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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

Technical assistance \*\*

Note by the secretariat

1. Article 12 of the Convention recognizes that timely and appropriate technical assistance in response to requests from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition is essential to the successful implementation of the Convention. Paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the Convention states that “In this regard, technical assistance to be provided by developed country Parties, and other Parties in accordance with their capabilities, shall include, as appropriate and as mutually agreed, technical assistance for capacity-building relating to implementation of the obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties.”

2. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, held in Stockholm on 22 and 23 May 2001, in its resolution 1, paragraph 4, 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 for technical assistance ...” (UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, Appendix I, resolution 1, paragraph 4).

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

\*\* Stockholm Convention, Article 12, paragraphs 3 and 4; Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention, resolution 1, paragraph 4.

3. Article 7 of the Convention also relates to this issue. Paragraph 1 of Article 7 requires each Party to develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. As well as providing the basis for a country's action in meeting its obligations under the Convention, the implementation plans provide an indication of the needs of a country, including the need for technical assistance. Collectively, the national implementation plans will be a valuable input to the Conference of the Parties in its consideration of the technical assistance to be provided to Parties under Article 12. Many countries have already taken steps to develop their implementation plans with the support of the Global Environment Facility, which was designated as the principal entity of the interim financial mechanism of the Convention (Article 14).

4. Paragraph 4 of Article 12 requires that Parties "establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of this Convention. These arrangements shall include regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties."

5. The avenues for channelling technical assistance include bilateral and multilateral programs, the financial mechanism, the proposed capacity-assistance network (Conference of Plenipotentiaries, resolution 3, paragraph 2), and regional and subregional centres. The Committee is invited to address issues related to the capacity-assistance network identified in UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19. Further aspects of the arrangements for providing technical assistance included in the Convention are as follows:

- (a) Articles 13 and 14 deal with the financial mechanism that supports, *inter alia*, transfer of technology;
- (b) Article 7 deals with implementation plans that will address country-specific needs;
- (c) Article 9 requires each Party to designate a national focal point;
- (d) Article 9 requires the Secretariat to serve as a clearing house mechanism.

6. Regarding regional and subregional centres, the secretariat of the Basel Convention has provided a background document (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/18) describing the network of regional centres established for the Basel Convention. These are a major component of its capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Given the complementary roles of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention, the Basel Convention centres would seem to have the potential to contribute to some aspects of implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

#### Possible Action by the Committee

7. The Committee may wish to consider establishing a process for developing the guidance called for in paragraph 3 of Article 12 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. In doing so, the Committee may also wish to consider using the implementation plans being prepared by countries under Article 7 as the basis for evaluating the specific needs of different regions and subregions regarding capacity-building and the transfer of technology required by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in order to fulfil their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

8. The Committee may also wish to consider requesting the Secretariat to:

- (a) Undertake, in consultation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, as appropriate, a feasibility study on ways and means for the establishment and functioning of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology;

(b) Develop and conduct, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Basel Convention regional centres, a pilot initiative of regional and subregional centres for the purpose of facilitating technical assistance in accordance with Article 12, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

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