

## **India at the Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 2017**

The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to “**Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal**” (BC COP 13) and the eighth meetings of the “**Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade**” (RC COP 8) and “**Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)**” (SC COP 8) will be held **back-to-back from 24 April to 5 May, 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland**. The meetings will also feature a **high-level segment**. The high-level segment is scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May and the morning of Friday, 5 May 2017. The theme of the meetings and the high-level segment will be "A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste".

The **Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal** was adopted on 22 March 1989. 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. The Convention covers hazardous wastes that are explosive, flammable, poisonous, infectious, corrosive, toxic, or eco-toxic. **With respect to environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous waste, the Convention aims towards restricting transboundary movements of hazardous wastes except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principle of ESM. India ratified the Basel convention on 24 June 1992.** India has been taking measures for the effective management of hazardous wastes and thereby meeting the obligations of the Basel Convention. The Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was notified to ensure the safe handling, processing, treatment, storage, collection, transportation, collection, and disposal of hazardous waste.

The **Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade** is a multilateral environment agreement, provides obligations on the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals. Parties are empowered, through virtue of membership, to make informed decisions about the chemicals they want to receive, and to exclude those they believe they cannot manage safely. The convention's objective is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of these chemicals to protect human health and the environment, and contribute to the environmentally sound use of chemicals. The Prior Informed Consent (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. As of now, total of 47 chemicals are listed in Annex III of the convention, 33 are pesticides and 14 industrial chemicals. The Convention was adopted on 10 September 1998 and entered into force on 24 February 2004. **India ratified the convention on 24 May 2005.** The implication of listing of chemicals is rise in trade cost and delay in import/export of hazardous chemicals/pesticides.

**Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)** is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods (persistent), become widely distributed geographically (long range transport), accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife (bioaccumulation), and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment (toxic). The Convention was adopted on 22 May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May 2004. **India ratified the convention on 13 January 2006.** Under the convention, the chemicals can be listed for Elimination (Annex-A), Restriction (Annex-B) or Unintentional production (Annex-C). The implementation of the convention requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of these POPs into the environment. Till date, 26 chemicals are listed as POPs under the Stockholm Convention. As of now, India has ratified only the 12 initially listed POPs. As a first step for implementation of Stockholm Convention in India a National Implementation Plan has been prepared. India is in process for ratification of selected newly listed POPs.

**More information about the BRS COPs 2017 has been provided at <http://www.brsmeas.org/2017COPs/Overview/tabid/5306/language/en-US/Default.aspx>**

**You are invited to send your comments and suggestions on matters of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at [indiabrsco2017@gmail.com](mailto:indiabrsco2017@gmail.com).**