



**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade**

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**Compliance Committee for the Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Second meeting**

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Item 5 (f) of the agenda

**Review of systemic issues of general compliance:
information submission**

**Information submission: Outcomes of questionnaires circulated
by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting
Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention on the
Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and
their Disposal**

Note by the Secretariat

As mentioned in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CC.2/9/Rev.1, annex I to the present note sets out a report on the extent to which Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework¹, and annex II to the present note contains an extract of the report of the face-to-face sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal related to integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The present note, including its annexes, has not been formally edited.

¹ UNEP/CHW/CC.16/3/Add.3.

Annex

Report on the extent to which Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework

Table of contents

I.	Introduction.....	4
II.	Methodology	4
III.	Analysis	6
	A. Introductory comments.....	6
	B. Parties' involvement in the Cooperation Framework processes	6
	C. Integration of the national reporting requirements under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework	7
	D. Resident coordinators and members to the UN Country Teams' awareness of the Basel Convention.....	8
	E. Best practices and challenges in effective integration of actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework	9
IV.	Conclusion and recommendations.....	11
	A. Conclusions	11
	B. Recommendations	12
	Appendix I.....	13
	Appendix II.....	14
	Appendix III	17

I. Introduction

1. By decision BC-15/17, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the work programme of the Committee administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (Committee) for the biennium 2022–2023, whereby it requested the Committee to undertake a number of activities aimed at improving timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention. Among the mandated activities was: in cooperation, as appropriate, with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, monitor United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) processes with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework, identifying best practices and, on the basis of the assessment, developing recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The activity builds on earlier work by the Committee aimed at improving the transmission of national reports, based on the assumption that the implementation of this obligation will be facilitated if it is embedded in Parties' Cooperation Framework. Moreover, if implementation is promoted, this will in turn help Parties demonstrate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. This activity was considered by the Committee during its fifteenth meeting (14–17 November 2022), including in a joint session with the first meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for the International Trade of certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.¹
4. By decision BC-16/13, the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2024–2025, whereby it requested the Committee to continue its work in monitoring Cooperation Framework processes.
5. Cooperation Frameworks are the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the United Nations development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). Reporting under the Basel Convention explicitly falls within the scope of SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Target 12.4 for that goal stipulates: “By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.” Two indicators are associated with that target. The first is indicator 12.4.1 which provides as follows: “Number of Parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement”. Appendix I to the present report sets out a snapshot of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.
6. The present report was prepared thanks to a generous financial contribution from the government of Japan.

II. Methodology

7. Two draft questionnaires were prepared by the Secretariat with the help of a consultant to collect information from Parties, resident coordinators (RC) and relevant members of United Nations country teams (UNCT) with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address those needs in their Cooperation Frameworks, and to identify best practices. During its fifteenth meeting (14–18 November 2022), the Committee finalized the questionnaires.
8. One questionnaire was developed for Parties, as set out in appendix II to the present report, and the second questionnaire was developed for RCs and UNCTs, as set out in appendix III to the present report. In the questionnaires, Parties, RCs and UNCTs were invited to provide information with respect to their experience with cooperation framework processes and national reporting under Basel Convention.

¹ See paragraphs 27 to 39 of the report of the fifteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (document UNEP/CHW/CC.15/9), available at: <https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ImplementationComplianceCommittee/Meetings/ICC15/MeetingDocuments/tabid/9263/Default.aspx>.

9. The questionnaires were made available on 5 April 2023 to all 190 Parties, as well as to 150 RCs with copy to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) representative on the UNCT and to the Basel Convention Focal Point of the relevant Party, with an invitation to submit responses by 30 June 2023. Responses received are available on the website of the Convention.²

10. 39 Parties responded to the questionnaire intended for Parties. From the African Group, 10 Parties replied:

- (a) Benin;
- (b) Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- (c) Equatorial Guinea;
- (d) Ethiopia;
- (e) Guinea;
- (f) Libya;
- (g) Madagascar;
- (h) Mali;
- (i) Niger;
- (j) South Africa.

From the Asia and the Pacific Group, nine Parties replied:

- (a) Japan;
- (b) Kuwait;
- (c) Marshall Islands;
- (d) Myanmar;
- (e) Philippines;
- (f) Qatar;
- (g) State of Palestine;
- (h) The United Arab Emirates;
- (i) Yemen.

From the Eastern European Group, seven Parties replied:

- (a) Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (b) Estonia;
- (c) Georgia;
- (d) Hungary;
- (e) Montenegro;
- (f) Romania;
- (g) Russian Federation.

