

**Report of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties of the
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Geneva, Switzerland, 5 October 2010.
(Revised version)**

1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention met at the International Environment House, Geneva on Tuesday 5 October 2010.
2. The meeting was attended by the President of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Gholamhossein Dehghani (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Vice-Presidents Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic), Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador), Mr. François Lengrand (France) and Ms. Caroline Njoki Wamai (Kenya). Vice-Presidents Mr. Jeffrey Headley (Barbados), Mr. Hubert Binga (Gabon), Mr. Rajiv Gauba (India), Ms. Liudmila Mardhuaeava (Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland) were unable to attend. Mr. Reiner Arndt (Germany), chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, attended the meeting as an ex-officio member.
3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Dehghani at 10.15 am.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

4. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

3. Report on the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

(a) Brief overview of the implementation of decisions

5. The Secretariat reported that the entire programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium had been successfully completed and the activities to be completed for the current biennium, 2010-2011, were progressing according to schedule. Of the thirty-five decisions taken at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, further information was provided on the status of Global Alliance for alternatives to DDT, the PCB Elimination Network and updating of the national implementation plans.

Global Alliance for alternatives to DDT

6. The Secretariat reported that the Global Alliance promoted a global partnership on the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control. The Secretariat noted that a functional structure for the Global Alliance had been established and work initiated on activities under it. The Secretariat stressed the need for countries to be ready for better coordination between environment and health sectors at the national level. The Secretariat was currently promoting that coordination as well as policy making towards using alternatives including integrated vector management. Partnerships were also being promoted with other initiatives and programmes to avoid duplication.
7. In the ensuing discussion information was provided on the format of presentation of the report on the Global Alliance to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties including examples from some countries. The report would be prepared on the basis of country level examples; where several country level examples were similar some regional reporting might be prepared.
8. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

PCB Elimination Network

9. The Secretariat reported that implementation of the PCB Elimination Network was proceeding well. Currently there were 470 members in the network. A principal activity had been the production of a PCB Elimination Network magazine with active input from the network members. Additional membership was being encouraged from all regions and all stakeholder groups. It was stressed that maximum participation would strengthen effective information exchange.

10. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a short paper describing the PCB Elimination Network and to make available a list of the current membership. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

Updating national implementation plans

11. The Secretariat reported that on 26 August 2010 the obligations associated with the amendments to the Convention to list the nine additional persistent organic pollutants entered into force for most of the parties (the exceptions being parties that either opted-out of those obligations or those parties that indicated that they were not bound to such amendments unless they opt-in to the amendments through ratification). Parties for which those obligations apply would be expected to update their national implementation plans to take the nine new persistent organic pollutants into consideration within two years. Some funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) would be available for eligible Parties for updating those plans. The Secretariat would be preparing a number of guidance documents to assist with the process of updating.

12. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

(b) Specific issues for the attention of the Bureau

(i) Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

13. The Secretariat noted that the sixth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee would be held from 11-15 October 2010 in Geneva. That meeting was expected to review three chemicals, endosulfan, hexabromocyclododecane and short-chained chlorinated paraffin's, and address certain generic issues including the new persistent organic pollutants work programme, rotation of membership, conflict of interest issues and effective participation of countries. The Secretariat said 14 of the 31 members of the Committee would have to be replaced for the period 2012-2016, 4 from Africa, 4 from Asia, 1 from Central and Eastern Europe, 2 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 3 from Western European and other States. The Secretariat suggested that regions be prepared for nominations and related discussions on rotation of Committee members at the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

14. The Secretariat noted that if the Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties the listing of endosulfan in the Stockholm Conventions, parties would be notified of that fact by 25 October 2010, six months prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

15. Mr. Arndt gave an overview of the work of the Committee leading to the current status of discussions on endosulfan. He said that should the Committee decide to propose endosulfan for listing, parties should come prepared to discuss the issue at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. The Bureau conveyed its wishes for a successful meeting of the Committee.

(ii) Fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and further developments on the System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources

17. The Secretariat noted that the overall replenishment of the GEF amounted to 4.25 billion U.S. dollars of which 420 million U.S. dollars were allocated to chemicals issues including persistent

organic pollutants, ozone, sound management of chemicals and negotiations on a legally binding instrument for mercury. For persistent organic pollutants, 375 million U.S. dollars were allocated.

