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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT
FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON
CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Seventh session

Geneva, 14-18 July 2003

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Preparations for the Conference of the Parties

**INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OFFER BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY TO
HOST THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS IN BONN****

Note by the secretariat

As stated in document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/23, information concerning the offer by the Government of Germany to host the permanent secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Bonn is contained in annex to the present note. The information is circulated as submitted by the Government of Germany and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1.

** Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, article 20; Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 6 (in document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I); decision INC-6/19 and appendix (in document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I).

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Annex:

Summary

Since the German Parliament's resolution to develop its former capital, the Federal City of Bonn, into a location for national, international and supra-national institutions, a number of UN organisations have settled here and subsequently expanded. All of them have been warmly welcomed, and have discovered that their work in Bonn has attracted keen public interest, particularly in the person of Bonn's Mayor, Ms Bärbel Dieckmann. "As a city, we are determined to support the resident UN organisations to the best of our ability, and to give them the attention their important issues deserve...". "...Bonn is heavily influenced by international dialogue. Having been synonymous with Germany's new global image for almost five decades, our city's recent transformation has been well-publicised throughout the world, particularly since the 2001 World Climate Conference and the Afghanistan Meeting". The signing in February 2002 of an "Agreement on the Settlement of International organisations in Bonn and the International Congress Centre Bundeshaus Bonn" between the German Federal Government, the Regional State of North-Rhine Westphalia and the City of Bonn, has further consolidated the principal framework conditions for other UN organisations to settle in a **UN Campus** in Bonn. As such, the favourable situation which has existed since Germany first applied to host the Secretariat of the POPs Convention in Bonn in March 2000, along with various other applications, has been further improved.

As one of the main exporters of chemical products, Germany feels a special obligation to not only strengthen its national legal system for monitoring chemical safety but also at the same time to communicate its experiences to other countries where this process is only just beginning. As a densely populated country with large numbers of chemical factories, the safe handling of chemical products has always been a top priority for Germany. Germany's comprehensive safety system, as detailed in a report entitled "National Profile - Management of Chemicals in Germany", could serve as a model for developing countries.

The Federal Republic of Germany has always been careful to adopt statutory provisions which are based closely on European legislation and international agreements. In conjunction with Agenda 21 of the Rio Conference, the Federal Republic of Germany makes an active contribution within the framework of the EU, the OECD, and various international initiatives on chemical safety such as the IPCS and the IFCS. Germany also targets the promotion of IOMC projects aimed at reinforcing the infrastructure for efficient management of hazardous substances in individual countries. Germany has signed and/or ratified the five most important international conventions on global chemical management, and is actively involved in their implementation.

Over the past ten years, Germany has initiated and financed some 40 fundamental projects aimed at promoting the development of appropriate safety systems for chemical substances. Its accumulated expertise will be at the disposal of the Secretariats, especially since Bonn, being already renowned as an international centre for science and research and the hub of a network for environment, development and health, is set to become a focal point for chemical safety as well. The settlement of the POPs and PIC Secretariats in Bonn would therefore dovetail perfectly into this framework.

As the former capital of the Federal Republic of Germany, the City of Bonn, with its 310,000 inhabitants, has emerged as a dynamic centre of international dialogue and global cooperation. Following the relocation of the two Houses of the German Parliament and large parts of the Federal Government to Berlin, the city needed to find a new direction, and has done so very successfully thanks to the professional expertise and international esteem acquired during its many years as a major showcase of global political influence. Since 1996, a number of United Nations organisations, particularly those involved in the environmental sector, have chosen Bonn as their seat. Prompted by the rising numbers of

UN staff and Secretariats, the aforementioned Agreement on the creation of a **United Nations Campus** was signed in Berlin in the presence of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The main purpose of this Agreement is to convert the existing modern complex surrounding the former plenary hall of the German Parliament into a campus for the United Nations in Bonn, offering spacious and well-appointed premises for UN institutions both current and future. The addition of a second large conference hall within the UN Campus, which like the former plenary hall will seat up to 1,500 people, together with a first-class hotel and the required servicing facilities, will create a world-class conference infrastructure.

Thanks to the close proximity of all UN Secretariats with environmental interests, as well as the European Center for Environmental and Health of the WHO's Regional Europe Office, the site offers the Secretariat of the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the PIC Secretariat ideal framework conditions for networking and cooperation between the UN Secretariats, Germany's national authorities, as well as top-flight research institutions and universities, whilst at the same time providing numerous opportunities for synergy.

In view of the declared intention to combine UN Secretariats with overlapping responsibilities, the logical conclusion would be to accommodate the POPs Secretariat in joint premises together with the (then undivided) PIC Secretariat, thus offering both organisations an expert working environment.

Why Bonn?

Easily accessible

A dense network of motorways, rail connections and air links, both domestic and international.

Bonn as a centre of chemical excellence

The city offers a unique opportunity for the pooling of chemical expertise, with a high level of regard and support from the host country.

Economic benefits

A fully equipped site will be made available free of charge on a permanent basis. The voluntary contribution will be substantially increased, and significant additional funding is available for Secretariat events. Relocation costs, furnishing grants and the cost of language courses for staff and their families will be met by the German government.

Numerous privileges and immunities

In accordance with the UNV Agreement.

Attractive, inexpensive housing

A relaxed accommodation market with low rents and purchase prices.

A multicultural city

A lengthy international history as Germany's capital city, with an open-minded population, and host to a number of key congresses and conferences such as the Afghanistan Conference and the World Climate Conference.

Superb infrastructure

A high standard of medical care, countless schools, universities and other educational and research facilities in the immediate vicinity, and an excellent supply of qualified staff.