From the Latin American and Caribbean Group, eight Parties replied:

- (a) Argentina;
- (b) Barbados;
- (c) Costa Rica;
- (d) El Salvador;
- (e) Honduras;

2

<https://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/Compliance/GeneralIssuesActivities/Activities202223/NationAlreporting/tabid/9487/Default.aspx>.

- (f) Mexico;
- (g) Panama;
- (h) Peru.

From the Western European and Others Group, five Parties replied:

- (a) Belgium;
- (b) Denmark;
- (c) Lichtenstein;
- (d) Luxembourg;
- (e) Sweden.

11. In total, as of 25 July 2023, 53 responses were received to the questionnaire intended for RCs and UNCTs:

(a) 30 RCs from the following countries replied: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iraq, Lao, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, State of Palestine, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Yemen, Zambia;

(b) 12 representatives from the following entities in UNCTs replied: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe), FAO (Guatemala), International Labor Organization (ILO) (Nepal), International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Senegal), UN-Habitat (Saudi-Arabia), World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) (Senegal), UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Mali), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (Nepal), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO) (Mali), World Bank (Jamaica);

(c) In addition, the following 11 Parties replied to the questionnaire intended for RCs and UNCTs: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Georgia, Guinea, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Yemen.

III. Analysis

A. Introductory comments

12. This section contains an analysis of the answers to the two questionnaires addressed to Parties, and to the RCs and UNCTs. In the present report, any reference to "Parties" means the Parties that answered the questionnaire intended for Parties, and any reference to "resident coordinators and relevant members of the UN country teams" (RCs and UNCTs) means the RCs and UNCTs that answered the questionnaire intended for them.

13. The responses from the five Parties that replied only to the questionnaire intended for RCs and UNCTs (Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Mozambique, Rwanda) have been reflected under the best practices and challenges in effective integration of actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework. With regards to the six Parties that responded to both questionnaires (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Guinea, Libya, Niger, Yemen), only the responses to the questionnaire intended for Parties were considered in this report.

B. Parties' involvement in the Cooperation Framework processes

14. Slightly less than half of the Parties that replied to the questionnaire (21 out of 39) were aware of the Cooperation Framework and confirmed their involvement in the development and/or the implementation of the Cooperation Framework in their country.³ The other half of the respondents had no knowledge about the Cooperation Framework and they were not involved in the Cooperation Framework processes.

³ Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, Myanmar, Philippines, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Russian Federation, Argentina, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Denmark, Lichtenstein, Sweden.

15. Fifteen Parties who responded that they are involved in the development and/or implementation of the Cooperation Framework also specified through what structure/mechanism they are involved. Most of the respondents (13) described that they are responsible for the implementation of the Basel Convention and/or the implementation of the waste policy, or listed the organizations in their country who are involved in the Cooperation Framework.

16. Two Parties (Mali and Myanmar) further explained the Cooperation Framework in their countries. In Mali the results of the Cooperation Framework are aligned with the national priorities formulated in the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD) and contribute to the achievement of several of the 77 Sustainable Development's Goal (SDG) targets prioritized by Mali.

17. Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan has three pillars and delivers the strategy, providing an overall framework for coordination and cooperation across all Ministries, and all states and regions. As Focal Point and Competent Authority of the Basel Convention, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been involved in the implementation of Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan goal 5: Natural resources and the environment for posterity of the nation, under Pillar 3: People and Planet.

18. Almost all Parties (18) that responded that they are not engaged in the Cooperation Framework processes explained that either other entities in their country are responsible for these processes or that they are not aware of the processes. One Party (Belgium) explained that it is not involved in Cooperation Framework processes, however it has developed a national SDG report.

19. Most of the Parties (33) are aware that the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 12.4.1.

C. Integration of the national reporting requirements under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework

20. Half of the Parties that answered that they were not aware of the Cooperation Framework were not in the position to answer whether the Cooperation Framework is ongoing, finished or has not started yet. Seven Parties replied that the Cooperation Framework has been completed⁴ and 15 Cooperation Frameworks have not started yet or are still ongoing⁵ (Figure 1).

