Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Fourth meeting
Geneva, 4–8 May 2009
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

Secretariat report on support to Parties on the guidelines relating to persistent organic pollutant wastes adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention**

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. By paragraph 1 of its decision SC-3/7, the Conference of the Parties welcomed decision VIII/16 on technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted updated general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and four other technical guidelines on specific persistent organic pollutants. These can be found on the Basel Convention website at http://www.basel.int/meetings/sbc/workdoc/techdocs.html.

2. Paragraph 7 of decision SC-3/7 requested the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to undertake, within available resources, training and other capacity-building activities to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes and measures to reduce or eliminate releases from persistent organic pollutant wastes.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

** Mandate for the action described in the present note contained in: Stockholm Convention, Article 6; reports of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/21, on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/6 and on the work of its third meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30), annex I, decision SC-3/7.
3. In response to this request, the Secretariat has developed an interactive electronic training tool on the guidelines, designed for use by technicians working with persistent organic pollutant waste, policy makers, owners of such waste and relevant government personnel. This interactive training tool is available on the Stockholm Convention website.¹

4. Furthermore, as part of its technical assistance activities, the Secretariat has developed a training programme on the guidelines for the relevant government agencies involved in persistent organic pollutant waste disposal operations. The first two subregional workshops to field test the English and Spanish versions of the interactive training tool are scheduled for early 2009 in Jamaica for English-speaking Parties in the Caribbean and in Peru for Spanish-speaking Parties in South America. Participants will also discuss possible ways and means of building capacity to handle, store and eliminate persistent organic pollutant wastes in each subregion. Further workshops are planned for 2009 in other regions.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

5. The Conference of the Parties may wish:
   (a) To take note of the work undertaken by the Secretariat to support Parties in implementing the persistent organic pollutant waste guidelines;
   (b) To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to continue its work in other regions to support Parties in implementing the guidelines;
   (c) To invite developed country Parties and international financial institutions to provide funding for the Secretariat training programme to support Parties in implementing the waste-related provisions of the Convention;
   (d) To request the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on the progress and the impact of activities undertaken to provide training on the guidelines and to furnish additional guidance on future activities to support Parties in managing persistent organic pollutant waste.