High standard of living

Further benefits include the attractive countryside of the Rhine region, a broad selection of cultural attractions, an enviable quality of life, none of the problems often associated with large conurbations, and a moderate cost of living.

**II. Responses of GERMANY to the issues
cited in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6.21**

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Bonn, November 2002



Ladies and Gentlemen,

This brochure contains Germany's application to host the Permanent POPs Secretariat in Bonn. Germany is also applying to host the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention (PIC).

These offers, together with the location of other international environmental organisations and Convention Secretariats to the UN city Bonn, confirm that we are taking our responsibilities in the fields of global environmental and health policy seriously, and that we are endeavouring to strengthen our commitment towards the United Nations and international cooperation.

The POPs and PIC Secretariats are closely linked both in terms of organisation and activities. Both secretariats can be accommodated in what used to be the parliamentary area in Bonn.

The former parliamentary area is being developed into a UN Campus for all existing Bonn-based UN agencies. Moreover, as shown by the INC-9 PIC, this area has proven its suitability to host international conferences. It has been successfully transformed into a major international conference centre. United Nations events will enjoy priority access to this centre.

Successful implementation of an environmental convention is highly dependent on a strong and efficient Secretariat. The POPs Convention marks the transition from a previously voluntary procedure to one that is legally binding. This transition should be marked by the establishment of a unified Secretariat. Unified management of the Convention Secretariat and a unified representation of its objectives to the outside world is the key to ensuring that the Convention is a powerful instrument and to preventing duplication of work.

Bonn makes optimal use of synergies, especially those generated through proximity to the Secretariats of other UN Conventions in the environmental field. Furthermore, the German Government remains committed to attracting other UN organisations to Bonn. As a result, 12 UN organisations are already located in Bonn.

I would be delighted if representatives of the project group involved in assessing the suitability of locations were to come to Bonn and examine the German offer at first hand. You are warmly invited to do so.

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

Jürgen Trittin

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

General situation

The Federal City of Bonn:

An open-minded city with a strong emphasis on internationalism

Over the past ten years, **Bonn, the former capital of the Federal Republic of Germany**, has successfully undergone a radical transformation. Once the centre of German politics, the city has now reinvented itself as a central showcase for international dialogue, research, telecommunications and technology, with a targeted focus on the principle of ecological sustainability. This is reinforced by the **presence of the competent Federal Ministries** in this field, the establishment of **several UN Secretariats dedicated to environmental issues**, the presence of the **Germany's principal development services** such as the DED (*German Development Service*), the DSE (*German Foundation for International Development*), the DIE (*German Development Institute*) and branch offices of the GTZ (an organisation specialising in technological cooperation), the creation of **new scientific and research institutions**, and the existence of some 150 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who work in this field.

As Germany's first UN city, **Bonn sees international dialogue and global understanding as an interest close to its heart, as well as an obligation**. For this reason, expertise in the areas of environment, development and health is concentrated here, and continues to expand.

Bonn offers ideal working conditions for the POPs Chemicals Secretariat. The growing UN Campus offers adequate space for the UN family to expand, including also the settlement of the PIC Secretariat, which would then no longer be divided. Both Secretariats would be able to pool their manpower and utilise resources far more efficiently than is currently possible under the decentralised arrangement. The ease of interaction between the two Secretariats and other relevant offices would, in turn, offer additional synergies for the United Nations.

Bonn is a medium-sized city of short distances with an **excellent infrastructure** and a **well-founded tradition of international experience**. Its welcoming approach to newcomers from foreign countries is typical of the city. With over 70 foreign representations still situated on the banks of the Rhine, it is also the place where **diplomatic life meets life in the UN community**. Every seventh inhabitant in Bonn has

a foreign passport, and one in every four marriages involves one non-German partner. English is the first foreign language taught in German schools, and many residents speak French or another language, due no doubt in part to the extensive presence of international companies. A total of 37,000 students are enrolled at Bonn's **renowned historic university**, and 3,100 of these are nationals of more than 100 foreign countries. The city combines the advantages of a modern metropolis with a rich cultural life, a wide range of sporting activities, and recreational facilities. Because culture and the arts play a key role in Bonn, its stages offer a diverse mix of performances, from concerts by the world-famous Bonn Beethoven Orchestra, to operas, operettas and theatre, through to cabaret and variety shows. Changing exhibits at the *Bonner Kunstmuseum* <Bonn Museum of Art> and the *Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* <National Art and Exhibition Hall>, as well as many other museums and galleries, cater to a wide variety of tastes. There is also a varied summer programme of cultural events staged at various locations including the *Marktplatz* <market square> and *Museumsmeile* <"museum mile">, *Rheinaue* <city park on the banks of the Rhine> and in the grounds of *Poppelsdorfer Schloß* <Poppelsdorf Palace>. The Rheinaue park is ideal for jogging, cycling, rollerblading, hiking and walking. For those who enjoy playing sports in a group, there is a vast choice of nearly 300 clubs offering 44 different sports, from aikido to volleyball. As well as these inexpensive sports clubs, there are also many commercial health clubs and gyms. Bonn also has plenty to offer in the field of spectator sports – a home match by the Telekom Baskets, the Bonn Marathon and the annual Triathlon are just some of the exciting events on offer.

The **conurbation problems typical of many large cities do not exist in Bonn**. The city offers an extensive range of high-quality consumer goods, both European and international, and residents find that the comparatively modest cost of living is also a major boon. Bonn is fortunate in having a **very favourable security situation**; crime rates are well below the national and international average, and racially motivated offences are extremely rare.

