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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

Liability and redress **

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention adopted resolution 4 on liability and redress concerning the use and intentional introduction into the environment of persistent organic pollutants. Paragraph 1 of the resolution invited "Governments and relevant international organizations to provide the secretariat with information on national, regional and international measures and agreements on liability and redress, especially on persistent organic pollutants." Paragraph 2 of the resolution requested "the secretariat in cooperation with one or more States to organize a workshop on liability and redress in the context of the Convention on persistent organic pollutants and related matters, no later than 2002." Paragraph 3 of the resolution provides for the report of the workshop to be considered at the first session of the Conference of the Parties, "with a view to deciding what further action should be taken."
2. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the resolution, the secretariat sent a letter on 14 September 2001 to Governments, members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, reminding them of the invitation by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to provide information. A copy of this letter is included in Attachment 1 to the present note. As at 19 February 2002, responses had been received from the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Peru, Singapore and United Kingdom, and from the European Commission, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Copies of these responses are included in Attachment 2 to the present note.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1.

** Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 4.

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3. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution, the secretariat is cooperating with the Government of Austria to organize a workshop on liability and redress, which is scheduled to take place from 19 to 21 September 2002 in Vienna.

Possible action by the Committee

4. The Committee may wish to take note of the information provided by Governments and organizations, and consider welcoming the upcoming workshop on liability and redress in the context of the Convention and expressing appreciation to the Government of Austria for hosting the workshop.

Attachment 1Letter from the interim secretariat

United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
 PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
 ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Chemicals
International Environment House
 Telephone: +41 22 917 12 34
 Facsimile: +41 22 797 34 60
 E-mail: pops@unep.ch

Substances chimiques
 Maison Internationale de l'Environnement
 11-13, chemin des Anémones
 CH - 1219 Châtelaine
 Geneva, Suisse (Switzerland)

Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

14 September 2001

**TO: UNEP Official Points of Contact
 Stockholm Convention Focal Points
 POPs INC-5 Heads of Delegation
 IOMC Member Organizations
 and other relevant intergovernmental organizations**

SUBJECT: Resolution on liability and redress: request for information

Dear Colleague:

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants held from 22 to 23 May 2001, in addition to adopting the Convention, adopted, inter alia, a resolution on liability and redress concerning the use and intentional introduction into the environment of persistent organic pollutants (reference: resolution 4, appendix 2 of UNEP/CONF/4).

The resolution invited Governments and relevant international organizations to provide the secretariat with information on national, regional and international measures and agreements on liability and redress, especially on persistent organic pollutants. It also requested the secretariat in cooperation with one or more States to organize a workshop on liability and redress in the context of the Convention on persistent organic pollutants and related matters, no later than 2002. The results of that workshop, which the Government of Austria has offered to host, would be considered at the first Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

In relation to initial information gathering requirement, the secretariat would be grateful to receive any information you may wish to submit concerning national, regional and international measures and agreements on liability and redress. Responses should be sent at your earliest convenience and no later than 31 December 2001. This will enable the secretariat to prepare for next year's workshop and to provide a progress report for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (the interim authority for the Stockholm Convention) at its sixth meeting in June 2002.

Please submit responses to the following address:

Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs
Attention: "Liability and redress"
UNEP Chemicals
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, SWITZERLAND
Fax: (+41 22) 797 34 60
E-mail: liability@chemicals.unep.ch

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Gubb on my staff at (tel.: +41-22-917-82 00;
E-mail: mgubb@chemicals.unep.ch).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Willis', written in a cursive style.

James B. Willis
Director Chemicals

Attachment 2

Responses received from the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Peru, Singapore and United Kingdom, and from the European Commission, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Comment: Attachment 2 is only available in hardcopies.