SC

UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/1*

Distr.: General
24 March 2009

English only

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Fourth meeting
Geneva, 4–8 May 2009
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda**
Organizational matters: organization of work

Scenario note for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a scenario note prepared by the Secretariat to assist participants in preparing for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

K0951140 240309

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Annex

Scenario note for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist delegates in preparing for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by communicating initial planning activity and expectations for the meeting.

I. Objectives and possible outcomes of the meeting

2. As set out in more detail in paragraphs 3–6 below, the objectives of the meeting comprise four sets of decisions:

(a) Decisions which, according to the terms of the Convention, must be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

(b) Decisions on proposals to amend the Convention;

(c) Decisions which, according to decisions of the Conference of the Parties, must be taken at its fourth meeting;

(d) Decisions which are required to enable the Conference of the Parties to ensure the timely implementation of the Convention and the successful operation of the Conference of the Parties in future years.

3. According to the Convention, at its fourth meeting the Conference of the Parties shall:

(a) Decide upon requests for extension of specific exemptions (Article 4, paragraph 7) and review and consider whether to extend the review process for entries in the register of specific exemptions;

(b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention (Article 16), and agree on arrangements for future evaluations;

(c) Evaluate, in consultation with the World Heath Organization, the continued need for DDT for disease vector control (Annex B, part II, paragraph 6);

4. The Conference of the Parties shall consider proposals to amend the Convention to include nine additional chemicals in Annexes A, B or C as proposed by Parties to the Convention and as recommended by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

5. According to decisions that it has taken at previous meetings, at its fourth meeting the Conference of the Parties shall:

(a) Evaluate the continued need for the procedure contained in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3, regarding the export of chemicals listed in Annex A for which a production or specific-use exemption is in effect, including consideration of its effectiveness;

(b) Consider information collected by the Secretariat on the use of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Stockholm Convention;

(c) Decide whether the review and updating process for the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases should continued as outlined in the annex to decision SC-3/6, or on any amendments to it;

(d) Consider a proposal prepared by the Secretariat on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels;

(e) Review implementation of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of technology;

(f) Consider a report prepared by the Secretariat on possible sources of funding;

(g) Consider additional guidance on calculation of action plan costs, incremental and total costs for specific persistent organic pollutants (decision SC-1/12, paragraph 5 and decision SC-3/8, paragraph 9);

(h) Decide whether to confirm the nominated Stockholm Convention regional centres for capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

(i) Consider the report on the effectiveness of the memorandum of understanding between the Council of the Global Environment Facility and the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and the report by the Global Environment Facility;

(j) Consider the report by the Secretariat on possible sources of financial assistance other than the Global Environment Facility;

(k) Consider the report on the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2010–2014;

(l) Adopt the second review of the financial mechanism of the Convention;

(m) Develop and approve procedures for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance;

(n) Adopt the draft decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention prepared by the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group of the three conventions;

6. In order to ensure the timely implementation of the Convention and the successful operation of the Conference of the Parties in future years, at its fourth meeting the Conference will need:

(a) To consider possible endorsement of the business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control;

(b) To consider possible endorsement of the establishment of the PCBs Elimination Club;

(c) To decide on any additional guidance to the financial mechanism to the Convention;

(d) To consider the report prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Convention based on the reports received from Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention and possible amendments to the reporting form;

(e) To adopt its budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

(f) To agree on the dates and venue of its next meeting.

II. Meeting agenda

7. The annotated provisional agenda for the meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1/Add.1) identifies issues for discussion and the documents that pertain to each agenda item. Most of the documents prepared for the fourth meeting identify the provisions of the Convention or decisions of the Conference of the Parties that provide mandates for the activities discussed therein. Meeting documents also identify possible actions to be taken by the Conference.

8. Delegations are invited to inform the Secretariat prior to the meeting or, at the latest, during the consideration of the provisional agenda, of any matters that they feel should have been included in the provisional agenda that do not appear to be covered.

9. The meeting will comprise five days of sessions from 4 to 8 May 2009 (Monday to Friday), with provision for regional meetings on 3 May (Sunday). Thursday and Friday will be convened as a high-level segment.

10. From Monday to Friday, the proposed daily schedule for plenary sessions will be two three-hour sessions per day (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–6 p.m.).

11. Monday morning will begin with opening formalities and then proceed to organizational matters (item 2 of the provisional agenda). The Conference of the Parties will elect officers and, in accordance with the rules of procedure, the newly elected President will begin his or her term of office immediately following the election of officers. The nine newly elected Vice-Presidents will begin their terms of office immediately after the closure of the meeting.

12. Following the election of officers, the Conference of the Parties will adopt the agenda for the meeting, amended as appropriate, and agree on the organization of work.

13. The Conference of the Parties will consider its rules of procedure (item 3 on the provisional agenda). The rules of procedure were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting except for the text in square brackets in paragraph 1 of rule 45. The Conference may wish to discuss the text with the aim of resolving its status.

14. The Conference of the Parties will consider the credentials of representatives (item 4 of the provisional agenda). The Secretariat will introduce the matter to the Conference of the Parties and, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the bureau will examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference of the Parties later in the week.

15. Before turning to discussion of matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (item 5 of the provisional agenda), the Conference may wish to take up the item on the activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget (item 6 of the provisional agenda). By so doing, it would provide an opportunity for the Secretariat to make an initial presentation and for a budget contact group to be established to prepare a draft decision on financing and budget for consideration and adoption by the Conference meeting in plenary later in the week.

16. To address substantive issues relating primarily to item 5 of the provisional agenda, plenary may wish to continue or to establish a committee of the whole. It is expected that item 5 would be considered until the end of the afternoon session on Wednesday. The budget contact group would meet as necessary during the week and report to plenary on Friday.

17. Contact or drafting groups will be established as necessary to address specific issues. To ensure that all meeting participants are kept abreast of the activities of any such groups, the morning sessions of the plenary or committee of the whole on Tuesday and Wednesday will begin with reports from the various groups.

18. The ministerial segment on Thursday and Friday will provide the opportunity for high-level participants to provide statements; ministers and vice-ministers to meet in informal panels to discuss the issues related to the theme of the high level segment, “meeting the challenges of a POPs-free future”; and for the Conference of the Parties to take its decisions. During this segment decisions will be adopted on the basis of draft decisions submitted by the committee of the whole, budget group and any other subsidiary groups that may be established by the Conference of the Parties.

19. It is expected that the report of the meeting will be considered on Friday afternoon. The report of the meeting up until the end of the day on Thursday will be approved with any amendments that are agreed by the Conference at its plenary sessions on Friday. Consistent with the practice followed at the previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and at meetings of the conferences of Parties to other multilateral environmental agreements, the Parties may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the results of the Friday plenary sessions will be prepared by the rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated in the meeting report under the authority of the president.