The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their contribution to the sound management of chemicals and wastes

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“The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and their contribution towards the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda”.
A Framework for Life Cycle Management: The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
A Framework for Life Cycle Management

**Basel Convention**
- **Scope:** Hazardous wastes and other wastes
- **Key provisions:**
  - Minimization of generation
  - Promotion of environmentally sound management
  - Conditions and procedure for controlling transboundary movements

**Rotterdam Convention**
- **Scope:** banned or severely restricted chemicals and SHPFs (51) (annex III)
- **Key provisions:**
  - Prior Informed Consent procedure for export/import (annex III)
  - Exchange of information on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals

**Stockholm Convention**
- **Scope:** POPs (28)
- **Key provisions:**
  - Elimination (POPs in annex A)
  - Restriction (POPs in annex B)
  - Reduction or elimination (unintentionally produced POPs in annex C)

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Time-bound targets under the Stockholm Convention

- **2025** Elimination of the use of PCB in equipment (e.g., Transformers, capacitors or other receptacles containing liquid stocks)
- **2028** Achieving the environmentally sound management of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB
- **2030** Elimination of hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ether (expiration of the specific exemption); tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ether (expiration of the specific exemption)
- **2036** Decabromodiphenyl ether: Expiration of specific exemption for parts for use in legacy vehicles defined as vehicles that have ceased mass production and for parts in vehicles as specified in the convention.
The Basel Convention Strategic Framework

• Vision:
  “to protect human health and the environment by controlling transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes and by ensuring and strengthening the environmentally sound management of such wastes as a contribution to promoting sustainable livelihoods and attaining the Millennium Development Goals.”

• Structure:
  – Goal 1: Effective implementation of parties’ obligations on transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes.
  – Goal 2: Strengthening the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.
  – Goal 3: Promoting the implementation of the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes as an essential contribution to the attainment of sustainable livelihood, the Millennium Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment.
Effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention

- The evaluation and conclusions and recommendations on the effectiveness of the Convention pertain to all of the Articles of the Convention
- Three main information sources are identified in Article 16: GMP, national reports pursuant to Article 15, and non-compliance information; Supplemented by other relevant scientific, environmental, technical and economic information available;
- Every six years

**Overall outcomes**
- The Convention provides an effective and dynamic framework to regulate POPs throughout their lifecycle;
- However, inadequate implementation is the key issue identified in the evaluation;
- Mechanisms and processes required by the Convention to support Parties in meeting their obligations have all been put in place, with the exception of compliance procedures;
- For legacy POPs, concentrations measured in air and humans have declined; for newly listed POPs, concentrations are beginning to show decreases although in a few instances, increasing and/or stable levels are observed.

**Recommendations**
- Specific recommendations are referred to and given effect under relevant thematic documents and proposed actions
Chemicals and wastes are essential for the implementation of goals on poverty reduction, health, gender, water, cities, oceans, food and sustainable consumption and production.
### SDGs: Goals, targets and indicators of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

#### Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally**
  - 6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated
  - 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

#### Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- **11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management**
  - 11.6.1 Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge with regard to the total waste generated by the city
  - 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

#### Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- **12.4 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**
  - 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
  - 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita, proportion of hazardous waste treated and by type of treatment
  - 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
    - 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

#### Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- **2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality**
  - 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

#### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- **3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination**
  - 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
  - 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe WASH services)
  - 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional Poisoning
Chemicals and wastes management as a cross-cutting issue

- Sound management of chemicals and wastes is fundamental to sustainable economic development and contributes to better health and cleaner environment.
- Sound management of chemicals and wastes is key to poverty eradication, food security, access to potable water, and cleaner cities.
- Sound management of chemicals and wastes is part of the climate change solution, access to renewable energy, biodiversity and sustainable transport and infrastructure.
MEAs as a tool in the implementation of SDGs

- Providing for a policy, legal and institutional framework at the national level
- Promoting policy coherence at global, regional, national levels
- Serving as a platform for collecting national data through its reporting mechanisms
- Casting a vision through its goals, targets and indicators in specific areas
SDGs also support the implementation of MEAs

- Promoting integrated and multi-sector approach for the MEAs implementation
- Increasing political visibility
- Strengthening national capacities on reporting under MEAs
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