



delegate alert

Fulfilling the Promise of the Basel Convention -- Ratify the Ban Amendment

Bring your Ban Amendment Ratification News to COP12

Prepared by Basel Action Network, May 2015

The Basel Ban Amendment – the most significant achievement of the Basel Convention in its 25 year history - is very close to its long awaited entry into force. However, in recent months, activity and ratification announcements have been far too slow and quiet.

Currently we need **just 12 more ratifications!** We currently have 56 of the 68 needed (3/4) from the group of 90 Parties that were there in 1995 (COP3) when the Amendment was adopted. Peru ratified just last month and they were in the 1995 group. We wish to send our congratulations and gratitude to Peru by “raising” their flag here.



With the addition of Peru, we have 81 total Ratifications. We urge all countries that have not already done so to ratify the Ban Amendment and be a part of history soon to be in the making.

But in particular we are looking toward the following list of countries from the 1995 list (whose ratification counts toward entry into force) that are still sorely needed to

make history.

Antigua and Barbuda	Japan
Australia	Lebanon
Bahamas	Malawi
Bangladesh	Maldives
Brazil	Mexico
Canada	Namibia
Comoros	New Zealand
Costa Rica	Pakistan
Croatia	Philippines
Cuba	Republic of Korea
Democratic Rep. of Congo	Russian Federation
El Salvador	St. Kitt and Nevis
Guinea	Senegal
Iceland	Seychelles
India	South Africa
Iran	United Arab Emirates
Israel	Vietnam

We urge all Parties to take steps necessary in your capitals to finalize ratification. If your country has made progress towards this ratification (even if the ratification has not been officially deposited at the United Nations depository in New York,) please announce that progress in Geneva next month in plenary.

Final Word

Many activities are underway in the Basel Convention currently to fulfill the intent of the COP10 Country Led Initiative Decision, including work on legal clarity and environmentally sound management. However, it must be remembered that the most important CLI matter – rapid entry into force of the Amendment- seems to be almost forgotten. Let us not forget that the CLI decision (10/3)'s first paragraph stated as follows:

1. Welcomes the practical initiative and activities that have taken place in response to the call by the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for parties to expedite ratification of the Ban Amendment, so as to facilitate its entry into force, and invites parties to continue to take concrete actions towards encouraging and assisting parties to ratify the Amendment, (emphasis added)

It is time to finally fulfill the promise of the Convention and the CLI Decision. We urge you to bring your good news of progress in this regard to Geneva next month.

END