



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



United Nations  
Environment Programme

## BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

### Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

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### Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

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9 June 2020

### Subject: Secretary General's report on oceans and the law of the sea

Dear Mr. de Serpa Soares,

I am writing with reference to your letter dated 15 April 2020 inviting the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to make a contribution concerning the preparation of the Secretary General's report on developments and issues relating to oceans affairs and the law of the sea for consideration by the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session.

Please find attached the contribution of the Secretariat. For ease of reference, we have tailored our comments to the structure of General Assembly resolution 74/19. In accordance with your email message dated 1 June 2020, a section of the contribution addresses issues related to the impact of the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including existing publications or materials relevant to the matter under the conventions.

I also agree to the full text of our contribution being made available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for involving our organization in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Rolph Payet  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs  
and United Nations Legal Counsel  
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## **Contribution of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/19 of 10 December 2019**

1. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants contribute to protect the marine environment against the adverse effects which may result from hazardous chemicals and wastes.
2. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are part of the international action being taken to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in ways that lead to the prevention and minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, including oceans and marine biodiversity. The conventions contribute to making consumption and production patterns and waste management more sustainable and hence reduce direct discharge or land runoff of hazardous pollutants or wastes into the marine and coastal environments.
3. Below are the main developments which have occurred in the framework of the conventions since the last submission of the Secretariat in June 2019 in relation to relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 74/19.

### **Paragraph 34: Capacity-building for developing States to address the multiple facets of international criminal activities at sea; Paragraph 155: Enhanced international cooperation to combat transnational organized criminal activities at sea**

4. Parties to the Basel Convention are required to prevent and combat illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes, including when such activities occur through transboundary movements at sea. The Basel Convention continues to provide a framework for the development of guidance documents to assist Parties in preventing and combatting illegal traffic,<sup>1</sup> as well as for a partnership to promote compliance with the Convention's provisions on preventing and combating illegal traffic through a better implementation and enforcement of national law: the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE). ENFORCE brings together a network of Parties to the Basel Convention, Basel Convention regional centres, and relevant entities with a mandate to assist Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and thereby contributes to a more efficient delivery of support to Parties.
5. With a view to strengthening existing arrangements to prevent and combat illegal traffic, the work programme of the Basel Convention Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (Implementation and Compliance Committee) for the 2020-2021 biennium provides for a review of existing cooperative arrangement with international organizations or entities with a mandate regarding preventing and combating illegal traffic, including the terms of reference of ENFORCE.
6. Other activities of the 2020-2021 work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee pertaining to the prevention and combating of illegal traffic under the Basel Convention include the following:
  - Undertake a scoping exercise on illegal traffic of wastes covered by the Basel Convention with a view to estimating the scope of illegal traffic, identifying the waste categories subject to illegal traffic and affected regions, and analysing how cases of intercepted illegal shipments were resolved;
  - Analyse the reasons for any shortcoming in establishing national coordination mechanism with a view to facilitating the exchange of information among relevant authorities and the limited amount

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<sup>1</sup> See the Guide for the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions dealing with illegal traffic (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9), the Guidance Elements for Detection, Prevention and Control of Illegal Traffic in Hazardous Waste, the Instruction Manual on the Prosecution of Illegal Traffic of Hazardous Wastes or Other Wastes, and the Basel Convention Training Manual on Illegal Traffic for Customs and Enforcement Agencies, available at: <http://basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/IllegalTraffic/Guidance/tabid/3423/Default.aspx>.

of information on illegal traffic shared with the Secretariat, and identify measures to enhance coordination and increase the flow of information;

- Establish a dialogue with other multilateral environmental agreements with international control regimes to learn from their experience;
- Review the Basel Convention reporting format, with the aim to recommend measures to improve the implementation of the Convention's provision on preventing and combating illegal traffic;
- Explore modalities for further dissemination of existing guidance and technical assistance tools, in particular to enforcement entities; and
- Recommend measures to enhance the implementation and compliance with the Convention's provision on illegal traffic, based on an assessment of the activities undertaken under the Convention.