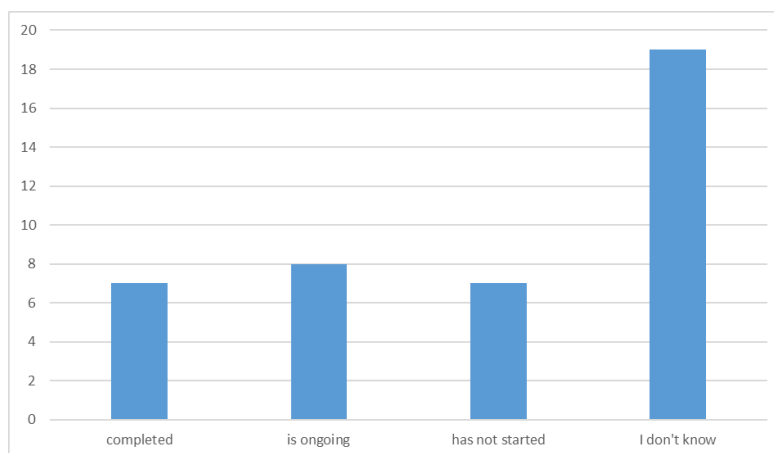


Figure 1. The status of the development of the Cooperation Framework

21. A majority of the Parties (25) confirmed that they and their government, including those entities involved in the development of the Cooperation Framework, are aware that the Conference of the Parties has, in its decision BC-15/17, called on "Parties, in particular Parties with reporting needs identified through the classification of compliance performance undertaken by the Committee with respect to national reporting for the years 2016 and 2017, to integrate actions to address their needs with respect to the implementation of the Convention into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework), in particular during the national development planning process, the agreement of

⁴ Benin, Myanmar, Philippines, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Russian Federation, El Salvador.

⁵ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, Qatar, State of Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Argentina, Honduras, Mexico, Sweden.

Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs and the drafting of the Cooperation Framework document”.

22. Two Parties (Guinea and Russian Federation) out of 39 replied that they have not transmitted complete national reports under the Basel Convention for 2018 and 2019 and that there have been actions with respect to the transmission of national reports included in the Cooperation Framework. 11 Parties responded that there have not been any actions with respect to the transmission of national reports included in the Cooperation Framework (Figure 2.) Since most of the Parties (33) replied that they had submitted complete national reports for 2018 and 2019, they did not need to answer whether actions related to national reporting were included in the Cooperation Framework.

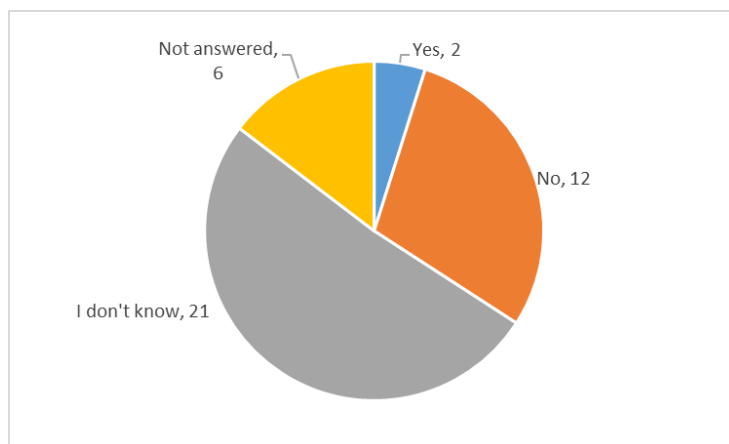


Figure 2. Answers to the question: “If your country has not transmitted complete national reports under the Basel Convention on time for 2018 and 2019, are there any actions with respect to the transmission of national reports included in the Cooperation Framework?”

23. Guinea added that actions that could concern the elaboration of the national report are the following:

- (a) Identification of structures producing hazardous waste;
- (b) Inventory of hazardous waste;
- (c) Definition of a concept and program for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste, in compliance with the Basel Convention;
- (d) Prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic;
- (e) Awareness-raising and training of agents involved in hazardous waste management.

24. Nine Parties responded that there were other actions that were not directly related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention, but were supportive thereof, included in the Cooperation Framework. The other actions were the development of inventories of hazardous waste, waste statistics and databases, national legislation and workshops.

25. The majority of the Parties (25) did not experience difficulties in integrating the actions related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework. Ten Parties replied that there were difficulties, however based on the further elaboration of their feedback, it seems that these difficulties pertain to the development of national reports rather than to the integration of the national reporting requirements into the Cooperation Framework. The difficulties Parties indicated were lack of statistics on waste generation and management, lack of legislation and lack of funding.

D. Resident coordinators and members to the UN Country Teams’ awareness of the Basel Convention

26. The overall awareness of the Basel Convention and the requirement for the Parties to submit national reports among RCs and UNCTs is rather high. The majority of respondents (36 out of 53) were familiar with the Basel Convention and two-thirds of respondents were also familiar with the requirement for Parties to the Basel Convention to transmit an annual national report pursuant to paragraph 3 Article 13 of the Basel Convention.

