



The Chemicals Treaties (BRS Treaties)

Basel Convention • Rotterdam Convention • Stockholm Convention

Synergies amongst the BRS Conventions

- Simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) COPs (ExCOPs) have been held twice
- The first ExCOPs (Bali 2010)
- Considered recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the BRS Conventions
- Parties adopt an omnibus synergies decision on joint services, joint activities, synchronization of the budget cycles, joint audits, joint managerial functions, and review arrangements
- Decided to review in 2013 how the synergies arrangements had contributed to achieving a set of objectives, such as strengthening the implementation of the three Conventions and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels.
- The second ExCOPs (Geneva 2013, in conjunction with the back-to-back meetings of the COPs)
- Parties adopted an omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the BRS Conventions, including
- A review of the synergies process and the organization of the Secretariats, and to continue to present joint activities as an integral part of the proposed programmes of work and budgets of the three Conventions.
- Alignment of the working arrangements of the Rotterdam Convention CRC with those of the Stockholm Convention POPRC to support effective participation of experts and observers, and encourages the POPRC to involve experts from the Basel Convention when discussing waste issues.
- Secretariat to enhance cooperation with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and consider coordinating with the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Welcome an integrated approach that includes mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance.

Parties to the Agreements

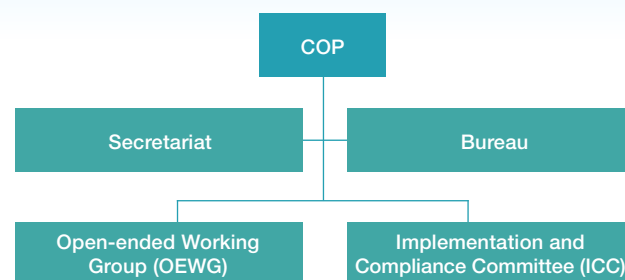
- Basel (Hazardous Waste)
- There are 188 Parties to the Basel Convention (including the EU)
- Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Convention in 1994
- Of note, while the United States signed the Basel Convention, it has yet to ratify it
- Rotterdam (Trade in Hazardous Chemicals)
- There are 164 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (including the EU)
- Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Convention in 2009 (with effect from 2010)
- Again, the US is a signatory but has yet to ratify it
- Stockholm (Persistent Organic Pollutants)
- There are 184 Parties to the Stockholm Convention (including the EU)
- Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Convention in 2002 (with effect from 2004)
- While both the US and Italy signed the Convention, they have not ratified it





BASEL CONVENTION

Institutional structure



Basel Convention

Background

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 and entered into force on 5 May 1992.
- The Convention addresses concerns over the management, disposal, and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes produced worldwide.
- The guiding principles of the Convention are that: the generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes should be reduced to a minimum; and hazardous wastes should be managed in an environmentally sound manner, treated, disposed of as close as possible to the source of generation, and minimized at the source.
- The Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation was adopted at the fifth Conference of Parties (COP 5) in 1999. The Protocol talks began in 1993 in response to the concerns of developing countries about their lack of funds and technologies for coping with illegal dumping or accidental spills.
- The objective of the Protocol is to provide for a comprehensive regime for liability as well as adequate and prompt compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including incidents occurring because of illegal traffic in those wastes.
- At the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6) in 2002, Parties created the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) as a subsidiary body to the COP.
- The OEWG assists the COP in developing and continuously reviewing the implementation of the Convention's workplan and specific operational policies and decisions for the implementation of the Convention.
- At COP 9 in 2008, Parties to the Basel Convention agreed to enhance cooperation under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- This was agreed amongst the COPs of the three Conventions at a simultaneous extraordinary meeting held in 2010 in Bali. Subsequent decisions amongst the three COPs have led to the provision of a matrix structure amongst the three secretariats serving the three Conventions, where a number of functions are carried out jointly and joint services are delivered.

