



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/POPS/INC.6/2  
7 January 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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 2 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: BUREAU ISSUES

Note by the secretariat

1. Paragraph 10 of the report of the Preparatory Meeting for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (UNEP/POPS/CONF/PM/3/Rev.1), held in Stockholm on 21 May 2001, states that:

"...the meeting took note of a proposal by the Group of 77 and China to the effect that rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee be revised by that Committee at its sixth session with a view to increasing the membership of the Bureau to 10 members, composed of one Chair and nine Vice-Chairs and that each of the five regional groups be represented by two members."

2. The present rules of procedure of the Committee (UNEP/POPS/CONF/PM/INF/1 or Annex I of UNEP/POPS/INC.1/7) state, in rule 8, that:

"1. The Committee shall elect from among the representatives of the State Parties a Bureau composed of one Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur.

2. In electing the officers, the Committee shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation. Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one member."

3. The composition of the bureaux of intergovernmental negotiating committees for recently adopted multilateral environmental agreements has been as follows:

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\* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1.

- (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

"The Committee shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers who shall constitute the Bureau: a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom shall act as a Rapporteur. Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one member" (Rule 4, A/AC.237/5).

- (b) Convention on Biological Diversity:

"The Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of one Chairperson and at least three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur... The Committee shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation" (Rule 6, UNEP/CBD/IC/1/2).

- (c) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

"The Committee shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers who shall constitute the Bureau: a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur. Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one member" (Rule 4, A/AC.241/3).

- (d) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade:

"The Parties shall elect from among the representatives of the State Parties a Bureau composed of one Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, a Rapporteur... Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one member" (Rule 8, UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.1/10).

4. Negotiating forums for most of the other multilateral environmental agreements, negotiated previously under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), applied, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council. Rule 18 of those rules of procedure states that "the Governing Council shall elect a President, three vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur... In electing its officers, the Governing Council shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation" (UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3).

#### Possible action by the Committee

5. The Committee may wish to consider the proposal, referred to in paragraph 1 above, to expand the size of its Bureau from 5 to 10 members. In the event the Committee decides to expand its Bureau, rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Committee shall be amended in accordance with rule 55 of the rules of procedure "by a decision of the meeting taken by consensus." The decision of the Committee on the proposal may include a decision on the timing of when the amendments will take effect (for example, immediately, sometime before the close of the current session or at the beginning of the next session).

6. Should the Committee decide to amend its rules of procedure to expand the size of its Bureau after that decision takes effect, it will be necessary for the Committee to elect additional members to the Bureau. In doing so, the Committee may wish to decide whether to confirm the present bureau and elect additional members to complete the expansion or elect all ten members of the Bureau.

7. Should the Committee decide not to amend its rules of procedure to expand the size of its Bureau, it may wish to confirm the present Bureau or proceed with election of a new five-member Bureau.

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