27. Most of the respondents (26) were also aware that the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention, in its decision BC-15/17, invited the UNEP and other entities with a mandate to support

Parties in the implementation of the Basel Convention, such as the FAO, the Global Environment Facility, including in the context of relevant activities funded under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, to work in partnership with respect to supporting Parties with national reporting needs and to liaise with the appropriate RCs and UNCTs with a view to integrating action to address those needs into the Cooperation Frameworks of those Parties.

28. 24 respondents were aware that the transmission of annual national reports under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the SDG indicator 12.4.1.

29. While the awareness of the Basel Convention and the requirement of national reporting is relatively high, the support to Parties is rather modest. Only three⁶ respondents acknowledged that the country has sought support from them with respect to the inclusion of actions related to the national reporting obligation under the Basel Convention within the Cooperation Framework. Five respondents⁷ indicated they have themselves suggested to the country to integrate the provisions related to the transmission of national reports into its Cooperation Framework.

30. The three respondents mentioned above also elaborated on their support to the countries with respect to the inclusion of actions related to the national reporting obligation under the Basel Convention within the Cooperation Framework. However, the actions described do not appear to be directly related to the inclusion of national reporting into the Cooperation Framework. The actions were: a project related to POPs waste, training of government officers and other stakeholders with a focus on country reporting systems, and improving the reporting mechanism.

31. The situation is more encouraging regarding the support with respect to the inclusion of other actions not directly related to but supportive of the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention. Nine RCs and UNCTs answered that countries have sought such support.⁸ The other actions not directly related to but supportive of the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention were the development of inventories of POPs waste, support with addressing illegal traffic of waste, the disposal of obsolete pesticides, and the development of national legislation.

32. Most of the RCs and UNCTs (37) were not aware of any difficulties by the country or other countries in integrating the actions related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention into national Cooperation Frameworks. Only three respondents indicated some difficulties, namely the overall political situation in one country and limited national capacities in two countries.

E. Best practices and challenges in effective integration of actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework

1. Views from Parties

33. Parties were asked to share any good example of the integration of national reporting under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework. The majority of Parties (23) did not answer the question. Parties who shared their views mainly described their national legislation, data collection and good examples of cooperation between different entities. Most of the answers do not appear to directly address the integration of national reporting in the Cooperation Framework.

34. One of the challenges that was brought forward was that there is a tendency to limit environmental problems to climate change.

35. Mali suggested setting up and establishing a framework for dialogue and consultation between the Basel Convention focal point and the players responsible for implementing the Cooperation Framework.

36. Myanmar replied that national reporting under the Basel Convention is already integrated in its Sustainable Development Plan.

37. Qatar responded that an internal annual report similar to the national report is developed, which involves different public and private entities, to track its commitment towards SDGs including

⁶ RC in Lao, RC in Zambia and WHO in Mali.

⁷ RCs in Cambodia, Djibouti, Lao, Lebanon and WHO in Mali.

⁸ RCs to Algeria, Cambodia, Djibouti, Lesotho, Mauritius, Zambia, FAO in Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe, UNESCO in Mali and WHO in Mali.

the SDGs 3, 6, 11, and 12. This internal report is also used in integrating the actions required for the country's national development planning process in particular in the area of waste management.

38. Parties were also asked to share any particular actions or recommendations from their experience that would more effectively integrate and address actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention in the Cooperation Framework. 12 Parties shared their experience. The shared experience however appears to be more related to the development of the national reports than to the integration of national reporting needs in Cooperation Framework processes.

39. Argentina highlighted the issue of staff turnover at the national level and said it is important to have documents that explain clearly and provide examples of how to develop the national reports and their relationship to the Cooperation Framework.

40. To facilitate the compilation of the requirements of the national reports under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework, substantial support is required to establish a robust legal framework for implementing measures on inventories, transport, disposal, and recycling of hazardous wastes. Some Parties mentioned that financial support, technical and financial capacity-building, and trainings are needed to support the development of inventories of hazardous waste, of national strategies and of legal frameworks.

2. Views from RCs and UNCTs

41. RCs and UNCTs were asked to share any information about their experience or examples of actions or decisions that have supported the effective integration of actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework of Parties. 15 RCs and UNCTs provided answers.

42. The RC in Cambodia and the RC in the State of Palestine indicated that the general indicators on reporting under MEAs, including the Basel Convention, have been included in the Cooperation Framework of the country they support.

43. The FAO representative in Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe has facilitated communications between Parties where follow-up was required to expedite the transmission of export, import, and transit documents related to the transboundary movement of hazardous waste such as obsolete pesticides.