Principles in the Rio Declaration covered by the Basel Convention include:

- Aware of the risk of damage to human health and the environment caused by hazardous wastes and other wastes and the transboundary movement thereof (Principle 1)
- Mindful of the growing threat to human health and the environment posed by the increased generation and complexity, and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes (Principle 1)
- Mindful also that the most effective way of protecting human health and the environment from the dangers posed by such wastes is the reduction of their generation to a minimum in terms of quantity and/or hazard potential (Principle 1)
- Convinced that States should take necessary measures to ensure that the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes including their transboundary movement and disposal is consistent with the protection of human health and the environment whatever the place of disposal (Principle 15)



Key provisions of the Basel Convention

Objective

The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous wastes” based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as “other wastes” - household waste and incinerator ash.

Principle Aims

- the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, wherever the place of disposal;
- the restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management; and
- a regulatory system applying to cases where transboundary movements are permissible.

Article 4: The first aim is addressed through a number of general provisions requiring States to observe the fundamental principles of environmentally sound waste management (article 4). A number of prohibitions are designed to attain the second aim: hazardous wastes may not be exported to Antarctica, to a State not party to the Basel Convention, or to a party having banned the import of hazardous wastes (article 4).

Article 11: Parties may, however, enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements on hazardous waste management with other parties or with non-parties, provided that such agreements are “no less environmentally sound” than the Basel Convention (article 11). In all cases where transboundary movement is not, in principle, prohibited, it may take place only if it represents an environmentally sound solution, if the principles of environmentally sound management and non-discrimination are observed and if it is carried out in accordance with the Convention’s regulatory system.

Articles 6 and 7: The regulatory system is the cornerstone of the Basel Convention as originally adopted. Based on the concept of prior informed consent, it requires that, before an export may take place, the authorities of the State of export notify the authorities of the prospective States of import and transit, providing them with detailed information on the intended movement. The movement may only proceed if and when all States concerned have given their written consent.

Articles 10 and 13: The Basel Convention also provides for cooperation between Parties, ranging from the exchange of information on issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention to technical assistance, particularly to developing countries.

Article 16: The Secretariat is required to facilitate and support this cooperation, acting as a clearing-house.

Articles 8 and 9: In the event of a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes having been carried out illegally, i.e., in contravention of the provisions of Articles 6 and 7, or cannot be completed as foreseen, the Convention attributes responsibility to one or more of the States involved, and imposes the duty to ensure safe disposal, either by re-import into the State of generation or otherwise.

Article 14: The Convention also provides for the establishment of regional or sub-regional centres for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation to cater to the specific needs of different regions and subregions. Fourteen such centres have been established. They carry out training and capacity building activities in the regions.

Ratifying the Basel Convention: reservations and declarations

Reservations upon ratification or accession to the Basel Convention are not provided for – however, under international law, a country ratifying or acceding to a treaty may make a declaration where they express their understanding of some matter or the interpretation of a particular provision.

Unlike reservations, declarations merely clarify the country’s position and do not modify the legal effect of a treaty. Usually, declarations are made at the time of ratification or signature.

Rules of procedure

The [rules of procedure](#) of the Basel Convention apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with article 15 of the Convention.

Topics covered in the rules of procedure include:

- Date, place of and observers to meetings (Rules 3–7)
- Agenda (Rules 8–15)
- Officers (Rules 21–25)
- Conduct of business (Rules 29–38)
- Voting (Rules 39–51)
- Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus
- If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless as provided by the Convention, on the financial rules referred to in paragraph 3 of article 15 of the Convention
- Decisions of a meeting on matters of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority vote of the Parties present and voting



Milestones in the implementation of the Basel Convention

COP 1 (1992): adopted a decision requesting industrialized countries to prohibit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes for final disposal to developing countries and noting that transboundary movements of wastes for recovery or recycling should be handled in an environmentally sound manner.

