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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

Guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes\*\*

Note by the secretariat

In paragraph 6 of document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/8, it was anticipated that preliminary draft technical guidelines would be reviewed by the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, at its twentieth session in May 2002 and also made available to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its sixth session for information. The preliminary draft was not in fact completed in time for the Technical Working Group meeting. Attached is an extract from the report of the Group's twentieth session provided by the secretariat of the Basel Convention, which includes an indication of the intended timetable and arrangements for development of the guidelines. The attached information has been circulated as submitted and has not been formally edited.

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\* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1

\*\* Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 5.

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Attachment

Status report of 5 June 2002 from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on preparation of technical guidelines for environmentally sound management of POPs as wastes

The Technical Working Group at its twentieth session in May 2002 agreed to the following set of activities and time-frame for the preparation of the technical guidelines on POPs as waste:

(a) The intersessional small working group set up to spearhead efforts, assist the secretariat in its work and monitor the consultant should continue to guide the development of the technical guidelines on POPs as waste and provide input into the work undertaken by Canada to revise the PCBs/PCTs/PBBs technical guidelines. However, it was not foreseen to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) In order to ensure maximum transparency in the process, the Technical Working Group recommended that the secretariat ensure that all pertinent documentation concerning the preparation of the technical guidelines be posted on the Convention's website, including the possibility to create a password for use by the experts of the Technical Working Group. The relevant documents would include:

- (i) the drafts of the technical guidelines, indicating that those were in development stages
- (ii) the comments or input by the small intersessional working group
- (iii) other comments by Parties, Signatories and other stakeholders;

(c) The Technical Working Group might consider forwarding a decision to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties along the lines described in document UNEP/CHW/TWG/20/7. The group did not believe that it would be useful for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to get any advance draft text of the technical guidelines;

(d) Nonetheless, the group strongly believed that rapid progress in the preparation of the technical guidelines was essential and that the Technical Working Group should be the custodian of the process. The final version of the technical guidelines as adopted by the Technical Working Group should be submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In order not to lose momentum, the following time-frame for action was proposed:

- (i) First preliminary draft of the technical guidelines on POPs as waste to be ready by mid-June 2002;
- (ii) Comments solicited from the small intersessional working group by 15 July 2002. At this stage, the draft documents would also be made available to all stakeholders for any input;
- (iii) Revised version of the technical guidelines made available to all stakeholders by electronic or other means;
- (iv) Comments solicited from all stakeholders by 15 September 2002;
- (v) New revised version of the technical guidelines made available to all stakeholders with possibility to provide further input by 15 October 2002;
- (vi) Second revision ready by late November 2002;

(e) In this process, the small intersessional working group would provide guidance to the secretariat and monitor the work of the consultant;

(f) The secretariat should be requested to organize and monitor the process to ensure timely communication of information to Parties and others;

(g) The revision of the PCBs/PCTs/PBBs technical guidelines should be undertaken in phase with the preparation of the umbrella POPs technical guidelines to ensure coherence and consistency.