

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

Original: English

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

Geneva, 4–8 May 2009

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: implementation plans****Implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm
Convention******Note by the Secretariat****I. Transmission of national implementation plans**

1. Paragraph 1 (a) of Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention requires each Party to “develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under [the] Convention”. Paragraph 1 (b) of the Article states that each Party shall “transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which [the] Convention enters into force for it”.

2. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 26 of the Stockholm Convention, the Convention entered into force on 17 May 2004, the ninetieth day after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The deadline for the first 50 Parties to transmit their implementation plans was, therefore, 17 May 2006. For the other Parties to the Convention, the deadline for such transmission will be the date two years after the Convention entered into force for it.

3. As of 28 January 2009, the following 89 Parties had transmitted their implementation plans: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Community, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon,

* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

** Mandate for the action described in the present note contained in: Stockholm Convention, Article 7; reports of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/12; the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/7; and the work of its third meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30), annex I, decision SC-3/8.

Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Viet Nam. Electronic versions of the implementation plans are available on the Convention's official website: www.pops.int.

4. A table indicating the deadline by which each Party to the Convention is to transmit its implementation plan pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention and the dates on which plans were received by the Secretariat is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/25.

II. Guidance for implementation plans

5. In its decision SC-1/12, the Conference of the Parties, among other things, adopted guidance for assisting countries in the preparation of national implementation plans. The guidance was made available at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/7 and is available on the Convention website.

6. The Conference of the Parties sought the development of additional guidance in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12, in which it requested:

The Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and subject to resource availability, to develop additional guidance on social and economic assessment, calculation of action plan costs, including incremental and total costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants, and in doing so to take into consideration the particular circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

7. In its decision SC-2/7, the Conference of the Parties noted the progress made by the Secretariat in developing the above-mentioned additional guidance and requested the Secretariat to complete a draft of the additional guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, provided that resources were made available for that activity.

8. In its decision SC-3/8, the Conference of the Parties took note of the guidance on social and economic assessment for the development of implementation plans, which is available in the six United Nations languages in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8, and requested the Secretariat to develop the guidelines further, resources permitting, to take into account the particular circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

9. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, based on their experience in using the guidance on social and economic assessment, on how to improve its usefulness. The secretariat received submissions from the following countries in response: Algeria, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Monaco, Pakistan, Slovakia and Ukraine. A compilation of all the submissions received is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/26.

10. The Secretariat reviewed the submissions received and determined that insufficient information had been provided to enable it to develop the guidelines further at this time.

11. By decision SC-3/8, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Secretariat to complete the draft of the additional guidance called for in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, provided that the resources needed to do so were made available.

12. In the light of the above, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, developed draft additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs, and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants. The additional guidance is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/11.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

13. The Conference of the Parties may wish:
 - (a) To consider the information provided in the present note;
 - (b) To welcome the implementations plans transmitted by the Parties pursuant to Article 7;
 - (c) To take note of the deadlines for transmission of the implementation plans for each Party listed in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP/INF/25;
 - (d) To encourage those Parties for whom the deadlines for transmitting their implementation plans have passed to transmit their plans as soon as possible, if they have not already done so;
 - (e) To request the entity or entities entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism of the Convention, including the Global Environment Facility, when implementing the guidance to the financial mechanism as adopted by decision SC-1/9, to take into account the priorities identified by Parties in their implementation plans as transmitted to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (f) To note the draft additional guidance on the calculation of actions plan costs, including incremental costs, and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants;
 - (g) To invite and encourage Parties:
 - (i) To use the guidance on social and economic assessment in the development and implementation of their national implementation plans;
 - (ii) To use the draft additional guidance on the calculation of actions plan costs, including incremental costs, and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants, in the development, review and implementation of their national implementation plans;
 - (iii) To provide the Secretariat with comments on how to improve the usefulness of the guidance and additional guidance based on their experiences in using them;
 - (h) To request the Secretariat:
 - (i) To prepare a revised version of the social and economic guidance taking into account the submissions contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/26 and any further comments provided by Parties in response to subparagraph (g) (i) above, resources permitting, and if sufficient information is provided to do so;
 - (ii) To prepare a revised version of the additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs based on comments provided in response to subparagraph (g) (ii) above, resources permitting, and if sufficient information is provided to do so;
 - (iii) To identify any additional guidance that might be required to assist Parties in their development and implementation of the Convention and to continue working on the development of the guidance called for in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12 and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on the progress made;
 - (i) To invite Parties and others in a position to do so to provide the additional funding required for developing the additional guidance.