The Ban Amendment: COP 3 (1995), parties amended the Convention to ban the export of hazardous wastes for final disposal and recycling from Annex VII countries (EU, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Liechtenstein) to non-Annex VII countries. The Ban Amendment entered into force in 2019.

Basel Protocol: COP 5 (1999) adopted the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which currently has 12 of the 20 ratifications required for it to enter into force.

COP 10 (2011): Parties adopted decisions on the new Strategic Framework and the Indonesian-Swiss country led initiative (CLI) to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention. The Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes was also adopted.

COP 11 (2013): first COP to be held in conjunction with the COPs of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Negotiations focused on key elements of the synergies process between the three conventions. COP 11 also created the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) to tackle the illegal waste trade.

COP 13 (2017): Parties adopted decisions on, *inter alia*: establishment of the Partnership on Household Waste; the final evaluation of the Strategic Framework in 2021; adoption of a set of practical manuals on environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes; adoption of the glossary of terms; creation of an expert working group on Review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX; authorization of work to finalize the technical guidelines on e-waste; updating technical guidelines on incineration on land and on specially engineered landfills; and a request to the Secretariat to develop an electronic reporting system.

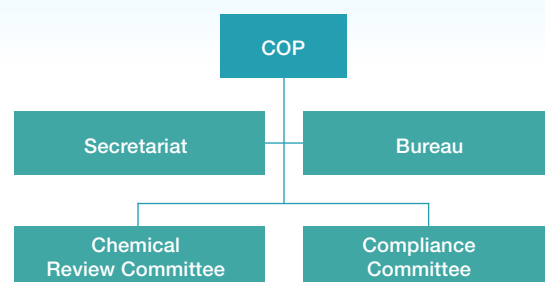
COP 14 (2019): adopted decisions on, *inter alia*, a Convention amendment on plastic waste, technical guidelines on e-waste, and an update of the technical guidelines on wastes containing mercury.



Rotterdam Convention

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Institutional structure



Background

The dramatic growth in chemicals production and trade has raised public and official concern about the potential risks posed by hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Countries lacking adequate infrastructure to monitor the import and use of these chemicals are particularly vulnerable.

In response to these concerns, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed and promoted voluntary information-exchange programmes in the mid-1980s. FAO launched its International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in 1985 and UNEP set up the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade in 1987.

The two organizations then introduced the 1989 Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. Jointly implemented by FAO and UNEP, it helped to ensure that governments had the information needed about hazardous chemicals for assessing risks and taking informed decisions on chemical imports.

Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 Rio Summit, called for the adoption of a legally binding instrument on the PIC procedure by the year 2000. Consequently, the FAO UNEP launched negotiations which led to the finalization of the text of the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade. The Rotterdam Convention was adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries on 10 September 1998 and entered into force on 24 February 2004.

The Convention covers the import and export of pesticides and industrial chemicals, listed in Annex III, that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties and which have been notified by Parties for inclusion in an obligatory prior-informed consent (PIC) procedure.

Since the adoption of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties (COP) has adopted a series of decisions to amend Annex III to the Convention to list additional chemicals and make them subject to the Prior Informed Consent Procedure. The Convention process also facilitates information exchange amongst Parties on a wide range of potentially hazardous chemicals, and Parties to the Convention are required to notify the secretariat when domestic regulatory measures are taken to restrict potentially hazardous chemicals.

While the FAO and UNEP jointly perform secretariat functions for the Convention, they collaborate with the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to provide joint services where relevant.

Principles in the Rio Declaration covered by the Rotterdam Convention include:

- Recalling the pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and chapter 19 of Agenda 21 on “Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products” (Rio Declaration and Agenda 21)
- Taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the need to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for the management of chemicals, including transfer of technology, providing financial and technical assistance and promoting cooperation among the Parties (Principle 6)
- Desiring to ensure that hazardous chemicals that are exported from their territory are packaged and labelled in a manner that is adequately protective of human health and the environment, consistent with the principles of the Amended London Guidelines and the International Code of Conduct (Principle 1)
- Recognizing that trade and environmental policies should be mutually supportive with a view to achieving sustainable development (Principle 8)
- Determined to protect human health, including the health of consumers and workers, and the environment against potentially harmful impacts from certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade (Principle 1)



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ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Key provisions of the Rotterdam Convention

Objective (Article 1)

- To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm; and
- To contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

Scope of the Convention (Article 3)

- Banned or severely restricted chemicals; and
- Severely hazardous pesticide formulations.