7. Extending the issue of illegality to the trade of chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, at their meetings in May 2019, the conferences of the Parties, inter alia, requested the Secretariat to develop a draft form and explanatory document to enable Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to voluntarily provide information about cases of trade occurring in contravention to the conventions, and prepare recommendations on opportunities for strengthened cooperation. The Secretariat was also requested to continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen Parties' capacity to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade. One example of such technical assistance activities was a regional workshop held in Dakar, Senegal from 16 September to 19 September 2019 to strengthen the capacity of Parties of the African region to implement the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, including a segment dedicated to the provisions relating to illegal traffic and trade.<sup>2</sup>

### **Paragraph 35: Capacity-building to improve waste management practices**

8. Actions taken under the Basel Convention to build capacities for improved waste management practices include the following:

#### **(a) Environmentally sound management of waste**

9. On the matter related to environmentally sound management (ESM) of waste, the Conference of the Parties adopted and encouraged the use of several tools developed by the expert working group on ESM, which now comprise the [ESM Toolkit](#), and decided that the group had successfully completed its mandate. Pilot projects that were selected by the expert working group to serve as practical examples and a reference for Parties and others in their efforts to implement ESM were finalized in December 2019 and the results were made available on the website.<sup>3</sup>

#### **(b) Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste**

10. The Convention stipulates that technical guidelines for the ESM of the waste falling under its scope should be developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Although not legally-binding at the international level, technical guidelines provide for the foundation upon which countries can operate at a standard that is not less environmentally sound than that required by the Basel Convention. Some Parties have also transposed certain technical guidelines into their national legislation and regulations. These guidelines are developed for a variety of waste streams and disposal operations and are intended to assist Parties, in particular developing countries, in ensuring the ESM of hazardous and other wastes. All the technical guidelines developed and adopted under the Basel Convention are

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<http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Workshops/WorkshopDakar,SenegalSep2019/tabid/8106/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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<http://basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Pilotprojects/tabid/5846/Default.aspx>

available at:

<http://basel.int/Implementation/Publications/LatestTechnicalGuidelines/tabid/5875/Default.aspx>.

11. In the current reporting period, the following technical guidelines are being updated or newly developed, under the lead of small intersessional working groups, for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting to be held in July 2021:

- General technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and more specific related technical guidelines to take into account decisions SC-9/11 and SC-9/12 respectively listing dicofol and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds to the annexes of the Convention and decision SC-9/4 on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS-F) which cancelled a number of available specific exemptions for these chemicals;
- Technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic waste and their disposal;
- Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;
- Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention;
- Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5).

#### **(c) The Household Waste Partnership**

12. Established by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2017, the Household Waste Partnership aims at promoting the ESM of household waste, including its prevention and minimization, through the development of guidance, tools and manuals for governments, regional and local authorities and other stakeholders on, among other things, best practices, business models, policies and innovative solutions for the ESM of household waste.

13. The Partnership provides the necessary infrastructure to address the global household wastes challenge in an efficient and innovative way, through global information exchange, sharing of best practices by key stakeholders in the field, development and provision of technical guidance based on the latest science available, active engagement of the private sector for enhanced action to promote ESM of wastes, including issues such as extended producer responsibility, active engagement of the civil society and the general public through targeted awareness raising.

14. As mandated by the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the working group, which met for its second meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 4 to 6 September 2019, has prepared a complete draft of an overall guidance document on the ESM of household waste for consideration by the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in June 2020 and then subsequently by the Conference of the Parties in July 2021.<sup>4</sup>

#### **(d) Follow up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment**

15. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention established a follow up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment. The partnership, led by Basel Convention regional centres, is a multi-stakeholder platform, involving public and private entities. The partnership's aim is to strengthen the ESM of e-waste through awareness-raising, pilot projects, training and capacity-building activities and sharing of best practices solutions.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://basel.int/Implementation/HouseholdWastePartnership/OverallGuidanceDocument/tabid/8227/Default.aspx>

