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**Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee**

**Fourth meeting**

Geneva, 13–17 October 2008

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda \*

**Organizational matters: organization of work**

**Scenario note for the fourth meeting of the Persistent Organic  
Pollutants Review Committee**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The annex to the present note contains a scenario note developed by the Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, Mr. Reiner Arndt (Germany), to assist participants in preparing for the fourth meeting of the Committee.

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## Annex

### Scenario note for the fourth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist participants in preparing for the fourth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee by communicating initial planning and expectations for the meeting. All pre-meeting documents are expected to be available on the Stockholm Convention website ([www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)) by 1 September 2008.

#### A. Objectives and possible outcomes of the meeting

2. The main objective of the meeting is to ensure that the Committee undertakes the work assigned to it by the Convention. To meet this objective, the Committee will:

- (a) For each of the four draft risk management evaluation documents developed by the working groups established by the Committee:
    - (i) Adopt, with any amendments, the draft risk management evaluation;
    - (ii) Decide, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention and on the basis of the risk management evaluation and the risk profile for each chemical that is the subject of the risk management evaluation, whether the chemical should be recommended for consideration by the Conference of the Parties for listing in Annexes A, B, or C;
  - (b) For the draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins developed by the working group established by the Committee:
    - (i) Adopt, with any amendments, the risk profile;
    - (ii) Decide, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 8 of the Convention and on the basis of the risk profile, whether short-chained chlorinated paraffins are likely as a result of their long-range transport to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted and that the proposal should proceed;
    - (iii) Agree, depending on the decision taken under (ii) above:
      - a. To invite all Parties and observers to provide information pursuant to Annex F of the Convention, to establish an ad hoc working group to develop a draft risk management evaluation and to agree on a workplan for completing the draft for consideration by the Committee at its fifth meeting; or
      - b. To make the risk profile available to all Parties and observers and set it aside;
  - (c) For each proposal to list in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention that is under consideration:
    - (i) Examine the proposal, apply the screening criteria specified in Annex D of the Convention and complete an evaluation as to whether it has fulfilled those criteria;
    - (ii) If it is satisfied that the screening criteria have been fulfilled, establish an ad hoc working group to develop a draft risk profile and agree on a workplan for completing the draft for consideration by the Committee at its fifth meeting.
3. Participants should note that new information on chemicals under review that they may wish to bring to the attention of the Committee may only be considered during the Committee meeting if the full information is provided to all members of the Committee.

4. Another objective of the meeting is to discuss operational issues related to Committee procedures and intersessional work, including what additional work the Committee may wish to undertake on risk reduction guidance for newly proposed chemicals in support of decisions by the Conference of the Parties and the implementation of such decisions.

## **B. Meeting agenda**

5. The annotated agenda for the meeting (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/1/Add.1) identifies the issues for discussion as well as the meeting and information documents pertaining to each issue. Most documents identify the provisions of the Convention or the decisions of the Conference of the Parties that provide the mandates for the activities that are discussed in the documents. Meeting documents also identify possible actions to be taken by the Committee. Members of the Committee are invited to notify the Secretariat prior to the meeting or, at the latest, during the consideration of the agenda during the meeting of any issues that they feel should be included on the agenda.

## **C. Organization of work**

6. The meeting will take place from 13 to 17 October 2008 (Monday to Friday). The proposed schedule for plenary sessions will be two three-hour sessions per day (10:00–13:00 and 15:00–18:00). There are no plans to hold evening plenary sessions. Working groups will be established as needed throughout the week. A tentative schedule for the week is provided in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/INF/2. The working groups will be expected to report back to the Committee in plenary on Thursday afternoon.

7. Monday morning will begin with opening formalities and then proceed to organizational matters. Under this item, the Committee will elect a new vice-chair, will adopt its agenda with any amendments and agree on the organization of work for the week.