The city's economic reorientation has prompted the creation of countless new jobs, a process which is still on-going. This will benefit the family members of UN staff keen to take up employment in their new city. Some **50 % of Bonn's employees work in the international sector**. **The schools and universities are also very accommodating to foreign children and young people**. There are several bilingual state schools of a high standard which allow students to sit the German *Abitur*, the International Baccalaureat (IB) or the French Baccalauréat free of charge. A number of fee-paying international schools

also offer tuition in foreign languages, culminating in the IB qualification. Universities for all faculties and foreign language courses, as well as specialist colleges, can be found in Bonn, Cologne and Aachen.

International, national and regional transport links are superb. Bonn is well integrated into the German and European railway network. The nearby Cologne/Bonn airport is only 20 minutes by car from the city centre, yet far enough away not to disturb daily life in Bonn. The airports of Düsseldorf and Frankfurt can be reached in 60 and 90 minutes respectively.

The local public transport system via rail, road and water (ferries) is very versatile, and links attractive residential areas with the city centre and the UN Campus.

Bonn also has excellent access to the European motorway system, making it possible to drive from the UN Campus to Cologne/Bonn airport in 15 minutes, or to Brussels in around two hours.

The modern premises on offer, which will be shared with the PIC Secretariat, are in the centre of the UN Campus in the former government quarter, directly adjacent to the UN conference facilities. As such, relocating to Bonn would bring with it substantial benefits for international organisations, and particularly for the Secretariats of the two UN Conventions on chemicals, thanks to the potential synergies afforded by sharing a common location and the proximity of other specialised United Nations organisations involved in environmental issues. The relevant Federal ministries and the many development, scientific and research institutions, both long established and new, in Bonn and its environs are likewise eager to cooperate with the Secretariats. All of them are future-oriented, and view the sustainable management of natural resources as one of their top priorities.

Legal framework

1. **Privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the permanent secretariat and its staff members as well as Government representatives and other persons engaged in official business of the Convention.**
2. **Legal framework for ensuring equal treatment of premises and staff of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.**
3. **Rules and restrictions applicable to the employment of the dependents of staff members.**
4. **Nature of the Headquarters Agreement (e.g. stand-alone agreement, incorporation into other existing agreement etc.)**

Re questions 1. – 4.

Germany is willing to grant the Secretariat the same standard of privileges and immunities as those awarded to the Secretariat of the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV).

An agreement on the seat of the UN Volunteers Programme was concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Nations on 10 November 1995. This Agreement was then translated into German law by an act dated 5 June 1996. The agreement applies analogously to all UN offices and UN related institutions located in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The full version of the Agreement is attached as Annex 1. To aid comprehension, the principal privileges and immunities are summarised below:

- Inviolability of the site (Article 5 of the UNV Agreement)
- The site is subject to the authority and control of the UN (Article 6 of the UNV Agreement)
- Inviolability of the archives and all documents
- Protection of the site and surrounding area

- The Secretariat, its funds, credit and other assets shall enjoy immunity. The assets and credit of the Secretariat are exempt from all types of restrictions, regulations, controls or moratorium measures. (Article 9 of the UNV Agreement).
- Exemption from all direct and indirect taxes including extensive exemption from mineral oil and sales tax. Exemption from all customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions vis-à-vis objects imported and exported for official use, including motor vehicles (Article 10 of the UNV Agreement). Public and other services for the site shall be ensured with the assistance of the Federal Government (Article 11 of the UNV Agreement)
- Official communications and official correspondence shall not be subject to any form of censorship and shall be inviolable. The Secretariat has the right to use encryption and to receive its correspondence via couriers or in containers which shall enjoy the same immunities and privileges as diplomatic couriers and diplomatic bags. In transactions between its offices in Germany and abroad, the Secretariat is authorised to operate radio and other telecommunications equipment at the frequencies registered for the UN and allocated to it by the Government. (Article 12 of the UNV Agreement)
- Any privileges, immunities, exemptions and relief granted shall be valid in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (General Convention) and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1964 (Vienna Convention).
 1. Representatives of members living or permanently residing in the Federal Republic of Germany shall enjoy the same privileges, immunities and exemptions as those granted to diplomats of an equivalent ranking at accredited missions in the Federal Republic of Germany under the Vienna Convention. Representatives of members who are not resident in the Federal Republic of Germany shall enjoy the privileges and immunities granted under the General Convention. (Article 13 of the UNV Agreement)
 2. In accordance with the General Convention, employees of the Secretariat shall enjoy immunity from prosecution in all official actions; exemption from taxes on remuneration paid by the Secretariat; exemption from national service; exemption from immigration restrictions and the mandatory registration of aliens, which shall also extend to their spouses and relatives dependent on

them; foreign exchange relief equivalent to that granted to members of diplomatic missions with a comparable ranking; the same repatriation relief as is granted to diplomats in times of international crisis; and furniture and personal belongings may be imported free of customs duties and taxes upon first entering office in the host country. (Article 14 I of the UNV Agreement)

3. The Executive Director and other employees of level P-5 and above who do not have German nationality or permanent residence in Germany shall enjoy the same privileges, immunities, relief and exemptions as granted by the Government to diplomatic personnel of a comparable ranking at an accredited mission. The name of the Executive Director shall be included in the list of diplomats. (Article 14 II of the UNV Agreement)
 4. Commissioned authorised experts shall enjoy the privileges, immunities and relief outlined in the relevant regulations of the General Convention; additional concessions may be agreed (Article 16 of the UNV Agreement).
 5. Local employees who are paid on an hourly basis shall enjoy immunity with regard to their official duties, even after termination of their employment relationship, as well as all other relief needed to enable them to perform their duties independently. (Article 17 of the UNV Agreement)
- Passes and certificates from the UN shall be recognised and accepted, and any visas required shall be issued (Article 18 of the UNV Agreement)

Features of the office site and related financial issues

5. Main features of the building to house the Secretariat, including office space and scope for expansion, facilities for conferences and availability of general services (security, maintenance etc.)

