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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

Report of the Global Environment Facility to the sixth session of
the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee**

Note by the secretariat

Attached to the present note is information provided by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility in response to resolution 2 of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants relating to interim financial arrangements. The information has been circulated as submitted and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1

** Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 2.

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Global Environment Facility

June 10, 2002

Report of the GEF to the Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Introduction

The following report is submitted to the sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) by the GEF, acting in its capacity of “principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism” of the Convention, ad interim. The report describes the steps taken by the GEF since May 2001 to respond to the resolutions of the Stockholm Diplomatic Conference and the steps taken to facilitate early implementation of the Convention, particularly in relation to building capacity in eligible countries. The report also provides a rapid overview of the growing portfolio of projects.

I Response to Resolutions of Stockholm Diplomatic Conference

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOCAL AREA FOR PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

The Stockholm Diplomatic Conference had requested “*the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a new focal area through amendment of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility in order to support the implementation of the Convention.*” In response, the GEF Council, meeting in May 2002, approved a recommendation to the GEF Assembly to create the new focal area¹ for “Persistent Organic Pollutants” and to amend the instrument of the GEF accordingly.² The Council also recommended that the Assembly further amend the Instrument to read: “the agreed incremental costs of activities to achieve global environmental benefits concerning chemicals management as they relate to the above focal areas [climate change; biological diversity; international waters; ozone layer depletion; land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; persistent organic pollutants] shall be eligible for funding.” This will help to maximize, at the country level, the synergies that are to be found in the various chemicals related Conventions.

An Operational Program for Persistent Organic Pollutants

In November 2000, the GEF Council took note of the “Draft elements for an operational program for reducing and eliminating releases of persistent organic pollutants into the environment” prepared by the GEF Secretariat. In accordance with the request of the Diplomatic Conference, the Operational Program will be finalized in cooperation with the GEF Agencies, and with input from other relevant organizations, before the end of 2002.

FACILITATING “SIMPLE, FLEXIBLE, AND EXPEDITIOUS ACCESS TO FUNDING”

At its May 2001 meeting, the Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF to approve directly proposals not exceeding US\$ 500,000, and approved a simplified format for presentation of proposals. The GEF Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, WB) and “Executing Agencies with Expanded Opportunities” for POPs (FAO and UNIDO) are assisting

¹ The negotiations on the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund - from fiscal year 2003 to 2006 - will be completed before the meeting of the GEF Assembly in October 2002. Without prejudging the outcome of the on-going discussions, the amount allocated for POPs under all the replenishment scenarios presently being discussed is of US\$ 250 million.

² Only the Assembly of the GEF, comprising all participating countries, can amend the Instrument of the GEF; it will meet for the second time in Beijing in October 2002.

client countries in preparing these proposals. The turnaround time in the GEF Secretariat to approve a proposal and/or provide formal comments and recommendations is ten days.

II Capacity Building in Support of the Implementation of the Convention

FUNDING FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

In May 2001, the GEF Council adopted the “Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.”³ The guidelines, which focus on the preparation of the National Implementation Plans (NIPs), were developed in cooperation with the GEF inter-Agency POPs Task Force (see below), and include country eligibility criteria.⁴ The GEF Guidelines have been further detailed and complemented by UNDP (POPs Resource Kit) and by the WB (Guidance Document on Preparation of a NIP).

As of May 31, 2002, one year after the adoption of the Convention, 60 countries representing all regions and levels of preparedness have already submitted proposals for NIP funding to the GEF: 38 proposals have been approved under expedited procedures, 10 additional proposals are under review, and 2 countries have opted to follow the normal project cycle.⁵ In addition, 12 countries are receiving GEF funding for their NIPs as part of the project *Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants* (UNEP) approved by the Council in May 2001. An important component of this project provides for capacity building and exchanges of information and experience on a sub-regional basis amongst all eligible countries. (See Annex 1 for a complete list of enabling activities).

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Through the medium-sized project *Support for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, the GEF is collaborating with the Stockholm Convention Interim Secretariat to hold eight sub-regional workshops aimed at familiarizing government officials and other stakeholders with the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and other related chemicals agreements, as well as with the GEF POPs guidelines and procedures. So far, six workshops have been conducted, following a very tight schedule, for West Asia (Bahrain, November 11-15, 2001), Asia and the Pacific (Thailand, November 26-30, 2001), Francophone Africa (Burkina Faso, February 25–March 1, 2002), Latin America (Uruguay, March 18-22, 2002), Central and Eastern Europe (Slovak Republic, April 8-12, 2002), the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, June 4-8, 2002). Two workshops are planned in the last quarter of 2002 for the Commonwealth of Independent States and Anglophone Africa.

