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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

**SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE DECISIONS INC-6/3,
INC-6/7, INC-6/8, INC-6/9, INC-6/10, INC-6/11, INC-6/13 AND INC-6/16**

Note by the secretariat

1. At its sixth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee requested Governments to submit their views, questions, comments and information in the context of its decisions on the Register of specific exemptions (INC-6/3), the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants (INC-6/7), guidance on technical assistance (INC-6/8), the feasibility study on regional and subregional centres (INC-6/9), case studies on regional and subregional centres (INC-6/10), the capacity assistance network (INC-6/11), guidance to the financial mechanism (INC-6/13) and the format and timing of Party reporting (INC-6/16).

2. In response to those requests, as of 25 February 2003 the secretariat had received submissions from the Governments of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Ecuador, Greece (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Switzerland, Togo, the United States of America, Uruguay and Yemen. Those submissions are circulated, as received by the secretariat, in annex II to the present note. Given the difficulty of transcribing some of the submissions into electronic format, the information given in annex II should be considered unofficial. Actual submissions are on file with the secretariat.

3. A table of the Governments that responded and the decisions to which they responded is given in annex I to the present note.

4. The annexes to the present note have not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1.

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Annex IList of Government responses to Committee decisions INC-6/3, INC-6/7, INC-6/8, INC-6/9, INC-6/10, INC-6/11, INC-6/13 and INC-6/16

Annex II Section No.	Country	INC/6/3: Request No. 1	INC/6/7: Request No. 2	INC-6/8, INC-6/9, & INC-6/10: Request No. 3	INC-6/13: Request No. 4	INC-6/16: Request No. 5
I	Algeria	Available	Available	Available		
II	Argentina	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
III	Brazil	Available	Available	Available		
IV	Brunei Darussalam			Available		
V	Canada	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
VI	Chile			Available		
VII	China	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
VIII	Colombia	Available	Available	Available		Available
IX	Czech Republic	Available	Available	Available	Available	
X	Denmark ¹	Available				
XI	Ecuador			Available		
XII	Greece ¹					Available
XIII	Indonesia	Available	Available	Available		
XIV	Kazakhstan			Available		
XV	Lithuania	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
XVI	Madagascar	Available		Available	Available	Available
XVII	Mauritius	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
XVIII	Norway	Available	Available	Available		Available
XIX	Peru			Available		
XX	Philippines			Available		
XXI	Republic of Moldova					Available
XXII	Samoa			Available		
XXIII	Switzerland	Available	Available	Available		Available
XXIV	Togo			Available		
XXV	United States of America	Available	Available	Available		Available
XXVI	Uruguay			Available		
XXVII	Yemen			Available		

¹ On behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Annex II

Countries submissions on decision INC 6/3, INC-6/7, INC-6/8, INC-6/9, INC-6/10, INC-6/11, INC-6/13 and INC-6/16

I. ALGERIA

REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIOUE ET POPULAIRE
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DIRECTION GENERALE DES RELATIONS MULTILATERALES

DEST : Secretariat Provisoire de la Convention de Stockholm.

Objet: Demandes de renseignements émanant de la sixième session du Comité de négociation pour la Convention de Stockholm.

Ref: Votre correspondance du 13 août 2002.

Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif,

Faisant suite à votre correspondance du 13 août 2002, relative à la demande de renseignements émanant de la sixième session du Comité de négociation pour la Convention de Stockholm, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, les réponses, qui nous ont été transmises par nos départements techniques, relatives aux demandes numéros 1,2 et 3. Le reste des informations vous seront communiqués ultérieurement.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Demande numéro 1

a) Format envisageable pour les rapports des pays pour les demandes de dérogation spécifiques: Le format envisageable pour les demandes de dérogation spécifiques pourrait comporter les éléments suivants pour chacun des produits faisant l'objet d'une demande de dérogation spécifique:

- Nom commun
- Type de product chimique
- Utilisations
- Nom chimique
- Numéro CAS
- Les mesures de réglementation nationale éventuellement existantes
- S'il s'agit d'une demande de dérogation spécifique pour la production ou l'utilisation
- De quel type d'utilisation ou de production s'agit-il?
- Quelles catégories de personnes sont exposées au product?
- Les mesures qui seront prises durant la durée de la dérogation spécifiques pour limiter les risques sanitaires et pour l'environnement?
- La durée pour laquelle la dérogation spécifiques est sollicitée.

b) Processus d'examen des inscriptions au registre prévu au paragraphe 5 de la Convention:
La procédure d'examen pourrait comprendre les étapes suivantes:

- Demande par le pays qui souhaite obtenir cette dérogation (voir point a), déposée au niveau du secrétariat.
- Le secrétariat en fait mention avec toutes les informations nécessaires aux pays parties.

c) Format envisageable pour le registre des dérogations spécifiques:

En plus de la liste des dérogations spécifiques, la liste des *parties bénéficiant des dérogations* spécifiques devrait être complétée sur le registre par les mêmes.

Demande numéro 2

b) S'agissant des pays en développement des vues et renseignements sur les priorités et les arrangements concernant l'assistance technique fournie par les pays développés et autres pays en fonction de leurs capacités, pour la mise *en oeuvre* des obligations imposées par la Convention de Stockholm.

L'assistance technique qui devrait être fournie aux pays en développement en vue de les aider à mettre en oeuvre la Convention de Stockholm, pourrait notamment porter sur les points suivants:

- Renforcement des capacités institutionnelles,
- Soutien aux options de réduction et d'élimination des POP'S, dégagées par le plan national de mise en oeuvre de la Convention de Stockholm, par la fourniture d'experts.
- Aide en matière d'information, sur les technologies permettant de mettre en oeuvre ces options de réduction et d'élimination.
- Aide en matière d'information dans le domaine des POP'S.

Demande numéro 3

- Remarques et observations relatives au centre d'échange d'information sur les polluants organiques persistants.

Ce centre d'échange d'information, devrait centraliser toutes les données scientifiques relatives aux POP'S, et pourrait également initier des études permettant de faire avancer les connaissances dans ce domaine.

La liste des POP'S n'étant pas fermée, il peut également étendre son domaine de connaissance aux autres substances susceptibles d'avoir les mêmes effets, afin de constituer un outil d'aide à la décision pour les pays.

II. ARGENTINA

Mision Permanente
de la República Argentina ante los
Organismos Internacionales en Ginebra
ASR/jgz
IV/180
No. 343/02

La Misión Permanente de la República Argentina ante los Organismos Internacionales en Ginebra presenta sus atentos saludos a la Secretaria Provisional del Convenio de Estocolmo y tiene el agrado de referirse a las decisiones adoptadas por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su sexto período de sesiones, que tuvo lugar en Ginebra del 17 al 21 de junio de 2002 (Anexo I del Informe UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22).

Al respecto, se remiten comentarios y observaciones de la Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable respecto de las decisiones:

-INC-6/3
-INC-6/7
-INC-6/13
-INC-6/16
-INC-6/18

Asimismo, se remite información sobre las decisiones que se presentan juntas: INC-6/8, INC-6/9, INC-6/10 e INC-6/11.

La Misión Permanente de la Republica. Argentina ante los Organismos Internacionales en Ginebra reitera a la Secretaría Provisional del Convenio de Estocolmo las seguridades de su distinguida consideración.

Ginebra, 18 Novembre 2002

Secretaría Provisional del Convenio de Estocolmo
At. Sr. James B. Willis, Secretario General

Solicitud numero 1

Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes

Información solicitada por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su
sexton veríodo de sesiones

Información solicitada:

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación pide a los gobiernos que presenten a la secretaría sus opiniones acerca de:

- a) Un posible formato para la presentación de informes nacionales de solicitudes de exenciones específicas;
- b) Un posible proceso, incluidas alternativas, que pueda considerar la Conferencia de las Partes cuando decida el proceso de examen de las inscripciones en el Registro a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 5 del artículo 4 del Convenio de Estocolmo;
- c) Un posible formato para un Registro de exenciones específicas;

Decisión del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación:

Decisión INC-6/3, relativa al Registro de exenciones específicas (artículos 3 y 4, y anexos A y B) (Referencia: anexo I de UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22).

Respuesta:

El formato para el Registro de exenciones específicas presentado en el documento UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6 parece útil y, a nuestro entender, responde adecuadamente a las exigencias emanadas de los párrafos 1 y 2 del Artículo 4 de la Convención de Estocolmo.

Parecería oportuno el agregado de una nota que aclarara debidamente el tipo y alcances de la información a incorporar en la columna "observaciones".

También parece válido tomar como base los criterios y los procedimientos para la evaluación de un uso esencial convenido de conformidad con el Protocolo de Montreal relativo a las sustancias que agotan la capa de ozono.

Solicitud número 2

Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes

Información solicitada por el Comité Intersubnacional de Negociación en su
sexto período de sesiones

Información solicitada:

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación invita a los gobiernos a que le presenten preguntas y observaciones relativas al diseño, creación, funcionamiento y ámbito de un mecanismo de intercambio de información sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

Decisión del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación:

Decisión INC-6/7, relativa a un mecanismo de intercambio de información sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes (Referencia: anexo I de UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22).

Respuesta:

Respecto de las posibles funciones del mecanismo de intercambio de información ("clearing - house mechanism", CHM), se estima relevante asegurar el mantenimiento del sitio web pertinente.

Asimismo, se considera importante estudiar y promover las sinergias con otros sistemas de intercambio de información como los del Foro Intergubernamental de Seguridad Química, UNEP Chemicals, y otros convenios internacionales como es el caso de la Convención de Basilea y el Convenio de Viena/Protocolo de Montreal.

Solicitud número 3

Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes

Información solicitada por Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su sexto período de sesionesDecisiones del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación:

- INC-6/8: Orientaciones sobre asistencia técnica
- INC-6/9: Estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales
- INC-6/10: Proyecto experimental sobre centros regionales y subregionales
- INC-6/11: Asistencia en materia de capacidad
(Referencia: anexo I de UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22)

Información solicitada:

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación, en su sexto periodo de sesiones, decidió iniciar un proceso para abordar las cuestiones de asistencia técnica a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 3 del artículo 12 del Convenio de Estocolmo. El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación también pidió a la secretaria que realizara, en consulta con la secretaria del Convenio de Basilea, según proceda, un estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales para la creación de capacidad y transferencia de tecnología, y que comunicará el mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad a los gobiernos para que presentaran sus observaciones antes de iniciarse el estudio. El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación invitó a los gobiernos a que presentaran a la secretaria sus opiniones y observaciones sobre diversas cuestiones. En particular, el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación pidió a los gobiernos que:

1. Presentaran a la secretaria, a más tardar el 31 de octubre de 2002, según proceda:
 - (a) Los países desarrollados y otros países, según su capacidad, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la prestación de asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo y a los países con economías en transición, en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones que les incumben con arreglo al Convenio de Estocolmo¹;
 - (b) Los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la asistencia técnica prestada por los países desarrollados y otros países, según sus capacidades, en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones que les incumben en virtud del Convenio de Estocolmo²;
 - (c) Información sobre el modo en que podrían contribuir al proyecto experimental a que se hace referencia en la decisión INC-6/10³.

1 Véase el inciso a) del párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/8.
 2 Véase el inciso b) del párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/8.
 3 Véase el párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/10.

2. Presentar observaciones respecto del proyecto de mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales. Se adjunta el proyecto de mandato. Las observaciones deberán recibirse a más tardar el 30 de septiembre de 2002.

Proyecto de mandato relativo a un estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales

El estudio de viabilidad:

(a) Tendrá en cuenta las opiniones y la información relativas a las prioridades y arreglos respecto de la asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición prestada por los gobiernos en respuesta a la decisión INC-6/9;

(b) Determinará las necesidades de los países en materia de creación de capacidad y transferencia de tecnología que puedan satisfacerse por medio de los centros regionales y subregionales;

(c) Evaluará la capacidad de todos los centros regionales y subregionales pertinentes, en particular, pero no exclusivamente, los centros regionales del Convenio de Basilea, con objeto de facilitar la creación de capacidad y la transferencia de tecnología. Dicha evaluación deberá comprender, pero no exclusivamente, un examen de los mandatos, las funciones, los resultados y los arreglos institucionales, así como de las necesidades a que se hace referencia en el párrafo a) supra;

(d) Evaluará las deficiencias y limitaciones de los acuerdos existentes, incluida la disponibilidad de la tecnología que ha de transferirse, y los medios de subsanar esas deficiencias;

(e) Evaluará la experiencia adquirida por otros acuerdos internacionales en materia de creación de capacidad y transferencia de tecnología;

(f) Determinará y analizará las posibles sinergias entre el Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes y otras acuerdos ambientales multilaterales en relación con la asistencia para la creación de capacidad y la transferencia de tecnología;

(g) Tendrá en cuenta el proyecto experimental sobre centros regionales y subregionales a que se hace referencia en la decisión INC-6/10; y

(h) Determinará los arreglos para la elaboración de posibles modalidades correspondientes a una red de asistencia en materia de capacidad, tal como quedó convenido en el párrafo 2 de la resolución 3 de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios, y teniendo en cuenta la labor que se reseña en el documento UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19.

Respuesta:

Con respecto a la asistencia técnica, Argentina ha presentado ante UNEP Chemicals, con fecha 19 de julio de 2002, su Proyecto de Actividades de Apoyo al Convenio de Estocolmo (NIP). Si bien el mismo se desarrollará a lo largo de dos años, puede decirse "a priori" que, entre las prioridades de Argentina la eliminación y reducción tanto de PCBs como de dioxinas y furanos.

Es dable destacar, dentro de ese contexto, que Argentina ya ha elaborado un "Plan Nacional de Minimización y Eliminación de manera ambientalmente racional de PCBs" que ha sido consensuado con los organismos nacionales competentes, los estados provinciales y organizaciones sociales intermedias. Este último contempla la identificación de las existencias de estos compuestos en instalaciones fuera de uso, tales como las correspondientes a la actividad minera y plantas de generación de energía, entre otras. Este Plan será particularmente tenido en cuenta en el proyecto mencionado "ut supra".

Por otra parte, se considera de primordial interés la coincidencia de los Centros Regionales y Subregionales para la creación de capacidad y transferencia de tecnología del Convenio de Estocolmo con los correspondientes al Convenio de Basilea.

Se estima que la cooperación actual entre los Convenios de Basilea y Estocolmo resulta apropiada hasta el momento, debiendo arbitrarse en el futuro las medidas que tiendan a la optimización y profundización de las actividades de cooperación entre sus respectivas secretarías, dada la sinergia entre ambos convenios, particularmente en lo referente a creación de capacidad, transferencia de tecnología y proyectos administrados de manera conjunta.

Argentina, al igual que el GRULAC, en línea con el proceso de gobernanza ambiental internacional, favorece las sinergias entre Convenios a través de acciones conjuntas de las Secretarías. En ese sentido la región cuenta con una red de regional ya que existe un Centro Coordinador del Convenio de Basilea en Uruguay y sendos Centros Subregionales en El Salvador, Trinidad-Tobago y Argentina.

Por tal motivo, apoya el estudio de viabilidad sobre Centros Regionales y Subregionales con el fin de facilitar asistencia técnica con arreglo al artículo 12. Para la puesta en práctica de una iniciativa experimental en ese sentido, ofrece al Centro Subregional del Convenio de Basilea que actualmente funciona en el país y está desarrollando una serie de actividades con los países de la región.

Solicitud No. 4

Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes

Información solicitada por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su sexto período de sesiones

Información solicitada:

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación pide a los gobiernos que presenten a la secretaría sus opiniones sobre los elementos que pudieran incluirse en un proyecto de orientaciones al mecanismo financiero, tal como se solicita en el párrafo 7 del artículo 13 del Convenio de Estocolmo.

Decisión del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación:

Decisión INC6/13, relativa a orientaciones al mecanismo financiero
(Referencia: anexo I de UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22)

Respuesta:

Respecto de este tema, debe destacarse la importancia de que la Asamblea del GEF cuente con una ventana dedicada a los POPS y a la gestión segura de las sustancias químicas.

Lamentablemente, debido a su situación económica actual, Argentina se ve imposibilitada de asumir cualquier tipo de compromiso financiero.

Solicitud No 5

Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes

Información solicitada por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su sexto período de sesiones

Información solicitada:

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación pide a los gobiernos que presenten a la secretaría observaciones sobre el formato de los informes de las Partes con arreglo al Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes y el plazo para su presentación.

Decisión del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación:

Decisión INC-6/16, relativa al formato y el plazo para la presentación de informe de las Partes:
(Referencia: anexo I de UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22)

Respuesta:

Se entiende que el formato e intervalos de presentación de informes debe tener particularmente en cuenta la experiencia emergente de otros convenios, en especial los relacionados con sustancias químicas (Basilea, Rotterdam, Viena/Montreal).

Así, debe apuntarse a que los informes a presentar en virtud del Convenio de Estocolmo resulten compatibles con los derivados de los demás acuerdos multilaterales mencionados para lo cual, en gran parte, podrían basarse en los lineamientos estipulados para estos últimos.

En ese sentido, resultaría necesario que el formato fuera simple y distinguiera con precisión entre requerimientos obligatorios y voluntarios.

III. BRAZIL

Request number 1

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (INC 6/3)

Information requested by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) at its sixth session

Information requested:

The INC requests Governments to provide the secretariat with their views on:

- (a) A possible format for country reporting of requests for specific exemptions;

Resposta: Somos favoráveis que a solicitação de exceções específicas das Partes sejam uniformizadas para facilitação do trabalho de análise do Secretariado da Convenção. Para tanto, sugerimos que conste do questionário as seguintes informações:

- a) Justificativa do pedido de exceção;
- b) Uso pretendido;
- c) Informações sobre alternativas;
- d) Ações adotadas para minimização da exposição humana e ambiental;
- e) Informações sobre monitoramento e fiscalização;
- f) Prazo para eliminação;
- g) Informações sobre estoques existentes.

- (b) A possible process, including alternative approaches, that might be considered by the Conference of the Parties in deciding upon the review process for the entries in the Register called for in paragraph 5 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention;

Resposta: O estabelecimento de um processo para consideração das solicitações de exceções pelas Partes é importante e necessariamente deverá levar em consideração as particularidades de cada país com relação aos aspectos técnicos, financeiros e comerciais, referente à substância objeto do pedido, quanto de possíveis alternativas.

- (c) A possible format for a Register of specific exemptions;

Resposta: Consideramos adequada a minuta de formulário de registro conforme apresentada no documento UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6, mas que não conste do mesmo citações sobre questões já especificadas na Convenção.