The premises envisaged for the POPs Secretariat are integrated into the UN Campus and are directly adjacent to the International Congress Centre 'Bundeshaus Bonn' and other conference venues on the banks of the River Rhine. The premises have fully equipped modern conference facilities and the necessary infrastructure for international conferences. They will be completely refurbished at the Federal Government's expense according to the requirements of the POPs Secretariat. As Bonn is home to both the Deutsche Telekom and the Deutsche Post World Net headquarters, the city has become a central location for IT and telecommunications in Germany. Consequently, POPs staff will have the most advanced telecommunications and IT equipment at their disposal. Videoconferencing and host broadcasting at conferences (CCTV) are provided as standard.

The photographs in the enclosed folder show the UN Campus area being offered to the POPs Secretariat for its accommodation. It is envisaged that the PIC Secretariat will be housed in the same building, should the Conference of the Parties to the PIC Convention vote in favour of Bonn.

The other UN Secretariats, various German development organisations, and most of the relevant government offices are also located in the immediate vicinity, together with representatives of the international press and the German international broadcasting corporation 'Deutsche Welle'.

The Federal Government will be happy to accommodate any requests for expansion on the part of the Secretariat, e.g. due to an increase in the number of staff, by providing additional premises rent-free.

General services such as security and maintenance can be tailored to the Secretariat's requirements.

6. Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the Secretariat, such as:

- a. Ownership by the Permanent Secretariat (through donation or purchase)**
- b. Ownership by the host government without rent**
- c. Ownership by the host government with rent, and amount of such rent**

A property agreement to be concluded between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the POPs Secretariat will form the basis for the ownership and use of office premises.

The office premises shall remain the property of the host government. It will be made available **rent-free** to the Secretariat on a permanent basis.

7. Responsibility for

- a) Major maintenance and repairs of the office facilities;**
- b) Normal maintenance and repair;**
- c) Utilities, including communication facilities.**

a) The Federal Government will bear the costs of any structural repairs and upkeep measures.

b) Normal maintenance of the offices (such as security, cleaning, cosmetic repairs) shall be the responsibility of the Secretariat as user.

c) The Secretariat shall also be liable for the costs of utilities such as telecommunications equipment, water and electricity.

8. Extent to which the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the host government

Germany is willing to meet the costs of equipping the offices of the Secretariat, including furniture, IT and communications technology. The total financial volume, including relocation costs, is estimated at around € 500,000.

9. Duration of the arrangements regarding office space

In 2002, the office premises can be made available for occupancy at the time of the move, in accordance with an occupancy plan agreed with the POPs Secretariat. Occupancy is for an unlimited period.

Local facilities and conditions

In the course of relocating the German Parliament and parts of the German Government to Berlin the Federal City of Bonn has emerged as a hub of international and North-South cooperation, environmental and health policy-making, consumer protection, and scientific research. The five competent ministries in these areas have their main office in Bonn, together with satellite offices of the other Ministries:

The following ministries are responsible for the specialist fields covered by the mandate of the POPs Convention:

- The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- The Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development
- The Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security
- The Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture

- The main office of the Federal Ministry of Defence is also located in Bonn.

The brochure "Bonn for Beginners" also provides newcomers from abroad with extensive information on the city.

10. Description of the following facilities and conditions

a) Diplomatic representation in the host city

69 diplomatic representations of varying types (Embassies, embassy branches, general consulates etc) are based in Bonn.

b) Presence of international organisations

Twelve UN Organisations are now based in Bonn:

- The United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV)
- *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The Bonn Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS)

- The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
- The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)
- The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
- The UNESCO Centre – International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC)
- The Regional Office of the European Centre for Environment and Health of the World Health Organization (WHO)
- An office of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- A United Nations University (UNU/EHS) research and training centre for environment and human security (as of 2003)

In addition, increasing numbers of **governmental and non-governmental organisations** (currently around 170) are also represented in Bonn, working mainly in the fields of development cooperation and the environment, as well as numerous international scientific and research organisations. As such, the city forms the hub of a network of key players devoted to resolving the problems of sustainable and humane development.

The following deserve particular mention:

- The German Foundation for International Development (DSE)
- The German Development Service (DED)
- The German Institute for Development Cooperation (DIE)
- The Development Service of the Protestant Churches in Germany (EED)
- Branches of the German Association for Technological Cooperation (GTZ)
- The Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn
- The Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) of the University of Bonn

In this way, Bonn is playing a role in the creation of an international network "environment, development and health".

In addition, around 150 non-governmental organisations working at international level have their headquarters in Bonn. These include:

- The Environmental Law Center of the IUCN (international Union for the Conservation of Nature)
- The Environment & Development Forum
- German Agro Action
- Eurosolar
- The Forest Stewardship Council

c) Synergy factors at the proposed site with chemical-related multilateral environmental agreements and agencies

It is the declared intention of the Federal Government and the City of Bonn to expand the site into a focal point of global chemicals policy.

The UN institutions and national offices already based there, together with non-governmental organisations with environmental and development-related interests, already represent a major potential with countless potential synergies in the field of chemical safety.

As such, the combination of the POPs and PIC Secretariats at one location would offer a unique opportunity to establish broad-based communications and work structures, enabling both Secretariats to tap into inestimable synergy factors in the chemicals sector.

d) Availability of international conference facilities and the conditions for their use (free of charge, rent etc.)

