaux meets each morning during the ExCOPs/COPs to agree on the order of business for the day
Main focus of agenda of the ExCOPs

- As per paragraph 18 of decisions BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27
  - Review of arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions
  - Proposal for the organization of the secretariats
  - Draft proposals for joint activities for 2014–2015
  - Budget for joint activities and possible necessary amendments to the budget of the three conventions for the biennium 2014–2015
  - Outcome of the UNEP Executive Director’s consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
  - Other matters related to cooperation and coordination between the conventions that the ordinary COPs may wish to place on the ExCOPs agenda

Organization of work

- Regional, bureaux and other preparatory meetings on 27 April
- Possibility of high-level segment if decided by the bureaux at joint bureaux meeting
- The precise organization of work of the meetings will be determined by the bureaux
- A detailed meeting schedule will be made available after the joint bureaux meeting to be held on 12-14 December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland
### Possible schedule of the meeting (as per thought starter)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Mon 29 April</th>
<th>Tue 30 April</th>
<th>Wed 1 May</th>
<th>Thu 2 May</th>
<th>Fri 3 May</th>
<th>Sat 4 May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning session 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.: ExCOPs</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>RC</td>
<td>RC</td>
<td>RC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon session 3 – 6 p.m.:</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>RC</td>
<td>RC</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Mon 6 May</th>
<th>Tue 7 May</th>
<th>Wed 8 May</th>
<th>Thu 9 May</th>
<th>Fri 10 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>No meetings</td>
<td>RC</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon session 3 – 6 p.m.:</td>
<td>No meetings</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Effective participation by delegates

- Funding for one participant per Convention for which an eligible country is party (i.e., up to 3 participants)
  - Some donors have already provided funding for participants travel
- Scheduling of all meetings must be clear, logical and easy to plan and cover for delegations
  - Daily order of business posted every morning on the intranet site and communicated in regional groups meetings
Effective participation by delegates (cont.)

- Limited number of contact groups running in parallel
- Reduced number and length of meeting documents
- IT infrastructure (paperless meeting) and social media to facilitate communication among delegates
- Credentials for all meetings can be presented in one document

Preparations for Permanent Missions

- Communicate with constituencies about 2013 COPs
- Support high level participation, if agreed by bureaux
- Support regional and interministerial coordination
- Invitation letters will be sent end of December 2012
- Documents will be available in December – February (target is 90+ days in advance for substantive documents)
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