Report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants establishes a financial mechanism for the provision of adequate and sustainable financial resources to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition on a grant or concessional basis to assist in their implementation of the Convention. The mechanism is to function under the authority, as appropriate, and guidance of, and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties for the purposes of the Convention.

2. Paragraph 7 of Article 13 of the Convention states, in pertinent part:

   The Conference of the Parties shall at its first meeting adopt appropriate guidance to be provided to the mechanism and shall agree with the entity or entities participating in the financial mechanism upon arrangements to give effect thereto.

3. The Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-1/11 adopted the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility that is set out in the annex to that decision and by its decision SC-2/10 welcomed its approval by the Council of the Global Environment Facility and took note that the memorandum entered into effect on 10 November 2005.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

** Mandate for the action described in the present note contained in: Stockholm Convention, Articles 13 and 14; reports of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decisions SC-1/9 and SC-1/11, on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/11 and on the work of its third meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30) annex I, decision SC-3/13.

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4. The Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-3/13 requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

Implementation of the memorandum of understanding

5. Paragraph 7 of the memorandum of understanding, set forth in the annex to decision SC-1/11, states that “the [Global Environment Facility] Council will prepare and submit regular reports to the Conference of the Parties at each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties”. Paragraphs 8–12 specify what is to be included in the report and paragraph 13 states that “the Conference of the Parties may raise with the Council any matter arising from the report received”.


7. The secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Convention have communicated and cooperated with each other on relevant issues pertaining to the implementation of the memorandum of understanding. The Secretariat of the Convention has been invited to comment on project proposals related to persistent organic pollutants under consideration for inclusion in the work programme and has provided comments with regard to the consistency of the project proposals with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism.

8. The Convention Secretariat has also participated in the regular Global Environment Facility operations meetings and the task force on persistent organic pollutants coordinated by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility. It also participated as one of the members of the chemicals technical advisory group set up to advise on revisions of the focal area strategies for the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 21 of the memorandum of understanding, representatives of the Global Environment Facility Secretariat attended the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties and have been invited to attend the fourth meeting. Representatives also attended the fourth and fifth meetings of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee, held in Geneva in November 2007 and October 2008, respectively. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention attended the Global Environment Facility Council meetings held in Washington, D.C. in June and November 2007 and in April and November 2008.

10. As part of the collaboration between the two secretariats, the Global Environment Facility Secretariat participated in the first workshop for nominated Stockholm Convention centres, held in Geneva from 17 to 19 June 2008, and provided training during the workshop on accessing the Global Environment Facility and preparing project proposals for consideration for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

11. In addition, the Convention Secretariat has been invited to participate as one of the members of the chemicals technical advisory group set up by the Global Environment Facility to advise on revisions of the focal area strategies in the light of the fifth replenishment of the instrument.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

12. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To take note of the information contained in the present note;

(b) To welcome the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting, set forth in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/25, and to raise with the Council of the Global Environment Facility any matters arising therefrom.

(c) To request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.