The current premises on offer already include several conference rooms not far from the International Congress Centre 'Bundeshaus Bonn', whose largest hall seats up to 1,500 delegates (using UN seating arrangement). Other fully equipped modern conference facilities are located within the future UN Campus. A further conference hall will be added to the complex in line with UNO requirements, and priority will be given to the UNO for its own conferences and other uses. This new, spacious hall is specifically designed for international conferences and likewise seats up to 1,500 participants (UN seating arrangement); a further 15 medium-sized and 12 smaller conference rooms are also envisaged. The required infrastructure, including simultaneous interpreting facilities for up to 7 languages, as well as a well-organized editing

and print centre, host broadcasting (CCTV), offices, restaurants, catering units, banks, a post office, shops, a travel agency and a medical centre, will also be included. A well-equipped press center and press conference rooms, together with a meditation and prayer room for all faiths, will also be provided. The stringent security requirements of the United Nations will be met.

Privileged events, such as UN Conferences, can be conducted for the UN rent free in the International Congress Centre Bundeshaus Bonn. The Federal Government will also pay an annual subsidy of € 500,000 for conferences and events staged by the POPs Secretariat in Germany.

e) Access to qualified conference servicing staff, e.g. interpreters, translators, editors and meeting coordinators, familiar with UN conferences and practices

In both its former role as the German capital and in its new role as a UN city, Bonn has gained considerable experience in organising high-level international conferences. Below are just some of the international and world conferences held in Bonn between 2000 and 2002:

- Two Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC
- One Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD
- The International conference "VISION 2020 – Food Security for All"
- The UN Conference on the Biodiversity Convention in October 2001
- The International Conference on Freshwater
- The United Nations Talks on Afghanistan (new start December 2002)
- The Conference on "Media, Conflict and Terrorism"
- The 4th INC of POPs in March 2000
- Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) of PIC in Autumn 2002

All these events have benefited from the advantageous employment situation at the conference venue, in particular, the ready availability of:

- Highly qualified event management and conference servicing companies which operate on site
- Highly skilled translators and interpreters in all UN working languages
- Multilingual clerical and secretarial staff, and
- Experienced editors.

f) **International transport facilities**

The City of Bonn is located in the Federal Republic of Germany, at the geographical heart of Central Europe, between Düsseldorf/Ruhr and Frankfurt. This region, spanning some 250 km in length, is a central axis of high economic performance with an unrivalled urban diversity and density. In the centre of this region are the two neighbouring cities of Bonn and Cologne, only 25 km apart.

The city is served by an **abundance of motorways, railway lines, and domestic and international flight connections**. Bonn/Cologne airport is a 20-minute drive from Bonn city centre.

Because the building being offered to the POPs Secretariat is only a three-minute drive from the motorway, Cologne/Bonn airport can be reached in just 15 minutes.

Together with the neighbouring airports of Düsseldorf (1 hour by intercity railway or car) and Frankfurt (1 1/2 hours by intercity railway or car), cities such as New York, Nairobi or Delhi can be reached within 7 1/2 hours, whilst most major European cities can be reached within an hour. Journey times to the airports have been cut considerably since the opening of the intercity express rail connection in August 2002.

It also goes without saying that Bonn is also well served by the motorway network.

Bonn's central position in Europe allows motorists to reach Brussels, for example, in less than two hours.

Due to its proximity to Frankfurt airport with its extensive choice of overseas flights to all major destinations, as well as to Düsseldorf airport as the central departure point for long-haul charter flights, Cologne/Bonn Airport concentrates mainly on inner-European flights with carefully timed connecting flights to other destinations.

Every week, some 440 flights depart from Bonn to European capitals, and a further 866 flights to other key European cities. Plans are currently underway to expand the number of direct flights from and to Cologne/Bonn, particularly to North-East Europe, Rome, Lyon etc.

g) Local transport facilities and their proximity to the office premises being offered to the Permanent Secretariat

The City of Bonn has a highly developed local public transport system comprised of trams, subways, urban rail and numerous buses, as well as a dense network of cycle paths throughout the city. Virtually every point in the municipal area and in outlying suburbs is accessible via frequent public transport services. Connections between the UN Campus and the city centre (10 minutes to the main railway station/bus stop to the airport) and residential areas are excellent. Employees are able to purchase subsidised season tickets via their employers. The German national rail service, Deutsche Bahn, operates lines through Bonn on both sides of the Rhine, with regular long-distance, regional and local trains all stopping at the main station in Bonn.

h) Local availability of trained personnel for possible employment in the Permanent Secretariat, taking account of language and other skills

Bonn has a solid tradition as a modern administrative and governmental centre. Not only are various public authorities based in Bonn and the region; it is also home to various company headquarters, banks and insurance companies, associations and organisations, as well as scientific and academic institutions. These have attracted staff with a variety of specialist skills, most of whom speak at least one foreign language. At least 50 % of employees work in an international context. The local employment market offers well-trained, experienced applicants, and international employers will find scientists, technical and clerical staff in Bonn. The regional universities and colleges, as well as the vocational training institutes, offer special courses in modern languages alongside the respective degree courses.

The Federal Government will assist the Secretariat with the recruitment of qualified technical and office staff. It is also willing to grant the Secretariat access to libraries and other institutions with foreign-language documentation sources.

i) Health facilities and access to them by staff members of the permanent secretariat

The Bonn region is one of the world's leading addresses in the field of healthcare and modern medicine. On a nationwide comparison, it boasts an above-average complement of medical and healthcare facilities and research institutions which few other German cities can rival. The city offers a multitude of medical and healthcare facilities, with 53 hospitals and clinics providing more than 9,500 beds in total. Most German hospitals accommodate patients in rooms of between one and three beds. Specialist outcare facilities and day clinics complete the wide range of services, not to mention an extensive network of GPs and specialist surgeries, including a number specialising in tropical medicine. Bonn's German doctors and their colleagues of other nationalities speak at least English or French, and often have other languages, and are very experienced in treating non-German patients and addressing their needs. A special "Health Guide" for Bonn has been published, which includes details of the language skills of GPs, consultants, physiotherapists, psychotherapists.

