

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT DIALOGUES | Impacts of COVID-19 on the Global Environmental Agenda | #2 BRS on Basel Convention OEWG12  
30 April 2020



# Chemicals & Waste and Covid-19: BRS Secretariat Response

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



# Covid-19 Impact on scheduled face-to-face meetings

## Suspended meetings:

- Meeting of the small intersessional working group on technical specially engineered landfill (D5) and incineration on land (D10) and energy recovery (R1), Ottawa, Canada, 18 and 19 March 2020
- Orientation workshop for CRC members, Rome, Italy, 22 to 24 April 2020

## Meeting to be held online:

- 1st meeting of the small intersessional working group on the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012-2021, 20 to 22 April 2020
- Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, 9 June 2020
- Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, 10 June 2020
- 12th meeting of OEWG of the Basel Convention (OEWG-12), 22 to 25 June 2020
- Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,, 25-26 June 2020
- 14th meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC-14), 29 June – 3 July 2020, followed by supplementary sessions to be convened either face-to -face or online and tentatively scheduled for 21-24 September 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

**Waste management an essential public service in the fight to beat COVID-19**



## **On going activities in response to Covid-19: short term**

### **Development of fact sheets:**

- Impact of Covid-19 & transboundary movement of wastes, legal frameworks and notifications;
- Healthcare / biomedical waste
- Household waste

### **Development of information material on household waste and plastic waste related implications of COVID-19**

### **Collection of case studies from countries on how they have dealt with chemical and waste related issues related to Covid-19**



# Fact Sheet on Environmentally Sound Management of Medical Waste



## Healthcare or Medical Waste

### Basel Convention

on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

This fact sheet is part of a series of fact sheets to support the implementation of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in accordance with the obligations of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The fact sheet provides information on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of healthcare waste, also sometimes referred to as medical waste. This fact sheet is primarily intended for use by waste managers at facilities generating or disposing of healthcare waste, but also contains information useful to transporters and collectors.

In addition, the reader should take due account of the **Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Healthcare Wastes (Y1; Y3)**, developed under the Basel Convention<sup>(1)</sup>.

Facilities generating and disposing of healthcare waste should appoint a waste management officer who should have overall responsibility for developing a waste management plan for the facility, and for the day-to-day operation and monitoring of the waste management system. The waste management plan should address, among others, responsibilities, waste management procedures, monitoring and training<sup>(2)</sup>. Minimisation of waste through a purchasing policy that includes product substitution, product changes, procedural changes, replacing disposable items with reusable items, and encouraging extended producer responsibility, should be considered.

#### Classification

Classifying wastes into groups that pose similar risks to the environment and human health facilitates their management and the collection of information for monitoring and reporting purposes.

Table 1 below shows how various categories of healthcare waste may be classified under Annexes I, II, VIII and IX of the Basel Convention (required for transboundary movements of waste). The applicable hazard class or division under the United Nations Model Regulations<sup>(3)</sup>, which serves as a basis for most national regulations governing the transport of dangerous goods, is identified for selected wastes within those categories.

#### Segregation

Introducing waste segregation is the first step in implementing a facility-wide waste management plan. Segregation should be carried out as close as possible to the place of generation. Waste that has been poorly segregated should not be re-sorted if non-hazardous and hazardous wastes are accidentally mixed; the mixture should be managed as hazardous waste. Corrective action should be taken to ensure that waste is segregated properly in the future<sup>(4)</sup>. Many countries have national measures that prescribe the waste segregation categories to be used and a system of colour coding for waste containers. Where there is no national measure in place, a World Health Organization (WHO) scheme is available<sup>(4)</sup>, as detailed in Table 1. Colour coding makes it easier for medical staff and hospital workers to put waste items into the correct container, and for