Designated National Authorities (DNA, Article 4)

- Each Party to designate one or more national authorities authorized to act in the performance of the administrative functions required by this Convention.
- Parties to ensure that DNA(s) have sufficient resources to perform their tasks effectively.

Procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals (Article 5)

- Each Party, at the date of entry into force of the Convention (for it) to notify the Secretariat of its final regulatory actions in effect at that time.

Procedures for severely hazardous pesticide formulations (Article 6)

- Any Party that is a developing country or a country with an economy in transition and that is experiencing problems caused by a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under conditions of use in its territory, may propose to the Secretariat the listing of the severely hazardous pesticide formulation in Annex III (Chemicals Subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure).
- The Chemical Review Committee shall review the information provided in the proposal and the additional information collected and recommend whether the severely hazardous pesticide should be made subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure.

Listing of Chemicals (Articles 7, 8 and 9)

- For each chemical that the Chemical Review Committee has decided to recommend for listing in Annex III, it shall prepare a draft decision guidance document (Article 7).
- For chemicals not listed in Annex III, that has been included in a voluntary PIC, the COP will decide whether to list the chemical in Annex III (Article 8).
- A Party may submit information that an Annex III listing is no longer justified, which spurs a Chemical Review Committee review with recommendation for decision of the COP. Based on the information, the COP will decide whether to remove the chemical from Annex III (Article 9).

Procedural provisions

- **Technical assistance (Article 16):** puts the onus on Parties to work together to manage implementation
- **Non-compliance (Article 17):** requires the development of procedures for determining non-compliance
- **Conference of the Parties (COP, Article 18):** requires establishing the Chemical Review Committee at first meeting
- **Secretariat (Article 19):** secretarial duties performed jointly by UNEP and FAO





ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Mechanisms

To achieve its objectives the Convention includes a Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure and Information Exchange.

The PIC procedure is a mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing Parties as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of those chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and for ensuring compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties.

The Convention facilitates information exchange among Parties for a very broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals. The Convention requires each Party to notify the secretariat when taking a domestic regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical.

Players

Parties and their Designated National Authorities (DNAs) are countries or regional economic integration organizations that have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Convention. Each Party must designate one or more national authorities, which are the primary contact points for matters related to the operation of the Convention and are authorized to perform the administrative functions required by the Convention. DNAs are also the key contact points for matters related to the Convention.

Conference of the Parties (COP) oversees the operation of the Convention and makes decisions regarding amendments to the Convention, including the addition of chemicals to Annex III.

Chemical Review Committee (CRC) is a subsidiary body of the COP. Its members are government designated experts in chemicals management. Its responsibilities include reviewing notifications and proposals from Parties and making recommendations to the COP on the addition of chemicals to Annex III.

Secretariat provides functions, including making administrative arrangements for meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, verifying information accompanying notifications and proposals, disseminating import responses provided by the Parties, facilitating assistance to developing country Parties, facilitating information exchange between Parties and fostering collaboration and cooperation with other international organizations.

Ratifying the Rotterdam Convention: reservations and declarations

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Rules of procedure

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Topics covered in the rules of procedure include:

- Places, dates and notifications of meetings (Rules 3–5)
- Observers (Rules 6–8)
- Agenda (Rules 9–16)
- Officers (Rules 22–25)
- Conduct of business (Rules 34–43)
- Voting (Rules 44–51)
- The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus
- Voting rules on substantive issues not agreed, i.e., no voting on substance provided for under this Convention
- Decisions on matters of procedure to be taken by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting

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CONVENTIONS



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Milestones in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention

COP 1 (2004): At its first meeting, the COP established the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) and, among other things, set regions for prior informed consent (PIC) and began considering the arrangements for a financial mechanism.

