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

Sixth session

Geneva, 17-21 June 2002

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Implementation plans**

Note by the secretariat

1. Paragraph 1 of article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requires each Party to:

(a) Develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention;

(b) Transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force for it;

(c) Review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the Conference of the Parties.

2. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, held in Stockholm on 22 and 23 May 2001, invited the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee "to focus its efforts during the interim period on those activities required or encouraged by the Convention that will facilitate the rapid entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention upon its entry into force, including, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties the development of, ... guidance on the preparation of implementation plans and action plans" (UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I, resolution 1, paragraph 4).

** Stockholm Convention, article 7; Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 1, paragraph 4.

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3. The implementation plans form the basis of a country's action in meeting its obligations under the Convention. They will also provide the basis by which each country can monitor its performance in meeting the objectives of the Convention and collectively will provide valuable input to the evaluation of the Conference of the Parties on effectiveness of the Convention as called for in article 16. Although the Conference of the Parties is to determine issues in relation to the review and update of Parties' implementation plans, there is currently no formal guidance to assist countries in the initial preparation of their implementation plans.

4. Many countries have already taken steps to develop their implementation plans with the support of the Global Environment Facility. This is in accordance with the appeal to States and regional economic integration organizations by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in paragraph 11 of its resolution 1 "to participate in and apply in full the provisions of the Convention during the interim period on a voluntary basis." To assist countries in obtaining financial support to develop national implementation plans, the Global Environment Facility has approved initial guidelines for enabling activities for the Stockholm Convention, which are included in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/2. The secretariat of the Global Environment Facility will provide information on the status of its funding activities for projects to develop national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention that will be available to the Committee at the beginning of its sixth session in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/15.

5. To promote improved coordination among the implementing and executing agencies for projects funded by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention, an expanded meeting of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals was held from 28 to 29 January 2002 in Montreux, Switzerland. The report of that meeting is contained in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/16.

6. The Global Environment Facility is also funding a project on the development of national implementation plans for the management of persistent organic pollutants involving 12 countries, for which the implementing agency is the United Nations Environment Programme. As an in-kind contribution to this project, the World Bank is developing, in consultation with the interim secretariat for the Stockholm Convention, a guidance document on preparation of a national implementation plan for persistent organic pollutants that is planned to be included in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/8.

Possible action by the Committee

7. The Committee may wish to consider establishing a process to develop:

(a) The guidance called for in paragraph 1 (c) of article 7 of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting;

(b) Interim guidance to assist countries in developing their implementation plans during the intervening period.
