



Basel Convention Coordinating Centre
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre

URUGUAY



Ministerio de Vivienda
Ordenamiento Territorial
y Medio Ambiente

MVOTMA

International Conventions

Regional Training in Hazardous Waste
September 30 – October 2, 2014
San José, Costa Rica



RED de CENTROS

Convenio de Basilea
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Basel Convention
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Conventions on Waste

- In recent years, trade in chemicals and waste has been growing exponentially. This poses risks associated with their transport, management and final disposal.
- Growing concerns among governments and the general public.
- In view of this problem, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has given a special treatment to chemical substances and hazardous waste.

Conventions on Waste

- Within this framework, there are 4 multilateral agreements, 3 of them in force, that establish global measures to protect human health and the environment, considering different aspects of the life cycle of chemical products and waste.
- These agreements are:
 - **Basel Convention:** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
 - **Rotterdam Convention:** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
 - **Stockholm Convention:** on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
 - **Minamata Convention:** on Mercury (not in force).

Basel Convention

- It deals with the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. It was adopted in Basel, Switzerland, in 1989 and entered into force on May 5, 1992.
- Its main objective is to achieve an environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other wastes.

Basel Convention

- **Specific objectives:**

- Reduce to a minimum the generation of waste, both in terms of quantity and hazard potential, taking into account social, technical and economic aspects.
- Treat and dispose of hazardous waste and other waste as close as possible to their place of generation.
- Ensure the availability of adequate disposal facilities, whatever the place of disposal.
- Protect people involved in waste management and ensure that the necessary steps are taken to prevent pollution from such management.
- Reduce the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and other wastes consistent with their environmentally sound and efficient management.
- Control the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, monitor and prevent illegal traffic.

Basel Convention

- Wide scope: the Convention contains a series of lists allowing countries to classify wastes based on their hazardous characteristics, also including specific lists of wastes that fall within their scope of application.
- Countries that are Parties to the Convention to date (2014): 181.
- <http://www.basel.int/>

Basel Convention

- **The Ban Amendment**

- The Ban Amendment provides for the prohibition by each Party included in the proposed new Annex VII (Parties and other States which are members of the OECD, EC, Liechtenstein) of all transboundary movements to States not included in Annex VII of hazardous wastes covered by the Convention that are intended for final disposal, and of all transboundary movements to States not included in Annex VII of hazardous wastes covered by paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1 of the Convention that are destined for reuse, recycling or recovery operations.
- The Ban Amendment was originally adopted as a decision of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in March 1994. At that time, some felt that the Ban Amendment was a way to address challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in controlling imports of hazardous and other wastes they were unable to manage in an environmentally sound manner but continued to receive.
- At present, non-OECD countries continue to receive waste.

Basel Convention

- **The Ban Amendment**

- Parties agreed that Parties listed in Annex VII (members of OECD, EU, Liechtenstein) prohibit immediately all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes which are destined for final disposal operations from OECD to non-OECD States. In the same decision, it was agreed that such “Annex VII Parties” phase out by 31 December 1997, and prohibit as of that date, all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes destined for recovery or recycling operations from OECD to non-OECD States (Decision II/12). At the next meeting (COP-3) in 1995, Parties adopted a further decision III/1 as an amendment to the Convention (the “Ban Amendment”).
- For some years after, there were differing views among Parties about the interpretation of the provision on amendments to the Convention, with many considering it to be ambiguous. After several meetings without agreement in this regard, the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties issued a Statement on the possible way forward on the Ban Amendment. In this statement, the President called on Parties to create enabling conditions, through among other measures, country-led initiatives conducive to the attainment of the objectives of the Amendment. Based on the statement of the President of COP 9, Indonesia and Switzerland announced their readiness to organize a “Country-led Initiative” (CLI).

Basel Convention

- **The Ban Amendment**

- At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision BC-10/3 on the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention. Section A of this decision addresses the entry into force of the Ban Amendment and agreed an interpretation of Article 17(5) of the Basel Convention on amendments to the Convention. This was an important step in the development of the Convention that then led to follow up to the Country-led initiative being adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- The Secretariat provides assistance to Parties that are facing difficulties in ratifying the Ban Amendment, on request and within available resources. This includes provision of information and documentation to relevant stakeholders and decision makers; the provision of legal and practical advice; organization of electronic and face to face activities (workshops and webinars); and facilitation of exchange of information and experiences between Parties.
- Number of ratifications of the Ban Amendment to date: 80.