44. The RC in Lao replied that the UNCT advocated for including the implementation of international law commitments as one of seven overarching priorities for acceleration of progress towards the SDGs. This enables individual agencies to support the Government for the implementation of treaties and conventions in line with their mandates and expertise. It was however not suggested, for conciseness reasons, that the Cooperation Framework specifically refer to each treaty.

45. The RC in Lebanon responded that the UNCT has been providing support through various initiatives related to waste management under the Cooperation Framework. These initiatives include projects that address waste management programs, pollution reduction from waste, stabilization through waste management, and environmentally sound management of hazardous healthcare waste. All these projects contribute to the integration of national reporting efforts.

46. According to the RC in Mexico, Mexico's Cooperation Framework includes a specific output aimed at enhancing the capacities of government, communities, academia, and the private sector in efficient resources and waste management, as well as the management of chemical substances and renewable energy.

47. RCs and UNCTs were asked about any particular actions or recommendations they may have that would facilitate Parties' efforts to integrate actions related to national reporting and address them in their Cooperation Framework. 17 RCs and UNCTs provided an answer.

48. It was recommended to increase awareness amongst UNCTs regarding the Basel Convention and other related conventions, including Parties' reporting requirements. It was also suggested that systematic communication between the Basel Convention Secretariat and the UNCTs may help to advocate for national reporting under Basel Convention.

49. The RC in Lao did not recommend integrating the reporting obligation under Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework. To promote the implementation of actions including national reporting, he suggested further advocacy by relevant agencies directly with the Government's designated implementing departments and convention focal points, alongside country-specific technical support. Another suggestion to strengthen the implementation of commitments would be to develop a pooled fund to be allocated to member countries for the implementation of their National

Implementation Plan, supported by UN specialized agencies and other international development agencies.

50. The RC in Lebanon recommended the following activities: develop clear and comprehensive guidelines that outline the specific requirements and expectations for national reporting, provide capacity building and training programs to enhance the technical skills and knowledge of relevant stakeholders involved in national reporting, foster a culture of data sharing and collaboration among different stakeholders involved in national reporting, provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries and regions that may face challenges in meeting their national reporting obligations, harmonize and standardize reporting requirements and methodologies across different conventions and frameworks, establish robust monitoring and review mechanisms to assess the progress and effectiveness of national reporting efforts and to promote transparency and accountability in national reporting by regularly communicating the progress and results of their reporting efforts.

51. The RC in Mexico recommended to share more information about the Basel Convention with UNCTs and technical teams. The suggestion is to organize a workshop or presentation to highlight the key issues of the Convention and offer practical approaches to incorporate them into the Cooperation Framework.

52. The RCs and UNCTs were also asked to share any action that they would consider a best practice in addressing the national reporting needs under Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework. 11 answers were received. Strengthening national legislation, capacity building, and trainings were suggested by several respondents.

53. The RCs in Turkmenistan and Yemen replied that it is essential that the country's obligations under all MEAs (pollution, climate, nature etc.) are incorporated in the Common Country Analysis, which informs the preparation of the Cooperation Framework. It was also suggested to introduce an information-sharing mechanism amongst UNCTs to mainstream best practices on initiating and supporting efforts at the country level.

54. National dialogues and consultations involving multiple stakeholders were also mentioned as a good practice and as the most effective approach to breaking down institutional barriers and promoting the integration of actions related to submitting national reports under the Basel Convention into the national Cooperation Framework. Ensuring that interested Parties are well-informed and regularly updated could be achieved through effective communication at the national level, for example through the dissemination of newsletters on the Convention and its events by government entities and United Nations agencies.

55. Parties that responded to the RCs and UNCTs questionnaires also mentioned that training, capacity building, and financial support are essential. Establishing an electronic data system for collecting data about the generation and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes was mentioned as a good practice. It was also suggested that Cooperation Framework services must be trained to understand the importance of MEAs for the country's cooperation framework, and it is necessary to develop outreach programs for decisions makers.

IV. Conclusion and recommendations

A. Conclusions

56. 39 out of 190 Parties, reflecting balanced geographical participation, responded to the questionnaire intended for Parties, and 53 responses were received to the questionnaire sent to the 150 RCs and UNCTs.

57. Based on the responses received, it appears that the awareness of the Parties about the Cooperation Framework is not very high. Half of the responding Parties were aware of and involved in the development and implementation of Cooperation Frameworks, while the other half had no knowledge or involvement. On the other hand, most of the Parties were aware that national reporting under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 12.4.1.

58. The integration of national reporting needs in Cooperation Frameworks appears limited. Two of the Parties not having transmitted complete national reports under the Basel Convention on time for 2018 and 2019, have integrated actions with respect to the transmission of national reports in the Cooperation Framework, while 11 such Parties answered they had not. More generally, nine Parties responded that there were other actions that were not directly related to the transmission of national

reports under the Basel Convention, but were supportive thereof, included in the Cooperation Framework.

