



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
58th session  
Agenda item 3

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## RECYCLING OF SHIPS

### Report of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

#### Note by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides an overview of the decision on the environmentally sound management of ship dismantling taken by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	7.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	7.1.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	7.1.2.1 and 7.1.2.2
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

#### Introduction

1 The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (hereinafter referred to as “the COP”), met from 23 to 27 July 2008 in Bali, Indonesia. A Contact Group on Ship Dismantling was convened to discuss the environmentally sound management of ship dismantling, with specific reference to the draft International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (“the ship recycling convention”) and international cooperation and technical assistance activities in this area, including the activities of the Joint Working Group of the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Basel Convention on Ship Scrapping.

2 The COP requested the Secretariat to transmit its decision on the “Environmentally sound management of ship dismantling” for submission to the International Maritime Organization for consideration by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifty-eighth session.

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## **Draft International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships**

3 The Secretariat of the Basel Convention, which has been instructed by the COP to follow the development of the ship recycling convention and report thereon to the Open-ended Working Group and to the COP at its tenth meeting, draws the attention of the Committee to the decision on the “Environmentally sound management of ship dismantling and the Joint Working Group of the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Basel Convention on Ship Scrapping”, adopted by the ninth meeting of the COP.

4 By this decision, the COP welcomes the progress made in the development of the ship recycling convention by the International Maritime Organization. In this regard, it:

- invites the International Maritime Organization to continue to have due regard to the role, competence and expertise of the Basel Convention in matters related to ship dismantling and in particular with respect to the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes; and
- invites the International Maritime Organization to continue to incorporate clear responsibilities of all stakeholders in ship recycling, including shipowners, ship recycling facilities, flag States and ship recycling States, with a view to achieving the safe and environmentally sound management of ship recycling, also taking into account their current capacity and the common but differentiated responsibilities and sovereign rights of the Parties.

5 In the same decision the COP establishes a process by which it may assess whether the ship recycling convention establishes an equivalent level of control as that established under the Basel Convention, whilst noting that the duplication of regulatory instruments that have the same objective should be avoided. It thus invites the seventh session of its Open-ended Working Group:

- to carry out a preliminary assessment on whether the ship recycling convention, as adopted, establishes an equivalent level of control and enforcement as that established under the Basel Convention, in their entirety, after having developed the criteria necessary for such assessment, and, in doing so, to take into account:
  - i. the special characteristics of ships and international shipping;
  - ii. the principles of the Basel Convention and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties; and
  - iii. the comments submitted by Parties and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;
- to transmit the results of the assessment to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting for consideration and actions, as appropriate.

6 Recognizing the need to establish criteria by which the equivalency of the ship recycling convention may be assessed, the COP also invites Parties to provide to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention comments on appropriate criteria to be used, by 31 January 2009.

## **International cooperation and technical assistance activities**

7 Highlighting the importance of cooperation amongst entities involved in ship dismantling, in particular, the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Basel Convention, and the need for technical assistance activities, the COP also:

- invites Parties and others to continue to transmit to the Secretariat relevant information that may assist stakeholders in developing measures to address, in the short and medium term, the potentially harmful consequences of ship dismantling on human health and the environment and requests the Secretariat to continue to make information received available on the Basel Convention website;
- welcomes the development of implementation programmes relating to sustainable ship recycling and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of funding, to continue its work and to develop further the programmes for sustainable ship recycling<sup>1</sup> in conjunction with other bodies, in particular, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization, and to report thereon to the Open-ended Working Group at its seventh session for its consideration and for the Open-ended Working Group to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting; and
- requests Parties and other stakeholders in a position to do so to make financial or in-kind contributions to the implementation of activities under the relevant programmes.

8 With reference to the Joint Working Group of the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Basel Convention on Ship Scrapping, the COP requests that the Secretariat reports to the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties on the outcome of the third session, to be held from 29 to 31 October 2008 at the Headquarters of the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

## **Action requested of the Committee**

9 The Committee is invited to take into account this decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in its future consideration of the ship recycling convention and the guidelines necessary under the convention and, in particular, the invitation to ensure that the ship recycling convention to be adopted by it establishes an equivalent level of control as that established under the Basel Convention, noting that the duplication of regulatory instruments that have the same objective should be avoided.

10 Furthermore, the Committee is invited to take note of discussions that will be held on relevant matters at the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group, in particular those items referred to in paragraph 5.

11 Finally, the Committee is invited to encourage those Member States having a particular interest in ship recycling to participate in the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group.

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<sup>1</sup> Referred to as the “Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling” by the Secretariats of the International Maritime Organization, International Labour Organization and the Basel Convention.