Basel Convention

- **The Ban Amendment**

- Not yet in force. According to the CLI: “Instruments of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance of amendments shall be deposited with the Depositary. Amendments adopted in accordance with paragraphs 3 or 4 [of article 17 of the Convention] shall enter into force between Parties having accepted them (in the date when the amendment was approved (1995), i.e. 68 of the 90 countries that were members in 1995), on the ninetieth day after the receipt by the Depositary of their instrument of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance by at least three-fourths of the Parties who accepted them or by at least two thirds of the Parties to the protocol concerned who accepted them.
- The amendments shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after that Party deposits its instrument of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or acceptance of the amendments”.
- <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/BanAmendment/tabid/1484/Default.aspx>

Rotterdam Convention

- It refers to the prior informed consent procedure, applicable to certain pesticides and hazardous chemicals, in international trade. It resulted from a voluntary information exchange programme in the 1980s.
- It entered into force on February 24, 2004, and has been ratified by 154 countries to date.
- The objective is to promote shared responsibility among exporting and importing countries regarding chemicals management. In addition to the notifications from exporters to importers during trade and the dissemination of regulatory actions taken by countries regarding products, it particularly seeks to facilitate the exchange of precise information on the characteristics of chemicals. It currently covers 28 pesticides, 4 severely hazardous pesticide formulations and 11 industrial chemicals, although this list is expected to grow.
- <http://www.pic.int>

Stockholm Convention

- It entered into force on May 2004 and its goal is to reduce and, if possible, completely eliminate Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) over time. It started with the so-called dirty dozen and now covers 22 compounds, 15 pesticides, 7 industrial chemicals and 5 unintentionally generated chemicals or families of chemicals, i.e. of no commercial use but formed in combustion processes and certain industrial processes.
- POPs are a group of substances or families of substances that when combined present the characteristics of toxicity, persistence, bio-accumulation, bio-magnification and potential for long-range transport from the sources of their release or use.

Stockholm Convention

- **Toxicity:** Capacity of a substance or compound to cause adverse effects on a living organism. It is assessed based on the magnitude and types of effects, the required doses to cause such effects, and the route and time of exposure.
- **Persistence:** Persistent to chemical or biological degradation, allowing substances to be present in the environment for long periods. The criteria used in the Convention are: half-life in water greater than 2 months or half-life in soil or sediment greater than 6 months.
- **Bioaccumulation:** Capacity of a substance or compound to concentrate in the tissue of living organisms. It is estimated based on the Octanol-Water Partition Coefficient (K_{ow}) or quantified based on the bioaccumulation (BAF) or bioconcentration (BCF) factors. The criteria used in the Convention are: BAF/BCF in aquatic species greater than 5,000 or $\log K_{ow}$ greater than 5.

Stockholm Convention

- **Long-range transport:** Grasshopper effect; capacity of a substance to be transported, via air, water or migratory species, to locations distant from where it was used or released. The criteria used in the Convention are: half-life in air greater than 2 days or if the substance is detected in locations distant from the source of its release or use.

Stockholm Convention

- List:

- **Annex A (Elimination)**

- Aldrin, Chlordane, Chlordecone, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexabromobiphenyl, Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenyl ether, Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, Beta hexachlorocyclohexane, Lindane, Mirex, Pentachlorobenzene, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), Endosulfan and its isomers, Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether, Toxaphene.

- **Annex B (Restriction)**

- DDT, Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and Perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride.

- **Annex C (Unintentional production)**

- Dioxins, Furans, Hexachlorobenzene, Pentachlorobenzene, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

---- Pesticide ---- Industrial and pesticide

---- Industrial ---- Unintentional generation

Stockholm Convention

- In order to ensure that stockpiles and wastes are managed in a manner protective of human health and the environment, each Party shall:
 1. Develop strategies for identifying stockpiles of products and wastes.
 2. Take appropriate measures so that wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, are:
 - Handled, collected, transported and stored in an environmentally sound manner.
 - Disposed of in such a way that the POP content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed, or otherwise disposed of in an environmentally sound manner when the POP content is low.
 - Not permitted to be subjected to disposal operations that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses.
 - Exported according to international regulations.

Stockholm Convention

- One of the main activities carried out by countries under this Convention is the development of National Implementation Plans (NIPs), aimed at ensuring compliance with the obligations under the Convention, particularly to improve the management of chemical substances and products through prevention and control over their whole life cycle. These plans adopt an inter-institutional, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach. They provide for local capacity building, the strengthening of institutions related to POPs, as well as the development of mechanisms to facilitate national coordination and integration in terms of management and control within the framework of sustainable development.
- Due to the inclusion of the new POPs, NIPs are being updated to include the new compounds.
- <http://chm.pops.int>

Synergies among the Conventions

- These three Conventions have much in common (chemical products and wastes that make up the lists of each one), but they refer to different stages of the life cycle of products. To enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, their respective conferences of the Parties have taken a series of decisions (2008), which has led to the “synergies process”. This process aims to strengthen the implementation of the three Conventions at the national, regional and global levels by providing coherent policy guidance, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties to the Conventions, reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, while maintaining the legal autonomy of these three multilateral environmental agreements. This unique approach is a successful example to other parts of the global environmental agenda and demonstrates how to enhance international environmental governance through coordination and cooperation.
- <http://synergies.pops.int/>

Minamata Convention

- The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. It was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5) in Geneva, Switzerland at 7 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, 19 January 2013.
- The major highlights of the Minamata Convention on Mercury include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, control measures on air emissions, and the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining.
- The Convention draws attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday objects and is released to the atmosphere, soil and water from a variety of sources. Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its life cycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention.
- It is not yet in force. It has been ratified by 6 countries (USA, Gabon, Guyana, Monaco, Republic of Djibouti and Uruguay). There are 121 signatory countries.
- <http://www.mercuryconvention.org>



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Thank you!

Gabriela Medina

<http://www.ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy/es>



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