Respondents:

Ministério do Meio Ambiente - Brasil

Secretaria de Qualidade Ambiental nos Assentamentos Humanos

Request number 2

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Information requested by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)
at its sixth session

Information requested (INC 6/7)

1.

The INC invites Governments to submit questions and comments related to the design, development, operation and scope of a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants.

Answer: Two possible mechanisms for information exchange are UNEP homepage and a circular document to be elaborated by the Secretariat. The first one could be expanded to offer general and specific information online for that Parts which have access to computer network, the second one will make the information available to all other Parts with difficulty to access the world wide web. All the information from the Parts must be addressed to the Secretariat for treatment, systematization and availability.

Respondents:

Ponto Focal: Marília Marreco
Ministério do Meio Ambiente
Secretaria de Qualidade Ambiental nos Assentamentos Humanos
Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco B Sala 801
CEP: 70.068-900 Brasília Brasil
Tel.: 55 61 3171244
Fax: 55 61 2268050
Email: marilia.cerqueira@mma.gov.br

Request number 3

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Information requested by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)
at its sixth session

INC Decisions:

- INC6/8: Guidance on Technical Assistance
 - INC6/9: Feasibility study on regional and subregional centers
 - INC6/10: Case studies on regional and subregional centers
 - INC6/11: Capacity assistance network
- (Reference: Annex I of UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22)

Information Requested:

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its sixth session, decided to initiate a process for addressing the technical assistance issues identified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention. The INC also requested the Secretariat to undertake, in consultation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, as appropriate, a feasibility study on regional and subregional centers for capacity-building and transfer of technology, and to communicate terms of reference for the feasibility study to governments for comments prior to its commencement. The INC invited

governments to provide to the Secretariat their views and comments on several issues. In particular, the INC invited governments to:

1. Provide to the Secretariat by October 31, 2002 the following:

(a) For developed countries and other countries in accordance with their capabilities, views and information on priorities and arrangements for their provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, relating to the implementation of the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;²

(b) For developing countries and countries with economies in transition, views and information on priorities and arrangements regarding technical assistance from developed countries and other countries in accordance with their capabilities, relating to implementation of the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;³

Resposta:

The assistance to the countries in development or with economy in transition should be directed mainly for capacity building of professionals, establishment of laboratory capacity and application of feasible technologies. The technical assistance for the implementation of obligations demanded by the Convention should seek, when possible, solutions that maximize the use of the resources available in the requester Country. In this context we agree to be important the visit of experts, the sub-regional and regional workshop, the exchange of information in general and the assistance from developed countries to the countries in development or the countries with economy in transition of its region.

(c) Information on how they might contribute to the case studies referred to in decision INC6/10.⁴

Resposta:

The Regional Centers to respond for the needs regarding the Convention of Stockholm should not be necessarily the same that develop activities linked to the Convention of Basel, since there are determined regional priority needs regarding to POPS that can be better attended with the new Centers installations. The Centers of Basel would be able to supply the needs regarding the destination of obsolete stocks of POPS, while others Centers strategically located, would be able to supply the needs regarding the monitoring, inventories of sources, and to divulge replacement alternatives. The studies of case must be regionally definite and based on respective priorities.

2. Comment on draft terms of reference for the feasibility Study on Regional and Subregional Centers. The draft Terms of Reference are attached. Comments are requested by 30 September 2002.

Respondents:

Ponto Focal: Marília Marreco
 Ministério do Meio Ambiente
 Secretaria de Qualidade Ambiental nos Assentamentos Humanos
 Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco B Sala 801
 CEP: 70.068-900 Brasília Brasil
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² See decision INC6/8, paragraph 2(a)

³ See decision INC6/8, paragraph 2(b)

⁴ See decision INC6/10, paragraph 2

IV. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Telephone: 383222 Fax : 383644

Rujukan Kaml : KPN/UAS/B:9.5

Our Reference

Rujukan Kamu Your Reference

**JABATAN ALAM SEKITAR,
TAMAN DAN REKREASI
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN BB3510
KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

11th September 2002

Executive Secretary
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
United Nations Environment Programme, Chemicals
11 - 13, Chemin des Anemones
CH - 1219 CHATELAINE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Attention: Comments requested by POPs INC-6

FAX NO:+41-22-797-3460

Dear James B. Willis,

**SUBJECT: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FEASIBILITY
STUDY ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CENTRES**

With reference to the above mentioned matter, we are please to provide herewith our comments towards the draft TOR.

Under Para (c) of the draft ToR, we would like to suggest that the assessment will also look into the review of man-power and financial requirements of the proposed regional and subregional centers to ensure its sustainability.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

[original signed by]

HAJI MOHD ZAKARIA HAJI SARUDIN
Acting Director
Department of Environment, Parks and Receptions
Ministry of Development
Bandar Seri Begawan BB3510 Brunei Darussalam.

V. CANADA

October 31, 2002

James B. Willis
Executive Secretary Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH-1219, Chatelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Re: Request for comments on Register of Exemptions

Dear Mr. Willis:

In response to your letter of August 13, 2003 inviting countries to submit comments regarding INC Decision INC-6/3, the Government of Canada offers the following comments on:

- A. a possible format for country reporting of requests for specific exemptions;
- B. a possible process, including alternative approaches, that might be considered by the Conference of the Parties in deciding upon the review process for the entries in the Register called for in paragraph 5 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention;
- C. a possible format for a Register of Specific Exemptions.

A) A possible format for country reporting of request for specific exemptions

Canada has not requested any exemptions at this time. Canada believes that countries who require exemptions may be best positioned to make initial recommendations for this request.

Canada proposes that the Secretariat publish on the UNEP Stockholm Convention website the requests received for exemptions for information sharing purposes.

B) A possible process, including alternative approaches, that might be considered by the Conference of the Parties in deciding upon the review process for the entries in the register called for in paragraph 5 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention

Canada encourages further work by the Secretariat to develop proposed guidance to assist COP-1 to decide the review process for entries into the Register of Specific Exemptions.

Canada supports a transparent and accountable review process to ensure that exemptions are legitimate and that real progress is made to reduce and eventually eliminate the need for the exemption.

In developing a possible review process, the criteria and procedure for the assessment of an essential use for ozone depleting substances agreed to under the Montreal Protocol should be considered in this review.

C) A possible format for a register of specific exemptions

A proposed draft format for the Register of Specific Exemptions, pursuant to Article 4, was developed by the Secretariat for INC-6 (document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6). Canada is supportive of the secretariat's draft proposed format for the Register of Specific Exemptions as outlined in UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6.

We hope that you find these comments useful and we look forward to reviewing further information on this item in preparation for INC-7.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Greg Filyk
Stockholm Convention on POPS
Focal Point for Canada

October 31, 2002

James B. Willis
Executive Secretary
Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219, Chatelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Re: Requests for Comments - Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants

Dear Mr. Willis:

In response to your letter of August 13, 2003 inviting countries to submit comments regarding INC Decision INC-6/7, Canada offers the following comments related to the design, development, operation and scope of a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Canada believes that the information document provided by the Secretariat for INC-6 (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/7) on the clearing-house mechanism constitutes a positive step forward to identify potential components of a mechanism under the Stockholm Convention. Canada is supportive of providing the information listed in INF/7, para. 2, information required under other provisions of the Convention, through the clearing-house mechanism. Canada suggests that the proposal for the clearing-house mechanism make clear that information that is required to be submitted pursuant to processes and in formats to be decided by the COP (such as Article 4, Article 5, Article 7, Article 15, Article 16 and notifications in annexes) would follow whatever processes and formats are dictated under those articles. The clearing-house mechanism would simply be the vehicle through which such information would be made available more efficiently to other parties and to the public.

The paper also outlines that the clearing-house mechanism could include information on POPs currently provided through UNEP web-sites. Canada is also supportive of this option.

Canada notes that the Secretariat has taken into account the lessons learned from entities referred to in document UNEP/POPS/INC.3/INF/5 prepared by the secretariat for INC-3. UNEP OzonAction Information Clearinghouse, Clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Global Programme of Action (Marine Environment), and the existing UNEP POPs Clearinghouse are all described within this piece and will be valuable to review. Article 5 - Exchange of Information and Technology - under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) POPs Protocol could also provide a source of information for review.

Canada believes that the obligation to provide information under Article 9 is intended to apply to the POPs included in the Annexes, but countries may wish to contribute other information. Canada's priority for the Stockholm Convention during the interim period leading up to entry into force is to support early ratification and effective implementation. Canada views the clearing-house as an assistance tool for countries to help overcome obstacles they may face in ratifying and implementing the Convention.

UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/16

We hope that you find these comments useful and we look forward to seeing a detailed work plan and budget on the initiation and maintenance of such a clearing-house mechanism for consideration by INC-7.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Greg Filyk
Stockholm Convention on POPs
Focal Point for Canada

October 31, 2002

James B. Willis
Executive Secretary
Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin des Anemones
CH-1219, Chatelaine Geneva, Switzerland

**Re: Comments requested provision of assistance to developing countries
and countries with economies in transition**

Dear Mr. Willis:

In response to your invitation to submit comments regarding the decisions taken at INC 6 noted in your letter of August 13, 2003, Canada offers the following information with regard to the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

Canada believes that the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition is essential to support the early ratification of the Stockholm Convention and its effective implementation. To this end, Canada actively supported the inclusion of a new focal area on POPs in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) at the recent GEF Assembly meeting and promoted a strong third replenishment of the GEF so that new and additional funds would be available for this new focal area. The Government of Canada is pleased with the agreement reached among donor countries for a total replenishment of US\$2.92 billion for the period 2002-2006, the largest replenishment in GEF history. Canada agreed to provide 4.28 percent of this, which translates into C\$ 158.94 million over four years, a substantial increase from our GEF-2 contribution of C\$ 122 million over 4 years. Canada also agreed to an accelerated encashment schedule, which for Canada, is equivalent to an additional contribution of about C\$20 million.

Canada was the first country to commit specific funding under the Stockholm Convention to aid developing countries, and those with economies in transition, to build their capacity to deal with POPs. We provided \$20 million to the Canada POPs Fund at the World Bank in March 2000. The 5 year fund is designed to provide financial support, technical expertise, knowledge and access to technology that is necessary to assist, encourage and equip developing countries and countries in transition to increase their own capacities to address issues related to the reduction and elimination of POPs. It will achieve this goal by focusing on capacity development to:

- Reduce or eliminate production of POPs;
- Reduce or eliminate use of POPs and provide safe, viable alternatives;
- Dispose of stockpiles and wastes safely; and
- Reduce emissions of POPs

The Fund is available for a variety of projects, tailored to the needs of specific countries, and many successful initiatives are well under way. These include assistance for developing POPs inventories, establishing the regulatory mechanisms and building the institutional framework needed to control POPs releases, and finding alternative chemicals or strategies to avoid the use of POPs, developing national, regional and subregional strategies and action plans, designing education and awareness initiatives, monitoring, evaluating and promoting pilot activities for the safe disposal of waste POPs.

Canada's priorities for financial and technical assistance are to support early ratification of the Convention and its effective implementation by developing countries and countries with economies in transition. We intend to take full advantage of opportunities over the life of the Canada POPS Fund to leverage additional resources from other multilateral and bilateral donors toward this end, and we strongly support the Secretariat's efforts to encourage other donor Parties to recognize the need for increased support for technical assistance in the follow-up from INC-6.

Canada also looks forward to the results of the feasibility study on regional and subregional centers as a possible means of facilitating capacity building and technical assistance and we are supportive of the Secretariat's efforts to operationalize a clearinghouse mechanism as a means of making available information that will assist countries in making their decisions about ratification in a more timely manner.

Should you require any further information on Canadian activities, please do not hesitate to contact me again. We hope that you find these comments useful, and wish you continued success in implementation of the Convention.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Greg Fifyk
Stockholm Convention on POPS

Focal Point for Canada

December 5, 2002

James B. Willis
Executive Secretary
Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219, Chatelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Re: Requests for Comments on Guidance on the Financial Mechanism

Dear Mr. Willis:

In response to your letter of August 13, 2002 inviting countries to submit comments regarding INC decision INC-6/13, Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for the opportunity to provide comments related to guidance on the financial mechanism under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Overall, Canada is pleased that the GEF has created a new and additional focal area for POPs and sees this as a positive step forward on ensuring effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention. We have no specific comments on draft guidance as required under paragraph 7 of Article 13 at this time.

We look forward to further progress on the financial mechanism for INC-7.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Mr. Greg Filyk
Stockholm Convention on POPs
Focal Point for Canada

December 5, 2002

James B. Willis Executive Secretary
Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin des Anemones
CH-1219, Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland

Re: Requests for Comments on Format and Timing of Reporting

Dear Mr. Willis:

In response to your letter of August 13, 2002 inviting countries to submit comments regarding INC decision INC-6/16, Canada offers the following comments related to timing and format of Party reporting under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Canada recognizes that an effective national reporting system can assist the Conference of the Parties to: consider lessons learned by Parties in the implementation of the Convention; identify gaps in capacity for policy research and analysis; and formulate appropriate requests and guidance to Parties and other organizations with expertise relevant to the implementation of the Convention. The national reporting process will therefore figure prominently in enabling the Conference of the Parties to assess the overall status of implementation of the Convention.

Canada encourages the Secretariat, in proposing a model for timing and format of reporting, to place effort on ensuring compatibility with provisions for reporting in other multilateral environmental agreements. Canada believes that the Secretariat report being prepared for INC-7 reviewing obligations, processes and formats for reporting under other multilateral environment agreements as well as the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention will assist the Secretariat in developing a compatible reporting system. In addition to those Conventions listed in UNEP document UNEP/POPs/INC.6/9 for Secretariat review (the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological diversity),

Canada believes that the Secretariat should also consider reviewing the reporting obligations under the UNECE POPs Protocol (while recognizing it is an agreement between mainly eastern and western European countries, the Russian Federation and North America).

Canada encourages the secretariat to develop a simple reporting format that will facilitate efficient and effective reporting and avoid making reporting an overly burdensome process for countries. Mandatory and voluntary reporting requirements should also be distinguished within the developed reporting format.

In developing the reporting guidelines, Canada would like to ensure that the Secretariat considers the already limited resources available for POPs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Lessons learned in the case of the other Conventions, indicate that some countries simply don't have the capacity to submit the reports on time, if at all, and thus they are of limited value for sharing up to date information. In light of these challenges, it is critical that a consistent and simple reporting format be established which meets the needs and technical capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition which can be easily recreated after each reporting period.

Recommendations contained in the overall performance study of the GEF, should also be addressed, particularly in light of the new focal area for POPs under the GEF. GEF Recommendation 5 (GEF Operational Issues), states the need to examine the utility of country reports and action plans before proceeding to develop them further in terms of their ability to address convention guidance and country needs. The GEF Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities (#2-99) also lays out a number of substantial recommendations for making national strategies and reports more effective, which could inform the POPs process.

Donors often face difficulties meeting the detailed reporting requirements of MEAs as well, since bilateral project reporting systems are not set up to include the level of information requested. The OECD - Development Assistance Committee is working to harmonize reporting requirements for the Rio Conventions, and this would be a worthwhile initiative for UNEP to monitor in the context of donor reporting on the Stockholm Convention.

The development of National Implementation Plans under Article 7 of the Convention is relevant to the development of a reporting system. An individual country's National Implementation Plan is likely to incorporate the type of information also required for reporting under Article 15 of the Convention and efforts should be made to stream-line activities within these items. Consistent with our position on the overall National Implementation Plan, Canada favors finding an optimal balance between the dual needs for flexibility and for consistency and comparability in reporting between countries. Canada can be flexible in the timing of reporting. Canada would require at least 13-14 months after the year in question to prepare emissions reporting information and would prefer at least a two year interval to prepare emissions reporting data. Canada will specifically address other emissions reporting considerations in comments being prepared on the standardized toolkit for emissions reporting for December 31, 2002.

Overall, Canada views progress on the format and timing of reporting as a positive step forward in ensuring effective implementation of the agreement and ensuring a smooth transition to the Conference of the Parties process.

We hope that you find these comments useful, and we look forward to seeing a proposal on timing and format for reporting at INC-7.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Mr. Greg Filyk
Stockholm Convention on POPs Focal Point for Canada

VI. CHILE

GOBIERNO DE CHILE
COMISION NACIONAL DEL MEDIO

SANTIAGO, 19. DIC 2002

Senor
James B. Willis
Secretario Ejecutivo Secretaria provisional Convenio de Estocolmo
UNEP Chemicals

REF.: Observaciones solicitadas por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su sexto periodo de sesiones.

Estimado Sr. Willis,

Me dirijo a Usted en respuesta a su carta de invitación a los Gobiernos a presentar observaciones o información en respuesta a las decisiones adoptadas por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación en su sexto período de sesiones.

La presente contiene el documento "Chile Prioridades de Asistencia Técnica", elaborado por los miembros del Grupo de Trabajo Multisectorial Convenio de Estocolmo, bajo la coordinación de CONAMA, en respuesta a la solicitud de información respecto de la decisión INC-6/8 sobre "Orientaciones de Asistencia Técnica" y de los posibles arreglos para la prestación de asistencia técnica.

Sin otro particular, saluda cordialmente a Usted,

[original signed by]

PABLO DAUD MIRANDA
Director Ejecutivo (S)
Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente, CONAMA

CC/ Dirección de Medio Ambiente, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; Santiago, Chile

CHILE PRIORIDADES ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA

ANTECEDENTES

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación, en su sexto periodo de sesiones ^[1] adoptó la decisión INC-6/8 sobre orientaciones de asistencia técnica y decidió iniciar un proceso para formular orientaciones sobre la prestación de asistencia técnica a la que se hace referencia en los párrafos 3 y 4 del artículo 12 del Convenio ^[2] de Estocolmo Sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes y todos los posibles arreglos para prestar asistencia técnica, a fin de que los considere la Conferencia de las Partes en su primera reunión.

Con este fin, se invitó a los Gobiernos a que presentaran a la Secretaria, en relación con las obligaciones del Convenio de Estocolmo, lo siguiente:

- a) Los países desarrollados y otros países, de conformidad con su capacidad, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la prestación de asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo y los con economías en transición, respecto al cumplimiento de las obligaciones del Convenio.
- b) Los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la asistencia técnica prestada por los países desarrollados y otros países, de conformidad con su capacidad, en relación al cumplimiento de las obligaciones del Convenio.