The ample supply of clinics and hospitals in Bonn is further enhanced by the medical facilities provided by the city's famous Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University. The medical faculty has an excellent reputation based on the work of some 34 clinics – including one for tropical medicine – and 20 clinical-theoretical departments. Other centres of excellence include the Dardenne eye clinic, where world-renowned surgeons work with the most advanced techniques, and the Modeco dental clinic, with an excellent reputation in the fields of dental, oral and orthodontic medicine and surgery, as well as plastic and aesthetic facial surgery, providing both out-patient and in-patient care. Both the Johanniter and the Malteser General Hospitals, for example, have specialist departments for plastic, hand and restorative surgery, whilst the Petrus hospital is one of the best centres for orthopaedic surgery in the region. The Godeshöhe rehabilitation centre, specialising in early rehabilitation, is one of the world's most acclaimed clinics in the field of neurological rehabilitation. All clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres are, of course, open to everyone. The insurance cards of United Nations staff are accepted everywhere. Foreign patients have access to the medical services on offer at all times. A considerable number of patients from Arab-speaking countries and from CIS countries opt to travel to Bonn for medical treatment.

j) Availability of suitable housing**Information on prices and occupancy rates, and proximity of these housing opportunities to the premises being offered to the permanent secretariat**

The housing market in and around Bonn is very favourable. There is a wide choice of homes in every category, from bed-sits and small two-room apartments, through to detached homes with large gardens in the leafy suburbs. It is also possible to live in the city centre in a turn-of-the-century Art Nouveau-style building, where original parquet floors and stucco ceilings add character. There is also a wide choice of homes available in the outer suburbs, some of which are only a few minutes away from the city centre by car or public transport, yet have all the peace and quiet of the countryside. There are peaceful districts characterised by parks and villas, as well as newer areas which tend to attract young families with children.

The level of rents and property prices in Bonn and the vicinity are approximately mid-range for Germany as a whole, and very moderate indeed by international comparison.

In a comparison of international rent prices, Bonn ranked 22nd on the list. According to a study commissioned by the United Nations, the only places with lower rent prices than Bonn are Mexico City, Reading, Brussels, Madrid, Athens, Karlsruhe, Varese (Italy) and Budapest.

Essentially, rental agreements may be freely negotiated between the contracting parties. In principle, there is no minimum or maximum tenancy period; a rental period of three to five years with the option to extend is perfectly feasible.

A few price examples are given below:

Average monthly rent: (When renting through an estate agent, the standard commission of two months' rent should be taken into account)	Commercial district, commercial premises	11.00 to 15.00 EURO/m ²
	Excellent residential area, 95 m ² / at most 3 years old	6.40 to 6.99 EURO/m ²
	Superior standard:	Add 0.50 EURO/m ²
Real estate market, purchase prices:	Apartment excellent location, 85 m ² new to 3 years old:	1.905.00 to 2385.00 EURO/m ²
	Apartment (10 to 15 years old 80 m ² , good location	1,440.00 to 1.610.00 EURO/m ²
	Apartment in the former government quarter or other top area: various according to date of construction	1.540.00 to 2665.00 EURO/m ²
	Detached/semi-detached house, good location 120 m ²	approx. 240,000.00 to 250.000,00 EURO

k) Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing classes in languages other than the local language

Bonn offers plenty of opportunities for attending an international school, taking foreign-language classes, or receiving additional classes taught by native speakers on certain days of the week. The spectrum ranges from international kindergartens, some of which are run privately, and primary schools, through to secondary schools catering for core vocational qualifications and, of course, the leaving qualifications required for university entrance.

Students may take the German *Abitur* or, if they wish, an internationally recognised leaving examination (such as the Baccalaureate). There are three state-run *Gymnasien* (grammar schools) offering foreign language tuition. These may follow an integrative concept, i.e. German and foreign students are taught together in, for example, English or French. However, it is also possible to attend a *Gymnasium* offering special classes to prepare for the international leaving examination.

State schools in Germany are open to all and do not charge fees. For kindergartens, a nominal fee is payable.

Attendance at German universities is free of charge; however, students are required to pay an administrative fee per semester (in Bonn the fee is EUR 90.00, which includes a student ticket for Bonn and its wider environs, as far as Cologne).

The range of out-of-school education available to children and adults is also very broad; there is an extensive network of municipal music schools, adult education centres and language schools.

Below is an excerpt from a detailed brochure published by the City of Bonn outlining the educational opportunities available at the various schools and other institutions. Copies of this brochure are available free of charge from the City of Bonn.

Day care facilities		
Available	Hours / day	Distances
183 facilities in total;		
29 offer 278 places for children under the age of 3	Half-day to full-day	10 to 20 minutes
133 offer 5,755 places for children aged between 3 and 6	7.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (no lunch)	Everywhere – very extensive network
104 offer 2,740 full-day places including lunch	7.30 am to 4.30 or 5.00 pm	Everywhere
57 offer 1,212 afternoon places for children up to the age of 12	12.30 pm to 4.30 or 5.00 pm	Please consult the municipal <i>Jugendamt</i> <youth office> - tel. (0228) 773138
1 English day-care facility (minimum 3 years)	All day if necessary	In the district of Bonn-Plittersdorf (south central, residential district)
1 French day-care facility (minimum 3 years)	All day if necessary	In the district of Bonn-Mehlem (south, residential district)

There is also an abundance of child minders and private childcare facilities.

