

Bali declaration on waste management for human health and livelihood

We, the Ministers and other heads of delegation from the Parties to the Basel Convention and from other States,

Having met in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 June 2008, on the occasion of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and in particular during the World Forum on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood,

Mindful that the conditions of life on our planet are threatened and that the challenge for Governments, civil society and the private sector is to protect and improve the environment and human health and livelihood for present and future generations,

Declare that:

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the Basel Convention adopted on 22 March 1989, including the fundamental objective to protect, by strict control, human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in a spirit of solidarity and partnership and are willing to contribute to a new momentum to achieve the Convention's objectives;
2. We also reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development, including those principles set out in Agenda 21, including chapters 20 and 21, as agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992;
3. We further reaffirm our commitment to the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan for Implementation, which aimed to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social progress and environmental protection – at the local, national, regional and global levels;
4. We are convinced that full and effective action to implement the Basel Convention will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, notably internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, through waste prevention and minimization, the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and safe and environmentally sound management of waste. In this way, progress can be made in the area of poverty eradication, health, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability and the global partnership for development;
5. We are fully aware that waste, if not managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner, may have serious consequences for the environment, human health and sustainable livelihood, and therefore we reaffirm our commitment to preventing the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, to minimizing the generation of hazardous wastes and to promoting the safe and environmentally sound management of waste within each country;
6. We are convinced that if those actions are taken, there is high potential to improve the health and livelihood of all citizens and to provide economic opportunities through the safe and efficient reduction, re-use, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal of waste. We believe that we could help to realize such potential benefits by encouraging the incorporation of sound waste management in development and sustainability strategies and through strengthened cooperation at all levels;
7. We will further promote international, regional and inter-agency cooperation, coordination and planning, including among the Basel Convention, 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, to facilitate capacity-building, information sharing and technology transfer in tackling hazardous waste issues, including through the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
8. We note that resource mobilization is an important task to be undertaken for achieving the objectives of the Basel Convention. In this context, as set out in decision VIII/34 on resource mobilization and sustainable financing, in particular its paragraph 5, which takes into account the co-benefits between the environmentally sound management of waste and climate protection, we encourage raising of such resources, including from the flexible mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol;

9. We call upon international and regional partners to support and enhance the implementation of the Basel Convention at the bilateral, regional and global levels by providing adequate resources and assistance for the safe and environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes and we believe that a public-private partnership approach could be an important way to advance activities for the environmentally sound management of waste. In this context, we also recall the importance of the role played by the Basel Convention regional centres in enhancing the implementation of the Convention and the need to support the building of their capacity to improve their effectiveness;

10. We encourage the following actions by Parties and by relevant public and private organizations, including international and regional organizations and programmes, to:

(a) Promote awareness-raising of the link between waste management, health and livelihood and the environment;

(b) Strengthen subregional and regional cooperation on waste and health issues by promoting national, regional and international human and appropriate technical capacities;

(c) Improve waste shipment and border controls to prevent illegal movements of hazardous and other wastes, including through capacity-building, technology transfer and technical assistance;

(d) Improve cooperation between national authorities in the waste, chemicals and health sectors and, in collaboration with other relevant authorities and stakeholders, in the development and implementation of effective and sound waste management systems;

(e) Increase capacity-building and promote and, where possible, enhance, public and private investment for the transfer and use of appropriate technology for the safe and environmentally sound management of waste;

11. We invite the World Health Assembly to consider a resolution related to the improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management.