18. The Secretariat said the GEF Council had decided persistent organic pollutants would not be included in its System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), which replaced the previous Resource Allocation Framework. However, that decision will be re-evaluated in two years time.

19. The funds received would mainly be used for work on the original list of persistent organic pollutants and the majority of the money allocated to work on new persistent organic pollutants would be for updating National Implementation Plans and, where possible, some demonstration projects.

20. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

(iii) Regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology under the Convention

21. The Secretariat reported that it had received three new nominations of institutions to serve as Stockholm Convention Regional Centres: International Centre of Integrated Pest Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, Kenya; African Institute for Management of Hazardous Wastes and other Wastes in Pretoria, South Africa; and National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI) in Nagpur, India. The Secretariat had initiated the process of verifying whether the nominated centres met the criteria for selection and to this end submitted an information note to the Bureau providing information on the newly proposed centres. The Bureau was requested to provide comments on the information note to the Secretariat by the end of October. It was expected that further discussion on the centres nominated would take place at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

22. In the ensuing discussion the benefits provided by the regional and subregional centres was noted and the positive impacts in programme implementation commended. It was further noted that a meeting of all the Basel and Stockholm Convention centres and UNEP and FAO regional offices had been convened to promote coordination and collaboration among the three Conventions at the regional and national levels. It was envisioned that these meetings would take place on an annual basis.

23. The Bureau noted the request to provide comments on the information note by end October 2010.

(iv) Reporting

24. The Secretariat reported on the enhanced electronic system for reporting and for which a user manual had been developed in all languages of the United Nations. Training workshops in the use of the enhanced electronic system had been held, one in the Latin America and Caribbean region, two in Africa and one in the Eastern European region. An updated format for reporting had been prepared to tie-in with the requirements of the effectiveness evaluation group and to ensure its user-friendliness. Several national reporting days had also been held to attract attention to the requirement to report and to provide a troubleshooting service. The electronic system for reporting permitted the Secretariat to note the status of reporting and to date only six reports had been received. Several reminders had already been sent to parties, UNEP MEA focal points and regional centres and been requested to assist in transmitting the message. Given it was a key obligation under the Convention and that the deadline for the current round of reporting was 31 October 2010, the Secretariat wished to draw the attention of the Bureau to the issue and request advice on how the process of reporting could be expedited.

25. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that the new format required that previous reporting could not be simply updated for the current report because of the many changes to the format. However, that may be possible for future reporting. One concern was raised on getting the request for reporting to the appropriate person at the national level. To that end it was suggested that

efforts be made to ensure the national focal point was informed and the list of national focal points kept up-to-date.

26. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

4. Report on the implementation of the omnibus decision adopted by the conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their simultaneous extraordinary meeting held from 22 to 24 February 2010

27. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of the omnibus synergies decision covering joint activities, joint managerial functions, joint services, synchronization of budget cycles, joint audits and review arrangements. Joint activities had focused on parties and other stakeholders undertaking cooperative and coordinated activities to implement synergies decisions. The secretariats of the three conventions were requested to develop joint activities and cross-cutting proposals for possible inclusion in the 2012-2013 workplans and a revised workplan for a shared clearing-house mechanism for the three conventions for consideration in 2011. Joint activities proposals were being prepared by the secretariats and would be considered for inclusion in the budgets of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions by their respective conferences of the parties. Some activities would entail cost-sharing across the three conventions and others only two. The budget proposals put forward at each of the three conferences of the parties would include separate synergies sections to reflect joint activities.

28. Joint managerial functions included the decision to establish a joint head of the secretariats of the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP part of the Rotterdam conventions. The Executive Director of UNEP had consulted with the bureaux of the three conferences on the job description prior to initiating recruitment. Only one comment had been received and appreciation had been expressed of UNEP's transparency in managing the process. The position was currently advertised with a closing date for applications of 12 October 2010. It was expected that the joint head would be appointed later in 2010. The vacancy notice had been broadly distributed to reach a wide audience.

