Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

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Introduction to the Basel Convention

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Adopted in May 1989
- Came into force in May 1992
- 179 Parties as of March 2012
Main Goals of the Convention

• To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects, which may result from the generation, transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

• Reducing the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, minimizing the quantity and hazardousness of wastes generated and ensuring their environmentally sound management, and assisting developing countries in environmentally sound management of the hazardous wastes, and other wastes.
Food for thought

- UNEP estimates, the total quantities of hazardous wastes generated annually worldwide are about 250 million tonnes.

- In 2006: 21 Parties to the Basel Convention reported generation of household wastes of 80 million tonnes.

- Between 14 to 20 million PCs become obsolete every year in the United States.

- A “new” hazardous waste problem confronting the world today is how to handle end-of-life equipment which may be containing hazardous substances.

- In 2011, there were about 6 billions mobile subscribers in the world (87% of the world population).
National Reporting Mandate

• Article 13(3) of the Basel Convention

• The information to be transmitted is specified under 13(3)(a) to 13(3)(i).

• The Parties, consistent with national laws and regulations, shall transmit, through the Secretariat, to the Conference of the Parties, before the end of each calendar year, a report on the previous calendar year (e.g. 31/12/2011 for the 2010 report)

• The focal point of the Basel Convention is responsible for receiving and submitting information requested under Article 13
National Reporting: COP6 adopted format

• Part I: status of information (MS Word)

• Part II: annual reporting
  – Section A (MS Excel)
  – Section B (MS Word)
Guidance available

- 1 Programme Officer that manages the processing of the data, provides training and support to the Parties

- Manual for the Parties on how to fill-in the questionnaires (in the 6 UN languages)

- Guidance Document on Improving National Reporting:
  - Details the processes for the Parties in order to be able to send national reports (proposed by the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the BC; in the 6 UN languages)

- New documents and proposals of online training discussed at the COP10 (17-21 October 2011)
Part I: status of information

- Focal Point and Competent Authority
- Wastes controlled
- Restrictions on transboundary movements
- Control procedure
- Reduction and/or elimination of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes
- Reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes subject to TBMs
- Information on effects of generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes on human health and the environment.
Part I (cont.)

– Bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements
– Disposal facilities
– Recovery facilities
– Sources of technical assistance
– Sources of financial assistance
Part II: Section A

- Data on export of hazardous wastes and other wastes
- Data on import of hazardous wastes and other wastes
- Data on generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes
Part II: Section B

- **Disposals** which did not proceed as intended
- **Accidents** occurring during the transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes
Data on transboundary movements of HW and OW (Tables 6 and 7)

- **Hazardous wastes**
  - Article 1(1)a wastes (Y1-Y18 and Y19-Y45)
  - Y code
  - Annex VIII
  - Article 1(1)b wastes
  - Mixed wastes (multiple Y codes, or undefined)

- **Other wastes (Y46-Y47)**

Note: the Secretariat excludes wastes not covered under BC scope
Data on transboundary movements of HW and OW (Tables 6 and 7)

- Hazardous characteristics
  - UN class, H code, characteristics
- Amount exported/imported
- Country of destination/country of origin
- Transit country
- Final disposal operation (D-codes)/recovery operation (R-codes)
Table 6 template

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**PART II: ANNUAL REPORTING**

**SECTION A**

**TABLE 6**

Export of hazardous wastes and other wastes in 2010

**Total amounts exported:**

- Total amount of hazardous wastes under Art. 1(1)(a) (Annex I: Y1 - Y45) exported_________ in metric tons.
- Total amount of hazardous wastes under Art. 1(1)(b) exported_________________________ in metric tons.
- Total amount of other wastes exported (Annex II: Y46 - Y47)_________________________ in metric tons.
- Total amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported_________________________ in metric tons.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annexes I and II</td>
<td>( Y ) code</td>
<td>Waste Streams/ wastes having as constituents ( Y )</td>
<td>UN class ( x )</td>
<td>( H ) code w</td>
<td>Characteristics w</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Y code</td>
<td>Waste Streams/ wastes having as constituents ( Y )</td>
<td>UN class ( x )</td>
<td>( H ) code w</td>
<td>Characteristics w</td>
<td>Amount exported (metric tons)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data on generation of HW and OW