III The GEF POPs Inter-Agency Task Force

The inter-Agency Task Forces are the main mechanism to coordinate GEF activities among GEF system agencies. The POPs Task Force is chaired by the GEF Secretariat and includes representatives of the GEF Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, and WB) and Executing

³ UNEP/POPs/INC.6/INF/2

⁴ According to the Council decision of May 2001, all developing countries and countries with economies in transition signatory to the Convention are eligible for GEF “Enabling Activities” funding. Eligibility was expanded in May 2002 to all developing countries and countries with economies in transition party to the Convention.

⁵ Project execution is already under way in over 22 countries.

Agencies with expanded opportunities for POPs (FAO and UNIDO). Others may be invited to participate, such as the Convention Secretariat, STAP, or any ad hoc representation that may be deemed necessary for a particular agenda item. The Task Force has already met to discuss, amend and finalize the GEF Guidelines for enabling activities and NIP preparation. The Task Force will meet regularly to discuss issues such as pipeline and portfolio analysis (program status review of the GEF), coordination of activities, strategic directions in the business plan, and input to STAP workshops.

IV Reconstitution of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF (STAP) is an independent body that provides cutting edge scientific and technical input to GEF policies and operations and is the link between the scientific and technical community and the GEF as a whole. The number of STAP members has been increased to reflect the new focal areas – POPs and Land Degradation, within the context of the renewal of STAP membership approved by the Council in May 2002. Two new members, Prof. Shinsuke Tanabe and Prof. Xu Xiaobai, have extensive expertise in environmental chemistry, in particular persistent toxic substances including POPs.

V Other Project Activities in Support of the Convention

A number of strategic priority setting and demonstration projects, directly or indirectly in support of the Convention, have been funded in the past years, some under the Contaminant-based Operational Program of the International Waters Focal Area. Priority setting projects include the *Regionally-based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances*, under implementation (executed by the Chemicals Unit of UNEP and by regional institutions). This global effort will provide priorities for action for a broad range of persistent toxic substances. The results of this project will be available later in 2002.

DDT, one of the most contentious issues during the negotiations, is given a special place in the Convention. It is the only compound whose use is authorized, for disease vector control, until safe, affordable, and effective alternatives are developed and available. The GEF, in partnership with WHO, is addressing this pressing matter on two fronts. In May 2002, the GEF Council approved a UNEP implemented, PAHO executed (WHO Office for the Americas) project in support of sustainable alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America. In March 2002, the GEF approved a preparation grant (PDF-B) for a similar project in Africa: *Prevention of Human and Environmental Exposure to DDT and other Toxic Pesticides and Strengthening of Malaria Control Programmes in Africa*. This project is being implemented by UNEP, and is executed by AFRO, WHO's regional office for Africa.

The GEF is supporting activities on environmentally benign POPs disposal technologies through preparatory funding (PDF-B) for a project on *Demonstration of Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Effective Implementation of Available, Non-combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants*. The work is being conducted by UNDP and UNIDO in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and with the Governments of the Philippines and Slovakia. A second initiative in the field of the disposal and elimination of POPs, the "African Stockpile Program (ASP)," is a major effort led by the World Bank, and supported through a GEF preparation grant. The Program aims to provide a "clean sweep" of obsolete stockpiles in Africa, and to build the capacity to prevent future accumulations. The ASP is a partnership which includes

the WB, FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, non-governmental organizations (the WWF and PAN), and industry.

Two other activities, set in the framework of the International Waters focal area, promote the use of integrated pest management (IPM) as an alternative to toxic and persistent pesticides. The project, *Reducing Pesticide Runoff to the Caribbean Sea*, approved by Council in May 2002, is being implemented by UNEP in collaboration with FAO, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations. It involves 4 countries: Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In August 2001, a PDF-B executed by FAO's IPM Facility received a grant to prepare the project *Reducing Reliance on Agricultural Pesticide Use and Establishing a Community Based Pollution Prevention System in the Senegal and Niger River Basins*.

Finally, the project *Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security, and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North*, implemented by UNEP since January 2001, and executed by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North in collaboration with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, will assess and begin to mitigate the threats posed by POPs to some of the most vulnerable populations, through contamination of their food supply (See Annex 2 for a complete list of project activities).

Conclusion

The funding of National Implementation Plans and other capacity building efforts will remain the priority for the GEF in the next years. The GEF will also continue to fund demonstration and innovative projects with high potential for replication in order to prepare its client countries for the systematic implementation of the Convention.

The GEF and its Agencies will place particular emphasis on ensuring quality and consistency in the preparation of NIPs, and on the identification of priorities for incremental cost funding at the country level.