8. The Committee will have an initial discussion on two operational issues: conflict of interest procedures and toxic interactions. The remaining operational issues could be considered later in the week. Also, in order to provide more information to the Committee to support its decisions on the risk profiles and risk management evaluations, experts have been invited to deliver presentations on a number of issues relevant to the chemicals under review. There will thus be presentations on the experiences in decision-making for risk profiles before consideration of the draft risk profiles and on reductive debromination of bromo-aromatics before consideration of the draft risk management evaluations. Another presentation will be given on guidance for flame retardants constituting feasible alternatives to pentabromodiphenyl ether before consideration of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

9. The Committee will then consider the draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins (item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda), as follows:

(a) The Chair of the working group that developed the draft risk profile will present it to the Committee;

(b) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the draft;

(c) The Committee will discuss the draft risk profile and the question of whether the chemical is likely as a result of its long-range transport to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted;

(d) The Committee will likely establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 2 (b), above, for possible adoption by the Committee later in the week.

10. The Committee will next consider the proposal to list endosulfan in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention (item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda). For the proposal, the following procedure is suggested:

(a) The Party that put forward the proposal will present it to the Committee. The presentation will be limited to 15 minutes;

(b) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposal;

(c) The Committee will discuss whether the proposal fulfils the screening criteria;

(d) The Committee will likely establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 2 (c), above, for possible adoption by the Committee later in the week.

11. The committee will then move to item 5 (b) of the agenda on unintentional releases of pentachlorobenzene and decide whether it should amend the risk profile to reflect new information that has been provided.

12. The Committee will hear a presentation on reductive debromination of bromo-aromatics and discuss the possible implications for the listing of octabromodiphenyl ether.

13. The Committee will then consider each of the draft risk management evaluation documents before it. For each:

(a) The Chair of the working group that developed the draft risk management evaluation document will present it to the Committee;

(b) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the draft;

(c) The Committee will discuss the draft risk management evaluation and the question of whether each chemical that is the subject of the draft risk management evaluation should be recommended for consideration by the Conference of the Parties for listing in Annexes A, B or C;

(d) The Committee will likely establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 2 (a), above, for possible adoption by the Committee later in the week.

14. The Committee will next consider the proposal to list hexabromocyclododecane in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention. For the proposal, the following procedure is suggested:

(a) The Party that put forward the proposal will present it to the Committee. The presentation will be limited to 15 minutes;

(b) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposal;

(c) The Committee will discuss how the proposal fulfils the screening criteria;

(d) The Committee will likely establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 2 (c), above, for possible adoption by the Committee later in the week.

15. The Committee will then hear a presentation on guidance for flame retardants constituting feasible alternatives to pentabromodiphenyl ether and discuss how it might further exploit such guidance.

16. The Committee will follow with the consideration of the format of its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to amend the Convention by listing chemicals in Annexes A, B, or C of the Convention. It should be noted that any such recommendation must be communicated to the Conference of the Parties at least six months prior to the meeting at which it will be considered. Thus, any recommendation that is to be considered at the fourth meeting of the Conference must be communicated to the Conference at the latest on 4 November 2008.

17. The Committee will next consider new information on perfluorooctane sulfonate that has become available and will discuss the addition of such information to the risk management evaluation.

18. There will then follow discussion of the remaining operational issues, i.e., support for effective participation in the work of the Committee and the standard workplans for the preparation of draft risk profiles and draft risk management evaluations.

19. The Committee will then consider an organizational matter, the rotation of membership, and other matters including possible intersessional work on guidance materials for risk reduction and the dates and venue of the Committee's fifth meeting. Considering the need to communicate the recommendations from the Committee to Parties at least 6 months prior to the meeting of the Parties at which they are to be considered, the Committee may wish to recognize the formal change of the dates of its meetings from November to October.

20. The report of the meeting will likely be considered by the Committee during the plenary session on Friday afternoon. It is an important product of the meeting and will serve as a useful document to remind participants (and inform those who were not at the meeting) of the developments arising and agreements reached during the meeting. The Committee will approve the report of the meeting as of the end of the plenary session on Thursday afternoon, with any amendments it may consider necessary. Consistent with past practice, the Committee may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the Friday plenary sessions will be prepared by the Vice-Chair serving as rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated in the final meeting report under the authority of the Chair.

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