PRIORIDADES NACIONALES

En respuesta a las solicitudes formuladas por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación a los Gobiernos en la decisión INC-6/8 y de los correspondientes párrafos del artículo 12 sobre asistencia técnica del texto del Convenio de Estocolmo, es que el Grupo de Trabajo Multisectorial ^[3], ha considerado pertinente presentar las prioridades país en dos grupos temáticos, "Asistencia técnica para la creación de capacidad" y "Asistencia técnica para la transferencia de tecnología", y posteriormente se presentan las prioridades sobre "Arreglos respecto de la prestación de asistencia técnica", los cuales se desarrollan a continuación:

ASISTENCIA TECNICA PARA LA CREACIÓN DE CAPACIDAD, en:

- La elaboración de inventarios de COPS plaguicidas, industriales y no intencionales, considerando tanto aspectos conceptuales como operativos.
- La Implementación y desarrollo de metodologías analíticas para la validación de los inventarios de emisiones, para la validación de los factores de emisión y para la identificación de fuentes y/o sitios contaminados por COPS.
- La armonización de metodologías y procedimientos analíticos internacionalmente reconocidos en la caracterización de parámetros específicos.
- La implementación de un sistema de control y aseguramiento de la calidad (QA/QC) de las mediciones de niveles de COPS en el medio ambiente y en humanos.
- El diseño de sistemas de control y fiscalización de fuentes y procesos liberadores de COPS al medio ambiente.
- La identificación de sitios contaminados.
- El control aduanero y de prevención del tráfico ilícito.
- La generación sistemas de evaluación de riesgo e identificación de peligro, de acuerdo a las condiciones locales.
- Procedimientos de vigilancia ambiental.

ASISTENCIA TECNICA PARA LA TRANSFERENCIA DE TECNOLOGIA, para:

- Potenciar y/o complementar las capacidades analíticas, de laboratorios públicos y privados, a fin de posibilitar la caracterización de COPS.
- Establecer sistemas de auditorías de laboratorios que realicen analisis de COPS. Implementar sistemas y redes de monitoreo y vigilancia ambiental. Remediación de sitios contaminados.
- Acceder y/o implementar procesos de eliminación ambientalmente racional de COPS.
- Implementar las mejores técnicas disponibles (MTD) y mejores practicas ambientales (MPA), de acuerdo a la realidad local.

ARREGLOS RESPECTO A LA ASISTENCIA TECNICA

- a) Toda información técnica transferida debe estar disponible en idioma español, además de su idioma original.
- b) La Secretaria del Convenio debería supervisar la asistencia técnica bilateral.
- c) La asistencia técnica que se otorgue debe estar en directa relación con las prioridades del país.
- d) Contemplar la capacitación a distancia para la entrega de asistencia técnica.
- e) Potenciar el desarrollo de talleres nacionales de capacitación.

¹¹¹ UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22; Informe del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación de un instrumento internacional jurídicamente vinculante para la aplicación de medidas internacionales respecto de ciertos Contaminantes Organicos Persistentes, sobre la labor realizada en su sexto periodo de sesiones".

¹²¹ Artículo 12 "Asistencia técnica"; Párrafo 3. "A este respecto, la asistencia técnica que presten las Partes que son países desarrollados y otras Partes, con arreglo a su capacidad, incluirea segdn proceda y en la forma convenida mutuamente, asistencia técnica para la creación de capacidad en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones emanadas del presente Convenio. La Conferencia de las Partes proveera mas orientación a este respecto.

Artículo 12, Párrafo 4. "Las Partes, cuando corresponda, concertaran arreglos con el fin de prestar asistencia técnica y promover la transferencia de tecnologías a las Partes que son países en desarrollo y a las Partes con economías en transición en relación con la aplicación del presente Convenio. Estos arreglos incluirán centros regionales y subregionales para la creación de capacidad y la transferencia de tecnología con miras a ayudar a las Partes que son países en desarrollo y a las Partes con economías en transición a cumplir sus obligaciones emanadas del presente Convenio. La Conferencia de las Partes proveera mas orientación a este respecto.

¹³¹ Grupo de Trabajo Multisectorial, coordinado por CONAMA y conformado por representantes del sector público (Comisión Chilena del Cobre COCHILCO, Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente CONAMA, Ministerio de Minería, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Salud, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero SAG, Servicio Nacional de Aduanas), sector privado (Asociación de Fabricantes e Importadores de Productos Fitosanitarios Agrícolas AFIPA A.G., Asociación de Industriales Químicos ASIQUM AG., Cemento Melón, Compañía Manufacturera de Papeles y Cartones CMPC Celulosa, Corporación Nacional de la Madera CORMA, Hidronor, Sociedad de Fomento Fabril SOFOFA, Sociedad Nacional de Minería SONAMI) y organizaciones no gubernamentales (Alianza por una Mejor Calidad de Vida, Greenpeace).

VII. CHINA

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADMINISTRATION
 115 Xizhimennei, Nanxiaojie, Beijing 100035, The People's Republic of China

FACSIMILE SHEET

Date: 8 November 2002	Number of 4 Pages: 4 (including this sheet)
To:	From:
Name: Mr. James Willis	Name: Yue Ruising [signed]
Director	Deputy Director General
UNEP Chemicals	Dept. of International Cooperation
UNEP	SEPA
City/Country: Geneva	Fax: (8610) 66151762
Fax: 41-22-7973460	Tel.: (8610) 66151933

Dear Mr. Willis,

It was a great pleasure for me to see you in Beijing on the occasion of the Second GEF Assembly. I would like to congratulate to you on the work progress under your personal guidance, particularly on the endorsement of the POPs being added to the new focal area of GEF.

In reference to your letter dated 13 August, 2002 requesting for information as decided by the 6th INC for the Stockholm Convention, I wish to have the pleasure to submit these to you, as attached herewith, for your information.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter and sustained collaboration.

With my best regards.

Information Provided by China as per request of the 6th Session of the INC for the Stockholm Convention

Request number 1: About exemptions

No comments so far.

Request number 2: About Clearing-house mechanism

UNEP should give financial, technical and training support to developing countries for building national center for information exchange of POPs.

Request number 3: About technical assistance

1. About priorities for technical assistance

In comparison with developed countries, developing countries have many aspects of weak capability for Stockholm convention implementation. For technical assistance, at this stage the following aspects should be immediately addressed in Developing countries:

- A. **Monitoring and Analysis on Dioxins/Furans**, which mainly include equipment, methodology, quality assurance & control (QA/QC), training and monitoring network building etc.
- B. **Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)**, which mainly include the methodological guidance, technique R&D or transfer, and application practices etc.
- C. **Alternative techniques of Pesticidal POPs**, which mainly include the assessment technique R&D, transfer and application practice of alternative techniques of pesticidal POPs, especially for the specific exemptions China has applied including the use of DDT in disease vector control and the use of Chlordane and Mirex in termite control.
- D. **Environmentally sound treatment of PCBs and pesticidal POPs stockpiles**, which mainly include the techniques, equipment and process control environmental sound treatment of PCBs and pesticidal POPs stockpiles.
- E. **Sound management, treatment and rehabilitation of POPs polluted fields**, which mainly include the identification, enclosing/treatment, rehabilitation and so on.
- F. **Management and Control Program**. POPs is a new environmental issue for most developing countries, it is useful to learn the successful experiences in integrated POPs control programs from developed countries, especially for byproduct POPs control like dioxins and furans.

2. About regional center of Technique Assistance

There is a need to further make assessment and discussion on using present Basel Convention regional centers as the mechanism of technique assistance for implementation of Stockholm convention. It has to be noted that the centers are dying for capacity building themselves and the centers could, hardly fulfill the task of tech-transfer. Also, there are differences between two conventions, both in purpose and regulation. For technique assistance as set out in the POPs convention, major task would be technique wise involved rather than managerial service only. In addition, Basel Convention regional centers have already undertaken too much hard work on technique assistance for the Basel Convention itself. Therefore, we think that the present Basel Convention regional centers might not be able to play the role of technique assistance as requested by the POPs convention.

Request number 4: About Financial Mechanism

It is very important to set up specific policy, approach, guideline and criteria to regulate GEF projects. For projects supported by GEF for POPs reduction and elimination in developing countries, an independent, flexible and quickly responsible ratification mechanism is needed, as well as specific financing. The Montreal protocol has given a successful example in the aspect which might be taken for reference to certain extent.

The guideline of project operation should include the supporting fields and priorities the formalities or rules of project application, review and ratification, the classification, definition and validity of the cost, the arrangement of reporting, supervising and implementation facility.

Request number 5: About format and timing of party reporting

The relative date of present year had better to be reported before the September of the next year.

VIII. COLOMBIA

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

SOLICITUDES DE INFORMACIÓN PARA EL CONVENIO DE ESTOCOLMO HECHAS POR EL COMITÉ INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE NEGOCIACIÓN EN SU SEXTO PERÍODO DE SESIONES

En atención a la solicitud del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación del Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes, Colombia presenta las siguientes respuestas a la solicitudes
1, 2, y 3

Solicitud Número 1

INFORMACIÓN CONSIGNADA EN LA DECISIÓN INC-6/3, RELATIVA AL REGISTRO DE EXENCIONES ESPECÍFICAS

(a) Un posible formato para la presentación de informes nacionales de solicitudes de exenciones específicas. (artículos 3 y 4, y anexos A y B)

Al formato propuesto se debe adicionar la siguiente información:

- Nombre de las empresas autorizadas para ese tipo de exenciones en cada país., dirección(es) de las instalaciones
- Actividad autorizada: es decir sintetizar cualquiera de esas sustancias y/o formular productos a partir de éstos
- Nombre comerciales cuando aplique, de los productos que la contienen
- Fechas de solicitud, aprobación y expiración de la exención

(b) Un posible proceso, incluidas alternativas, que pueda considerar la Conferencia de las Partes cuando decida el proceso de examen de las inscripciones en el Registro a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 5 del artículo 4 del Convenio de Estocolmo.

Los siguientes elementos son los mínimos a tener en cuenta, de conformidad con el artículo 4 del Convenio:

1. Criterios para justificar el registro:

- **Que el uso** de una sustancia controlada sólo pueda considerarse “esencial” cuando:
 - i) Sea necesaria para la salud y la seguridad y esencial para el funcionamiento de la sociedad (incluidos los aspectos culturales e intelectuales); y
 - ii) No haya otras sustancias o productos sustitutivos técnica y económicamente viables que sean aceptables desde el punto de vista del medio ambiente y la salud;

- **Que sólo se permita la producción** y el consumo de sustancias controladas para usos esenciales si:
 - i) Se han tomado todas las medidas económicamente viables para reducir al mínimo el uso esencial y cualquier emisión asociada de la sustancia controlada; y
 - ii) La sustancia controlada no puede obtenerse, en cantidad y calidad suficiente, de las reservas de sustancias controladas en existencia o recicladas, teniendo también en cuenta las necesidades de sustancias controladas de los países en desarrollo;
 - **Que la producción** para usos esenciales sea adicional a la producción para hacer frente a las necesidades básicas internas, hasta que culmine la supresión gradual de las sustancias controladas en esos países;
2. **Plazos** : Pedir a cada una de las Partes que, comunique a la secretaría los usos que considere “esenciales” por lo menos seis meses antes de cada Reunión de las Partes .
 3. **Que exista un grupo de apoyo para la revisión de las solicitudes:** Grupo de Evaluación Tecnológica y Económica, además de las consultas con expertos
 4. **Recomendaciones:** preparan recomendaciones relativas a:
 - a) El uso esencial (sustancia, cantidad, calidad, duración prevista del uso esencial, duración de la producción o importación necesarias para ese uso esencial);
 - b) Viabilidad económica y controles de las emisiones del uso esencial propuesto;
 - c) Fuentes de las sustancias controladas ya producidas para el uso esencial propuesto (cantidad, calidad, calendario); y
 - d) Medidas necesarias para garantizar que se disponga lo antes posible de otras sustancias y productos sustitutivos para el uso esencial propuesto;

Al formular las recomendaciones se debe tener en cuenta la aceptabilidad ambiental, los efectos para la salud, la viabilidad económica, la disponibilidad y las normas que regulan las alternativas y los productos sustitutivos; para lo cual se deben establecer indicadores para cada criterio con el fin de hacer más fácil la recomendaciones.

El informe de esta revisión se debe presentar por conducto de la secretaría, al menos tres meses antes de la reunión de las Partes en que haya de adoptarse una decisión

5. **Creación de un Grupo de Trabajo de composición abierta de las Partes** que examine el informe anterior y formula recomendaciones a la Reunión de las Partes sobre las solicitudes de exenciones recibidas.
6. **Plazos para el control:** Que el control a los exenciones de las Partes será gradual según apliquen a dichas Partes.

Solicitud número 2

EL COMITÉ INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE NEGOCIACIÓN INVITA A LOS GOBIERNOS A QUE LE PRESENTEN PREGUNTAS Y OBSERVACIONES RELATIVAS AL DISEÑO, CREACIÓN, FUNCIONAMIENTO Y ÁMBITO DE UN MECANISMO DE INTERCAMBIO DE INFORMACIÓN SOBRE CONTAMINANTES ORGÁNICOS PERSISTENTES.

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación invita a los gobiernos a que le presenten preguntas y observaciones relativas al diseño, creación, funcionamiento y ámbito de un mecanismo de intercambio de información sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

Documento de referencia: Decisión INC-6/7, relativa a un mecanismo de intercambio de información sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

COMENTARIOS

Se consideran pertinentes los comentarios realizados por varios representantes durante el 6º CIN, que pusieron en tela de juicio la idoneidad de asignar un presupuesto de esa índole al desarrollo de un mecanismo de intercambio de información cuando los recursos eran limitados. Por lo tanto, es recomendable mantener el sitio de Internet sobre COP del PNUMA. Y quedamos a la espera del programa de trabajo más detallado, que la secretaría debía preparar basada en las observaciones que se recibiesen de los gobiernos.

Solicitud número 3

PROCESO PARA ABORDAR LAS CUESTIONES DE ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA A QUE SE HACE REFERENCIA EN EL PÁRRAFO 3 DEL ARTÍCULO 12 DEL CONVENIO DE ESTOCOLMO

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación, en su sexto período de sesiones, decidió iniciar un proceso para abordar las cuestiones de asistencia técnica a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 3 del artículo 12 del Convenio de Estocolmo. :

1. En particular, pidió a los gobiernos que
 - (a) Los países desarrollados y otros países, según su capacidad, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la prestación de asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo y a los países con economías en transición, en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones que les incumben con arreglo al Convenio de Estocolmo¹;
 - (b) Los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la asistencia técnica prestada por los países desarrollados y otros países, según sus capacidades, en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones que les incumben en virtud del Convenio de Estocolmo²;
 - (c) Información sobre el modo en que podrían contribuir al proyecto experimental a que se hace referencia en la decisión INC-6/10³.
2. Presentar observaciones respecto del proyecto de mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales. (Anexo 1)

¹ Véase el inciso a) del párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/8.

² Véase el inciso b) del párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/8.

³ Véase el párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/10.

Documentos de referencia. las Decisiones del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación:

INC-6/8: Orientaciones sobre asistencia técnica

INC-6/9: Estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales

INC-6/10: Proyecto experimental sobre centros regionales y subregionales

INC-6/11: Asistencia en materia de capacidad

COMENTARIOS

Para 6° CIN, el en documento preparatorio INC.6/16 l se proponía que los centros regionales de entrenamiento y transferencia de tecnología de Basilea sirvan como centros piloto para los asuntos relacionados con el Convenio de Estocolmo. De esta propuesta el Ministerio del Medio Ambiente cuestionó el poco desarrollo que han logrado los Centros Regionales del Convenio de Basilea y el incipiente desarrollo de los centros Subregionales. Hasta el momento, en el proceso de reestructuración para estos centros, están claramente definidos los elementos institucionales de los mismos pero no sus fuentes de financiación. Es cuestionable que dentro de las opciones para garantizar el sostenimiento de los centros se plantee la autofinanciación como una posible fuente, lo cual se podría entender como la asignación de un valor para los servicios que presten los centros y una carga extra para los países que soliciten su asistencia. Se sugiere que se tenga en cuenta en el estudio de viabilidad otras posibles fuentes de financiación para los centros así como el apoyo de países desarrollados para su funcionamiento de acuerdo con los compromisos adquiridos en el Convenio.

Se apoya la idea de utilizar algunos y no todos los centros regionales y subregionales creados en el marco del Convenio de Basilea sobre la base de, entre otros factores, su eficacia comparativa y ubicación.

Además, se deben reconocer otras posibilidades, de centros especializados de instituciones ambientales multilaterales; y/o la creación de nuevos centros para compensar las disparidades geográficas o sustantivas entre los centros regionales y subregionales existentes, como es el caso de la región andina a la cual pertenecemos.

De otra parte se apoya el proyecto de mandato relativo al estudio evaluativo sobre centros regionales y subregionales.

Finalmente, se pueden señalar como prioridades que se deben tener en cuenta al momento de suministrar asistencia técnica, el fortalecimiento de la capacidad analítica y de los mecanismos para centralización de información, así como capacitación para recuperación de sitios contaminados y transferencia de tecnología para destrucción de existencias obsoletas, entre otros.

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**SOLICITUDES DE INFORMACIÓN PARA EL CONVENIO DE ESTOCOLMO
POR EL COMITÉ INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE NEGOCIACIÓN EN SU SEXTO
PERÍODO DE SESIONES**

En atención a la solicitud del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación del Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes, presentamos los comentarios a la **Solicitud No 5**

OBSERVACIONES SOBRE EL FORMATO DE LOS INFORMES DE LAS PARTES

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación pide a los gobiernos que presenten a la secretaría observaciones sobre el formato de los informes de las Partes con arreglo al Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes y el plazo para su presentación.

Analizando el documento guía a la Decisión INC-6/16, relativa al formato y el plazo para la presentación de informe de las Partes y los mandatos correspondientes en el texto del Convenio se tienen 5 clases de obligaciones para transmisión de información.

1. FORMATO DE INFORMACIÓN PARA EL ANEXO C

(a) Mandato: inciso v) del apartado a) del artículo 5,

Periodicidad : quinquenal
Información requerida: estrategias como parte de la elaboración de un plan de acción destinado a identificar, caracterizar y combatir las liberaciones de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes derivadas de la producción no intencional incluidos en el anexo C, y de su éxito.

(b) FORMATO DE INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL CUMPLIMIENTO DEL PLAN NACIONAL DE APLICACIÓN –PNA-

Mandato: Artículo 7.
Periodicidad: Primera presentación: dos años a partir de la fecha en que el Convenio entre en vigor para dicha Parte. Actualización a intervalos periódicos (decisión de la Conferencia de las Partes)
Información requerida: Cumplimiento del Plan Nacional de Aplicación del Convenio en el cual se han establecidos las acciones necesarias para el cumplimiento de las obligaciones.

