

Guidelines on preventing and addressing all forms of harassment at meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

A. Introduction

1. These guidelines are drafted in accordance with the United Nations' zero tolerance policy towards any form of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority¹. As such, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) adheres to this UN policy.
2. The BRS Secretariat has prepared these guidelines to provide a point of reference for those participating in BRS meetings, with respect to the prevention of discrimination, harassment and abuse of authority at meetings and how such incidents will be addressed.
3. These guidelines are not exhaustive and are without prejudice to the applicable United Nations (UN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) rules and regulations. They provide information reflecting current practice regarding the prevention of harassment at meetings and how such incidents can be addressed.

B. Meetings of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies

4. Meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their subsidiary bodies are convened for negotiations between the Parties to the conventions. Observers are also welcome to attend these meetings, subject to the relevant provisions of the Convention concerned and its rules of procedure.
5. Participants of BRS meetings, whether they are representatives of Parties or observer entities, commit to cooperating with the BRS Secretariat and UN security staff, and to comply with their requests and instructions regarding access to and conduct within the meeting venue.
6. During meetings of the COPs and their subsidiary bodies, any complaints of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority, should be reported to the BRS Secretariat who will inform UN security, as appropriate.

C. Measures

7. Once a complaint is received, the Secretariat, in consultation with UN security, will make a determination as to whether any further action is required. In cases of alleged physical harm or other alleged violations of local laws, the matter will be brought to the attention of the local police.
8. If the complaint relates to a member of a delegation of a Party to the BRS conventions, all efforts will be made to contact the head of delegation concerned.
9. Kindly note that, in conformity with applicable UN/UNEP/FAO rules and regulations, the BRS Secretariat and the UN Security reserve the right to take the following measures in case of harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority:
 - (a) Confiscation of the representative's badge;
 - (b) Removal of the representative from the premises;
 - (c) Confiscation of unauthorized material;
 - (d) Any other measure falling within their mandate that is deemed appropriate or necessary.

¹ <https://undocs.org/ST/SGB/2008/5>.