### (e) Regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions

16. The Basel Convention benefits from a network of 14 regional and coordinating centres for capacity building and technology transfer. The centres' focus is on training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous and other wastes and the minimization of their generation.<sup>5</sup>

17. The Stockholm Convention has established a network of 16 regional and subregional centres to provide technical assistance and to promote the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition regarding the implementation of their obligations under the Convention.<sup>6</sup>

18. A number of regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions are actively working on addressing the issue of marine plastic litter and microplastics, through their technical assistance and information exchange activities.<sup>7</sup> Their extensive work in this area has been welcomed by the conferences of the Parties at their 2019 meetings which also invited them to continue their activities.

### **Paragraphs 215 to 224: Actions to address marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastics, microplastics, and persistent organic pollutants**

19. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions is involved in a broad range of international cooperation and technical assistance activities to address plastic wastes pollution, including marine plastic litter and microplastics.

20. As part of its technical assistance programme, the Secretariat is currently implementing three projects financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), as follows:

- The project '*Marine litter and microplastics: promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of plastic waste*' seeks to prevent and significantly reduce marine litter and microplastics by strengthening capacity in two recipient countries as well as at the regional and global levels;<sup>8</sup>

- The project '*Further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention*' aims to assist partner countries to improve their management of plastic waste and ultimately contribute to Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1.<sup>9</sup> Under this project, a series of projects will be implemented by Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres. The first call for project proposals is open until 15 July 2020.<sup>10</sup>

- The project '*Plastic Waste in Remote and Mountainous Areas*' aims to learn from regions successfully tackling the plastic waste problem and support other regions suffering from the problem to find suitable solutions for them.

21. Under the Stockholm Convention, the amendments adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to list two new chemicals in Annex A to the Convention, namely dicofol, without specific exemptions, and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, with specific exemptions for their production and use, will enter into force on 3 December 2020 for most Parties. With the listing of those chemicals in the Convention, international action is taken to reduce and eliminate these substances, preventing their releases in the aquatic ecosystems.

22. At its fifteenth meeting, on 1-4 October 2019, the POPs Review Committee adopted the risk management evaluation on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Overview/tabid/2334/Default.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Overview/tabid/425/Default.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> The work of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions on the impact of plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics, and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management, are described in documents: UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29/Add.1 and UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/Technicalassistance/Projects/BRSNorad1/tabid/8343/Default.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/Technicalassistance/Projects/BRSNorad2/tabid/8344/Default.aspx>

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<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/Technicalassistance/Projects/BRSNorad2/SGPonplasticwaste/tabid/8402/Default.aspx>



compounds and recommended to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing the chemicals in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions. The Committee also agreed that Dechlorane Plus and Methoxychlor met the screening criteria in Annex D moving those chemicals to the next review stage requiring draft risk profiles, that include information requirements as specified in Annex E to the Convention, to be prepared by intersessional working groups established for this purpose.

23. Plastic waste may contain various POPs, such as some brominated flame retardants and short-chain chlorinated paraffins. The Stockholm Convention controls various POPs which have been used as additives, flame retardants, plasticizers in plastics or manufacture of fluoropolymers, such as: brominated diphenyl ethers, hexabromocyclododecane, short-chain chlorinated paraffins, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds.

**Paragraph 235: Environmentally sound recycling of ships; Paragraph 236: Continued cooperation between the Parties to the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships;**

24. The Secretariat continues to cooperate with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement decisions BC-12/15 on ship dismantling and BC-13/15 related to wastes generated on board ships, and works with organizations such as the International Labour Organization and International Maritime Organization, as appropriate, on policy and capacity-building issues related to sustainable ship recycling.