Elementary / secondary schools		
Available	Hours / day	Distances
52 German primary schools <Grundschulen>	Half-day, with day care in the afternoon if necessary	In every urban district
16 German secondary schools <Hauptschulen/ Realschulen>	Half-day, some all-day	In every urban district
1 French primary school; www.bn.shuttle.de/bn/ldga	All-day	In the district of Bonn-Mehlem (south, residential district)
1 international primary school / high school www.bis.bonn.org	All-day	<i>In the district of Bonn-Plittersdorf (south central, residential district)</i>
1 international/British primary school and secondary school; www.ibis-school.com	All-day	In the district of Bonn-Heiderhof (south, residential district)
1 Arabic school, 1 st – 12 th grade	All-day	In the district of Bonn-Pennenfeld (south central)

The Federal Government, the Federal State of North-Rhine Westphalia and the City of Bonn have together resolved to co-finance the extension to the Bonn International School.

The City of Bonn subsidises a '*Netzwerk für Kinder in Tagesbetreuung*' (network for children in daycare) for children from birth to the age of 18/19; it is open to children of all nationalities who have recently arrived in the city or who have not yet secured a place in one of the state-run facilities.

High schools / grammar schools	
Available	Distances
23 German high schools (Gesamtschulen – all-day, Gymnasien (grammar schools) – half-day/some all-day)	In every urban district
5 bilingual schools (German-English / German-French)	Various urban districts
1 school offers the French Baccalauréat and the International Baccalaureate (IB); www.feg-bonn.de	Bonn (central)
1 International School (IB), High School www.bis.bonn.org	See above
1 Arabic school, up to 12 th grade	See above

Universities and colleges (Bonn and region)	
Available	Distances
University of Bonn (all faculties) - Bilingual courses available -	<i>In the city centre and up to 15 minutes from the centre</i>
Fachhochschule Bonn/Rhein-Sieg (Technical College) – departments in St. Augustin and Rheinbach	Near Bonn – approximately 15 to 20 minutes
Fachhochschule Rhein-Ahr Campus (Technical College)	South of Bonn in Remagen, 25 minutes
University of Cologne (all faculties) - Bilingual courses available -	30 km (approx. 30 to 45 minutes)
Musikhochschule Köln (Academy of Music in Cologne)	"
Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln (German Academy of Sports in Cologne)	"
2 Fachhochschulen Köln (2 technical colleges in Cologne)	"
Technological University of Aachen	60 to 90 minutes

l) Facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the permanent secretariat and its staff members

The City of Bonn has a dense network of banks and savings banks. Such facilities are also located in the immediate vicinity of the site envisaged for the POPs Secretariat. There is also a branch of the post office (Deutsche Post AG) nearby which can handle most financial transactions.

m) Time needed for processing entry requirements and ability to ensure that participants at meetings organised by the permanent secretariat in the host country are granted entry visas, where necessary, in an expeditious manner

a) entry of staff members to commence employment

1. Before entry

Before entering the country for the purpose of commencing employment with an international organisation located in Germany, all members of staff will require an entry visa. Nationals of the following countries are exempted from this: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Canada, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, USA.

The Visa is applied for at the competent German diplomatic or consular representation in the applicant's place of residence, by submitting a copy of the work contract or other document proving the intended employment.

Experience has shown that the time needed for processing a visa application at the diplomatic representation ranges from between two days and one week. In some cases, the process can take up to two weeks.

2. After entry

After entry, the international organisation will register the member of staff at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs issues special identification documents or identity papers for diplomatic personnel which are valid for a period of four years. These documents serve as a residence permit for Germany and also, in conjunction with a valid passport, entitle the holder to travel through all Schengen states without any transit visa requirements, and to visit all states that apply the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement¹ (Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Spain and the associated states of Iceland and Norway) for up to 90 days per half-year.

b) Entry of participants in meetings and conferences

Those nationals who are entitled to short stays without visa pursuant to Article 1 of the EU Visa Regulation of 15 March 2001 do not require a visa for participation in the meetings and conferences of international organisations located in Germany (about 64 countries, cf www.auswaertiges-amt.de).

Other participants of meetings and conferences must apply for a visa at the competent German diplomatic or consular representation prior to entry. As a rule a valid passport and the written invitation from the international organisation is sufficient for this application. The visa is issued free of charge. It usually takes between 2 days and 1 week to process an application, up to 2 weeks in some cases.

¹ The Schengen Agreement of 1985 and the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement on the gradual elimination of checks at common borders and the introduction of free movement of persons for members of the Signatory States, all other Member States of the Community, and third countries.

Other relevant information

- 11. Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet the operating costs of the permanent secretariat or to defray conference-servicing expenses.**

These contributions are to be divided into the following categories:

- a) Contributions which are not granted for a specific purpose (i.e. made available to the Secretariat by the host country without any restrictions stipulating how they are to be spent)**
- b) Contributions granted for a specific purpose, including an explanation of the nature of any applicable restrictions.**

In recent years, the Federal Government has subsidised the work of the POPs Secretariat in the form of annual payments. In the past three years alone, some € 900,000 has been made available to the POPs Secretariat without any restrictions on how the money should be spent. Germany continues to provide comprehensive support for the POPs Secretariat and its settlement in Bonn. For example, it will continue to bear the costs for initial equipment of the office premises, including furnishings, information and communications technology. (estimated amount € 500,000). The same applies to relocation expenses to Bonn for the Secretariat itself, as well as for its staff and their families. It also provides installation grants and bears the cost of language courses.

The relocation of the POPs Secretariat to Bonn is for Germany an opportunity to make a considerable voluntary annual contribution over and above its obligations as a Party to the Convention.

As such, the Secretariat is assured of optimum funding in the long term, on a par with that offered to other UN Secretariats, such as the Climate Secretariat, in Bonn.

In addition to this, the Federal Government also earmarks an annual budget for events staged in Germany by the Secretariat.