2. FORMATO DE INFORMACIÓN PARA LA EVALUACIÓN DE LA EFICACIA

Mandato: Artículo 16
Periodicidad: Primera presentación cuatro años a partir de la entrada en vigor del Convenio. Actualización a intervalos periódicos (decisión de la Conferencia de las Partes)
Información requerida: presentación de informes y datos de vigilancia de carácter regional y mundial que permitan que se realice una evaluación de la eficacia del Convenio (párrafo 2 del artículo 16, artículo 15 y el artículo 17).

3. FORMATO DE INFORMACIÓN SOBRE PCBs

Mandato: El apartado g) de la Parte II del anexo A.
 Periodicidad: cada cinco (5) años.
 Información requerida: informe cada sobre los progresos alcanzados en la eliminación de los bifenilos policlorados y lo presente con arreglo al artículo 15.

4. FORMATO DE INFORMACIÓN SOBRE DDT

Mandato: Parte II del anexo B
 Periodicidad: cada tres años
 Información requerida: Cada país que utilice DDT, de conformidad con la Parte II del anexo B, debe presentar, con arreglo al párrafo 4 de dicho anexo, información sobre la cantidad utilizada, las condiciones de su utilización y su importancia para la estrategia de gestión de enfermedades de esa Parte.

En cuanto a la forma –

Se sugiere que sean formatos fácilmente diligenciables por parte de las autoridades competentes, disponibles en los idiomas oficiales de las Naciones Unidas y no sólo en inglés como es el caso en el Convenio de Basilea. Dado el carácter altamente técnico de los temas, lo anterior facilitaría la interpretación de las diferentes preguntas y respuestas por los actores involucrados en su diligenciamiento y recopilación.

Con base en la experiencia vivida en otros convenios, se sugiere que el formato venga acompañado de un manual de instrucciones para el diligenciamiento del mismo.

En cuanto a la periodicidad –

Para facilitar la labor de cada país, se sugiere que una vez sea llenado la primera vez, el formato para la presentación de informes debe venir preformateado por parte de la Secretaría (como en el caso del Convenio de Basilea) para que posteriormente sólo se realice el trabajo de actualización de la información.

Se sugiere asignar el mismo periodo de entrega los informes correspondientes a los siguientes temas: INFORMACIÓN PARA EL ANEXO C y INFORMACIÓN SOBRE PCBs dado que son quinquenales.

En relación con la periodicidad de la INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL CUMPLIMIENTO DEL PLAN NACIONAL DE APLICACIÓN –PNA- se sugiere una vez entregado el PNA por el país, presentar el primer informe sobre avances y actualización a los tres años de entregado el PNA y dejar las entregas posteriores de avances y actualización cada cinco años, de modo que se ajusten con los dos informes del punto anterior.

En cuanto al contenido –

La experiencia del MMA en diligenciar este tipo de Informes de Transmisión de Información ante las Secretarías de otros convenios internacionales ha demostrado que la información solicitada es fácil de proveer por parte de los países desarrollados (que cuentan con recursos e infraestructura para los procesos de recolección de datos, seguimiento y monitoreo) pero no de los países en desarrollo. Las principales dificultades tienen que ver con el levantamiento de estadísticas y cifras anuales con las cuales no contamos en temas puntuales como son: progresos anuales alcanzados en la elaboración de los inventarios nacionales de PCBs, cantidades eliminadas, existencias de DDT, cantidades utilizadas y eliminadas, datos sobre caracterización de las liberaciones de las sustancias contenidas en el anexo C (dioxinas y furanos), entre otros.

Por lo anterior, se sugiere que el formato que recomiende la secretaria posteriormente, establezca la Conferencia de las Partes, esté acorde con las capacidades y limitaciones de los países en desarrollo en materia de recolección y transmisión de información. En este sentido, Colombia debe buscar que la presentación de informes nacionales de los países en desarrollo esté sujeta a la disponibilidad de recursos técnicos y financieros por parte de la Secretaría del Convenio y los países industrializados.

Se apoya la iniciativa hacer una clara distinción entre los requisitos obligatorios y los que no lo son.

IX. CZECH REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Jan Dusik

Acting Director General

Section of International Relations

Vrbovická 65, 100 10 Praha 10

Tel: (00420 2) 67 12 29 16

Fax: (00420 2) 67 31 03 07

Prague, October, 31 2002

Ref.: 2433/900/02

Subject: **Comments requested by POPs INC-6 - Requests No. 1, 2 and 3**

Dear Mr. Willis,

Please find attached comments of the Czech Republic to requests for information based on decisions INC6/3, INC6/7 and INC6/8 taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its sixth session held in Geneva from 17 to 21 June 2002.

Yours Sincerely,

[original signed by Jan Dusik]

Mr. James B. Willis,

Executive Secretary Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs

UNEP Chemicals

11-13, chemin des Anémones

Geneva

Request No. 1 - Decision INC6/3

The Czech Republic does not have any proposal for amendment of the draft format of the Register of specific exemptions that is included in the attachment of the document LTNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6.

Request No.2 - Decision INC6/7

The Czech Republic agrees with elements of a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on POPS (CHM) and performance criteria as described in document LTNEP/POPS/INC.6/7. We strongly support the idea that CHM should not duplicate the information contained in other sources but it should serve as a portal to them. We appreciate information available on the current UNEP Chemicals websites and support maintaining them. However, by designing of the CHM the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety on INFOCAP could be taken into account.

Request No. 3 - Decision INC6/8

In the framework of the project „Enabling activities to facilitate early action in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS Convention) in Czech Republic" a Prioritization Report based on the information on the inventories and assessments of POPS will be prepared. The expert review of the inventories and assessments should propose a prioritization among the necessary activities. Timetables, financial needs, resources (technical, human) and human health issues will be taken into consideration in setting the priorities. Risk reducing technologies and priority setting documents of other developed countries will also be reviewed. The decision on the priorities will be taken at the National Priority Validation Workshop, to be held in March 2003.

Based on the present situation on POPs in Czech Republic, the Prioritization Report will underline the objectives taking into account the following:

1. Present legislation on import export monitoring and enforcement is being updated according to the Stockholm Convention
2. Since there are still obsolete stocks of pesticides and PCBs, safe storage and disposal is important.
3. There is a lack of information on the polluted or contaminated sites. Therefore action plan is needed for better inventories.
4. At present, mostly DDT, PCDD/Fs and PCBs are measured in the samples. More compounds have to be identified during monitoring procedures.
5. New laboratory equipment is needed for faster and better evaluation.
6. Lack of public awareness results in an inadequate waste management. Therefore, Public awareness has to be improved and new philosophy has to be introduced in the waste management.

However, the Czech Republic gained valuable experience in the framework of the above named project and also as a co-ordinator of the UNEP project financially supported by the GEF „Regionally based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances" and we are prepared to help other countries in preparation of their implementation plans by the regional and by bilateral arrangements.

Request No. 4 - Decision INC6/13

Following decision No. 13 taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its sixth session I let me inform you that we appreciate very much the work done by the Global Environment Facility towards the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

According our opinion it would be useful for the implementation process if the GEF proceeds its work based on Article 14 of the Convention and acts as the principle entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 13 also after the interim period.

X. DENMARK ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Jim Willis, Executive Secretary
Att.: Comments requested by POPs INC6
Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin de Anemones
CH-1219, Chatelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland

Biocide and Chemical Assessment
Division
In your reply, please refer to File No.
File no. M:
Ref.: KCh/13

Date 12 November 2002

Submission by the European Union and its Member States on the register of Specific Exemptions according to art. 4 of the Stockholm Convention

Dear Mr. Willis,

./ I hereby submit views of the European Union and its Member States on a possible format for country reporting of requests of specific exemptions, a possible process on the review process for the entries in the Register, and a possible format for a Register of specific exemptions according to decision INC-6/3.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

[original signed by]

Kirsten Christensen

REGISTER OF SPECIFIC EXEMPTIONS ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 4 OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

(to be submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants)

I. INTRODUCTION

Background

Articles 3 and 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants establish a register for the purpose of identifying Parties that have specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B of the Convention.

Article 4 of the Convention reads:

1. A Register is hereby established for the purpose of identifying the Parties that have specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B. It shall not identify Parties that make use of the provisions in Annex A or Annex B that may be exercised by all Parties. The Register shall be maintained by the Secretariat and shall be available to the public.
2. The Register shall include:
 - (a) A list of the **types of specific exemptions** reproduced from Annex A and Annex B;
 - (b) A list of the **Parties that have a specific exemption** listed under Annex A or Annex B; and
 - (c) A list of the **expiry dates** for each registered specific exemption.
3. Any State may, on becoming a Party, by means of a notification in writing to the Secretariat, register for one or more types of specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B.
4. Unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by a Party, or an extension is granted pursuant to paragraph 7, all registrations of specific exemptions shall **expire five years after the date of entry into force** of this Convention with respect to a particular chemical.
5. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall decide upon its review process for the entries in the Register.
6. Prior to a review of an entry in the Register, the Party concerned shall submit a report to the Secretariat justifying its continuing need for registration of that exemption. The report shall be circulated by the Secretariat to all Parties. The review of a registration shall be carried out on the basis of all available information. Thereupon, the Conference of the Parties may make such recommendations to the Party concerned as it deems appropriate.
7. The Conference of the Parties may, upon request from the Party concerned, decide to **extend the expiry date of a specific exemption for a period of up to five years**. In making its decision, the Conference of the Parties shall take due account of the special circumstances of the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.
8. A Party may, at any time, withdraw an entry from the Register for a specific exemption upon written notification to the Secretariat. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date specified in the notification.
9. When there are no longer any Parties registered for a particular type of specific exemption, no new registrations may be made with respect to it.

Mandate

Decision INC-6/3 of the International Negotiating Committee requests the secretariat to prepare a report on

- (a) a possible format for country reporting of requests for specific exemptions;

- (b) a possible process, including alternative approaches, that might be considered by the CoP in deciding upon the review process for the entries in the Register;
- (c) a possible format for a register of specific exemptions;

and invites Governments to provide the secretariat with their views on a (a), (b) and (c).

2. REPORTING FORMAT

Exemptions may be granted for :

- Production of a POP substance
- Use of a POP substance

Production: Any application for production of a substance shall contain information on (if appropriate) on :

- Identity of substance
- Envisaged annual production volume
- Quality of the technical product (degree of purity, relevant impurities, in particular when pertaining to POPs)
- Expected duration of production
- Export information (share and country specific destination, volume, product / formulation information)
- Production site
- Estimated releases (to air, to water, generated waste) of the substance and other POPs from production;
- Available stocks of the substance (quantity, quality);
- Applied and planned administrative and other control measures to prevent illegal production (e.g. specific permit system, recording of production)
- Applied and planned administrative and other control measures to eliminate or reduce releases of the substances and other POPs (e.g. specific permit system)
- Contact information for nominating Party

Use: The following information (if appropriate) should be provided for all intended uses:

- Use for which exemption is requested
- Identity of substance
- Envisaged quantity
- Country of origin
- Source and quality of substance or formulated product e.g. percentage of POP, formulation type)
- Intended use(s) e.g. intermediate in chemical synthesis, use as a pesticide, etc.
- Information on use e.g.
 - for pesticides: application techniques, anticipated frequency of applications, applied amounts per hectare, routinely or restricted to emergency cases etc.
 - for intermediates: site of plant where processed
- Efficacy and efficiency of control measures to prevent or at least minimize environmental releases during industrial processes
- Importance of specific use to society, including information on the consequences of not making use of sought exemption
- Economically feasible use and release controls for the requested use, including applied and planned administrative and other control measures to prevent illegal use
- Intended steps to minimize use, including activities for development and introduction of non-POP alternatives

- Alternatives and substitutes
 - Regulatory status of alternatives
 - Technical and economical feasibility
 - Accessibility
 - Efficacy of alternative methods and products
- Waste and disposal implications
 - management of contaminated material
 - costs

Parties holding a specific exemption shall in derogation of this information submitted, update to the Secretariat without undue delay.

3. ORGANISATION AND WORKING PROCESS

Types- of specific exemptions

In a formal sense two different “types” of specific exemptions can be distinguished:

- (i) Exemptions for substances already included in Annexes A and B to the Convention at the day of its entering into force
- (ii) Exemptions which might be requested for substances to be included in Annexes A or B in the future (“additional” POPs)

If no extension of exemption is requested by a Party concerned, or if not granted by the CoP then exemptions of type (i) will expire five years after entering into force of the Convention (article 4 (7)) at the latest.

For both types of specific exemptions, (i) and (ii) the same provisions outlined in this paper shall apply indistinctively. For this reason specific exemptions granted for additional POPs shall not exceed 5 years as well.

Registration

The count down of the five years expiration period for specific exemptions starts at the date the Convention enters into force. On becoming a Party to the Convention at a later time any State may register for one or more of these specific, already running exemptions by means of a formal notification on behalf of that State in writing to the Secretariat. The residual term comes to an end at the date provided in the register on which the specific exemption expires.

A Party may at any time withdraw its registration or shorten the period for which it needs the exemption by means of notification in writing to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall without any delay inform the Parties thereof.

In line with article 4 (9) of the convention when Parties are no longer registered for a particular type of specific exemption, no new registrations may be made with respect to it. This implies that a State upon becoming a Party to the convention cannot “re-open” a specific exemption that is no longer existing.

Extension of exemptions

A Party holding an exemption may request to extend this exemption for a specific substance beyond the date of expire. Having this desire the Party concerned shall submit a report to the Secretariat justifying its continuing need for registration of that exemption. The CoP decides on this request. In doing so it takes due account of special circumstances of the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

Any exemption ceases to exist at the five year expiry date unless a Party has requested an extension and this request has been granted by the CoP after careful review of all arguments. When there is no

longer any Parties registered for a particular type of specific exemption, no new registrations may be made with respect to it.

Working Procedure for Review

A request for an extension of an specific exemption initiates a review process, followed by a decision of the CoP. A Party which has registered for an exemption and requests an extension for that exemption shall submit its request in writing to the Secretariat along with a report justifying the continuing need for registration of that exemption at the latest 10 months before the next CoP to allow proper consideration of the request before the exemption expires. With no undue delay the Secretariat circulates the request and the accompanying report to all Parties not later than 9 months prior to the next CoP.

In order to assist in its decision making the CoP shall, in case it deems such appropriate, establish an ad-hoc group consisting of members of the POPsRC and additional experts (preferably from a roster/ or pool of experts). In the terms of reference for such an ad-hoc group a procedure for avoidance of conflicts of interest must be included regarding the selection of experts

The Secretariat shall pass on any request for extension and the accompanying report to the ad-hoc group and requests the ad-hoc group to provide its recommendations regarding the request via the Secretariat to the CoP. Concurrently the Secretariat informs all Parties to the Conventions about this request.

On the basis of the written request and the report of the Party concerned and of any other relevant information the ad-hoc group prepares a report on the pros and cons including a recommendation for decision. Wherever possible consensus shall be reached within the group on the final recommendation. If all endeavours for consensus fail the different views shall be outlined in detail in the report forwarded to the Secretariat.

The recommendation of the ad hoc group to the Secretariat should preferably be in the form of an executive summary. The Secretariat circulates this recommendation to the Parties not later than 3 months before the next CoP for consideration.

The CoP decides on its next meeting, in due time prior to the expiry date of a specific exemption in question. If all efforts to reach consensus on a decision fails a decision shall at a last resort be adopted by a three-fourth majority.

A figure at the end of this paper illustrates the described process.

4. CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

According to article 4 (3) any State on becoming a Party to the Convention may register for one or several types of specific exemptions already listed in annexes A and B. There might be Parties wishing to apply for a renewal of one or more specific exemptions after the five year to continue for a further period not exceeding five years. At its first meeting the CoP shall decide upon its review process for the entries in the Register (art. 4(5)). The criteria, however, that need to be fulfilled to justify an extension of a registered specific exemption are not specified in the text of the Convention.

Such criteria should be collected and detailed in a manual of decisions to be set up, based on decisions taken by the CoP. This manual should contain the rationales they have been based upon for reasons of transparency and as a basis for making coherent decisions.

A request for extending a registered exemption may only be approved if:

- (i) Production or use of a persistent organic pollutant is considered necessary for health or safety reasons, or when production or use is considered to be critical for the functioning of society; and
- (ii) There are no technically and economically feasible alternatives or substitutes available that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and human health.

For that reason the party requesting extension of an exemption must provide information substantiating that:

- (i) All available measures, including all economically feasible steps have been taken to ensure that any production or use of a persistent organic pollutant under such exemption are carried out in a manner that prevents or minimizes human exposure and release into the environment
- (ii) For a production exemption, that the persistent organic pollutant is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from existing stocks.

Parties with an extension to an exemption have the same obligations as under the original exemption . In particular any extension of an exemption shall include

- (i) An obligation to the Party to keep due record on any operations (production, use).
- (ii) Adequate legislative and administrative procedures are set so that the government in question can control the operations.