ANNEX I – ENABLING ACTIVITIES PROJECTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF NIPs**TABLE 1: APPROVED ENABLING ACTIVITIES PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, MAY 31, 2002**

Country	GEF Grant US\$	Agency
Algeria	494,000	UNIDO
Armenia	481,500	UNIDO
Bangladesh	495,075	UNDP
Bolivia	479,430	UNIDO
Central African Republic	479,000	UNIDO
Republic of Congo	497,920	UNIDO
Côte d'Ivoire	282,476	UNEP
Croatia	472,100	UNIDO
Czech Republic	440,733	UNIDO
Fiji	384,000	UNEP
Gambia	450,000	UNEP
Ghana	497,000	UNIDO
Guatemala	495,200	UNIDO
Hungary	489,472	UNIDO
Indonesia	499,800	UNIDO
Iran	495,900	UNDP
Kazakhstan	500,000	UNDP
Kenya	425,900	UNEP
Lao's People Democratic Republic	497,850	UNIDO
Lesotho	488,950	UNIDO
Macedonia	497,000	UNIDO
Mauritania	424,000	UNEP
Moldova	411,500	WB
Morocco	496,800	UNDP
Mozambique	481,900	UNEP
Nepal	469,500	UNIDO
Níger	475,000	UNIDO
Nigeria	498,700	UNIDO
Philippines	500,000	UNDP
Poland	496,950	UNIDO
Romania	495,000	UNIDO
Samoa	372,500	UNDP
Slovak Republic	475,000	UNDP
Tanzania	498,000	UNIDO
Togo	499,500	UNIDO
Tunisia	431,270	UNEP
Vietnam	500,000	UNDP
Yemen	470,000	UNEP

TABLE 2: ENABLING ACTIVITIES PROPOSALS UNDER REVIEW, MAY 31, 2002

Country	Agency
Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mongolia	UNIDO
Colombia	WB
Jamaica, Latvia	UNDP
Jordan, Sri Lanka, Uruguay	UNEP

TABLE 3: PROJECT PREPARATION FUNDING (PDF-B) FOR ENABLING ACTIVITIES PROPOSALS UNDER NORMAL PROJECT CYCLE, MAY 31, 2002

Country	GEF Amount US\$	Agency
China	350,000	UNIDO
India	under review	UNIDO

TABLE 4: PILOT PROJECT "DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS," APPROVED MAY 2001

Country	Agency
Barbados, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, Guinea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, Zambia	UNEP

ANNEX 2 – PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT TO ENABLING ACTIVITIES

Support for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, medium size project under implementation since September 2001

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: UNEP Chemicals Unit

GEF funding: US\$ 0.6 million

Total project cost: US\$ 1.4 million

GLOBAL STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Regionally-based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances, full size project under implementation since September 2000

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: UNEP Chemicals Unit; 12 institutions in the regions

GEF funding: US\$ 3 million

Total project cost: US\$ 5 million

Barbados, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, Guinea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, Zambia: Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants, full size project approved May 2001

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: UNEP Chemicals Unit; national Environment Ministries

GEF funding: US\$ 6.2 million

Total project cost: US\$ 9.2 million

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: CONTROL OF DISEASE VECTORS

Regional Program of Action and Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America, full size project approved May 2002

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: PAHO (WHO Regional Office for the Americas); national Health Ministries

GEF funding: US\$ 6.6 million

Total project cost: US\$ 13.9 million

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland: Prevention of Human and Environmental Exposure to DDT and other Toxic Pesticides and Strengthening of Malaria Control Programmes in Africa, PDF-B

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: WHO Regional Office for Africa; national roll-back malaria committees

GEF funding PDF-B: US\$ 384,000

Total PDF-B cost: US\$ 698,000

Total anticipated project cost: US\$ 6-8 million

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES

Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua: Reducing Pesticide Runoff to the Caribbean Sea, full size project approved May 2002

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention; national Ministries of Environment

GEF funding: US\$ 4.6 million

Total project cost: US\$ 10.3 million

Reducing Reliance on Agricultural Pesticide Use and Establishing a Community Based Pollution Prevention System in the Senegal and Niger River Basins, PDF-B

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: Global IPM Facility, FAO; CERES Locustox (Sénégal)

GEF funding PDF-B: US\$ 372,500

Total PDF-B cost: US\$ 466,500

Total anticipated project cost: US\$ 6-8 million

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: DISPOSAL TECHNOLOGIES

Demonstration of Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Effective Implementation of Available, Non-combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants, PDF-B

Implementation: UNDP

Execution: UNIDO in collaboration with Environmental Health Fund

GEF funding PDF-B: US\$ 608,120

Total PDF-B cost: US\$ 918,120

Total anticipated project cost: US\$ 15-18 million

DISPOSAL OF STOCKPILES OF OBSOLETE PESTICIDES

African Stockpile Program (ASP): Funding the Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides from African Countries, PDF-B

Implementation: WB, in cooperation with a multi-stakeholder partnership of IGOs (FAO, UNIDO, UNEP), Basel and Stockholm Convention Secretariats, African IGOs (AU, UNECA, AfDB), NGOs (WWF, PAN-UK, PAN-Africa), and industry

Total program anticipated cost: US\$ 250 million (over 10 years or more)

ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION OF THREATS TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North, medium size project under implementation since January 2001

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North

GEF funding: US\$ 0.75 million

Total project cost: US\$ 2.8 million