

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

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Date: Geneva, 20 April 2016

Subject: Invitation to provide views on the methodology for evaluating the performance of regional centres under the Stockholm Convention

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I am writing with reference to decision SC-7/17 on regional centres adopted by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention that took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 to 15 May 2015.

In particular I would like to highlight paragraph 12 subparagraph (c) by which the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat “to consider possible adjustments to the methodology¹ for evaluating regional centres, taking into account lessons learned, the views of the centres, as well as the views of parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, and invites the centres and parties to provide their views on these by 30 June 2016”.

In light of the above, I would be grateful if you could submit the requested information to the Secretariat (TA@brsmeas.org) as soon as possible but not later than 30 June 2016.

I look forward to receiving your information.

Yours sincerely,



Rolph Payet
Executive Secretary

To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Coordinators of the Stockholm convention regional and subregional centres
Cc: Permanent Missions of all the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at Geneva

Enc.: Copy of decisions SC-7/17

¹ The Methodology for evaluating the regional centres is set out in [Annex III to decision SC-6/16](#)

Decision SC-7/17: Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology (*annex to decision not included*)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional and subregional centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance for capacity-building to support the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions in accordance with their terms of reference;

2. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves on areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

3. *Recalls* the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted by the conferences of the parties at their 2013 simultaneous extraordinary meetings,² by which the conferences of the parties made recommendations on follow-up to the review of the synergies arrangements which, among others, underline that synergies should be enhanced at the national and regional levels, with particular attention to reinforcing cooperation and coordination and rationalization of the Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention regional centres;

4. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, by which the Assembly acknowledged the role of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres to support the implementation of those conventions;

5. *Takes into account* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, that highlights the critical role that the sound management of chemicals and waste can play in promoting sustainable development and emphasizes its great relevance to the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Takes note of:*

(a) The information provided in the note by the Secretariat on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology;³

(b) The workplans for the biennium 2014–2015⁴ and activity reports for the period 2013–2014⁵ submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat⁶ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;⁷

(d) The report on the activities of the regional and subregional centres;⁸

7. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;⁹

8. *Notes* the performance of the regional centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in supporting developing-country parties;

9. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision;

² Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1, annex I.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11.

⁴ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>.

⁵ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReport/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

⁶ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13.

⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11, annex II.

⁸ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

⁹ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

10. *Underlines* the need to have an efficient and effective network of centres through greater institutional coordination and the promotion of the exchange of information, lessons learned and cooperation among them on areas of expertise in which they provide assistance, through regular communication, including meetings of the centres and increased use of other means of communication;

11. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

- (a) Their workplans for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019 by 30 September 2015;
- (b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 by 31 December 2016, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision, based on the performance evaluation methodology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(b) To prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, including an assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres;

(c) To consider possible adjustments to the methodology for evaluating regional centres, taking into account lessons learned, the views of the centres, as well as the views of parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, and invites the centres and parties to provide their views on these by 30 June 2016;

13. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, taking into account the possible adjustments referred to in paragraph 12 (c) above, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision and to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional and subregional centres under the Convention at its ninth meeting and every four years thereafter;

14. *Invites* developed-country parties and other parties, in accordance with their capabilities, to consider ways to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer under the Convention to promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes, sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment and further invites them to consider opportunities for effective and efficient cooperation with the regional centres in implementing the regional sound management of chemicals and wastes projects;

15. *Takes note* of the challenges faced by some centres and invites parties, as well as other regional centres in a position to do so, to cooperate with and support those regional centres through the exchange of best practices, the provision of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer;

16. *Recalls* that sustainable financial and technical resources are necessary for the centres to succeed in their work under the Convention and invites parties, observers and others in a position to do so, including industry and the wider private sector as well as relevant financial institutions, to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans aimed at supporting parties in implementing their obligations under the Convention;

17. *Invites* all regional and subregional centres undertaking activities on mercury-related issues under the Convention, including projects and activities about the dissemination of information, capacity-building and technology transfer, to provide the relevant information, which will be taken into account by the Secretariat for the evaluation, in accordance with the applicable synergy criterion, and requests the Secretariat to forward that information to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for possible consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury at its seventh session;

18. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to recommend concrete activities on synergies between the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres to the Conference of the Parties for possible decision;

(b) To continue to foster a synergistic approach in its relations with the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres, while recognizing the specificities and mandate of each centre;

(c) To continue to organize meetings every two years between the directors of regional centres and the Secretariat, including possible observers as appropriate, and if possible to consider additional meetings, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) To submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.