FORMAT OF THE REGISTER

A draft format of the Register of specific exemptions to be established pursuant to Article 4(2) was already provided by the Secretariat as an attachment to INC-6 [UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6]. The header contains all relevant categories of information required by the Convention:

(c)

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption	Party	Expiry date	Remarks
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Nevertheless the following extensions are suggested to be included as a check list e.g. for what should be included under “remarks”:

- (d) Chemical:
 - (e) In addition to identity and CAS number (a range of) degree of purity; type of impurities should be given as well
- (f) Activity
 - (g) for any activity the estimated amount of substance should be indicated as well
- (h) Specific exemptions
 - (i)

- (j) Remarks
- (k) more details should be given here
- (l) E.g. for pesticides it should be indicated:
 - (m) specific target organism(s), incl. stage of development (adults, larvae);
 - (n) season(s) of application, type of crops or materials treated;
 - (o) region within the country, where application is foreseen;
 - (p) application techniques and doses (e.g. g/m²), frequency of application and time intervals;
- (q) E.g. for production it should be specified
- (r) expected emissions to air/water/soil during production;
- (s) for intermediates: is it further processed on-site ?
- (t)

6. APPENDIX X

- (u)
- (v) all registrations or requests for extension of expiry dates of exemptions should be forwarded to
 - (w) The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
 - (x) UNEP
 - (y) venue.....
 - (z) Tel.
 - (aa) Fax
 - (bb) E.Mail@unep.org
 - (cc)
 - (dd) further instructions
 - (ee) Submissions may be done in either one of the UN-languages. However an English submission is preferred.
 - (ff)
 - (gg) A separate request for prolongation shall be submitted for each running exemption
 - (hh)

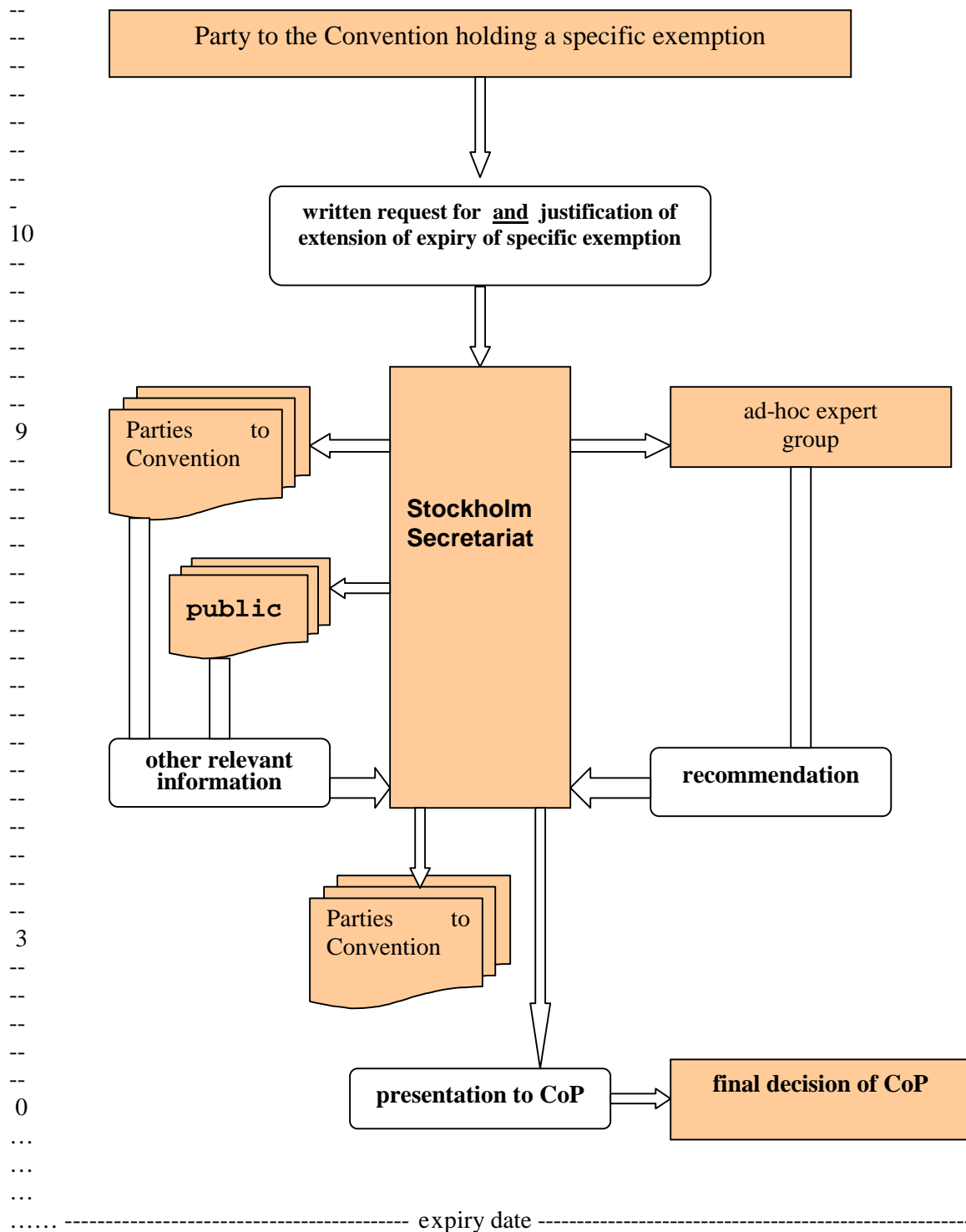
(ii) Electronic submission is recommended in parallel to paper copies

(ij)

7. APPENDIX Y

(kk) (DRAFT) Schedule for request for extension of specific exemption ¹

(ll) months



XI. ECUADOR

República del
Ecuador
Oficio No. 52343 / DASI /
MA Quito, octubre 8 del
2002

Señor Doctor
FABIAN VALDIVIESO
Director de Derechos Humanos, Ambientales y Sociales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Ciudad

Estimado Doctor Valdivieso:

Me permito hacer referencia a su Nota Verbal No. 444441/DGDHSA/02 relativa a los comentarios solicitados por el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación del Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes, en su Sexto Periodo de Sesiones, sobre el Proyecto de Mandato, correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales.

Al respecto, pongo en su conocimiento las observaciones emitidas por la Secretaría Técnica de Productos Peligrosos de esta Cámara de Estado, señalando lo siguiente: "El Gobierno Ecuatoriano expresa su acuerdo con el Proyecto antes citado, dado que se tomarán en cuenta las prioridades y necesidades de los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición, de la cual nuestro país forma parte, las mismas que podrán ser satisfechas por las mencionadas instancias".

Por lo que antecede, agradeceré se sirva disponer la entrega de esta información, por las vías oficiales, al Señor James B. Willis, de la Secretaría de Químicos de la UNEP en Ginebra,

Con mis sentimientos de consideración y estima.

(original firmado)

DR. CARLOS VALLEJO LL.
Director de Asuntos Internacionales
cc: Secretaría de la Convención de Estocolmo, Fax: 0041 22 797-3460

Señor
JAMES B. WILLIS
Secretario Ejecutivo
UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemain des
Anemones
CH-1219, Chatelaine,
Ginebra Suiza Fax:
+41-22-797-3460
Presente

Atención: Observaciones respecto del proyecto de mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales.

El Gobierno Ecuatoriano expresa su acuerdo con el Proyecto de Mandato relativo a un estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales para el Convenio de Estocolmo, dado que se tomarán en cuenta las prioridades y necesidades de los países en desarrollo y los países con economías in transición, entre los cuales nos incluimos y que podrán ser satisfechas por las mencionadas instancias.

Atentamente,

Solicitud número 3

Convenio de Estocolmo sobre contaminantes orgánicos persistentes

Información solicitada por Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación
en su sexto período de sesiones

Decisiones del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación

- INC-6/8: Orientaciones sobre asistencia técnica
- INC-6/9: Estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales
- INC-6/10: Proyecto experimental sobre centros regionales y subregionales
- INC-6/11: Asistencia en materia de capacidad
(Referencia: anexo I de UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22)

Información solicitada:

El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación, en su sexto período de sesiones, decidió iniciar un proceso para abordar las cuestiones de asistencia técnica a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 3 del artículo 12 del Convenio de Estocolmo. El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación también pidió a la secretaria que realizara, en consulta con la secretaria del Convenio de Basilea, según proceda, un estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales para la creación de capacidad y transferencia de tecnología, y que comunicará el mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad a los gobiernos para que presentaran sus observaciones antes de iniciarse el estudio. El Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación invitó a los gobiernos a que presentaran a la secretaria sus opiniones y observaciones sobre diversas cuestiones. En particular, el Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación pidió a los gobiernos que:

1. Presentaran a la secretaria, a más tardar el 31 de octubre de 2002, según proceda:
 - (a) Los países desarrollados y otros países, según su capacidad, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la prestación de asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo y a los países con economías en transición, en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones que les incumben con arreglo al Convenio de Estocolmo¹,
 - (b) Los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición, opiniones e información sobre prioridades y arreglos respecto de la asistencia técnica prestada por los países desarrollados y otros países, según sus capacidades, en relación con el cumplimiento de las obligaciones que les incumben en virtud del Convenio de Estocolmo²;
 - (c) Información sobre el modo en que podrían contribuir al proyecto experimental a que se hace referencia en la decisión INC-6/10³.
2. Presentar observaciones respecto del proyecto de mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales. Se adjunta el proyecto de mandato. Las observaciones deberán recibirse a más tardar el 30 de septiembre de 2002.

¹ Véase el inciso a) del párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/8.

² Véase el inciso b) del párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/8.

³ Véase el párrafo 2 de la decisión INC-6/10.

XII. GREECE ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

From: GEN. CHEM. STATE LAB.

Posted At: Wednesday, January 29, 2003 9:48 AM

Posted To: SSC

Conversation: POPs Convention-Toolkit-Reporting

Subject: POPs Convention-Toolkit-Reporting

HELLENIC PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Dear Mr. Willis,

Attached please find a draft proposal concerning comments from the EU and its Member States on the adoption of the UNEP Dioxin Toolkit as a basis for guidance as required under Annex C of the Stockholm Convention (Dec 6/4).

A draft proposal on the reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention (Dec. 6/16-request nr. 5) is attached as a second file.

We hope that these documents may be contribute to a successful outcome of INC-7.

Thank you in advance for the co-operation.

Sincerely yours

Angeliki Tsatsou - Dritsa
Director

GENERAL CHEMICAL STATE LABORATORY
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT

Submission by the European Union and its Member States

Comments on reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

The European Community and its Member States would like to provide the following comments on timing and format of Party reporting under the Stockholm Convention on POPs, as invited in the Decision INC-6/16.

The EC and its Member States find the reporting as an essential tool to safeguard proper implementation and facilitate the future development of the Stockholm Convention. It is of special importance for the compliance mechanism referred to in Article 17 and for the effectiveness evaluation procedure laid down in Article 16. In addition, it should also serve other purposes, such as open exchange of and public access to information and identification of particular needs of Parties for technical and financial assistance.

In the framework of the UN Economic Commission for Europe the issue of reporting on the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has been discussed thoroughly during the recent years, together with other issues related to strengthening of compliance with and implementation of MEAs in the ECE region. This process has resulted in draft guidelines, which have now been forwarded to the Committee on Environmental Policy for approval. The recommendations concerning reporting are largely valid and applicable also to the global MEAs and include among other things concrete proposals on structure and formats of reporting questionnaires. Therefore, the EC and its Member States would like to suggest that these general recommendations be taken into consideration when the Secretariat is preparing its proposals on the detailed reporting provisions concerning the Stockholm Convention. The recommendations can be found in paragraphs 16 – 24 of the meeting document CEP/2003/7 for the Committee, which is also available in the Internet⁵.

In order to ensure sufficient information for the purposes of Articles 16 and 17, reporting should cover all direct obligations addressed to the Parties in the Convention. Especially important in this sense are the provisions on control measures laid down in Articles 3, 5 and 6 and the detailed substance specific provisions given in Annexes A, Part II and Annex B, Part II.

Article 16(1) provides that the COP shall commence the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention four years after entry into force of the Convention. This means that the first reporting should be available at least one year before this, preferably even earlier. Early reporting on implementation would serve also the effective compliance mechanism. This is the case especially with the essential control provisions, which should be implemented already from the entry into force of the Convention.

The reporting intervals should, as far as possible, be such that they ensure the submission of all relevant information to the COP in a timely and consistent manner and so that the burden on Parties and the Secretariat is minimised. The Convention itself sets already certain detailed requirements on the reporting periodicity (on PCBs every 5 years, on DDT every 3 years). More frequent reporting on production, export and import of the listed chemicals (as provided in Article 15(2)) would perhaps be necessary while less frequent reporting may be found to be sufficient for other, more general provisions of the Convention.

The UNECE Protocol on POPs concerns to large extent the same POP substances as the Stockholm Convention and the central provisions are similar. Most of the 36 countries that have signed the UNECE Protocol have also signed or ratified the Stockholm Convention as well. For these reasons the EC and its Member States would like to suggest that, where possible, special efforts are made to coordinate the reporting under these two international agreements so that the same database could be used as much as possible for the purposes of both reporting obligations. This would considerably ease the burden of those countries, which will become Parties to both agreements.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2003/cep/cep.2003.7.e.pdf>

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS FOR INFORMATION REQUESTED BY POPS INC-6

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
REQUEST 1. THE REGISTER FOR SPECIFIC EXEMPTIONS				
1.	Possible process			a. Party shall notify in writing to Secretariat for exemption with determining of the above b. Review process by COP approval and entries in the c. Party shall report yearly to the Secretariat for realization of POPs chemical exemption d. Agree with the article 4 paragraph paragraph 7 of the Convention
2.	Format register	a. A list of types of specific exemption reproduced from Annex A and Annex B b. A list of the Parties that have a specific exemption listed under Annex A or Annex B c. A list of the expiry dates for each registered specific exemption d. All registration of specific exemptions shall expire five years after the date of entry into force of this Convention with respect to a particular chemical	a. Name of POPs chemicals b. Activity (Production & Use) c. Specific exemption d. Party (country name) e. Expire date f. Remarks	Format shall include: a. Name of country b. Types of POPs chemical c. Reasons for exemption d. Expiry date e. Amount of POPs chemical year f. Chemical supply (export/import) It would be great if the format amount and chemical supply for the chemical exemptions.

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
REQUEST 2: CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM				
1.	Database/information exchange	a. The reduction or elimination of the production, use & release of POPs and alternatives to POPs+ their risk to economic & social costs (prgph 1, article 9) b. Other information pursuant to this convention shall protect any confidential information as mutually agreed (prgph 5, article 9) c. Development and exchange of educational and public awareness materials at the national and international levels (prgph 1f, article 10)	a. The reduction or elimination of the production, use & release of POPs and alternatives to POPs+their risk to economic& social costs (prgph 1, article 9) b. The register of specific exemption (article 4) c. Implementation plan (article 7), including for Unintentionally produced POPs (article 5) & use of DDT for disease vector control d. Party reporting (article 15) e. Effectiveness evaluation (article 16) f. Notification pursuant to notes (ii) & (iii) in Annex A & B 9. Result of research, development & monitoring conducted pertaining to POPs (article 11)	a. Database of alternative POPs chemical substitute including environmental impact and risk, social and cost analysis.
2.	Provided through UNEP websites		b. The documentation for session of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies c. A reference database on alternatives to POPs, including alternative approaches & addresses of experts d. List of SC Focal Point & experts on POPs e. Proceedings of workshop & other meeting f. Guidance document & other reference materials	a. Information of best available technology (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) applied in developed countries for the purpose of managing Annex C. b. Information of POPs chemicals study/research

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
3.	Performance criteria	<p>a. Each party shall, within its capabilities, ensure that the public has access to the public information and it's kept up to date</p> <p>b. In providing information on POPs and their alternatives, Parties may use safety data sheets, reports, mass media and other means of communication, and may establish information centres at national and regional levels.</p>	<p>a. Collecting information actively from all relevant sources</p> <p>b. Managing information actively through electronic & hard copy media</p> <p>c. Updating information regularly and often Dissemination information in manner that its easy to find & understand for all potential users</p> <p>d. Providing information in a manner that is easy to find and understand for all potential users</p>	<p>a. Agree with the proposed by the Secretariat.</p> <p>b. It shall support and strengthen the proposed of regional and subregional centres</p>
4.	Exchange Mechanism		<p>a. Responding well to user-identified needs and providing a forum to express needs</p> <p>b. Taking advantage of potential enhanced efficiencies by coor-dinating with existing sources of information, including those associated with other multilateral environment agreements related to chemicals management.</p>	<p>a. Each party has right to provide the provision information on POPs.</p> <p>b. It shall develop a networking within all parties of the Convention.</p>

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
1	<p>REQUEST 3.1. GUIDANCE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p>	<p>a. Parties recognize the rendering of timely and appropriate technical assistance to request from developing country parties and parties with economy in transition (article 12 prgrph b. It is to develop and strengthen their capacity to implement the Convention (article 12 prgrph 2) c. In this regard guidance shall be provided by the COP</p>	<p>a. Article 12, paragraph 4. b. The arrangement shall include regional and subregional centres for capacity building and transfer technology to assist developing country parties and parties with economy transition to fulfill their obligation to the Convention. c. Article 13 and 14 deal with financial mechanism d. Article 7 deals with implementation plan e. Article 9 deal with a clearing house mechanism</p>	<p>a. Agree with the proposed by the Secretariat b. COP shall provide a mechanism of mutually agreement/bilateral agreement with in developed country parties and other countries for the propose of providing technical assistance an technology transfer c. Preferable to promote and implement the BAT and BEP in developing country Propose to conduct study with the Basel d. Convention in order to establish the regional and sub regional centres</p>

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
1			<p>REQUEST 3.2.FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CENTRES</p> <p>a. Taking into account the views and information on priorities and arrangement for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economy transition</p> <p>b. Identify need of countries in the area of capacity building and transfer technology</p> <p>c. The assessment of the capacity relevant to regional and sub regional centres shall include review of mandates, function, performance and institutional arrangements</p> <p>d. Assess the gaps and limitation of existing arrangements (availability of technology to be transferred)</p> <p>e. Review the experiences gains by other international agreements in capacity building and transfer technology</p> <p>f. Identify and analyze the potential synergies between Stockholm Convention and multilateral environmental agreement</p>	<p>a. Agree with the proposed by the secretariat</p> <p>b. In order to arrange the technology transfer, we propose to strengthen the BAT and BEP application in developing countries and countries with economy in transition with in regional and sub regional centres</p> <p>c. It is needed to elaborate the action programs on environmental management in order to synergies the multilateral agreements with in regional and sub regional centres</p> <p>d. Look for the possibility of financial support from developed countries to support the modalities of regional and sub regional centres, such as Japan, Sweden and Canadian Governments</p>

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
			<p>REQUEST 3.3.CASE STUDIED ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CENTRES</p> <p>a. To develop and conduct a pilot project of regional and sub regional centres for the purpose of facilitating capacity building and transfer technology</p> <p>b. Invites government to provide information to the Secretariat on how they might contribute to the pilot project</p>	<p>a. On behalf of the Government of Indonesia, we propose to conduct the feasibility study of regional centre in Indonesia as one of the exist Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) in Asia Pacific Region</p> <p>b. The BCRC- Indonesia has implemented by supporting of National contribution (in kind) and Government of Japan for financial support</p>

NO	TITLE	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT	COMMENTS
	REQUEST 3.4.CAPACITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK		<p>a. Identifying and maintaining an inventory of source of assistance outside those to be provided by the principal entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention</p> <p>b. Assisting signatories, upon request to identify and access the sources</p> <p>c. Providing signatories with information on categories, sources and requirements for accessing the assistance</p> <p>d. Encouraging the involvement of the private sector and NGO in providing assistance</p>	<p>a. Agree with the proposed by the Secretariat</p> <p>b. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention(COP) shall initiate to conduct inventory data on source of assistance from develop countries and the need of POPs chemical management from developing countries and countries with economy in transition</p> <p>c. Initiate to conduct bilateral agreement between developed countries and developing countries facilitated by Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention (COP) to cooperate technical assistance on POPs chemical management</p> <p>d. Initiate to find donor country such as Japan, Canada and USA to support the modalities for capacity assistance network with in Regional and sub regional centres.</p> <p>e. Optimize the function of the regional and sub regional centres to facilitate capacity assistance network on POPs chemical management</p> <p>f. It would be more efficient if it is networked with the clearing house mechanism and national focal point</p>

XIV. KAZAKHSTAN

Marat Ishankulov

Posted At: Monday, September 30, 2002 12:59 PM Posted To: SSC
Conversation: Comments requested by
POPs INC-6 Subject: Comments
requested by POPs INC-6

Dear Mr. James B. Willis,

With regard to the requests for information by INC-6 dated 13 August 2002 (request number 3, item 2 concerning draft ToR for the feasibility study on Regional and Subregional Centers, submission deadline is 30 September 2002) I would like to inform you that the Republic of Kazakhstan has no comments on the proposed terms of reference.