59. The majority of RCs and UNCTs were aware of the Basel Convention, the requirement for national reporting and that national reporting under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the SDG indicator 12.4.1. However, the support provided to Parties in integrating reporting needs under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework was modest, and only few countries sought assistance from the RCs and UNCTs to do so.

60. The support provided by RCs and UNCTs to Parties was mainly related to activities that are supportive of the development of national reports under Basel Convention for instance in relation to waste management, addressing illegal traffic, training, the development of inventories, and development of national legislation.

61. Parties highlighted challenges such as a lack of clear guidelines, coordination at the national level, legislation, capacity, training and financial support.

B. Recommendations

62. The Committee may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties express its appreciation to the 46 Parties, 30 RCs and 12 members of the UNCTs that replied to the questionnaire with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address those needs in their Cooperation Frameworks, and to identify best practices.

63. The responses to the questionnaire make it clear that further work needs to be done to increase awareness among RCs and UNCTs about the Basel Convention including its reporting requirements. The Committee may therefore wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Request the Secretariat, subject to the availability to the resources, to engage with the RCs and UNCTs to raise awareness of the Basel Convention including the obligation to transmit annual national reports;

(b) Encourage UNCTs to include Parties' obligations under the Basel Convention, including the obligation to transmit national reports, in the Common Country Analysis, which informs the preparation of the Cooperation Framework;

(c) Request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to transmit to the relevant RCs and UNCTs the individual Party's classification of compliance performance with the reporting obligation prepared by the Committee and any other information to support the work of the RCs and UNCTs in fostering the implementation of the Convention.

64. The responses to the questionnaire evidence that Parties' awareness of the Cooperation Framework processes and of the possibility of integrating national reporting needs into the Cooperation Framework could be enhanced. The Committee may therefore wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Encourage Parties to ensure that entities responsible for the implementation of the Convention at the national level communicate with the entities responsible for the development of the Cooperation Framework in their countries as well as with the RC and UNCT, and to get more involved in the Cooperation Framework processes;

(b) Encourage also Parties with reporting challenges, as reflected in the classifications of compliance performance with the reporting obligation prepared by the Committee, to include in their Cooperation Framework action to address their needs.

65. While the responses to the two questionnaires highlighted some best practices regarding the integration of national reporting needs under Basel Convention into Cooperation Frameworks, there is still room for improvement. The Committee may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties encourage Parties, RCs and UNCTs, with the support of the Secretariat as appropriate, to share information to mainstream best practices and support country-level efforts.

66. Finally, the Committee may wish to include in its draft work programme for 2026-2027 that it be mandated in cooperation, as appropriate, with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, to monitor United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) processes with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework, identifying best practices and trends and, on the basis of the assessment, developing recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix I

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework: a snapshot

1. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly named United Nations Development Assistance Framework) is the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level. The Cooperation Framework—an agreement between the UN and the host government—determines and reflects the UN development system’s contributions in the country and shapes the configuration of UN assets required inside and outside the country.⁹
2. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT)¹⁰ exists in 130 countries, covering all of the 162 countries where there are United Nations programmes. The UNCT includes all the UN entities working on sustainable development, emergency, recovery and transition in programme countries.
3. The UNCT is led by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC),¹¹ who is the representative of the UN Secretary-General in a given country. The UNCT ensures interagency coordination and decision-making at the country level. The goal is to plan and work together, as part of the Resident Coordinator system, to ensure the delivery of tangible results in support of the development agenda of the Government, including the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework—which guides the UN country team’s development programme cycle, in joint agreement with the host government.
4. The RC is the highest-ranking representative of the UN Development System at the country level. RCs lead UN Country Teams and coordinate UN support to countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Resident Coordinator is the designated representative of – and reports to – the UN Secretary-General.
5. Some of the key duties and responsibilities of RCs include:
 - (a) Representing the United Nations at the highest levels of state and, together with the relevant agency representatives, fostering engagement with the government, civil society, bilateral and multilateral partners, academia and the private sector, in order for the UN development system to help address the country’s needs, priorities and challenges to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
 - (b) Coordinating operational activities for development of the UN in support of the country’s efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda;
 - (c) Leading the UNCT in consultations with the host Government to define and agree on the UN’s strategic response to the government’s priorities;
 - (d) Leading and supporting the UNCT in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the UN Cooperation Framework, in full consultation with the government, and through engagement with diverse partners;
 - (e) Managing and providing strategic guidance and oversight to the Resident Coordinator Office.