COP 3 (2006): Parties move closer to working with the GEF and the MLF as financial mechanisms for the Convention.

COP 4 (2008): Parties agreed to include tributyltin compounds to Annex III but there was no decision on a financial mechanism.

COP 5 (2011): Parties agreed to include alachlor, aldicarb and endosulfan to Annex III, to look for synergies amongst the BRS Conventions on sustainable financing, as well as on joint activities, managerial functions and services amongst the BRS secretariats.

COP 6 (2013): Held in conjunction with the COPs of the Basel Convention and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention and a simultaneous extraordinary meeting of the three COPs. Parties decided to amend Annex III to list: azinphos-methyl; commercial pentaBDE, including industrial tetraBDE and industrial pentaBDE; commercial octaBDE, including hexaBDE and heptaBDE; and PFOS, perfluorooctanesulfonates, perfluorooctanesulfonamides and perfluorooctanesulfonyls. However, COP 6 decided that while paraquat met the listing criteria for an SHPF, it would postpone a decision until COP 7 as those opposed to listing had concerns about the science, alternatives, and implications for trade. A decision on listing chrysotile asbestos was also deferred to COP 7, due to similar concerns.

COP 7 (2015): Parties were unable to agree on the listing of paraquat, fenthion, trichlorfon, and chrysotile asbestos in Annex III, and deferred consideration to COP 8. COP 7 also established an intersessional working group to: review cases where the COP was unable to reach consensus on the listing of a chemical by identifying the reasons for and against listing and, based on that and other information, to develop options for improving the effectiveness of the process; and to develop proposals for enabling information flows to support the PIC Procedure for those chemicals.

COP 8 (2017): In 2017, COP 8 agreed to list four chemicals in Annex III: carbofuran, SCCPs, TBT compounds, and trichlorfon, but deferred decisions on listing carbosulfan, chrysotile asbestos, paraquat, and fenthion until COP 9.

COP 9 (2019): Parties adopted a compliance mechanism through a vote that established a new annex to the Convention, concluding 15 years of negotiations on the issue. The COP agreed to include HBCD and phorate in Annex III, but could not agree to list carbosulfan, acetochlor, paraquat, fenthion, and chrysotile asbestos.

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This factsheet on **The Chemicals Treaties (BRS Treaties): Rotterdam Convention** features on pages 36–29 of the compilation report on *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*.

BRS TREATIES • ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



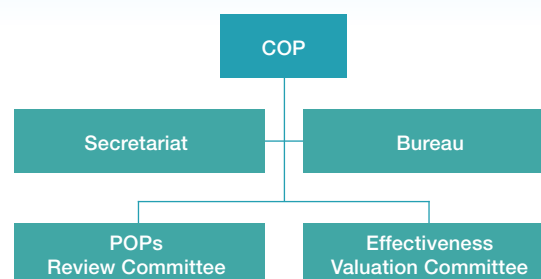
STOCKHOLM
CONVENTION

Stockholm Convention

Background

- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.
- Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems.
- Given their long-range transport, no one government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs.
- In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.
- The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) is a subsidiary body to the Stockholm Convention established for reviewing chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, Annex B, and / or C. The Convention entails the reviewing process of new chemicals and Annex D, Annex E and Annex F specify the information required for the review.
- While the mandate for the secretariat is set out in Article 19 of the Convention, in 2012, the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as well as the UNEP-part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, moved from three separate secretariats with a programmatic structure to a single Secretariat with a matrix structure serving the three conventions.