Sincerely yours,

Marat Ishankulov

Stockholm Convention National Focal Point

Mr. Marat
Ishankulo
v Prof, Dr.
Sc.
Leading Expert on International Environmental Conventions

The Programme "Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable
Development" Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Protection
1, Satpaev str., Kokshetau, 475000,
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XV. LITHUANIA

Dear James B. Willis,

We send our comments on requests for information by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Stockholm Convention.

On Request number 3:

About the priorities on technical assistance related to implementation of the obligations under the Stockholm Convention

In connection with reporting of environmental data of POPs emission to the air from combustion of fuels has been made based on default emission factors from EMEP. Such estimates are, however, very uncertain and will only cover a part of the emission sources. All POPs emission from burning of waste products and most production processes are not included in national inventory. A full inventory of POPs emission sources is outstanding in Lithuania. We need assistance for preparation of national POPs emission reduction and ambient air quality assessment programm. The main programme subjects are:

- Strengthening the information management capacities;
- Identification of international reporting for environmental data;
- Identification emission sources;
- Creation of an overview of the existing national data collecting system;
- Creation of inventory of pollutants;
- Promotion development of policy instruments and measures for the phasing out, substitution and/or minimized use and reduction of POPs emission and discharges.

The specific objectives are:

Task 1. - to develop, evaluate, and use a non-steady state multimedia mass balance model that describes the fate of selected POPs in Lithuania, in order to examine physical, chemical, and biological processes resulting in the migration of POPs through the individual compartments. Key processes are exchange, or cycling, of POPs between the atmosphere and aquatic and terrestrial surfaces, and the run-off of chemical from soil to water. Important are further the processes that could lead to loss of chemical during the transport in air and water, i.e. degradation and deposition in the air.

Task 2. - to develop an emission data base for modeling purposes and review information on present emissions and fluxes.

Task 3. - to complete and update the existing data base of levels of POPs in the Lithuania and use these data for verification of model results.

Task 4. - to prepare a set of recommendations with respect to the exposure and risk assessment for POPs emission in Lithuania.

For the implementation of the Convention it is very important to know several factors:

- if the pollutants in various types of waste water discharges (e.g. industrial, agricultural, household) reach water bodies;
- are there any pollutants inside the nutrition chain, for example, in fish tissue.

For that reason we need the assistance:

- To determine of POPs in the environment, to make a plan of detailed monitoring for the purpose of identification of damaged nature objects. To perform such determination of POPs

we need the assistance on the selection of indicators for the determination of pollution of the environment by POPs;

- In order to determine POPs in the waste water discharged to surface and groundwater we need the assistance on the development of inventory of POPs from industrial sources and other types of pollution sources;
- After the inventory of POPs and detection of these substances, we need the assistance on the development of POPs pollution reduction programme;
- In the case, when POPs are detected in the environment, POPs monitoring programme should be organized (i.e. monitoring locations, parameters to be measured, frequency of measurements, measurement laboratory methods have to be selected).

We need technical assistance on these activities.

On Requests number 1 and 2 we have no essential comments.

Marija Teriosina
Stockholm Convention Focal Point
(Ministry of Environment of Lithuania)

Irena Vadeikiene,
Chief specialist of Chemicals division
From: i.vadeikiene [mailto:i.vadeikiene@aplinkuma.lt]
Posted At: Tuesday, October 01, 2002 11:30 AM
Posted To: SSC
Conversation: Requests for information by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Stockholm Convention
Subject: Requests for information by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Stockholm Convention

Dear Mr. James B. Willis,

On behalf of Mrs. Marija Teriosina, Stockholm Convention Focal Point, I am writing to inform you that experts of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania have reviewed Draft Terms of Reference for a Feasibility Study on Regional and Subregional Centres and have no comments on it.

Irena Vadeikiene,
Chief specialist
Chemicals division

Dear James B. Willis,

We send our comments on requests for information by the sixth session of the INC for Stockholm Convention.

On request number 5 our proposals are as follows:

Frequency and format on the exchange of the information should be in compliance with the EU Dangerous substances in aquatic environment directive (76/464/EEC) & daughter directives as well as in compliance with the directive on the information exchange (77/795/EEC).

At the same time there are on-going activities at the European Commission (Expert Advisory Forum on Reporting in the DG Environment) on the preparation of the new EU directive on reporting requirements to the EU. In compliance with these activities our proposal is not to set up different (from the EU directives) formats and requirements on the reporting on dangerous substances (including POPs). The same format and frequency will help to develop the similar databases for all dangerous substances and to keep the same requirements all over the Europe and the other UN countries.

On request number 4 we have no essential new comments as we have written to request number 3.

On behalf of Marija Teriosiana
Stockholm Convention Focal Point
(Ministry of Environment of Lithuania)

Irene Vadeikiene
Chief Specialist of Chemicals division
(Ministry of Environment)

XVI. MADAGASCAR

REPUBLIQUE DE MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo, le **13 JAN. 2001**
 MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

A

Monsieur Jim. WILLIS
 Secrétaire Exécutif
 UNEP Chemicals
 11 - 13 Chemin des Anémones
 CH -1219, Châtelaine
 Genève (Suisse)

Objet: Demandes de renseignements émanant de la sixième Session du Comité de Négociation Intergouvernemental pour la Convention de Stockholm.

Monsieur Le Secrétaire Exécutif,
 J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir les réponses des demandes cités en objet

Demande numéro 1:

a- Format de demande de dérogation:

Pays	Substances Chimiques	Motifs de la demande de dérogation	Date de début	Date d'expiration	Résultats attendus

b- Observation générale:

Lorsque la Conférence des Parties arrêtera le processus d'examen des inscriptions au registre, elle devra tenir compte des réalités des différents pays. En ce sens que les pays développés n'ont pas les mêmes besoins que les pays en développement en matière d'utilisation des POPs.

Le processus devrait commencer par l'examen des besoins du moins au niveau régional d'une dérogation spécifique.

c- Format à envisager pour les registres des dérogations spécifiques :

pays	région	Substances Chimiques	Activité	Délai de dérogation	observations

Demande numéro 2

Questions et observations ayant trait à la conception, à l'élaboration, au fonctionnement et à la portée d'un centre d'échange d'information sur les polluants Organiques Persistants:

1. Si on crée un centre d'échange sur les POPs, serait il au niveau régional ou par pays?
2. Si c'est au niveau régional, comment les pays vont ils accéder régulièrement aux informations?
3. Quel serait l'outil à utiliser: documentation ou Internet? Si l'internet serait choisi comme outil d'échange, quelle assistance le PNUE aurait il envisagé pour aider les pays pauvres généralement déficitaires en matière de matériel informatique à bien alimenter et manipuler le réseau d'échange.

Demande numéro 3:

- 1-
 - a. Madagascar demande une assistance auprès des pays développés pour étudier la faisabilité d'une création d'un centre sous régional pour les îles de l'Océan Indien
 - b. Madagascar aura besoin d'une assistance technique pour l'élaboration de son plan national de gestion des polychlorobiphényles (PCBs).
 - c. Madagascar devrait bénéficier d'un transfert de technologie des pays développés en matière de détection des sources de dioxines et furannes.
 - d. A titre de contribution à la réalisation des études de cas mentionnées dans la décision de l'INC 6/10, Madagascar fournira les données lui concernant et qui pourraient servir au PNUE dans l'élaboration des rapports pour l'évaluation et la surveillance des polluants Organiques Persistants présents dans l'Environnement.

2-

Pour l'étude de faisabilité des centres régionaux et sous régionaux, la convention de Bamako sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontières de déchets dangereux et leur élimination qui est un accord entre pays africains et qui est plutôt proche des réalités africaines devrait être prise en considération afin d'assurer une synergie entre les accords multilatéraux en matière d'environnement. Il en est de même pour la Convention de Rotterdam sur la procédure de consentement préalable en connaissance de cause applicable à certains produits chimiques et pesticides dangereux qui font l'objet d'un commerce international (PIC).

Demande numéros 4 et 5

Madagascar n'a pas d'observation particulière relative aux demandes 4 et 5.

[original signed]

Professeur Befeno Germain

XVII. MAURITIUS

30 September, 2002

Mr. James B. Willis
Executive Secretary
Interim Secretariat for the
Stockholm Convention
UNEP Chemicals

Dear Sir,

**Information Requested by the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating
Committee for the Stockholm Convention**

In connection with request for information (Re INC - 6/3, INC - 6/7, INC - 6, 9, IN - 6,10, INC - 6/11, INC - 6/13, INC - 6/16 and INC - 6/18). Mauritius submits a nil return except for request No 3 item 1 (b) for which our suggestion is as follows.

Mauritius is in the process of preparing a National Implementation Plan (NIP) whereby the issues of PCBs, Dioxins and Furans will be addressed. It is expected that assistance will be needed for the risk assessment of PCBs, Dioxins and Furans and that training could be organized at a subregional level for the monitoring by chemical analysis of these substances.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. V. Sheik Fareed)
for Permanent Secretary

**National Environmental Laboratory
National Laboratories Complex - Reduit**

XVIII. NORWAY

UNEP Chemicals
International Environment House
11-13, Chemin des Anemones
CH - 1219 Chatelaine
Switzerland

Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
P.O.Box 8100 Dep, N-0032 Oslo, Norway
Visiting address: Strømsveien 96

Date:

Our ref.: 354.3, 02/678-3

Your ref.:

Contact person: Liselott Säll

Telephone: +47 22 57 34 00

Telefax: +47 22 67 67 06

E-mail: postmottak@sft.no

Internet: www.sft.no

Register of Specific Exemptions – INC Decision 6/3

Dear Sir or Madam

With reference to letter from the Secretariat of 13 August 2002, inviting countries to provide views on possible format for the Register of Specific Exemptions and possible review process for the entries in the Register (Decision INC-6/3), Norway would like to submit the following comments:

Draft Format of the Register of Specific Exemptions

In our view the draft format of the register of exemptions in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/6 is well arranged and fills to a great extent the demand for information, set out in the Stockholm Convention. But we have some smaller points we would like to comment on:

The footnote 4 and 8 use other wordings than the Convention text. The wording “de minimis contaminant” was discussed under the negotiations of the Convention and was not found to be accurate enough and not sufficiently limiting. Our proposal is to change this wording in footnote 4 and 5 into the wordings agreed under the Convention; “unintentional trace contaminants”

In the negotiations we discussed the possibilities to limit the use of POPs as an intermediate in processes and secure that this kind of use does not result in POP releases. The agreed text in note (iii) Annex A. To give specific exemptions for use as an intermediate without the restrictions given in note (iii) will not agree with the intentions behind the agreed text in the Convention. As a restricted use of a POP as an intermediate is allowed as a general exemption, we regard the proposed footnote 9 as unnecessary and we propose to delete this footnote.

It could be useful to have a footnote about what kind of information should be noted in the remark column. We propose to have the following information in this column:

- Type of use
- Expire date for exemption
- If the exemption is limited in some way
- The criteria justifying extension of the country-specific registration
- Number of times the exemption has been extended

Review Process for the entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions

In addition to the elements of the process specified in the Convention, the following elements are in our view particular important;

As stated in the Convention the Party concerned shall submit a report to the Secretariat justifying its continuing need for the entry of an exemption in the Register. In our view the following information should be provided by the Party:

- The type of exemption
- The time period needed for the exemption
- Maximum quantities of the chemical substance to be produced and used
- Reason behind applying for extension of the exemption
- National control actions taken to reduce the production and use
- Evaluation of possibilities to limit the existing exemption
- Evaluation of alternatives (costs, environmental risk, technical feasibility and accessibility)
- A plan for phasing-out the exemption

In our view at least the following criteria have to be fulfilled to justify an extension of an exemption:

- Use is necessary for health and safety
- There are no available technical and economically feasible alternatives that are acceptable from the standpoint of health and environment

In the review process of requests for extension of exemptions it is important to assure transparency. The dead line for input from the Parties to the Convention has to be reasonable, giving the Parties enough time to study the documents and give useful inputs.

Yours sincerely

[original signed by]

Signe Nåmdal
Head of section

[original signed by]

Liselott Säll
Senior officer

Copy to: Ministry of the Environment

Miljøverndepartementet
SFT
24.10.2002

Statens forurensningstilsyn
Postboks 8100 Dep, 0032 Oslo
Besøksadresse: Strømsveien 96
Telefon: 22 57 34 00
Telefaks: 22 67 67 06

Request for information – Decision INC6/8

With reference to letter from the Secretariat of 13 August 2002, inviting countries to provide views and information on priorities and arrangements for their provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition (Decision INC6/8), Norway would like to submit following:

1. Objectives and priorities for Norwegian Environmental Assistance

The main objective of the Norwegian environmental assistance is to contribute to a "sound management of the global environment and biological diversity». The following four areas have been given priority:

- Development of sustainable production systems
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Reduced pollution of soil, air and water
- Preservation of cultural heritage and management of the natural environment's cultural values.

Environmental assistance aims at:

- Integrating environmental concerns into all Norwegian-supported development assistance when this is relevant through an extensive use of environmental impact assessments
- Establishing environment-specific programmes.

The importance of a precautionary approach in the management and use of natural resources is emphasized. Further, Norway gives priority to measures that can contribute to reduced pollution of soil, air and water. Poverty orientations, emphasis on the role of women in environmental and natural resource management as well as local participation are important elements. The preservation of cultural heritage and protection of the natural environments cultural values are a relatively new priority area.

The measures will vary with geographical areas and are based on the recipient countries level of development and the nature of the environmental problems. In providing environmental assistance Norway emphasize on a successive process with a close dialog between the contributor and the receiving countries. An important principle will be to contribute to enabling the recipient countries themselves to identify and implement the measures that are necessary to create sustainable development. This includes a strengthening of the countries institutional capacity and professional competence by providing support for improved administrative and planning capacity in the environmental field in the recipient country. It also comprises support for the preparation and

implementation of national environmental strategies and plans, the development of legislation and regulations, support for national priorities and the identification of environmental problems. The priorities is first to contribute to development of appropriate institutions, the expertise and regulations, and then technical assistance, this to ensure that the countries will be able to sustain the new environmental management program after the projects are ended. It is also important to strengthen national research and professional competence, promote integrated environmental management and to use various instruments.

Some instruments are particularly important in this work:

- Institutional cooperation can increase efficiency in the development of local institutions through the dissemination of specific experience between institutions in Norway and in the recipient country.
- Combination of various forms of finance can contribute to promoting cooperation between the business sector, government agencies, academic institutions, private local organisations and international multilateral and private organisations
- Thematic concentration in environment-specific development assistance based on the nature of the environmental problems, the recipient country's priorities and the special expertise and experience of Norwegian participants
- Initial environmental evaluation of all projects to determine what is required of the recipient in the form of environmental impact assessments, etc.

The integration of environmental concerns into Norwegian-supported development assistance focuses on primary industries. Industry which are both dependent on a sustainable use of natural resources and which can have a strong influence on these same resources. And sectors which in an aid context are particularly in demand because Norway possesses special expertise.

Establishment of environment-specific development assistance programmes are primarily focused on enhancing the recipient country's capacity and willingness to integrate environmental concerns into its own development efforts. A priority area is environmental problems which extend across national boundaries or are of a global nature.

2. Arrangements

The Norwegian development assistance in the environmental field is channeled through the multilateral organizations, through bilateral co-operation, and through Norwegian and international volunteer organizations. Seven centres for environmental assistance are organized to assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and will contribute to institutional co-operation with partner countries in the field of environment. The Ministry is drawing up rules for quality assurance in development assistance. This work is being carried out in cooperation with NORAD in order to ensure optimal results.

There are particularly two major programmes today which are directly focused on the environment in development assistance. The aim of the programme: "special grant for environment and development" is to:

- Contribute to strengthening the recipient country's institutional and technical/economic capacity for integrating environmental considerations into its development and to complying with international environmental commitments
- Contribute to enhancing knowledge and professional competence in the recipient country in the field of environmental problems and the relationship between environment and development.

The programme: "special grant for expanded environmental cooperation" (Chapter 0155, Item 71) was started in 1995 and primarily covers countries in Asia. The aim of this grant is to:

- Establish priority areas for environmental cooperation (including global and regional problems as well as cooperation in the environmental technology field) with recipient countries
- Strengthen the recipient country's institutional capacity and technical/economic basis for integrating environmental concerns so that the countries themselves are in a position to solve their own environmental problems and to fulfil international commitments.

Today Norway has special environmental cooperation agreements with China, Indonesia and South-Africa. In addition to these special agreements on environmental cooperation, projects of varying size and length are being carried out in a number of other developing countries:

Completed Bilateral Projects for Environmental Assistance

Pollution Control and Waste Management Programme in Namibia	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
---	---------------------------------------

Ongoing Bilateral Projects for Environmental Assistance

Project	Centre Responsible
Development of Management Systems on Safety and Working Environment, and Pollution Control In The Vietnamese Petroleum Industry, Phase II	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Industrial Pollution Prevention (IPP) in Botswana	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Industrial Pollution Programme in Zambia	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Establishment of a centre for environmental information and statistics in South Africa	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority

Bilateral Projects for Environmental Assistance soon starting up

Capacity building in Environmental Protection Bureaux in Guizhou Province (China, Zunyi)	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Institutional co-operation between eThekweni Municipality and the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority. (South Africa, Durban)	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Institutional co-operation between DEAT and SFT on the promotion of environmental management tools. (South Africa, co-operation with the South African Ministry of Environment)	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority

From: Henrik Hallgrim Eriksen
Posted At: Friday, November 08, 2002 11:25 AM Posted To: SSC
Conversation: Comments on draft TOR Feasibility Study on Regional Centres
Subject: VS: Information following INC-6 Decisions

James B. Willis
Attention: Comments requested by POPs INC-6
Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention
UNEP Chemicals
Geneva, Switzerland

Further Comments on Requests Regarding technical assistance

Dear Sir,

We refer to the Secretariat's letter of 13 august 2002, and to our earlier comments to the TOR for the Feasibility Study. Norway would like to submit the following comments and information regarding request 2 and the remaining points in request 3:

* Responding to request number 3, 1 (a), we enclose a document from the State Pollution Control Authority (SFT) on priorities and arrangements for technical assistance from Norway to developing countries, with a focus on development assistance in the environmental field.

