

Concept Note

High-Level Roundtable Discussion

“Strengthening action for change: Advancing integrated solutions for the implementation of the BRS Conventions”

A roundtable discussion for Heads of UN entities and MEA Secretariats at the 2025 Meeting of the Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-17, RC COP-12 and SC COP-12)

Date: Wednesday 30th April 2025

Time: 13:15 – 14:45 CEST

Venue: Room C, Level 0, Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland

Format: In-person

Organizers: *United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG), Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)*

Background

The seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-17), the twelfth to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-12), and the twelfth to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-12), will take place in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2025.

These meetings come at a critical time. The world continues to face an escalating planetary crisis, driven by pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change. These issues are exacerbated by unsustainable consumption patterns, the spread of hazardous chemicals, and growing volumes of toxic waste. The theme of the [2025 BRS COPs](#)—**“Make Visible the Invisible: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”**—underscores the importance of addressing these often-overlooked issues, which have significant impacts on human health, ecosystems, and sustainable development.

The challenges of chemical and waste management are deeply interconnected with those of climate change and biodiversity. Chemicals and waste contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, degrade ecosystems, and threaten the foundations of life. Addressing these challenges in isolation is no longer effective—**integrated, cross-sectoral, and synergistic approaches are essential.**

To that end, it is vital to bring together and align implementation across key global frameworks: the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#), the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#), and the [Paris Agreement](#). These frameworks offer aligned pathways to reduce pollution, protect ecosystems, and advance sustainable production and consumption. Strengthening the connections between these frameworks and the BRS Conventions will help maximize impact, prevent duplication, and enable cohesive solutions.

Furthermore, addressing institutional silos is as important as breaking thematic ones. Strengthening integrated action will require the engagement of key institutional actors beyond the traditional environmental sphere, such as the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), members of the [Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals](#) (IOMC), and the forthcoming [Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention](#). Their inclusion is essential to ensure integrated evidence-based policymaking and provide coherent support to countries.

In this context, the [United Nations Environment Management Group](#) (EMG), in collaboration with UNEP and the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions, will convene a high-level roundtable of Heads and Senior Officials of UN entities and MEA Secretariats to explore practical and forward-looking pathways for integrated implementation.

Building on lessons from EMG roundtables held at [CBD COP16](#), [UNFCCC COP29](#), and [UNCCD COP16](#), this roundtable will focus on how to break institutional and thematic silos, strengthen coordination, and accelerate delivery through joint action.

The outcomes of this session will feed into upcoming global fora, including [UNEA-7](#) and the [Belem Climate COP](#), helping to ensure that the discussions here contribute directly to interlinked global agendas and transformative action.

Guiding questions for discussion

How can enhanced coordination among MEAs and UN entities ensure that chemicals and waste management is fully embedded in global climate and biodiversity action, enhancing synergies and accelerating systemic and integrated solutions to pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change?

Expected outcomes

- Clear recommendations for enhancing synergies across MEAs and key institutional actors to advance integrated action on chemicals, waste, biodiversity, and climate.
- Practical proposals to improve interagency collaboration and UN system-wide support to countries for coherent implementation of MEAs.
- Identification of priority policy areas where joint actions among the BRS Conventions, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, and others can catalyze transformative change.

Agenda

Time	Event	Speaker
13h15 15 min	Opening and welcoming remarks	Ms. Inger Andersen Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director of UNEP, and EMG Chair Mr. Rolph Payet Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions H.E. Ambassador Felix Wertli Ambassador for the Environment, Head of International Affairs Division, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
13h30 45 min	Moderated roundtable discussion with guiding questions	A panel of Heads and Senior Officials of United Nations agencies
10 min	Q&A	Panel and participants
5 min	Closing remarks and summary of key perspectives	Moderator

Total duration: 75min