Institutional structure



Principles in the Rio Declaration covered by the Stockholm Convention include:

- Recalling also the pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21
- Acknowledging that precaution underlies the concerns of all the Parties and is embedded within this Convention (Principle 15)
- Reaffirming that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (Principle 2)
- Noting the respective capabilities of developed and developing countries, as well as the common but differentiated responsibilities of States as set forth in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Principle 7)
- Reaffirming Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which states that national authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment (Principle 16)



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Key provisions of the Stockholm Convention

Objective

Article 1: the objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

The main provisions setting out Party Obligations include:

Article 3: Prohibit and / or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention. The import and export of chemicals listed in Annexes A and B can take place under specific restrictive conditions, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 3. Article 3 also restricts the production and use, as well as the import and export of intentionally produced POPs listed in Annex B

Annex A (and Article 4): allows for the registration of specific exemptions for the production or use of listed POPs, in accordance with that Annex and Article 4, bearing in mind that special rules apply to PCBs.

Annex B (and Article 4): allows for the registration of acceptable purposes for the production and use of the listed POPs, in accordance with that Annex, and for the registration of specific exemptions for the production and use of the listed POPs, in accordance with that Annex and Article 4.

Article 5: Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention, promoting the use of best available techniques and best environmental practices for preventing releases of POPs into the environment.

Article 6: Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner. The Convention requires that such stockpiles and wastes be identified and managed to reduce or eliminate POPs releases from these sources. The Convention also requires that wastes containing POPs are transported across international boundaries taking into account relevant international rules, standards and guidelines.

Article 8: Target additional POPs. The Convention provides for detailed procedures for the listing of new POPs in Annexes A, B and / or C. A Committee composed of experts in chemical assessment or management - the Persistent Organic Pollutants review Committee, is established to examine proposals for the listing of chemicals, in accordance with the process set out in Article 8 and the information requirements specified in Annexes D, E and F of the Convention.

A summary of other articles, includes

- **Article 7:** Relating to the development of implementation plans.
- **Article 9:** Relating to information exchange
- **Article 10:** Relating to public information, awareness and education
- **Article 11:** On research, development and monitoring
- **Article 12:** On technical assistance
- **Article 13:** On financial resources and mechanisms
- **Article 15:** On reporting
- **Article 16:** On effectiveness evaluation
- **Article 17:** On non-compliance



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS



Ratifying the Stockholm Convention: reservations and declarations

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Rules of procedure

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- Observers (Rules 6–8)
- Agenda (Rules 9–16)
- Officers (Rules 22–25)
- Conduct of business (Rules 34–43)
- Voting (Rules 44–51)
- The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus
- Voting rules on substantive issues not agreed, i.e., no voting on substance provided for under this Convention
- Decisions on matters of procedure to taken by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting

Milestones in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention

COP 1 (2005): Parties agreed on the need to evaluate the continued need for DDT use; adopting guidance for the financial mechanism; establishing a schedule for reporting; establishing arrangements for monitoring data on POPs; and establishing the POPs Review Committee.

COP 3 (2007): Parties considered guidelines on best available techniques (BAT) and draft guidance on best environmental practices (BEP).

COP 4 (2009): Parties agreed to list nine new chemicals under the Convention.

COP 5 (2011): Endosulfan was added to Annex A and took further steps in the synergies process.

COP 6 (2013): hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) was added to Annex A and Parties adopted a framework for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention.

COP 7 (2015): This meeting was held in conjunction with the Basel and Rotterdam Convention COPs and hexachlorobutadiene, pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters, and polychlorinated naphthalenes were added to the Convention.

COP 8 (2017): DecaBDE and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) in Annex A and hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd) in Annex C were added, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention triggered actions in numerous areas of the Convention towards its enhanced implementation, guidance was provided to the financial mechanism, and new guidance on BAT and BEP was adopted. The COP was held at the same time of the Basel and Rotterdam COPs.