• Table 8A
  – Generated amounts separately for hazardous wastes and other wastes
  – Differentiation between Article 1(1)a and Article 1(1)b wastes amounts

• Table 8B (optional!!)
  – Generation by Y-codes
### Table 8B template

**PART II: ANNUAL REPORTING**  
**SECTION A**  
**TABLE 8B**  
Generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes by Y-categories in 2010

If possible, please fill in the quantities for the categories Y1 - Y47

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste streams (Annex I to Basel Convention)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y1  Clinical wastes from medical care in hospitals, medical centres and clinics</td>
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<td>Y2  Wastes from the production and preparation of pharmaceutical products</td>
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<td>Y3  Waste pharmaceuticals, drugs and medicines</td>
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<td>Y4  Wastes from the production... of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals</td>
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<td>Y5  Wastes from the manufacture... of wood preserving chemicals</td>
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<td>Y6  Wastes from the production, formulation and use of organic solvent</td>
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<td>Y7  Wastes from heat treatment and tempering operations containing organides</td>
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<td>Y8  Waste mineral oils unfit for their originally intended use</td>
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<td>Y9  Waste oils/water, hydrocarbons/water mixtures, emulsion</td>
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<td>Y10 Waste substances... containing or contaminated with PCBs, PCTs, PBBs</td>
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<td>Y11 Waste tarred residues... from refining, distillation and any pyrolytic treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y12 Waste from production... of inks, dyes, pigments, paints, etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y13 Waste from production... resins, latex, plasticizers, glues, etc</td>
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<td>Y14 Waste chemical substances arising... environment are not known</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Processes at the SBC

• Step by step with the national reporting database
  – Basic verification on completeness, right year, etc
  – Data is copied into the SBC national reporting database (verifications are done)
  – Data is transferred to the SBC website
    • Online data base
    • Compilations
      – Status by date of submission
      – Status on completeness
      – Country Fact Sheets every three years
    • The following year uses the latest data in the pre-filled questionnaires
Verifications done by the SBC

- Interaction with focal points seeking clarifications
- Ensure pre-filling of corrected/updated data
- Carry-out quality control
  - Correctness of data
  - Completeness of data
  - Consistency over the years
Issues faced with the questionnaires

• SBC perspective
  – Late and incomplete reports
  – Wrong reports
  – Information transmitted in the national reporting questionnaire, through the focal point will also be considered notified (e.g. notification on national definitions and on import/export prohibition) – new!
  – Legislation text not (always) transmitted with national report
  – Lack of quick clarifications from the Parties
  – Old technology used and many manual steps
To improve data quality at the national level

- Standardize data collection and methodologies
- Put in place procedures for data processing
- Increase quality checks/quality control before submission to the secretariat
## National Reporting: latest submissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Latest Report</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2009</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Latest Report</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The FYR of Macedonia</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Moldova</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>Not a Party</td>
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<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>2010</td>
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</table>

**Note:** the latest report to be submitted to the SBC was due in 31/12/2011, for the year 2010.
Present and future steps

• Plans to improve the national reporting system to be more similar to the one used by the Stockholm Convention (synergies decisions)

• Create a working group with the Stockholm Convention to discuss the possibilities of cooperation at the national level and at the Secretariats on data collection

• In the long term perspective, the Secretariat aims at creating tools to analyze the data in a more dynamic and interactive way

• Launch of a new tool for data visualization soon for BC
Example of data on generation of HW
Example of data on generation of OW
Example of data of transboundary movement
BC publications
(available on the website)

• Publications related to National Report
  – Manual of transmission of information
  – Guidance Document on Improving National Reporting by Parties to the Basel Convention
  – Waste without frontier
  – Benchmark document

• Other references
  – Revised versions of the forms for the notification document and the movement document and related instructions
  – The Guide to the Control System
  – The Model National Legislation
  – The Check list for the Legislator
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Secretariat of the Basel Convention  
carla.valle@unep.org

Thank you!!!