⁹ See <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/cooperation-framework>.

¹⁰ See <https://unsdg.un.org/about/how-we-work>.

¹¹ See <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/leadership/the-resident-coordinator>.

Appendix II

Questionnaire to collect information from Parties with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework.

1.1 Are you familiar with the Cooperation Framework or as previously known the United Nations Development Assistance Framework?

Yes No

1.2 Are you, as focal point, and the competent authority/ies in your country, engaged in the development and/or implementation of your country's Cooperation Framework?

Yes No

If yes, please specify through what structure/mechanism;

If no, please specify why, and whether other governmental entities dealing either with waste management or multilateral environmental agreements are.

1.3 Are you aware that the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 12.4.1 (number of Parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement)?

1.4 The development of my country's Cooperation Framework

is completed (please attach a copy) is ongoing has not started I do not know

1.4 Has your country transmitted a complete national report on time for 2018 and 2019?

Yes No

1.5 Are you and your government, including those entities involved in the development of the Cooperation Framework, aware that the Conference of the Parties has called on "Parties, in particular Parties with reporting needs identified through the classification of compliance performance undertaken by the Committee with respect to national reporting for the years 2016 and 2017, to integrate actions to address their needs with respect to the implementation of the Convention into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework), in particular during the national development planning process, the agreement of Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs and the drafting of the Cooperation Framework document" (see paragraph 13 of decision BC-15/17)?

Yes No

1.6 If your country has not transmitted complete national reports under the Basel Convention on time for 2018 and 2019, are there any actions with respect to the transmission of national reports included in the Cooperation Framework?

Yes No I do not know

If yes, please share your practice about how such actions are integrated into the Framework:

1.7 Are there any actions that are not directly related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention, but are supportive thereof, included in the Cooperation Framework (e.g. development of an inventory of wastes, development or review of national legislation implementing the Convention)?

Yes No I do not know

If yes, please share your practice:

1.8 Have you experienced any difficulties in integrating the actions related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework?

Yes No

If yes, please share you experience:

1.9 Have you received any support from the Resident Coordinator or from the UN Country Team with respect to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention?

Yes No

If yes, please share you experience:

1.10 Please share any good example of the integration of national reporting under the Basel Convention in the Cooperation Framework

1.11 Are there any particular actions or recommendations you may have from your experience that would more effectively integrate and address actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention in the Cooperation Framework? Please share any information on what you would consider a best practice on this issue.

Appendix III

Questionnaire to collect information from Resident Coordinators and relevant members of UN Country Teams with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework.

2.1 Are you familiar with the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to which the country you serve is a Party (see: www.basel.int)?

Yes No

2.2 Are you aware of the entities in the country that have primary responsibility for the implementation of the Basel Convention?

Yes No

2.3 Are you aware that the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention has invited the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities with a mandate to support Parties in the implementation of the Basel Convention, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, including in the context of relevant activities funded under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, to work in partnership with respect to supporting Parties with national reporting needs and to liaise with the appropriate United Nations country teams and resident coordinators with a view to integrating action to address those needs into the Cooperation Frameworks of those Parties (paragraph 15 of decision BC-15/17)?

Yes No

2.4 Are you familiar with the requirement for Parties to the Basel Convention to transmit an annual national report pursuant to paragraph 3 Article 13 of the Basel Convention?

Yes No

2.5 Are you aware that the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 12.4.1 (number of Parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement)?

Yes No

2.6 Has the country sought support from you and the team with respect to the inclusion of actions related to the national reporting obligation under the Basel Convention within the Cooperation Framework?

Yes No

If yes, please share your experience:

2.7 Has the country sought support from you and the team with respect to the inclusion of other actions not directly related to but supportive of the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention (e.g. development of an inventory of wastes, developments or review of national legislation implementing the Convention)?

Yes No

If yes, please provide more details of such support:

2.8 Have you suggested to the country that it integrate the provisions related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention into its Cooperation Framework?

Yes No

2.9 Are you aware of any difficulties by the country or other countries in integrating the actions related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention into national Cooperation Frameworks?

Yes No

If yes, please share your experiences:

2.10 Please share any other information about your experience or any examples of actions or decisions that have supported effective integration of actions related to national reporting under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework of Parties

2.11 Are there any particular actions or recommendations you may have from your experience that would facilitate Parties' efforts to integrate actions related to national reporting and address them in their Cooperation Framework?

