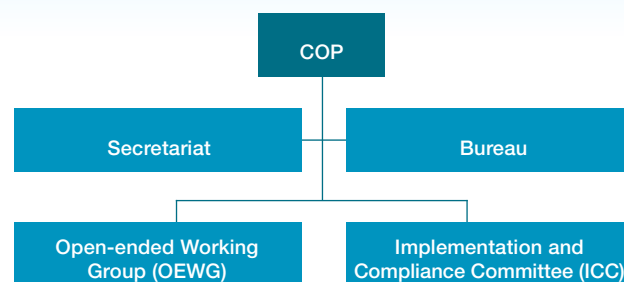




## BASEL CONVENTION

### Institutional structure



## BRS Treaties • Basel Convention

### Background

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 and entered into force on 5 May 1992.
- The Convention addresses concerns over the management, disposal, and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes produced worldwide.
- The guiding principles of the Convention are that: the generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes should be reduced to a minimum; and hazardous wastes should be managed in an environmentally sound manner, treated, disposed of as close as possible to the source of generation, and minimized at the source.
- The Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation was adopted at the fifth Conference of Parties (COP 5) in 1999. The Protocol talks began in 1993 in response to the concerns of developing countries about their lack of funds and technologies for coping with illegal dumping or accidental spills.
- The objective of the Protocol is to provide for a comprehensive regime for liability as well as adequate and prompt compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including incidents occurring because of illegal traffic in those wastes.
- At the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6) in 2002, Parties created the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) as a subsidiary body to the COP.
- The OEWG assists the COP in developing and continuously reviewing the implementation of the Convention's workplan and specific operational policies and decisions for the implementation of the Convention.
- At COP 9 in 2008, Parties to the Basel Convention agreed to enhance cooperation under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- This was agreed amongst the COPs of the three Conventions at a simultaneous extraordinary meeting held in 2010 in Bali. Subsequent decisions amongst the three COPs have led to the provision of a matrix structure amongst the three secretariats serving the three Conventions, where a number of functions are carried out jointly and joint services are delivered.

### Principles in the Rio Declaration covered by the Basel Convention include:

- Aware of the risk of damage to human health and the environment caused by hazardous wastes and other wastes and the transboundary movement thereof (Principle 1)
- Mindful of the growing threat to human health and the environment posed by the increased generation and complexity, and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes (Principle 1)
- Mindful also that the most effective way of protecting human health and the environment from the dangers posed by such wastes is the reduction of their generation to a minimum in terms of quantity and/or hazard potential (Principle 1)
- Convinced that States should take necessary measures to ensure that the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes including their transboundary movement and disposal is consistent with the protection of human health and the environment whatever the place of disposal (Principle 15)

This factsheet on **The Chemicals Treaties (BRS Treaties): Basel Convention** is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 23–25