



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/POPS/INC.4/INF/7
6 March 2000

ENGLISH ONLY



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

Fourth session
Bonn, 20-25 March 2000

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF ONGOING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES
RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Related work on persistent organic pollutants under the Basel Convention on the
Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
and their Disposal

Note by the secretariat

1. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (hereinafter the "Basel Convention"), was held in Basel, Switzerland, from 6 to 10 December 1999. The report of the meeting is contained in document UNEP/CHW.5/29. At that meeting, the conference of the parties adopted, inter alia, decision V/8 on cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme on the activities undertaken at the global level on persistent organic pollutants. That decision is included in annex 1 to the present note.

2. Decision V/8 is identical to the decision proposed by the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee for the Implementation of the Basel Convention at its fourth session held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 24 June 1999, save for the words "and other countries in need of such assistance" added to the third paragraph of the decision. The proposed decision is included in the report of the meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee (UNEP/CHW.5/23 and UNEP/POPS/INC.3/INF/13).

* UNEP/POPS/INC.4/1.

3. Paragraph 2 of decision V/8 notes the tasks of relevance to persistent organic pollutants contained in the work programme of the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention. That work programme was adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in decision V/26 and specified in the annex to the decision. The work programme has since been updated for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention. The revised work programme is included in annex II to the present document. New activities decided upon by the Parties at their fifth meeting are identified in bold.

/...

Annex I

V/8. Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme on the activities undertaken at the global level on persistent organic pollutants

The Conference

1. Notes the substantive progress made by the secretariat of the Basel Convention in strengthening cooperation with the Chemicals Division of the United Nations Environment Programme on matters pertaining to persistent organic pollutants;

2. Further notes the tasks contained in the work programme of the Technical Working Group of relevance to persistent organic pollutants; ^{1/}

3. Requests the secretariat, under the guidance of the Technical Working Group, to continue its cooperation with the Chemicals Division of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and also with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, on the issue of persistent organic pollutants, in particular, with a view, first, to building the capacities of developing countries and other countries in need of such assistance to manage waste persistent organic pollutants in an environmentally sound manner; second, to ensuring efficient use of resources and identifying areas of common interest and opportunities for synergy; third, to providing technical and other guidance to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on persistent organic pollutants, as appropriate; and, fourth, to identifying overlaps and gaps and the means to overcome them;

4. Also requests the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting, as well as to the Technical Working Group, on its cooperation with the Chemicals Division of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and also with other intergovernmental organizations, on issues related to persistent organic pollutants.

^{1/} See table annexed to decision V/26.

Annex IIWork programme of the technical working group update

Tasks	Activities
I. Classification and hazard characterization of waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classification: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review of applications ; (b) Review of status of wastes on list C; (c) Review or adjustment of lists of wastes contained in Annexes VIII and IX; (d) Preparation of elements of an information paper on the purpose of Annex IX. 2. Hazard characterization <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Finalization of work on the hazard characteristics H6.2; H11; H12 and H13; (b) Initiation of work on the hazard characteristic H10; 3. Review of available and forthcoming scientific information concerning the evaluation of the potential environmental health effects of the disposal of PVC wastes and PVC-coated cables. 4. Initiation of work on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Implementation of a work programme on dioxins and dibenzofurans; (b) Classification of waste pesticides destined for reformulation, together with details of recovery operations of concern.
II. Technical guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalization of the technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of biomedical and health-care waste. 2. Finalization of the technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic waste and for its disposal. 3. Preparation of the following technical guidelines on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Waste batteries; (b) Monitoring and closure plans for the facilities (guidance to operators); (c) Recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4); (d) Wastes resulting from surface treatment of metals and plastics (Y17). 4. Consideration of the further preparation of technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants.

/ ...

III. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) of the World Customs Organization (WCO)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate work, through the secretariat, with WCO on the issue of correlation of the lists of wastes of the Basel Convention with the HS codes. The secretariat to liaise with United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (UNCETDG), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on this matter. 2. Propose a framework and action for ensuring proper reflection of the wastes covered by the Basel Convention in HS.
IV. Annex II of the Basel Convention	Initiate work on the scope of Annex II.
V. Decision IV/8 regarding Annex VII	In cooperation with the Legal Working Group, continue overseeing the development of the analysis of issues relating to Annex VII and provide guidance to the secretariat, as necessary, and report to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress therewith (decision V/4 of the fifth Conference of the Parties).
VI. Cooperation with UNEP Chemicals and relevant organizations	<p>Prior informed consent (PIC) for hazardous chemicals (Rotterdam Convention) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Issue guidance notes or materials as necessary to the organizations responsible for the Rotterdam Convention and POPs on the classification and hazard characterization of wastes within the framework of the Basel Convention; (b) Provide technical guidance to the secretariat of the Basel Convention on matters pertaining to coordination among intergovernmental bodies responsible or involved in developing a legally binding instrument for POPs, to ensure that there is no overlap with or gaps between this instrument and the Basel Convention; (c) Consider the issue of the stockpiling for the purpose of disposal/destruction, or for recycling.
VII. Work on harmonization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonization of lists of wastes and related procedures concerning transboundary movements of wastes and hazardous wastes at the world level. Provide guidance to the secretariat of the Basel Convention on technical implications and modalities required to aim at achieving compatibility among the different international and regional systems dealing with the control of transboundary movements of wastes and hazardous wastes. The secretariat of the Basel Convention to cooperate closely with OECD on this matter. 2. Keep under review work under way at intergovernmental forums (e.g., UNCETDG, International Labour Organization (ILO), OECD) on the global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals.
VIII. Dismantling of ships	Preparation of guidelines for the environmentally sound management of full or partial dismantling of ships in close collaboration with IMO.

IX. Bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements	Finalize, together with the Legal Working Group, the draft guidance elements for bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements for submission through the Working Group for Implementation, to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision V/21 of the fifth Conference of the Parties).
X. Illegal traffic	Together with the Legal Working Group, develop recommended procedures to address alleged cases of illegal traffic and assist Parties in preventing, identifying, monitoring and managing illegal traffic (decision V/23 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties).
XI. Protocol on liability and compensation	Together with the Legal Working Group, consider issue of financial limits (decision V/31 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties).
XII. Basel Declaration on environmentally sound management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="533 645 1428 808">1. Work on the selection of waste streams in countries or regions for the purpose of developing pilot projects on the state of the art in the field of cleaner production and the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including the development of contingency emergency plans (decision V/33 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties). <li data-bbox="533 857 1428 936">2. Under the guidance of the Expanded Bureau, elaborate and prioritize the activities for the years 2000-2002 listed in the table attached to decision V/33. <li data-bbox="533 985 1428 1093">3. Prepare a strategic plan, including an indicative work programme, for the period to the year 2010 and develop a work programme by areas of work for the years 2003-2004 for consideration and adoption at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
XIII. Other tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="533 1113 1428 1361">1. Provide technical guidance, as necessary, to the regional or subregional centres for training and technology transfer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="628 1205 1428 1234">(a) To assist in their establishment or operation; and <li data-bbox="628 1272 1428 1361">(b) In relation to activities to be undertaken for the selection of waste streams susceptible to cleaner production (decision V/27 of the fifth Conference of the Parties). <li data-bbox="533 1406 1428 1451">2. Further initiate case studies on recovery of hazardous waste and assessment of recovery facilities.

/ . . .