The same funding is also offered to the PIC Secretariat, thus reinforcing the importance attached by Germany to chemical safety and its thematic concentration in this location.

Specifically, Germany's offer dated 1 March 2000 currently comprises the following components:

- a) Relocation of the Secretariat would prompt Germany to pay an additional voluntary amount of € 500,000 per annum to the Secretariat, in addition to its obligations as Contracting Party .
- b) Germany is also willing to pay the relocation costs of the Secretariat and its staff and their families to Bonn, as well as installation grants and the cost of language courses .

Germany is also willing to make available an annual amount of € 500,000 million for events organised in Germany by the Secretariat.

The significance which Germany attaches to chemical safety issues is also underlined by the fact that it constantly strives towards international conferences by the POPs and PIC Secretariats, and co-funds and carries out such events unbureaucratically, efficiently, and in a manner which is both pleasant and cost-effective for the participants. For example, the 4th INC POPs was staged at the Bonn UN Campus in March 2000, as too was the 9th INC PIC in October 2002; both these events made a very positive impression on the delegates.

12. Information on potential synergies concerning cooperation and coordination with other international organisations in the field of chemicals management at the proposed site.

Germany actively and successfully helps to shape international chemical safety at various levels. This includes financial and human resources commitments at EU and OECD level, as well as participation in the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the Intergovernmental Forum of Chemical Safety (IFCS). In addition, it supports infrastructure projects by the IOMC for the effective management of hazardous substances.

Germany has signed and ratified a number of international conventions in the field of chemicals management, and the Federal Government actively supports their implementation, including:

- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987), concluded on the basis of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989)
- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC Convention) (1998)
- The Stockholm Convention (POPs Convention) prohibiting the production and use of certain persistent organic pollutants (2001)
- The Protocol on POPs to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution of the UN/ECE (1998).

As a densely populated country with large numbers of chemical factories, Germany has adopted extensive statutory provisions to ensure the safe production and use of hazardous chemicals in its own country, which are embedded in EU legislation and the relevant international provisions, and has also established an effective system of enforcement. These comprehensive safety structures to ensure the responsible, safe handling of chemicals are outlined in a "National Profile – Management of Chemicals in Germany".

As one of the most important exporters of chemical products, Germany is committed to the global improvement of chemical safety, and is keen to share its many years of experience in the development of chemical safety structures with other countries where this process has only just begun.

Based on these assertions, the Federal Government is applying for the settlement of the POPs and PIC chemical Secretariats in Bonn.

By deciding to establish the POPs Secretariat, and possibly also the PIC Secretariat, in Bonn, the United Nations would benefit from a unique pooling of chemical expertise with the associated beneficial synergy effects, opportunities for cooperation and cost savings, not to mention public esteem. Only a host country whose unfailing interest and internationally recognised endeavours have helped to shape chemical safety for decades can offer an appropriately high level of acceptance and constructive support for the issues to which the Secretariat is dedicated.

13. Any other information which the potential host country may deem relevant

Bonn is a **young yet successful United Nations City**, where a number of new UN Secretariats, primarily two of those created in the wake of the Rio Summit, have chosen to establish themselves. The city is currently undergoing a dynamic process of restructuring, and a **network of cooperation and sustainable management** has emerged as a result of the settlement of governmental and non-governmental international and supranational organisations. Bonn has demonstrated its commitment to the goals of these organisations, and has proven to be **a city where newcomers from other countries and their families are warmly welcomed**.

The City of Bonn has a **history spanning more than 2000 years**, and offers a large number of ancient and historical sites. Straddling both sides of the picturesque and legendary Rhine, it is surrounded by **natural countryside with mountains and forests**. Given the **excellent quality of life**, the **cost of living in the city is low**. Bonn has an **excellent infrastructure**, offers plenty of modern jobs, high standards of medical care, and a comparatively **wide choice of international schools and universities**. In terms of culture, the city itself, together with the colourful cultural life in the neighbouring cities of Cologne and Düsseldorf, has a great deal to offer, including plenty to appeal to the younger generation.

In order to ensure good and fruitful relations with the UN organisations and their staff members, the Federal Foreign Office has assigned a special chargé d'affaires for the United Nations in Bonn, as well as a staff advisor to advise on all aspects of life in Bonn.

A **former high-ranking government officer** also provides a voluntary service offering **UN staff** (of whom there are now some 500) and their families assistance with personal matters.

The international community in Bonn has founded some 50 clubs to promote international dialogue, and newcomers from all over the world living in Bonn are able to meet here and feel at home. Here are just a few examples:

- The **International Club La Redoute** aims to promote international understanding and organises cultural and scientific events.
- The **International Women's Connection** brings women and families from the international community together with interested German women, and provides valuable practical advice on everyday life.
- The **Colloquium Humanum** is dedicated to the integration of international staff in Bonn and offers a range of services in this respect.
- Some ten bilateral clubs, including the Oxford Club, the Club Bonn-La Paz, the German-Brazilian, German-Japanese, German-French and Ibero Club etc. ...
- The **Salon International**, a regular meeting initiated by the Mayor of Bonn, designed to bring together international residents and citizens of Bonn at dedicated events.

The extensive specialist press presence in Bonn will be completed by the relocation of the German international broadcasting company Deutsche Welle from Cologne to Bonn in 2003. This should help to ensure that the specific concerns of the POPs Secretariat and the PIC Secretariat, as the UNO contacts in the chemicals sector, attain greater publicity and receive the undivided attention of the international media.

Taking into account all the advantages it has to offer the Secretariat of the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Bonn would undoubtedly be the ideal location for the joint settlement of the UN Secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. It would be a great pleasure to be able to welcome the Secretariat with its members of staff and their families to our city.