25. Relevant guidance developed by the Secretariat in this area includes the guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface to ensure that wastes falling within the scope of MARPOL, once offloaded from a ship, are managed in an environmentally sound manner. The guidance manual takes into account the revised version of the IMO Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities and was adopted by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.<sup>11</sup>

**Paragraph 237: The role of the Basel Convention in protecting the marine environment against the adverse effects of hazardous and other wastes, its recent amendments relating to plastic wastes and its decision BC-14/13 which includes in particular the establishment of a global Partnership on Plastic Waste**

**(a) Entry into force of the Ban Amendment**

26. On 5 December 2019, the [Ban Amendment](#) to the Basel Convention entered into force, providing for the prohibition of transboundary movement of hazardous waste from Parties in Annex VII (OECD, EU member states, Liechtenstein) to other countries. This entry into force is seen as a flagship of international efforts to ensure that transboundary movements only take place to those countries with the capacity to manage their hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner, while allowing Parties wishing to do so to receive transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. Find out more from the [Ban Amendment entry into force video](#).

**(b) Plastic Waste amendments**

27. At its fourteenth meeting, by decision BC-14/12, the Conference of the Parties amended Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention to clarify the scope of plastic waste covered by the Convention:

- Annex II (waste that requires special consideration: subject to the PIC procedure): addition of new entry Y48 covering all plastic waste, including mixtures of plastic waste, except for the plastic waste covered by entries A3210 (in Annex VIII) and B3011 (in Annex IX);
- Annex VIII (waste presumed to be hazardous: subject to the PIC procedure): addition of new entry A3210 covering hazardous plastic waste;

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/Ships/Guidance/tabid/7569/Default.aspx>.

- Annex IX (waste presumed to not be hazardous: not subject to the PIC procedure): addition of new entry B3011, replacing current entry B3010 after a specific date, covering plastic waste consisting exclusively of one non-halogenated polymer or resin, selected fluorinated polymers or mixtures of polyethylene, polypropylene and/or polyethylene terephthalate, provided the waste is destined for recycling in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.

28. With regard to the plastic waste listed in entries A3210 and Y48, each Party will also be required to implement the provisions of the Basel Convention with respect to minimizing waste generation and ensuring their environmentally sound management. The amendments will make the global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment. The amendments entered into force on 24 March 2020 and become effective as of 1 January 2021. You may find more information on the website regarding the [text of the amendments](#) and related [Frequently-Asked-Questions](#).

### (c) Decision BC-14/13 on further actions to address plastic waste

29. To assist Parties in implementing the provisions related to the new entries, COP-14 adopted several other decisions, including decision BC-14/13, initiating further action to address plastic waste under the Convention. These decisions have strengthened the Basel Convention as the global legally-binding instrument to specifically address plastic waste.

30. As a follow-up to decision BC-14/13, the following activities are being undertaken, among others:

- Partnership on Plastic Waste: The new Plastic Waste Partnership, established by the Basel Convention, has convened its first meeting in Seychelles from 2 to 5 March 2020, with more than 100 representatives, to discuss ways to prevent, minimise, and soundly manage, plastic waste from across the world. The meeting outcomes included agreement on the activities the Partnership working group will tackle, including activities on prevention and minimization of plastic waste, facilitating its proper collection and recycling, preparations for entry into force of the Plastic Waste Amendment, addressing transboundary movement of plastic waste, and plans for outreach and awareness raising activities. The working group will implement these activities along with supporting pilot projects.<sup>12</sup>

- Review of Annexes I and III to the Basel Convention: The COP requested the expert working group on the review of annexes to consider whether any additional constituents or characteristics in relation to plastic waste should be added to Annex I or III to the Convention. The expert working group held its third meeting in Bratislava from 5 to 8 November 2019. At the meeting, among other items to be considered, members of the expert working group exchanged views on the review of Annexes I and III to the Convention and agreed on further intersessional work.<sup>13</sup>

### **Paragraph 287: Cooperation and coordination in research efforts to reduce harmful impacts on marine life; Paragraph 306: Regular scientific assessments of the state of the marine environment to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking**

31. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, through the work of the scientific subsidiary bodies, the prior informed consent procedure, and the national reporting obligations, play an important role in generating global data on chemicals and waste management, and making it available to Parties and stakeholders.