COP 9 (2019): Dicofol and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds were added to Annex A terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism and for the assessment of the funding needs for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2022–2026 were agreed and the revised framework for effectiveness evaluation was adopted.

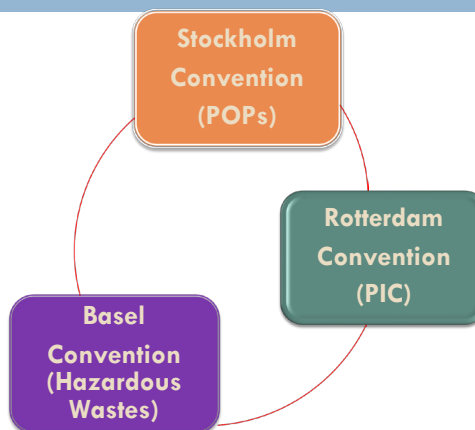
This factsheet on [The Chemicals Treaties \(BRS Treaties\): Basel Convention](#) features on pages 30–33 of the compilation report on [Multilateral Environmental Agreements \(MEAs\)](#).



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS

THE CONVENTIONS

- **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of hazardous wastes and their Disposal
 - 1989 / 191 Parties
- **Rotterdam Convention** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
 - 1998 / 165 Parties
- **Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants
 - 2001 / 186 Parties



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Title: Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Entry into force: 5 May 1992

Number of parties: 191

Objective: To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes

Scope: Hazardous wastes and other wastes

Key provisions:

- (i) **Minimization** of the generation of hazardous and other wastes
- (ii) **Control system for transboundary movements** of hazardous and other wastes based on notification and Prior Informed Consent
- (iii) **Environmentally sound management** of hazardous and other wastes in relation to transboundary movements

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

Entry into force: 24 February 2004

Number of parties: 165

Objective: To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in international trade of certain chemicals

Scope: 54 pesticides, SHPs and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for inclusion in the Prior Informed Consent procedure and met the criteria set out in the Convention

Key provisions:

- (i) **Prior Informed Consent procedure** based on **import responses and export notifications** for other banned / severely restricted chemicals
- (ii) **Exchange of information** on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals

Title: Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Entry into force: 17 May 2004

Number of parties: 186

Objective: To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants

Scope: 34 POPs

Key provisions:

- (i) **Elimination** (POPs in annex A)
- (ii) **Restriction** (POPs in annex B)
- (iii) **Specific exemptions and acceptable purposes** for certain POPs
- (iv) **Reduction or elimination** (unintentionally produced POPs in annex C)

Synergies

Enhancing **cooperation and coordination** among the three Conventions

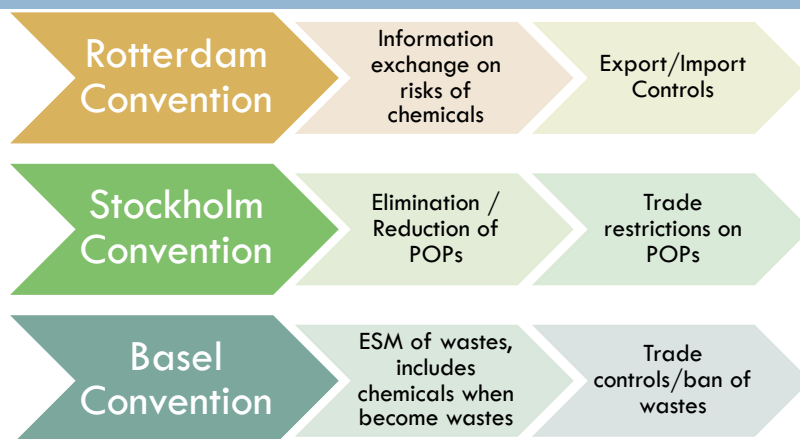
Strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels

Providing **coherent policy guidance**

Enhancing **efficiency** in the provision of support to Parties, reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels

Combating **illegal traffic and trade**

Why are these three Conventions working together ?



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Source: UNEP