



# Introductory Course to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal



InforMEA  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

UN  
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programme



## Course Syllabus

### Learning Objectives

Awakening environmental awareness and a corresponding tightening of environmental regulations in the industrialized world in the 1970s and 1980s led to increasing public resistance to the dumping of hazardous wastes – and to an escalation of disposal costs. This in turn led some operators to seek cheap disposal options for hazardous wastes in the developing world. It was against this background that the Basel Convention was negotiated in the late 1980s. Its thrust at the time of its adoption was to combat “toxic trade,” as it was termed. The Convention entered into force in 1992. This course will introduce you to the history of the Basel Convention and how it works to regulate the movement and disposal of hazardous and other wastes across international boundaries.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the need for and origins of the Basel Convention;
- Explain the mechanisms through which the Convention regulates transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes.

### Content & Duration

This online course is comprised of 4 lessons, organized in interactive modules that combine the course theory with exercises and interactions that will facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with additional material, such as videos, publications, and external websites.

It will take you approximately 2 hours to complete the full course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you wish.

## Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress. You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

## Course Outline & Content

### Lesson 1: Introduction

Hazardous wastes; adverse impacts on human health and the environment; the need for an international response; and the origins, adoption, and overview of the Convention.

### Lesson 2: The Three Pillars of the Basel Convention

- (1) Minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes;
- (2) Strict control of transboundary movements; and
- (3) Environmentally Sound Management.

### Lesson 3: Institutional Framework and the Synergies Process

Explaining the functions of the Conference of the Parties; Secretariat; Regional Coordinating Centres; and Subsidiary Bodies; and outlining the Synergies Process.

### Lesson 4: Regional Instruments on Hazardous Wastes

- (1) Bamako Convention
- (2) ROPME Wastes Protocol
- (3) Waigani Convention