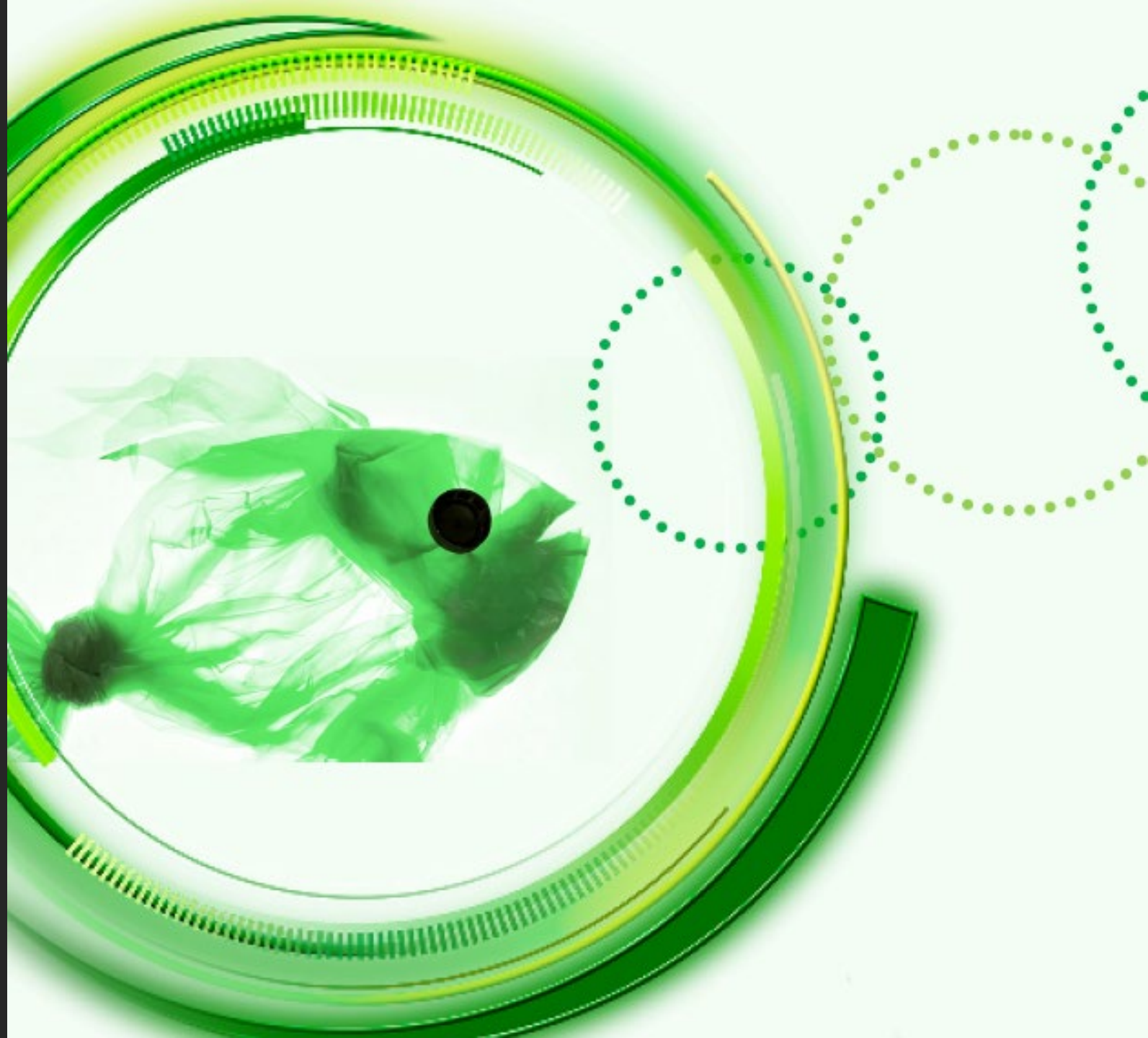
**Earth Schools** organized by UNEP. 22 April to 5 June, running every day with a different themed "Quest" Watch out especially for **May 13** when BRS co-leads the Quest on Plastics:

<https://ed.ted.com/earth-school>

**MOOC on Electronic Waste:** organized by BRS with Partners  
<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/MOOC/tabid/4966/Default.aspx>



**Plastic Waste  
Partnership Photo  
Contest- deadline for  
submission of entries  
30 September 2020**





United Nations  
Environment Programme

# CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



**Special Programme: deadline extended to 4 September  
2020 in light of Covid-19 situation**



**Thank you for  
your attention**

For more information  
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**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