* Responding to request number 3, (c), Norway would like to refer to the financial contributions we have given to the secretariat for the Stockholm Convention this year. We aim at providing contributions to secretariat next year as well. We would like the secretariate to consider if part of these contributions could allocated some of this to this activity. Furthermore, we refer to the Norwegian contribution to the UNEP Trust Fund for 2003 (in total appr 35 mill NOK) , the details of which will be agreed between Norway and UNEP this autumn. This is the main channel for Norwegian contribution to UNEP projects. We urge UNEP Chemicals and the secretariat for the Stockholm Convention to approach UNEP Nairobi in order to address the question of financial contributions to the case study in this context also.

* Responding to request number 2, we would like to point out the rather large costs connected with establishing a separate clearing-house mechanism when outlined as at INC-6. We recognise the need for further development in this area, but question whether not improvement of existing information systems and arrangements might be investigated further as an alternative. We are further of the opinion that the outlined terms of reference for the feasibility study on regional centres may incorporate aspects of information exchange - particularly i connection of considerations regarding a possible capacity assistance network (CAN), but also points d) and e). The feasibility study should thus be able to provide further guidance on the improvements that are necessary.

Best regards,
Henrik Hallgrim Eriksen
Adviser
Ministry of the Environment, Norway
Pollution Department - section for chemicals and waste
tel: +47 22245839
e-mail:Henrik.Eriksen@md.dep.no

Format and Timing of Party Reporting - Decision INC-6/16

Dear Sir or Madam

With reference to the letter from the Secretariat of 13 August 2002, inviting countries to provide comments on timing and format of Party reporting under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Decision INC-6/16), Norway would like to submit the following comments:

Timing of Party Reporting

Our proposal is that the Party reporting under Article 15 is conducted four years after the date of entry into force of the Convention. Four years after the date of entry into force of the Convention the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention conducted on the basis of national report submitted pursuant to Article 15. The reporting has to be based on the national implementation plans in Article 7 including the action plan for unintentional releases of POPs in Article 5. According to the Article 5 and 7 the plans shall be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force. The first reporting of the Parties will then be related to the success of implementation the two preceding years.

In our view the periodicity of the Party Reporting under Article 15 has to be adapted not to be too burdening for developing countries but in the same time contribute to a reasonable progress in the phasing out of the banned POPs.

Format of Party Reporting

To have an effective and simple reporting it is important to develop a format that is compatible with reporting provisions under other multilateral environment agreements, and that it is clearly distinguishes between mandatory and non-mandatory reporting.

The reporting should relate directly to the obligations under the Convention and the format units must be clearly defined to facilitate comparison and a general survey on the process of phasing out POPs.

According to Article 15 each Party shall report the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. To be able to validate the effectiveness of the measures that are accomplished we propose that the Parties report in addition to the requirements under Article 15, the following;

- amount of POP wastes in stockpiles
- disposed, imported and exported POP wastes
- amount of POPs released from unintentional production (Article 5)
- reduction of POPs released from unintentional production (Article 5)

We propose that the Party report the reasons behind non-fulfilment of the commitments under the Convention, and if possible a plan for solving this, but in our view this should not be mandatory.

Yours sincerely

Signe Nåmdal
Head of section

Liselott Säll
Senior officer

Copy to: Ministry of the Environment in Norway

XIX. PERU

REPRESENTACIÓN PERMANENTE DEL PERU
ANTE LOS ORGANISMOS INTERNACIONALES
CON SEDE EN GINEBRA

NNUU/171

La Representación Permanente del Perú ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra saluda muy atentamente al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente - Productos Químicos y tiene a bien remitir las observaciones efectuadas por la Dirección General de Salud Ambiental (DIGESA) y el Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria (SENASA) respecto al proyecto de mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre centros regionales y subregionales, en cumplimiento con lo acordado en el Sexto período de sesiones del Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación del Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes.

La Representación Permanente del Perú ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra aprovecha la ocasión para reiterar al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración

Ginebra, 21 de octubre de 2002

[original signed]

AL PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
PRODUCTOS QUÍMICOS
GINEBRA.-

Solicitud N° 3 de Información

Con respecto al numeral 2 de la solicitud número 3 sobre las observaciones al proyecto de mandato correspondiente al estudio de viabilidad sobre Centros Regionales y Subregionales, podemos observar lo siguiente:

Literal (a) Agregar

".. de la asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo y los países con economías en transición prestada o no prestada por los gobiernos en respuesta ..."

Consideramos que, al tener en cuenta las asistencias que fueron denegadas a través de los proyectos no aprobados, podemos tener evidencia de las necesidades de los países que no han sido suplidos, y analizar los motivos que evitaron la aprobación de estos proyectos.

Literal (d). En este literal no se detienen los sujetos que intervienen en los "acuerdos existentes" a los que se hace referencia, por lo que sería necesario detallar el tipo de acuerdos que se estarían.

Literal (g). En la versión castellano de la decision INC-6/10, tanto en el titulo como en el texto, se hace mención a "Monografías sobre Centros Regionales y Subregionales", mientras que en el proyecto de mandato se hace mención a un "Proyecto experimental sobre Centros Regionales y Subregionales", debiendo de uniformizar la definición de lo requerido.

Literal (h). Es necesario precisar que los arreglos mencionados en este literal deben de contemplar objetivos precisos, diseño de operación, gestión y puesta en funcionamiento de la red de asistencia, en materia de capacidad.

XX. PHILIPPINES

Attention: Mr. James Willis

Attached are the comments of the Philippine Government, through its Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau, on the draft TOR for a Feasibility Study on Regional and Subregional Centers (INC 6/9).

Manuel R. Sanchez
Undersecretary for Local Government,
Indigenous Peoples, and Media Affairs

**EMB COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR A
FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CENTERS (INC 6/9)**

The Philippines, like any developing countries, is faced with a number of constraints, financial and technological, in its efforts to continue communicating information under the POPs Convention. As such, in identifying the needs of developing countries in the area of capacity building and transfer of technology, the following issues and concerns should be addressed, in addition to those indicated in the draft TOR:

- Case studies on existing and subregional centers to assess if they are able to meet the needs of countries, e.g., analysis of POPs, etc.
- Information and data management should be a priority concern since the regional centers should be able to provide the information network for all the member countries.
- Capacity needs assessment of each member country should be identified as what each country lacks and should be complemented by the regional centers.
- Regional centers should be able to assess existing technologies for POPs elimination, technology verification, recommended indigenous and appropriate technologies and training/technology transfer to develop necessary skills and knowledge to handle POPs chemicals.

XXI. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY, CONSTRUCTION
AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT
9, COSMONAUTILOR STR.
MD - 2005, CHISINAU
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

FAX TRANSMISSION

To: Mr. James B. Willis, Director	From: Dr. Gheorghe Duca, Minister
Fax: (41 22) 797 34 60	Date: 29 November, 2002
Organization: UNEP Chemicals	Number of pages: 5, including this cover sheet
Telephone: (41 22) 917 81 95	Telephone: (373 2) 22 24 64 / 22 16 67
Subject: Comments on timing and format of Party reporting under Stockholm Convention on POP according INC6 Decision No. 6/16	Fax: (373 2) 22 07 48
Comments:	

Dear Mr. James B. Willis,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development is pleased to provide you the prepared comments on timing and format of Party reporting under Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants according INC6 Decision No. 6/16 and letter of the UNEP Chemicals dated from 13 August 2002 (Request number 5).

In the process of preparation of our comments we took into account the following documents:

- Stipulations of articles 15, 16, 5 (subparagraph (v) of paragraph (a)), article 7 (subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1), and the provisions of subparagraph g) of Part II of Annex A and Paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part II of Annex B of the Stockholm Convention.
- Paragraph 4 of the Resolution 1 of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on POPs.
- Provisions of the document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/9.
- Chapter J of the document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22.
- INC-6 Decision No. 6/16.
- The letter of the UNEP Chemicals dated from 13 August 2002 (Request No. 5).
- Some provisions on regular reporting by Parties of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel Convention, the Convention LRTAP etc.

The Republic of Moldova proposes to take into consideration some elements of the existing reporting system and guidelines of the Convention LRTAP, which contain some experience in POPs reporting.

1. Comments and proposals for annual reporting:

We consider that minimal annual reporting for each Party may include the following reporting documents:

- For goals of subparagraph a) of paragraph 2 of article 15 we propose to take for basis the CLRTAP reporting table on anthropogenic national annual use and production of persistent organic pollutants, supplement it with provisions concerning import/export and provide small changes on substances. We prepared draft format of this table, which attached to this letter.
- Table on list of the States from which it has imported each such substance and the States to which it has exported each such substance for goals of subparagraph b) of paragraph 2 of article 15. We prepared draft format of this table, which attached to this letter.
- Table on anthropogenic national total annual emissions of POPs, which may be prepared on basis of the existing CLRTAP reporting table. We prepared draft format of this table, which attached to this letter.
- Tables on anthropogenic national sectoral annual emissions of POPs, which may be prepared on basis of the existing CLRTAP reporting tables and in accordance with categories of activities.
- National information on monitoring data of the substances included in the annexes A, B and C.

We consider that:

- Timing of the reporting should be done on annual basis preferably in electronic format and paper format;
- Deadline on presentation of reports for each calendar year may be established approximately 12 or 13 months after end of reporting year for all the above-mentioned reports (e.g. report for 2004 will be presented before 31 December 2005 or 31 January 2006);
- It is desirable to co-ordinate the reporting presentation date with date established under Convention LRTAP.

2. Comments and proposals for reporting, which may be presented every five years:

- Report on realization of strategies and of their success for goals of the Article 5 and in accordance with Article 15. In this context may be used some principles and format of the existing review on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement under Convention LRTAP.
- Report on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with subparagraph g) of the Part II of Annex A and for goals of Article 15.
- As require the subparagraphs b) and c) of this article “Each Party transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force for it and review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the Conference of the Parties”. For goals of the subparagraph c) of the Article 7 we propose to transmit the revised plans every five years.
- As require the paragraph 1 of the Article 16 “Commencing four years after the date of entry into force of this Convention, and periodically thereafter at intervals to be decided by the Conference of the Parties, the Conference shall evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention”. We propose to evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention in accordance of the paragraph 2 of the Article 16 every five years.

3. Comments and proposals for reporting, which may be presented every three years:

- Report on DDT in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Part II of Annex B

This letter and attached annexes will be send, also, by electronic mail to Ms. Maria Cristina Cardenas-Fischer (MCardenas@chemicals.unep.ch)

If you will have any questions, please, contact Mrs. Liudmila Marduhaeva, National Focal Point of the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Her contact details:

Address: 9, Cosmonautilor St., MD-2005,
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Tel.: (373 2) 22 68 50

Fax: (373 2) 22 07 48

E-mail: liudmila@mediu.moldova.md

Annexes: 3 pages mentioned in the comments and proposals for annual reporting of this letter.

Sincerely Yours,

[original signed]

Gheorghe Duca,
Minister of Ecology, Construction
and Territorial Development
of the Republic of Moldova

Annexes to letter concerning comments on format and timing of reporting under Stockholm Convention on POPs in conformity with INC6 Decision No. 6/16

Table 1. Anthropogenic national annual production, import/export and use of persistent organic pollutants (years) Party:

ANNEX A ^{1/}	Year (e.g. 1990)				Year (e.g. 1995)				year							
	pro d	imp	exp	use	pro d	imp	exp	use	pro d	imp	exp	use	pro d	imp	exp	use	pro d	imp	exp	use	
Aldrin (CAS: 309-00-2)																					
Chlordane (CAS: 57-74-9)																					
Dieldrin (CAS: 60-57-1)																					
Endrin (CAS: 72-20-8)																					
Heptachlor (CAS: 76-44-8)																					
Mirex (CAS: 2385-85-5)																					
Toxaphene (CAS: 8001-35-2)																					
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)* (CAS: 118-74-1)																					
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**																					
ANNEX B ^{2/}																					
DDT (CAS:50-29-3)***																					

Units are reported in Kg per year.

Notes:

1/ The POPs listed in annex A (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for elimination.

* Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) is also listed in Part I of Annex C as a substance scheduled for reduction or elimination in conformity with article 5.

** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are also listed in part II of annex A and Part I of Annex C as substances scheduled for reduction or elimination in conformity with article 5.

2/ The POPs listed in annex B (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for restriction.

*** DDT is also listed in Part II of annex B.

**Table 2. Anthropogenic national annual emissions and transfers of persistent organic pollutants (year)
Party:**

ANNEX A ^{1/}	year				
	air	water	soil	product	residue
Aldrin (CAS: 309-00-2)					
Chlordane (CAS: 57-74-9)					
Dieldrin (CAS: 60-57-1)					
Endrin (CAS: 72-20-8)					
Heptachlor (CAS: 76-44-8)					
Mirex (CAS: 2385-85-5)					
Toxaphene (CAS: 8001-35-2)					
ANNEX B ^{2/}					
DDT (CAS:50-29-3)***					
ANNEX C ^{3/}					
Dioxins & Furans					
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**					
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)* (CAS: 118-74-1)					

Units in kg per year except for dioxins and furans, which are reported in grams toxic equivalents (Teq) by NATO CCMS international toxic equivalent scheme). All emissions should be reported in this table (e.g. HCB can be used as pesticide but can also be emitted as a by-product of combustion and as contaminant in other pesticides).

Notes:

1/ The POPs listed in annex A (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for elimination.

2/ The POPs listed in annex B (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for restriction.

*** DDT is also listed in Part II of annex B.

3/ The POPs listed in annex C (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for reduction or elimination in conformity with article 5:

* Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) is also listed in Part I of annex A as substance scheduled for elimination.

** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are also listed in Parts I and II of annex A as substances scheduled for elimination.

Table 3. List of the States from which it has imported each such substance and the States to which it has exported each such substance of persistent organic pollutants (year)

Party:

ANNEX A ^{1/}	Year (e.g. 1990)		year		year	
	Imported from	Exported to	Imported from	Exported to	Imported from	Exported to
Aldrin (CAS: 309-00-2)						
Chlordane (CAS: 57-74-9)						
Dieldrin (CAS: 60-57-1)						
Endrin (CAS: 72-20-8)						
Heptachlor (CAS: 76-44-8)						
Mirex (CAS: 2385-85-5)						
Toxaphene (CAS: 8001-35-2)						
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)* (CAS: 118-74-1)						
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)						
ANNEX B ^{2/}						
DDT (CAS:50-29-3)***						

Units are reported in kg per year.

Notes:

1/ The POPs listed in annex A (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for elimination.

* Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) is also listed in Part I of Annex C as a substance scheduled for reduction or elimination in conformity with article 5.

** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are also listed in Parts I of Annex C as a substance scheduled for reduction or elimination in conformity with article

5.

2/ The POPs listed in annex B (part I) to the Stockholm Convention on POPs are substances scheduled for restriction.

*** DDT is also listed in Part II of annex B.

XXII. SAMOA

Government of Samoa
 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 Apia, Samoa

30 September 2002

Mr Jim Willis
 Executive Secretary,
 Att, Comments requested by POPs INC-8
 Interim Secretariat for Stockholm Convention
 UNEP Chemicals
 Geneva Switzerland
 Fax: 41 22 797 3460

Dear Sir,

Information Requested by Sixth Session of the
 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Stockholm Convention

We have endeavored to provide where possible, comments in response to your communication soliciting information requested in POPs INC-6 decisions. Comments however have been confined mainly to the Draft Terms of Reference for the Feasibility Study on Regional and Sub-Regional Centres and is as follows:

- 2 a) Priorities for technical assistance would in Samoa's case, include the Management of POPs in terms of waste and obsolete chemicals and chemical sites including sites with buried pesticides.
- 2 b) During INC-6 sub regional assistance for capacity building and transfer of technology was discussed to include the little known area of Best Available Techniques(BAT) and Best Environmental Practices(BEP).
- 2 c) The relevant subregional centres must include that of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme(SPREP), which was accorded formal legal status as an autonomous environmental regional organization in 1993, with its headquarters in Apia, Samoa. There are 26 members of SPREP. The nearest Basel Convention regional centre in Indonesia is virtually unknown to countries in the Pacific thus the preference would be to utilize the existing regional body to facilitate capacity building and transfer of technology.
- 2 d) Existing arrangements include that for technical assistance in alternatives to pesticides from the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission (SPC) in Fiji and the Subregional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Samoa particularly In the area of Integrated Pest Management. Both organizations collaborated initially with SPREP in 1990 in an Agro-Pesticide Index for the Pacific which is now out of date although still a relatively useful primary reference. Industrial chemicals are a virtually unstudied area.
- 2 e) The experiences in negotiations of the Rotterdam as well as the Basel and Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol should be relevant.
- 2 g) Case studies should include that of the SPREP sub regional centre for capacity building and technology transfer for PTS etc.
- 2 h) The Capacity Assistance Network resolved by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries should include sub-regional networking largely established in the Pacific through PTS workshops.

UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/16

We trust that the above information will be found useful by the Secretariat.

[original signed by]

Yours faithfully,

Sharon G. Potoi-Aiafi

For: SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

XXIII. SWITZERLAND

Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

UNEP Chemicals
Dr Jim Willis
Geneva
by E-mail to
ssc@chemicals.unep.ch

REQUEST NR. 1 IN THE LETTER DATED AUG. 13, 2002

Dear Dr Willis

In this letter please find the Swiss responses to the requests for information described in your letter of August 13, 2002.

We agree with the draft format for a register of specific exemptions as outlined in UNEP/POPs/INC-6/INF6, and we have no comments or proposals regarding the other points addressed in this request 1.

We thank you very much for considering our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Georg Karlaganis, Head
Substances, Soil and Biotechnology Division

Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

REQUEST NR. 2 IN THE LETTER DATED AUG. 13, 2002

Dear Dr Willis

In this letter please find the Swiss responses to the requests for information described in your letter of August 13.

We have at this point in time no specific concerns regarding a clearing-house mechanism regarding POPs, and we are looking forward to the solution the secretariat will propose at INC-7. Still, we hope that this mechanism will be relatively simple and INTERNET-based, and we would be happy, if it had the quality and transparency we find in UNEP's home-page.

