Official communications with Parties and observers **

Note by the Secretariat

1. Information on the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and the rules of procedure of its Conference of the Parties pertaining to official communications with Parties and communication with and representation of observers is provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/26.

2. Communication with Parties is accomplished through:
   (a) Official contact points, designated in accordance with decision SC-2/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, for the performance of administrative functions and all formal communication under the Convention for Parties;
   (b) National focal points, appointed pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention, for the exchange of information.

3. States not party to the Convention may also designate Stockholm Convention official contact points and national focal points for communications on matters relating to the Convention.

4. The regularly updated list of Stockholm Convention official contact points and national focal points for information exchange is found on the official website of the Stockholm Convention (www.pops.int) under the “Countries” dropdown menu. As of 31 December 2008 101 Parties had nominated official contact points and 13 States not party to the Convention had nominated contact points for communication concerning the Convention. As of 31 December 2008 national focal points were listed for 87 Parties and 9 States not party to the Convention.

5. Decision SC-2/16 provides that for the purpose of inviting observers to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and for the purpose of communicating with observers during the periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat should use:

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* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.
(a) The list of contacts for United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/26;

(b) The list of national and international governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies contained in annex III of document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/26, as updated at each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

An updated list of intergovernmental bodies is available at the Convention website under “Partners” dropdown menu. The updated list of nongovernmental organizations is found on the website under the “Partners” dropdown menu.

6. In accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of decision SC-2/16 non-governmental organizations on the above-referenced updated list are accredited to meetings of the Conference of the Parties with the understanding that the Conference of the Parties may, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 19 of the Stockholm Convention, at any time decide on whether to admit observers to any of its meetings or those of its subsidiary bodies. Nongovernmental organizations not included in the list that wish to be accredited to meetings of the Conferences of the Parties are invited to submit the information listed in annex IV of document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/26 for consideration by the Conference at its next ordinary meeting. That list of information is also available on the official Convention website under the “Partners” dropdown menu. Information submitted by non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation to meetings of the Conference of the Parties will be provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/23.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

7. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

   (a) To urge Parties that have not already done so to nominate official contact points to perform administrative functions and handle all formal communication under the Convention for Parties;

   (b) To invite Parties and States not party to the Convention that have not already done so to confirm their existing national focal points or nominate new national focal points for information exchange;

   (c) To consider the information provided by non-governmental organizations that wish to be accredited to its meetings.