2.12 Is there any action that you would consider a best practice in addressing this issue and wish to share?

Annex II

Extract of the Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (first part)¹

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3. Integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

71. The Committee considered the information contained in section C of document UNEP/CHW/CC.16/3 on national reporting and in a note by the Secretariat on integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNEP/CHW/CC.16/3/Add.3) setting out in its annex a report on the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework, developed on the basis of two questionnaires sent to Parties, and to Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

72. Several members noted that the implementation of the Basel Convention could support achieving several sustainable development goals (SDGs). One member shared her experience at the national level and the efforts made to include environmental objectives in her country's cooperation framework, explaining that other issues such as fighting corruption, climate change or economic development were accorded a higher priority.

73. Members agreed to the conclusions set out in the report on the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework as follows:

(a) 39 out of 190 Parties, reflecting balanced geographical participation, responded to the questionnaire intended for Parties, and 42 responses were received from the 150 Resident Coordinators and UNCTs;

(b) Based on the responses received, it appears that the awareness of the Parties about the Cooperation Frameworks is not very high. Half of the responding Parties were aware of and involved in the development and implementation of Cooperation Frameworks, while the other half had no knowledge or involvement. On the other hand, most of the Parties were aware that national reporting under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under SDG indicator 12.4.1⁸;

(c) The integration of national reporting needs in Cooperation Frameworks appears limited. Two of the Parties not having transmitted complete national reports under the Basel Convention on time for 2018 and 2019, have integrated actions with respect to the transmission of national reports in the Cooperation Framework, while 11 such Parties answered they had not. More generally, nine Parties responded that there were other actions that were not directly related to the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention, but were supportive thereof, included in the Cooperation Framework;

(d) The majority of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs were aware of the Basel Convention, the requirement for national reporting and that national reporting under the Basel Convention is one of the parameters to be considered for reporting under the SDG indicator 12.4.1. However, the support provided to Parties in integrating reporting needs under the Basel Convention into the Cooperation Framework was modest, and only few countries sought assistance from the Resident Coordinators and UNCTs to do so;

(e) The support provided by Resident Coordinators and UNCTs to Parties was mainly related to activities that are supportive of the development of national reports under Basel Convention for instance in relation to waste management, addressing illegal traffic, training, the development of inventories, and development of national legislation;

¹ UNEP/CHW/CC.16/11

⁸ 8 SDG indicator 12.4.1 is the “number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement”.

(f) Parties highlighted challenges such as a lack of clear guidelines, coordination at the national level, legislation, capacity, training and financial support.

74. Members then considered the proposed recommendations set out in the report on the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework. In their discussions on increasing the awareness among Resident Coordinators and UNCTs, members expressed different views as to whether awareness should be raised about the entire Convention or only the reporting obligation. In their discussions about the role of the Secretariat in raising such awareness, some members supported that it be limited to the transmission of the individual Parties' classification of compliance performance with the reporting obligation prepared by the Committee, others expressed a preference for the Secretariat to more generally support the work of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs, while others said that the Secretariat should be requested to effectively engage with the Resident Coordinators and UNCTs. Concluding their discussions, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Conference of the Parties consider:

- (a) Requesting the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to transmit to the relevant Resident Coordinators and UNCTs the individual Party's classification of compliance performance with the reporting obligation prepared by the Committee;
- (b) Encouraging UNCTs to include Parties' obligation to transmit national reports in the Common Country Analysis, which informs the preparation of the Cooperation Framework;
- (c) Encouraging Parties to ensure that entities responsible for the implementation of the Convention at the national level communicate with the entities responsible for the development of the Cooperation Framework in their countries as well as with the Resident Coordinator and UNCT, and to get more involved in the Cooperation Framework processes;
- (d) Encouraging also Parties with reporting challenges, as reflected in the classifications of compliance performance with the reporting obligation prepared by the Committee, to include in their Cooperation Framework action to address their needs;
- (e) Encouraging further Parties, Resident Coordinators and UNCTs, with the support of the Secretariat as appropriate, to share information on best practices and support country-level efforts regarding the integration of national reporting needs under Basel Convention into Cooperation Frameworks.

75. The Committee also agreed to include in its draft work programme for 2026–2027 that it be mandated in cooperation, as appropriate, with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention, to monitor Cooperation Framework processes with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework, identifying best practices and trends and, on the basis of the assessment, developing recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

76. In response to decision CC-2/7: Information submission adopted by the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention, the Committee further agreed to share with that Committee the outcomes of the questionnaires circulated to Resident Coordinators, UNCTs and Parties with respect to their experience with Cooperation Framework processes, as well as the outcomes of its meeting related to the integration of actions to address national reporting needs into the Cooperation Framework processes.”