



**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Seventeenth meeting**

Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

Item 4 (b) (v) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
scientific and technical matters: further consideration of
plastic waste**

Further consideration of plastic waste

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note provides information on the implementation of the mandates established by decision [BC-16/11](#), on further consideration of plastic waste, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at its sixteenth meeting.

II. Implementation

2. Following the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, comments submitted by Parties and observers on the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics¹ and on the compilation of inputs from Parties at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on possible future activities² were made available on the website of the Convention.³

3. Taking those comments into consideration, the Secretariat prepared a document on further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste, as well as in the consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14. The document⁴ was submitted for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention at its fourteenth meeting.

* UNEP/CHW.17/1.

¹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18.

² UNEP/CHW.16/INF/62.

³ www.basel.int/tabid/9788.

⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/INF/15, annex I.

4. At its fourteenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group considered further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in relation to plastic waste, as set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/INF/15/Rev.1.
5. In decision OEWG-14/9, on further consideration of plastic waste, the Open-ended Working Group invited Parties and observers to submit comments on the further activities outlined in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/INF/15/Rev.1 to the Secretariat by 31 December 2024, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The submissions were compiled and made available on the website of the Convention.⁵
6. In the light of those comments, the Secretariat has prepared a revised document, set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.17/INF/18, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.
7. Furthermore, in response to paragraph 5 of decision OEWG-14/9, and thanks to generous financial support received from the European Union, the Governments of France, Germany and Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, the Secretariat has carried out technical assistance activities to support developing-country Parties and other Parties in need of assistance with the use of the adopted technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes.⁶
8. Further information on technical assistance activities related to plastic waste can be found in document UNEP/CHW.17/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/15, on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and in document UNEP/CHW.17/18 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.
9. Information about the Secretariat's cooperation with the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, can be found in document UNEP/CHW.17/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/24, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations. Information on the matter submitted by the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee is available in document UNEP/CHW.17/INF/62–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/51.

III. Proposed action

10. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste, as well as those considered by the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;⁷
2. *Decides* to undertake the following activities: [to be inserted];⁸
3. *Also decides* to include, in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for 2026–2027, under topic II D on further consideration of plastic waste, the consideration of possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and in response to health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics.

⁵ www.basel.int/tabid/10105.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

⁷ UNEP/CHW.17/INF/18.

⁸ This is a placeholder for activities that the Conference of the Parties may decide to undertake, taking into account the potential activities outlined in document UNEP/CHW.17/INF/18.