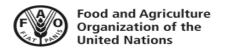


Impact of COVID-19 on preparation for the Twelfth Meeting of the Basel Convention's Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-12) and the new format for OEWG-12

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions







Impact of COVID-19 on OEWG-12

- Not feasible to organize OEWG-12 as originally planned, on 22-25 June 2020, in Geneva, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation;
- Not possible to postpone the meeting, due risk of conflicting scheduling, with still high level of uncertainty about the feasibility of conducting physical meetings towards the end of the year;
- Need to ensure that the intersessional work under the Basel Convention could continue as many meetings of the intersessional groups are scheduled towards the end of the year;
- On 9 April, OEWG Bureau agreed to a new format to conduct OEWG-12 by electronic means, as an exceptional measure, in light of the current extraordinary circumstances.



Format of OEWG-12 to be held by electronic means

- The OEWG-12 will focus on process-oriented decisions, aimed at enabling the continuation of the intersessional work, and not on revising documents and guidelines in substance;
- Process-oriented decisions would, e.g., invite comments by Parties and observers on draft guidance documents and request the preparation of revised versions for consideration by COP;
- As a consequence, more in-depth discussion might be needed by the SIWGs/EWGs, etc., and during the COP, to further advance on the various documents;
- The rules of procedure apply to OEWG-12 and the rules and practices on decision-making remain the same;
- The OEWG-12 by electronic means will be composed of two parts:
 - Online session;
 - Email correspondence procedure;
- Maximum duration of meeting is 2 weeks (from 22 June to 5 July 2020, including weekends).



Working modalities: Online session

- Online session will be held on Monday, 22 June 2020, at 2-5 pm (Geneva time);
- At this time, the OEWG-12 meeting will be opened and consider procedural matters: adoption of the agenda and agreement on organization of work;
- Substantive agenda items will be introduced;
- Co-chairs will invite Parties and observers to make statements and invite Parties to adopt draft decisions on relevant agenda items, through an email correspondence procedure;
- The consideration of relevant agenda items will be suspended pending the outcome of the email correspondence procedure;
- After the closure of the online session, an email will be sent on behalf of co-chairs to all Parties and observers to launch the email correspondence procedure.



Working modalities: Email correspondence procedure

- After the send-out of the email, Parties will have 48 hours to provide by email statements, proposals, and/or rejections to the proposed draft decisions. Observers will have the opportunity to provide statements on agenda items;
- All decisions on which no proposals are made and no objections are raised within 48 hours will be considered adopted;
- If proposals or rejections are raised, the Secretariat will revise the draft decisions, in consultation with the co-chairs;
- The revised versions of the decisions will be circulated by email with an invitation to adopt them within 48 hours;
- These steps are repeated until agreement is reached. If agreement cannot be reached by Sunday, 5 July, the issue will be postponed to COP-15;
- All comments/proposals made by Parties will be made available to all participants via a password protected internet page;
- The meeting will be closed by co-chairs via email at the latest by Sunday, 5 July 2020.



Participation in the electronic OEWG-12

Representatives of Parties and admitted observers who have already pre-registered

- Official registrations received from Parties and observers for the face-to-face meeting will be considered as the official registrations for the new electronic OEWG-12.
- Parties and observers can make an update or a change to their delegation before **Friday**, **22 May 2020**.

Representatives of Parties and admitted observers who have not pre-registered

 For new registrations from Parties and previously admitted observers, a registration form should be submitted before Friday, 22 May 2020.

Parties may wish to consider registering additionally their Permanent Missions in Geneva for the online session.



Working languages of the electronic OEWG-12

- All meeting documents and meeting reports (incl. the decisions of the meeting) will be translated into the six UN languages.
- Online session and correspondence procedure will be in English only, i.e. proposals on draft decisions are to be made in English only.
- General statements by Parties and observers may be made available in any of the six UN languages.



Thank you!

Consult our website for more information about OEWG-12:

http://www.basel.int/oewg12

Webinars on OEWG-12 will be scheduled as of next week.