

7.3. The Triple COP, The Plastic Waste Partnership and Regional Centres

7.3.1 The Triple COP

In 2011, the COPs of these conventions agreed to develop processes to improve coordination and cooperation between them. Since 2013, meetings of the COPs have been organised back-to-back and include joint meetings on common issues. These ‘Triple COP’ meetings have raised awareness of the interlinkages between the three conventions and between issues such as plastic pollution and marine litter. They focus on the toxicity of plastics and additives.

In 2017, the COPs to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions acknowledged the issues of marine plastics and microplastics and encouraged their regional centres to work on this issue. A Working Group on Marine Litter Plastics and Microplastics and its POPs and EDC Components was also established. The open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention was also tasked to consider the

issue in the context of the Basel Convention and propose possible action for consideration at the following COP.

The latest Triple COP (BC COP 14, RC COP 9 and SC COP 9) meetings took place in Geneva in 29 April–10 May 2019. Marine plastic litter and microplastics were discussed in all three meetings and jointly. The possibility of negotiating a new international binding instrument to control pollution from plastic waste and associated hazardous substances was also raised.

7.3.2 The Plastic Waste Partnership and tightening of international cooperation

One of the outcomes of the Triple COP was the establishment of a Plastic Waste Partnership under the Basel Convention to improve and promote the environmentally-sound management of plastic waste, and in the long-term, eliminate the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics in the marine environment. The Terms of Reference of the Plastic Waste Partnership is set out in UNEP/CHW.14/INF/16/Rev.1. See also: <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwastes/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx>.

The COPs of the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention also requested their respective Secretariats to work closely with other international organisations, within the scope of their mandates, on activities relating to marine plastic litter and microplastics (Decisions RC 9/9 and SC 9/19).

7.3.3 Regional Centres

The Regional Centre of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions for Southeast Asia is based in Jakarta (BCRC/SCRC Indonesia) and works with the ASEAN. Donors/funds/agencies that are involved in issues related to marine plastic waste, mercury and new POPs in Southeast Asian countries include the GEF, USAID and Keml (Swedish Chemicals Agency). The main activity of the Regional Centre thus far has been the organisation of workshops, i.e. the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (the most recent meeting was in November 2019), and the Asia Pacific Regional Consultations for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the most recent meeting was in October 2019).