32. Under the Stockholm Convention's Global Monitoring Plan, for instance, a number of activities are carried out to generate long-term and comparable monitoring data on POPs concentrations in humans, ambient air and surface water for water-soluble POPs. This information is synthesized and made available in the global monitoring plan regional and global reports<sup>14</sup> and through the global

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> See para. 86 of the report of the third meeting of the expert working group, available at <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/LegalClarity/Meetings/3rdRAEWGmtg/tabid/8108/Default.aspx>.

<sup>14</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/GlobalMonitoringPlan/MonitoringReports/tabid/525/Default.aspx>

monitoring plan data warehouse<sup>15</sup>, and includes indication of POPs concentrations in the aquatic environment and their changes over time.

33. The Secretariat cooperates with a wide range of actors to support international research efforts on the fate and effects of marine plastics and microplastics. For instance, the working group 40 of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection (GESAMP) convened in May 2019 in Geneva an International Workshop on Assessing the Risks associated with Plastics and Microplastics in the Marine Environment, which was hosted by the BRS Secretariat.<sup>16</sup> The Secretariat also cooperates with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the implementation of UNEA resolution 4/7, paragraph 2, by which the Executive Director of UNEP was requested to immediately strengthen the scientific knowledge with regard to marine litter including marine plastic litter and microplastics. In that regard, the BRS Secretariat provided inputs to the first draft assessment on sources, pathways and hazards of litter including plastic litter and microplastic pollution being developed by UNEP.

#### **Other activities:**

34. As mandated by the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the Implementation and Compliance Committee prepared a revised version of the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention, taking into account comments received, for possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting in July 2021. Paragraph 11 of Article 6 provides for an obligation to cover any transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes by insurance, bond or other guarantee as may be required by the State of import or any State of transit which is a Party to the Convention.

35. The Implementation and Compliance Committee is currently finalizing the guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention on the role of transit States in the prior informed consent procedure, taking into account additional comments received from Parties and observers including the World Customs Organization, and through targeted exchanges with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting in July 2021. The Secretariat is grateful for the contributions made by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in this context.

#### **Issues related to the impact of the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including existing publications or materials relevant to the matter under the conventions:**

During the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the generation of many types of medical and hazardous waste, including infected masks, gloves and other protective equipment, is expected to increase significantly. The sanitary situation and lockdowns in many countries may have also led to increases in plastic waste, in particular from the use of single-use plastic products for medical or consumer hygiene purposes, the use of plastic packaging, and the decrease in recycling. Unsound management of these types of waste could cause possible secondary impacts upon health and the environment, in particular on the marine ecosystems. The safe handling, and final disposal of medical, household and hazardous waste, becomes an urgent and essential public service<sup>17</sup> and is a vital element in an effective emergency response.

Numerous technical guidelines, guidance and materials have been developed and adopted under the Basel Convention to assist Parties to the Convention in managing their medical, household and hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner and, as such are highly relevant to assist Parties in putting in place COVID-19 critical response and resilience building processes.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.pops-gmp.org>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.gesamp.org/publications/gesamp-international-workshop-on-assessing-the-risks-associated-with-plastics-and-microplastics-in-the-marine-environment>

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<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PublicAwareness/PressReleases/WastemanagementandCOVID19/tabid/8376/Default.aspx>



These documents are, as follows:

- [Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of biomedical and healthcare wastes](#) include information and practical aspects related to the medical waste management for authorities seeking to minimise hazards to human health and the environment;
- [Factsheet on Healthcare or Medical Waste](#) provides guidance on all of the steps required for the sound handling, management and disposal of medical waste;
- [Draft guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste](#) which sets out existing practical and concrete solutions to promote the ESM of household waste following the principles of the waste hierarchy;
- [ESM toolkit](#) which is a collection of practical tools to assist Parties and other stakeholders in ensuring environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

The role of the Basel Convention in protecting the marine environment against the adverse effects of hazardous and other wastes, particularly plastic wastes, also contributes to assisting countries in providing effective waste management systems as part of their emergency response to COVID-19.

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