



**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Fourth meeting**

Geneva, 4–8 May 2009

Item 5 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference
of the Parties: measures to reduce or eliminate releases
from unintentional production: best available techniques
and best environmental practices**

**Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance
on best environmental practices^{**}**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Subparagraphs (d) and (e) of Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants include the provision that:

When applying best available techniques and best environmental practices, Parties should take into consideration the general guidance on prevention and release reduction measures in Annex C [of the Convention] and guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices to be adopted by decision of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention adopted decision SC-3/5 on guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices. By that decision the Conference of the Parties, among other things:

(a) Adopted the revised draft guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/4 and invited Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat on their experience in implementing the guidelines and guidance;

(b) Requested the Secretariat, within available resources, to collect information (e.g., make use of a questionnaire) on experience gained in using the revised guidelines and guidance through field tests and other means and to compile the information provided and report it to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

** Mandate for the action described in the present note contained in: Stockholm Convention, Article 5 and Annex C; reports of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decisions SC-1/19 and SC-1/20 and on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/4 and on the work of its third meeting, (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30), annex I, decision SC-3/5.

(c) Invited the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to consider the waste-related contents of the revised guidelines and guidance and to report any outcome of their doing so to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention;

(d) Requested the Secretariat to transmit annex II of the report of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices on the work of its second meeting to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention through the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in response to a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its seventh meeting;

(e) Invited Parties and others in a position to do so to fund awareness-raising and training workshops on the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices;

3. In response to decision SC-3/5 the Secretariat:

(a) Invited Parties and observers by letter and through a questionnaire to provide the information requested in paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision SC-3/5. In response to this invitation Argentina, China, France (on behalf of the European Union), Lithuania, Monaco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Romania and Slovakia provided such information, which is compiled in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/7;

(b) Invited the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention to consider the waste-related contents of the revised guidelines and guidance and to report any outcome of their doing so to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. The Secretariat also transmitted annex II of the report of the expert group on the work of its second meeting to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention through the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in response to a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its seventh meeting. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention addressed the issues discussed in that annex in paragraphs 5–7 of its decision IX/16 on persistent organic pollutants;

(c) Initiated an awareness-raising and technical assistance programme aimed at providing information on the guidelines and guidance at the regional, subregional and national levels through the Stockholm Convention clearing-house mechanism, user-friendly pamphlets and distribution of the guidelines and guidance in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Through a series of subregional workshops scheduled for the period 2009–2011, subject to availability of resources, the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices will be promoted through participatory exercises and the sharing among regional representatives of their experiences and lessons learned in implementing action plans pursuant to Article 5.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

4. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To take note of the comments submitted by Parties and others on the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices;

(b) To remind Parties, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, to take into consideration the guidelines and guidance when applying best available techniques and best environmental practices and to assist decision-making in the implementation of action plans and other actions related to the obligations under Article 5 and Annex C of the Convention and to invite them to provide to the Secretariat comments on their experience;

(c) To request the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to implement the awareness-raising and technical assistance programme to promote the guidelines and guidance and the sharing of experience with their use in implementing obligations under Article 5 and Annex C of the Convention;

(d) To request the Secretariat to compile any comments received in response to paragraph (b) above and to propose to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fifth meeting a procedure for updating the guidelines and guidance taking into consideration paragraph 7 of decision IX/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention;

(e) To invite Parties and others in a position to do so to fund activities aimed at enhancing understanding and implementation of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices.