Electronic Approaches under the Basel Convention: facilitation of legitimate trade in waste

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The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

- **Adopted:** 22 March 1989
- **Entry into force:** 5 May 1992
- **Number of parties:** 191
- **Objective:** To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes
- **Scope:** Hazardous wastes and other wastes

3 Pillars of the Basel Convention

Minimize the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and degree of hazard;

Promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes

Control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes (conditions and the PIC procedure);







3. Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes

The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes by applying the concept of Prior Informed Consent (PIC). This means that imports, transits and exports of wastes that fall under the Basel Convention are only allowed when **all involved Parties have given their consent before the movement is initiated**.



1.
Notification by the State of export



2.
Consent and issuance of movement document



3.
Transboundary movement



4.
Confirmation of disposal

Activities on digitalization



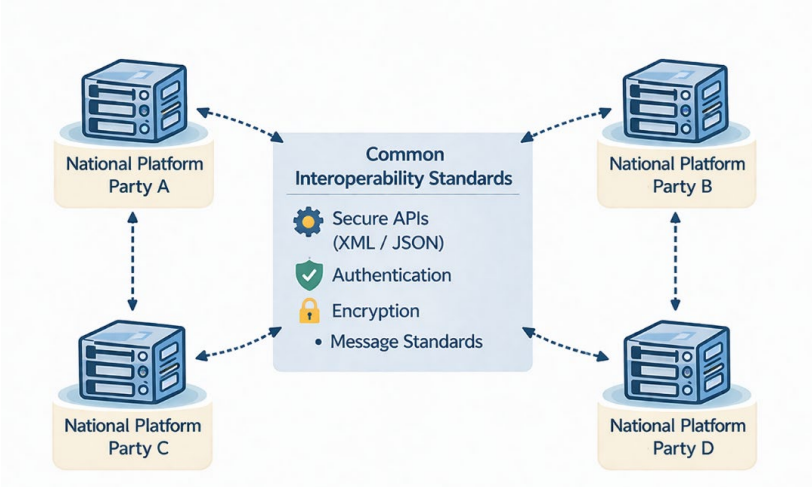
- Discussions on digitalization of the PIC procedure started in 2016 (multiple surveys, reports, etc)
- **Recommendations** adopted by COP-17 in 2025
  - Parties and others invited to work on **pilot projects**, **case studies** to share about their experiences
  - To develop **standards** and **requirements for the exchange of messages** and the **interconnection between systems** and information about **options** for national or regional solutions
  - To develop **factsheets** on key aspects to consider when developing e-approaches solutions.
  - Secretariat to provide technical assistance



More concretely (1)

- Work on pilot projects
  - Secretariat to fund raise
  - Minimum 2 countries to be involved – **intention to do one in the Asian region, funds provided by the Government of Japan**
  - Assessment about software requirements and options (e.g., adapt Asycuda – similar to e-CITES, develop a brand new software, use open-source, etc)

More concretely (2)

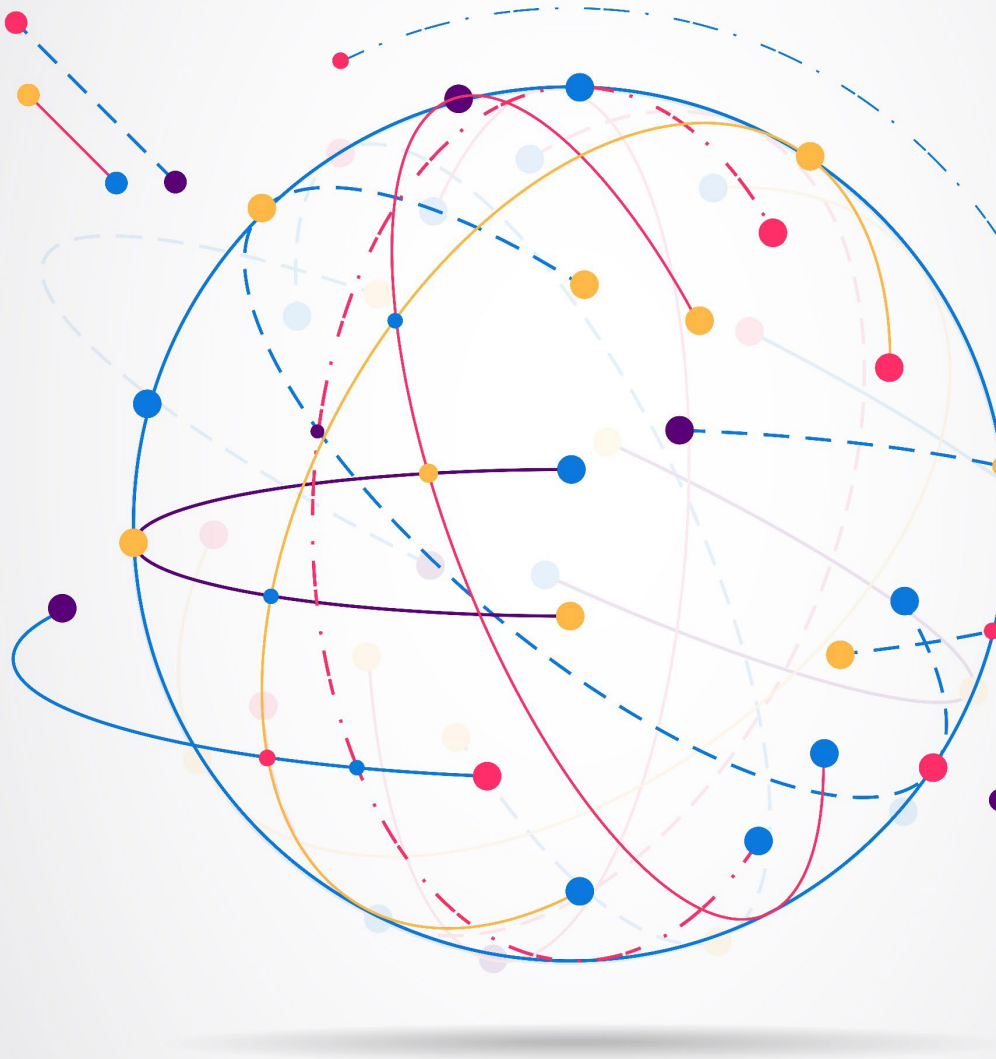


- Working group is working on «building blocks» to advance the theme

  - System architecture, interoperability, harmonization of data model, security, **adaptation required from paper to electronic format**, considerations for a hybrid scenarion (Parties with solutions in place, Parties without any solution, Parties with other systems in place, etc)
  - **Recent paper developed with 4 factsheets** (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.15/INF/18) on:
    - System architecture options
    - Standards for message exchanges
    - Security aspects
    - «Emerging» technologies (i.e., AI, OCR, Mobile devices)

Possible benefits from the digitalization of the PIC procedure under BC

- Opportunity for collaboration among Parties
- Transparency
- Efficiency (time to analyse requirements to allow/prohibit transboundary movements; organization of information required – docs are provided once) for Parties and Stakeholders
- Combat illegal traffic of waste
- Possibility to link with other national systems, e.g. customs' systems (Asycuda or Single Windows)
- Reporting





- Thank you!
- Email: carla.valle@un.org
- For more information, please visit us at: http://www.brsmeas.org/
- For more information on electronic approaches under the Basel Convention: https://www.basel.int/Implementation/Controllingtransboundarymovements/eapproachesfornotificationandmovement/Overview/tabid/7375/Default.aspx