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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT
FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON
CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Third meeting
Geneva, 6-11 September 1999
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING
INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Schedule and financial needs for the completion of the negotiations
For an international legally binding instrument for implementing
International action on certain persistent organic pollutants

Note by the secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. In paragraph 17 of its decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called upon Governments and other actors to provide UNEP with the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in particular the full and effective participation of developing countries, especially least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition which might be interested. In paragraph 12 of the same decision, the Council also requested that the international legally binding instrument for international action to reduce or eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) be concluded preferably by the year 2000.

2. In paragraph 4 of its decision 20/24 of 5 February 1999, the Governing Council of UNEP called on Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to consider providing financial contributions for further negotiations of the international legally binding instrument for

* UNEP/POPS/INC.3/1.

implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants, particularly through the so-called "POPs Club".

3. In order to facilitate planning towards the successful and timely completion of the negotiations, the secretariat prepared, for the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, information document UNEP/POPS/INC.2/INF/9 on a schedule and financial needs for the completions of the negotiations for an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain POPs. The document was to be updated for subsequent meetings of the Committee. The present note provides such an update on the schedule and financial needs for completion of the negotiations for consideration by the Committee at its third session.

4. For planning purposes, the secretariat has estimated that the negotiations of the convention on POPs are expected to include, in total, five sessions of the Committee. Previous estimates also included three inter-sessional meetings of the Criteria Expert Group. The current estimate only includes two meetings of the Criteria Expert Group, since, as indicated in paragraph 56 of the report of its second session (UNEP/POPS/INC/CEG/2/3), the Group is of the view that it has completed its mandate. Following the completion of the negotiations, a conference of plenipotentiaries will be held to adopt the convention and any resolutions deemed necessary by Governments, and for signature of the convention.

5. In addition to the question of covering the financial requirements for the negotiations, the Governing Council, also in its decision 19/13 C, requested UNEP to undertake immediate action to promote the reduction and/or elimination of releases of POPs into the environment. The financial requirements for those actions are not addressed in the present document, but a number of Governments have made very significant contributions towards UNEP work in that regard. In addition, in paragraph 5 of its decision 20/24, the Governing Council encouraged Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting the implementation of immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of decision 19/13 C.

I. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AND THE CRITERIA EXPERT GROUP

6. The schedule of meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the Criteria Expert Group, in chronological order, is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
29 June-3 July 1998	INC1	Montreal
26-30 October 1998	CEG1	Bangkok
25-29 January 1999	INC2	Nairobi
14-18 June 1999	CEG2	Vienna
6-11 September 1999	INC3	Geneva
20-25 March 2000 (tentative)	INC4	Bonn
October-December 2000 (tentative)	INC5	South Africa
April-June 2001 (tentative)	DipCon	Sweden

Meetings of the subsidiary body on implementation aspects are expected to be held during the second, third, and fourth sessions of the Committee.

II. FINANCIAL MATTERS, THROUGH THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

7. To date, substantial funding for the POPs negotiation process has been made available to cover its meeting costs, although in some cases funds were not received until after costs had been incurred. In such cases, the UNEP Executive Director approved the borrowing of funds from the UNEP Environment Fund reserve to cover meeting costs until donor finances were made available to replenish the Fund.

8. The first session of the Committee was hosted and fully funded by the Government of Canada.

9. The first session of the Criteria Expert Group was hosted by the Government of Thailand and funded through contributions from the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. The second session of the Committee, held in Nairobi, was made possible through an advance from the UNEP Environment Fund reserve and will be replenished using contributions already received through the POPs Club funding arrangement.

11. The second session of the Criteria Expert Group held in Vienna was fully funded by Austria and Germany.

12. Funding of the third session of the Committee currently available from the POPs Club amounts to approximately \$300,000. This is approximately \$260,000 short of the estimated \$560,000 needed for the session. To compensate for the inevitable time-delay between pledges and the availability of funds to meet expenses for the current session, the Executive Director of UNEP has provided the necessary funding from the UNEP Environment Fund reserve, on a reimbursable basis, to enable the session to take place. The spending priorities for donor contributions to the POPs Club, once received, are to reimburse UNEP for meeting costs associated with the third session of the Committee.

13. Not included in the above meeting costs are the costs of consultant contracts required to complete the inter-sessional work requested by the Committee of the secretariat. Such contracts amounted to \$45,000 between the first and second sessions of the Committee and \$55,000 between the second and third sessions.

14. As of 30 August 1999, the following countries and non-governmental organizations have contributed to the POPs Club: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and the International POPs Elimination Network.

III. FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

15. Attention is drawn to the following financial considerations relating to the projected fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee, as well as the diplomatic conference:

(a) The Government of Germany has expressed its intent to make up to 1.2 million deutsche mark available for the implementation of the fourth session of the Committee in Germany;

(b) Contingent on the provision of funding, the Government of South Africa has expressed its interest in hosting the fifth session of the Committee;

(c) The Government of Sweden has offered to host and fully fund the diplomatic conference.

16. The cost of inter-sessional work to be completed for the balance of the negotiations is projected at between \$100,000 and \$150,000.