We thank you very much for considering our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Georg Karlaganis, Head
Substances, Soil and Biotechnology Division

**Decision INC-6/9: Feasibility Study on regional and subregional centres
UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22
(Annex 1 of the report of POPs INC 6, 17- 21 June 2002)
Comments from Switzerland
Berne, 11 November 2002**

The report of the sixth session of the POPs INC (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22) invites governments to provide written comments on different questions and based on a scheme sent in an information solicit letter of the Executive Secretary to the POPs Convention dated 13 August 2002. Switzerland would like to submit the following remarks, proposals and information based on request number 3 on page four in the above mentioned letter.

Article 1 para a:

One of the major priorities of Switzerland on technical arrangements for developing countries is a coherent and comprehensive implementation concerning the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes by using a comprehensive approach, which means a close co-operation of the PIC-/POPs- and Basel Convention.

Article 1 para c:

Introduction:

Switzerland could contribute to the case studies referred in Decision INC-6/10 in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22 by sharing its experiences gained in similar bilateral projects, e.g. the following assessment on PCB.

Assessment of the PCB Situation and Compilation of a PCB Inventory in Morocco; Contribution of Morocco and Switzerland to the case studies referred to in decision INC6/10

PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyl) is a major pollutant in the Group of POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants). PCBs pose a threat to the environment because of their toxicity, persistence and tendency to bioaccumulate.

Each party shall formulate a national action plan describing the actions to be taken to reach the targets of the Convention.

In the course of the preparation of the First Continental Conference for Africa on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste held in Morocco in January 2001, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation decided to support a project in Morocco related to the environmentally sound management of Hazardous Waste.

The overall aim of the project was an action plan for sound PCB management in Morocco. This action plan comprised information on:

- the use, registration and labeling of PCB material (inventory);
- monitoring;
- suitable sampling and testing procedures;
- legal aspects;
- appropriate (temporary) storage;
- toxicity aspects;
- safety precautions; and
- options and methods for safe disposal.

The Kingdom of Morocco sought the assistance of Switzerland in assessing the PCB situation in the country, because

- there are no national regulations that restrict or ban the import and use of PCBs;
- there are no regulations that govern the safe handling and disposal of PCBs (apart from the Basel Convention);
- there is no information available about PCBs in use and stockpiled;
- there is no information available about possible risks; and
- the Kingdom of Morocco wants to protect its population and the environment.

This project was the basis for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Morocco. The Convention obliges all contracting parties to make efforts to identify and phase out PCB containing electrical equipment by 2025 and to dispose of such hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner by 2028.

The project "PCB Assessment and PCB Inventory in Morocco" thus aimed at:

- raising awareness of potential sources of PCBs and their hazards;
- building capacities and know how in Morocco (e.g. national laboratory, inspectors),
- evaluating the quantity and the quality of PCB equipment in use; and
- formulating a national action plan for the environmentally sound management of PCB equipment.

Phases of the project

The project started in May 2000 and the assessment (Phase I) was concluded in May 2001. It was then decided to extend the project in order to lay the groundwork for a national inventory and an action plan (Phase II). Phase II was completed by Spring 2002.

Conclusions from Phase I (assessment):

- power companies and major industries know about PCBs and their hazards;
- small companies, however, are not at all aware of PCBs and their dangers;
- personal initiative is completely missing;
- there are no appropriate disposal facilities in Morocco itself;
- transportation to European high temperature incineration plants is expensive;
- there is no financial support from international organisations.

Aims of Phase II (inventory):

- to increase the awareness of PCBs and their hazards throughout the country;
- to organise workshops in different regions to disseminate the necessary knowledge;
- to collect information regarding equipment containing PCBs by carrying out surveys;
- to test transformers and reserve oil for PCBs;
- to compile a national inventory;
- to record the data in a data base;
- to formulate an action plan.

Article 2:

Switzerland greatly favours the proposed feasibility Study on possible areas of co-operation amongst the Basel Convention Regional Centres, the Cleaner Production Centres and the future POPs Convention Centres. Such co-operation and collaboration amongst different regional and subregional centres enhances synergies on capacity building, the transfer of technology and other aspects as well as it ensures significant cost savings for all the stakeholders involved. For Switzerland it is therefore crucial, that such a feasibility Study involves both aspects: the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. We are

convinced, that a broad co-operation amongst chemical and wastes Centres increases the number of implemented projects due to the availability of specialist and experts on the spot and due to the necessary logistical facilities already installed in such centres.

Based on the knowledge gained from the PCB project described under Article 1 para c, Switzerland would like to point out, that a successful regional implementation of the POPs Convention can only be guaranteed through a close collaboration between the POPs- and the Basel Convention and its Regional Training Centres. We therefore think, that the elements suggested in the attached draft Terms of Reference are useful, but very ambitious. In the item (c) the capacity of the centres can be assessed rather in the qualitative than in the quantitative sense. Switzerland favours a clear identification of the regional and subregional Centres from Basel and other Conventions, which are already today fully operative and therefore ready to collaborate. In this context the Study should furthermore address actual institutional and financial challenges of existing regional Training Centres in order to become operational. In this context a list of the requested pre-conditions for a possible co-operation should be showed as a result of the feasibility Study.

Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

REQUEST NR. 5 (comments on timing and format of Party reporting under POPs convention) IN THE LETTER DATED AUG. 13, 2002

Dear Dr Willis

In this letter please find the Swiss responses to the requests for information described in your letter of August 13.

Taking the opportunity to comment upon format and timing of Party reporting under the POPs-convention (Art. 15) we would like to suggest the following:

- The reporting on measures taken and their effectiveness should be in line with the national implementation plan (NIP) of the country in question. It should not be too strictly formalized by some kind of computer program, but rather allow countries to freely address their specific problems and approaches to solving them. Nevertheless, submission by E-mail would be the preferred means of transmission of the information.
- The periodicity of the reporting as addressed above should, however, be short enough to enable a sufficient control of the efficacy of the measures taken – especially in the case of countries supported by the COP's financial mechanism. It should be initiated, once the NIPs of the respective countries are available.
- The statistical data on total quantities of production, import, and export might have to be reported in a more strict format, but this format should still be flexible enough to tolerate, e.g., the transmission of compounded data or ranges, and it should at any rate include the possibility to leave blanks and add explanatory remarks.
- The detailed reporting on amounts and products imported from or exported to given States might not be possible right away for all the Parties. Therefore, it should be initiated on a voluntary basis as soon as possible, while becoming mandatory only later and only to a useful extent.
- It would be advantageous, if the Secretariat provided an initial reporting instrument early enough to (i) possibly have some figures already at the first COP (they would be based on voluntary reporting) and (ii) possibly take the respective COP-decisions on the grounds of first practical experience.
- The respective statistical figures would preferably be reported annually later-on, i.e. after the first COP and over time with increasing precision.

We thank you very much for considering our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Georg Karlaganis, Head
Substances, Soil and Biotechnology Division

XXIV. TOGO

**MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES RESSOURCES FORESTIERS**

DIRECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

**REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE
Travail-Liberté-Patrie**

Monsieur le Directeur de l'environnement

Monsieur Jim Willis, Secrétaire exécutif
Secrétariat provisoire de la Convention de Stockholm

**Objet : Observations sur le projet d'éléments d'étude de faisabilité sur les centres
régionaux et sous-régionaux**

Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif,

Le Gouvernement de la République Togolaise présente ses compliments au Secrétariat provisoire et le félicite d'avoir bien voulu préparer et soumettre à l'appréciation des gouvernements un document de travail sur le projet d'élément d'étude de faisabilité sur les centres régionaux et sous-régionaux au titre de la Convention de Stockholm.

Le Togo estime que les éléments inclus dans le projet sont tous pertinents et constituent une base suffisante pour les discussions à venir sur l'assistance technique aux Parties qui en ont besoin conformément aux dispositions de l'article 12 de la Convention.

En conséquence, le Togo soutient la proposition du Secrétariat.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Fait à Lomé, le 30 septembre 2002

Le Directeur de l'environnement

Signé

DJERI-ALASSANI Bougonou

XXV. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Decision INC-6/3: Register of specific exemptions (Articles 3 and 4 and annexes A and B)

Format of the Register

The U.S. believes that it is useful to retain the last column in the Draft Format of the Register entitled "Remarks." This column provides important additional information on the scope of the exemptions for individual countries. In this regard, we think it would be useful to clarify in a footnote the type of information to be included in this column. We suggest the following text for the footnote: "This column specifies any further limitations in the scope of its specific exemption identified by a Party."

In this connection, we would also strongly encourage that such further limitations on the scope of individual exemptions be included in the Register. This will help clarify the nature of the exemption and, where a party so indicates, help narrow the exemption - - in support of the basic objectives of the Convention.

Process to Review Entries in the Register called for in Para. 5 of Article 4 of the Convention

As we mentioned at INC-6, we believe that the development of the review process of Register entries needs to have the benefit of considerable country input, and we appreciate having the opportunity to comment in this regard.

Regarding process elements that are not specified in the Convention, the U.S. believes we should focus the discussion on key logistical and process aspects and should look to relevant elements in the Convention in developing the process. For example, Annex F provides a good model for the types of information that should be provided in country reports justifying the need for a specific exemption, and the POPRC should be considered as providing a potentially useful forum to undertake a technical review of the proposals prior to consideration by the COP.

In particular, as identified in INC.6/4, logistical and process issues that should be the focus of discussion include: the types of information "required" in reports to justify the continuing need for an exemption (relevant to Art. 4.6); when the Secretariat must circulate exemption justification reports (Art. 4.6); any period the parties have to review reports (Art. 4.6); the processes for collection and circulation of all the information to be considered in the exemption review process (Art. 4.6); the timing of the submission to the secretariat of extension requests under Art. 4.7; and the process by which the COP will review a request by a party to extend a registration (Art. 4.7).

The U.S. believes it would not be a good use of the INC's time to get into policy aspects of the review process such as consideration of the "criteria that need to be fulfilled to justify extension of a registration." The Convention does not discuss a role for criteria in the COP's decisions on exemption extensions, and the need for and nature of any such criteria should be developed based on the experience and deliberations of the COP, rather than a priori by the INCs.

We believe that exemptions need not be justified in the Art. 4.6 reports as essential, for example, in accordance with criteria such as is required under the Montreal Protocol. Nor do we believe that exemptions need to be considered essential under this type of criteria to be considered for an extension under Article 4.7.

Separately, the United States draws your attention to an important mistake in the way the Secretariat has characterized the process for invoking a specific exemption in the background section of its paper on specific exemptions (INC.6/4). Paragraph 2 of that paper states that "Parties that are States may register for specific exemptions on OR AFTER the day on which it becomes a Party." In fact, the treaty requires that a State may register for such an exemption, via a notification to the Secretariat, only at the time it becomes Party (i.e., at the time that the treaty enters into force for it); it does not permit an open-ended process whereby such notifications can take place at any time thereafter. We believe that this result is clear both from the text of article 4(3) and from the intention of the negotiators in Johannesburg.

Article 4(3) provides that "Any State may, on becoming a Party, by means of a notification in writing to the Secretariat, register" for a specific exemption. In this context, it is clear that the phrase "on becoming a Party" means "at the time that it becomes a Party." If there had been a contrary intention to create an open-ended process, there would have been no need to use the phrase "on become a Party" at all; the text could have simply provided that "Any state that is a party may register..." It seems that the Secretariat interprets the term "on becoming a Party" to mean "on becoming a Party *or at any time thereafter.*" But that latter term does not appear in the treaty, which was clearly drafted to reflect the intention of the negotiators that a state have only one opportunity to register for these exemptions.

We therefore request that you take appropriate steps to correct any misimpression that may have been created by the inaccurate language in INC.6/4 so as to avoid any confusion on this important point in the future.

INC-6/7: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants

The U.S. supports the concept of a clearing-house with a limited, affordable mandate. The clearinghouse should divert minimal resources from other high priority activities, such as providing technical assistance to countries to implement the Stockholm Convention. For the near term, we envision a significantly narrower scope than the proposal presented at INC-6 (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/INF/7) where the mechanism would focus on receiving and disseminating information in the most cost-effective manner using electronic means wherever possible.

Such a limited scope clearing-house can be developed that focuses on fulfilling priority needs. Expanding the scope for the clearing-house mechanism can be considered in the future, if deemed appropriate. The U.S. recommends a phased approach to the clearing-house mechanism (CHM). Consideration should be given to modeling the CHM after elements of other similar efforts, while limiting the scope as we note above, such as the CHM for Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The first phase could be a pilot phase (such an approach was taken in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol), in which the CHM would function to facilitate the exchange of POPs-relevant information. As a preliminary structure for the CHM, the U.S. suggests use of the existing UNEP POPs homepage, where some of the information suggested in the proposal is already maintained. Guiding concepts for such efforts would be to make it neutral, cost-effective, efficient, accessible, independent, and transparent to the extent possible. Consideration could later be given to a broadening of the scope of the CHM as deemed appropriate by the Parties based on initial experience with running it.

Promotion of access could be accomplished via ongoing activities, such as the UNEP Chemicals Information Exchange Network (CIEN). This project was launched jointly in 1999 with the United States and is now also supported by Switzerland. CIEN has provided Internet access to POPs focal points in Africa and will be expanded to Central America. Toward the end of the pilot, later versions of the clearing-house would be altered based on experience with the CAN and other technical assistance and information exchange activities.

Information needed for the implementation of the Convention could be added as it becomes available, such as NIPs, case studies of POPs TA projects, the DDT register, information on POPs research and monitoring. An independent review of the pilot could evaluate lessons learned and assist in the possible later consideration of altering the scope of the CHM (CBD pilot phase report states most useful aspects of that CHM was providing access to information and facilitating partnerships and information sharing). The clearing-house should not include any confidential business information.

Decision INC-6/8: Guidance on Technical Assistance

... views and information on priorities and arrangements regarding technical assistance...

The United States has already provided extensive technical and financial assistance targeting POPs to a number of other countries. We refer Parties to POPs/INC.4/CRP.2 “Current and prospective international POPs activities implemented and/or funded by United States Government agencies,” for a list of past assistance priorities with regard to POPs. To maximize resources technical agencies in the U.S. will attempt to coordinate ongoing efforts to address POPs as much as possible. Therefore, some future activities will likely build to some extent on the priorities and arrangements of certain past activities. However, the U.S. also places a high priority on the outcomes of the NIP planning process in order to gauge where best technical and financial assistance can provide support. Any additional available information will be taken into account from developing countries and countries with economies in transition identifying their needs for technical assistance, such as that solicited by the interim secretariat after INC-6. It may be that these considerations will lead to a prioritization for assistance for certain countries or within certain sectors as we gain more experience. A standardized format for reporting case studies may be helpful in developing consistent information. Finally, it is very important to reflect on the impact of the work done after the initial phase of technical assistance, in order to take away some lessons learned.

Decision INC-6/10: Case studies on regional and subregional centers

The United States offers a contribution of technical expertise to assist in conducting a review of the case study report. We look forward to case studies that contribute to the INC's/COP's ability to assesses cost-effective ways of delivering the technical assistance needs identified by developing countries through regional and sub-regional centers; that examine existing regional programs that could provide support, including various IOMC activities and efforts under relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements; and that help provide insight on the most appropriate partners.

INC6/16: the Format and Timing of Party Reporting

The United States submits the following comments in response to the request for information on the format and timing of Party Reporting.

1. The reporting format under article 15 should be simple to reduce burden and allow a focus on important implementation measures, particularly in early years.
2. With respect to reporting under article 15.1, we suggest that the NIP a Party must prepare under article 7 should satisfy this requirement, at least for the first 6 years after entry into force. This is because the NIP should fully satisfy the requirement to report on measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention. And it won't make sense to report on effectiveness of those measures until they have been in place for several years. We would therefore suggest that the reporting frequency be: NIP at year 2, report on effectiveness at year 6 and at 4-year intervals thereafter.
3. In order to minimize reporting burdens on Parties, reporting on the statistical elements required in Article 15.2 should be linked to the timing of the larger effectiveness reports under Article 15.1. We think that the elements set out in 15.2 are simple and straightforward, and could easily be placed into a table format as a template for reporting those required elements.
4. The Secretariat should be prepared to accept electronic reporting from Parties as that may ease the burden on countries and also allow for easier dissemination as appropriate.

XXVI. URUGUAY

MINISTERIO DE VIVIENDA ORDENAMIENTO TERRITORIAL Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

*Montevideo, 31 de octubre de 2002.**Sr. James B. Willis**Director UNEP Sector Quimicos*

Of. 1026/2002

*Ref. Convenio de Estocolmo. Centros Regionales y Subregionales**De mi mayor consideración:*

En relación a la Decisión INC-6/10, el Gobierno de Uruguay presenta su más firme propuesta de que uno de los proyectos experimentales se realice en el Centro Coordinador de Capacitación y Transferencia de Tecnología del Convenio de Basilea para América Latina y el Caribe, con sede en Uruguay por decisión de la COP III de dicho Convenio (set. 1995).

Justifican este interés la política y el activo seguimiento llevado a cabo por el Gobierno Uruguayo respecto al bloque de químicos, manifestando en múltiples instancias una firme posición y total convencimiento sobre la importancia de favorecer las sinergias. Así como el compromiso asumido a través de las acciones concretas realizadas en las diferentes instancias en referencia a los Convenios mencionados, tales como:

- La realización de la Primera Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio de Basilea en Piriápolis - Uruguay, 1992.*
- El compromiso de ser sede del Centro Coordinador para América Latina y el Caribe en la COP III y firma del acuerdo entre la Autoridad Competente y la Secretaria del Convenio de Basilea para su implementación en 1998.*
- La declaración conjunta del Gobierno de Suiza y el Gobierno de Uruguay sobre el proyecto de hospedar en Uruguay la Primera COP de Estocolmo, INC-6, Ginebra 2002.*

Por lo expuesto y a los efectos de su consideración, tengo el agrado de remitir a Ud. el informe correspondiente al modo en que el gobierno de Uruguay podría contribuir en el proyecto experimental a que se hace referencia en la Decisión INC-6/10.⁶

Ambient

⁶ Full text of proposal available upon request to the interim secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

XXVII. YEMEN

Dr. Gamal Allozy
Posted At: Thursday, September 26, 2002 9:37 PM
Posted To: SSC

Conversation: Request No. 3, item 2, Feasibility Study on Regional and Subregional Centres
Subject: Request No. 3, item 2, Feasibility Study on Regional and Subregional Centres

Dear Mr. Willis,

Referring to the above subject we find that the terms of reference for the feasibility study are sufficient and cover all needs, but we have to add one item, namely, *to assess the financial/needs for those centres to cover all works should be done and achieved by the centres.*

Best regards.

Dr.Gamal Allozy
Stockholm Convention FP, Yemen