29. Joint managerial function also included a request to the UNEP Executive Director in consultation with the Director General of FAO to develop a proposal for the modification of the organization of the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP part of the Rotterdam conventions secretariats for consideration by their respective conferences of the parties no later than 2013. That would also address the possible continuation of the joint head function. The Executive Director had initiated work in this area.

30. Joint services included the formal establishment of the joint services for financial and administrative support, legal matters, information technology, information and resource mobilization. The decision included a request to the UNEP Executive Director in consultation with the Director General of FAO and the joint head to develop a proposal for the modification of the organization of the secretariats for consideration by the meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2011 that would take effect in the 2012-2013 biennium. Given the close relationship between that request and the one under joint managerial functions, the Executive Director expressed a wish for the parties to consider them together at the 2011 meetings of the conferences. Such proposals could, however, only be finalized after the appointment of the Joint Head.

31. The synchronization of the budget cycles had already been agreed at previous meetings of the conferences of the parties and that synchronization process would take effect for the 2012-2013 biennium. Similarly the meetings of the conferences of the parties would consider audits prepared by the UN Office on Internal Oversight Services on each of the conventions in 2011. The audit was expected to be conducted in the latter part of 2010.

32. Review arrangements included two processes: one by the secretariats that included input from parties through a questionnaire and the secretariats' own views; and the second by UNEP and FAO evaluation units based on the input from parties, the secretariats and other stakeholders. Terms of reference for both processes would be considered and adopted by the meetings of the conferences of the parties of the three conventions in 2011. The two reports with the evaluations would be considered by the respective conferences in 2013.

33. Pre-session documents on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three Conventions were being prepared, would be essentially the same for the three conferences of the parties in 2011 and would cover all the issues set out in the omnibus decisions on synergies. The documents would be distributed in early March 2011 and would first be considered by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention. The joint head would submit the document on modification of the organization of the secretariats and as such the timing of the distribution of that document might be affected by the timing of the recruitment of the joint head.

34. The Secretariat noted that the decisions on synergies would have to be done sequentially at the meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2011. The Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention would be the first to take place and the decision adopted on synergies there should also be adopted by the conferences of the parties of the Rotterdam and Basel Convention without substantive amendments. Consequently, it was important that parties take into consideration how decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention might relate to both the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions.

35. It was suggested that to ensure that decisions regarding matters of common interest were taken in a coordinated manner by the three conferences of the parties, a joint meeting of the bureaux of the three conferences of the parties could be convened prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and, ideally, during the six week period prior to that meeting. The Secretariat noted that the same proposal had been made by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. If the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention were to agree to such a joint meeting, arrangements could then be made by the Secretariats of the three conventions to convene it. The Secretariat recalled, however, that the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention would not be holding its next meeting until late March 2011.

36. The Bureau took note of the information provided and voiced its support for the convening of a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the conferences of the parties of the three conventions.

5. Budget performance and collection of assessed contributions

37. The Secretariat reported on the staffing and the status of the general trust fund. The recruitment for all new posts had been finalized and the Secretariat was fully staffed. It was noted that the United Nations was changing its recruitment process and the previous Galaxy system would be phased out at the end of October 2010 and had been replaced by a new system. All vacant posts would henceforth be announced on that system.

38. The Secretariat said the balance funds from prior periods amounted to almost 1.6 million dollars however those funds could not be carried to the new biennium. It was noted that amount was not from the previous biennium but prior to that and no carryover was expected from the current biennium. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be requested to provide advice on how those funds could be used. Thus far for 2010 nearly 86 percent of assessed contributions had been received. Reminders for payments of arrears had been sent in September 2009 and April 2010. There would be difficulties in completing the programme of work activities if not all funds were received, however 150,000 dollars would be transferred from the fund balance as per decision by COP-4 (decision SC-4/1, paragraph 5) to ensure all activities were completed.

39. Thirty-eight parties were in arrears of over two years or more eleven of who were not least developed countries or small-island developing states. Those eleven states were being sent a letter requesting a status report by 31 October 2010 on steps they would take to clear the outstanding amount.

40. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

6. Contributions to the Special (voluntary) Trust Fund and implementation of activities pertaining to it

41. The Secretariat reported that to date, contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund amounted to approximately 888,000 dollars in support of the approved programme of work budget of approximately 3.7 million dollars for 2010. The unspent balance from 2009 was estimated at approximately 2.5 million dollars and was carried over into 2010. As of 31 August 2010 approximately 852,000 dollars excluding the earmarked operating reserve of approximately 624,000 dollars, was available for use in accordance with the approved voluntary budget. It was to be noted, however that almost 90 percent of those funds were earmarked by donors for specific projects or programmes. In addition pledges for 2010 for approximately 879,000 dollars had been received and contributions were expected in the forthcoming months.

42. The Secretariat said that currently there were no funds for travel of representative of parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention. Letters were being sent by the Secretariat to all parties requesting funding to assist in covering the costs of participants travel.

43. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

7. New initiatives to be presented for consideration by the Conference of the Parties

(a) Brokering Service

44. The Secretariat reported on the development of a brokering service to facilitate and coordinate access of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to capacity assistance. The service was being developed to match donor requests to fund specific activities in specific regions and recipient country requests for specific technical and financial assistance. The aim was to assist countries with specific needs to be aware of the full spectrum of capacity assistance available at the global, regional and national level. The goals of the service were to enhance communication among stakeholders, facilitate partnerships, provide advice, enhance dissemination of good practices and lessons learned, and foster regional and global cooperation. A first consultation meeting with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as the secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions was held on 14-15 January 2010 in Jongny, Switzerland to assess the initial interest in a brokering service, develop the functions and elements and identify barriers to accessing capacity assistance. Given the participation of the three conventions in this activity it could be envisaged that the service would become a component the synergies work programme. While the Secretariat was already undertaking brokering a proposal would be made to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to formalize the service.

45. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that for the service to be a success full cooperation from donors and recipients would be necessary. In response to a request for clarification it was noted that currently each Convention provided some form of brokering service to its own parties but no joint programme existed as yet. It was highlighted that the brokering service would aim to match supply and demand for assistance at which time the Secretariat role would cease allowing the two entities to work with each other. The Secretariat would remain available for further assistance if necessary. Responding to another question the Secretariat said there were no immediate plans for UNEP Chemicals or the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to join such an activity but that eventuality was not excluded if they so wished. It was suggested that regional centres could be used to assist a brokering service, as their location near national implementation activities was important.

46. The Bureau took note of the information provided and supported the initiative to develop a brokering service.

(b) Outreach

(i) Persistent Organic Pollutants and Climate Change

47. The Secretariat made a presentation on an initiative to predict the impact of and examine the links between climate change and persistent organic pollutants. It was recognized that the release, distribution and degradation of persistent organic pollutants was highly dependent on environmental conditions hence climate variability and climate change had the potential to affect

persistent organic pollutant levels through changes in emission sources, transport processes and pathways. It was recognized that persistent organic pollutants and climate change each placed stress on the environment; there was a need to examine the combined effect of the two. In order to do that biological monitoring had to be refined.

48. The first global monitoring report under the Global Monitoring Programme recognized the importance of climatic effects on persistent organic pollutants and noted that the effects of climate on the transport and partitioning of persistent organic pollutants had the potential to complicate significantly the interpretation of measurements of persistent organic pollutants in environmental media. That would have implications for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention, as the measured levels of persistent organic pollutants would include a climate-induced component and moreover might have an impact on data supporting the listing of new persistent organic pollutants. There was hence a need to consider possible climatic effects when interpreting temporal trend data for pops in core media measured under the Global Monitoring Programme.

49. To address the issue the Secretariat established an expert group gathering scientists from all regions to examine the scientific data and draft a scientific review document for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

50. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that some fragmented work on the issues was on-going such as the impact on human health in the Arctic and the study by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme to assess the impact of climate change on persistent organic pollutants in the European Union. However more attention was need to the issue at the global level. It was noted that the initiative was being undertaken in full cooperation with the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Bureau was informed that any relevant information available in their regions could be submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the report being prepared for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

51. The Bureau took note of the information provided and expressed support for the initiative on persistent organic pollutants and climate change.

(ii) Safe Planet Campaign

52. The Secretariat made a presentation on the UN Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes, also called the Safe Planet Campaign, which had been launched during the simultaneous extraordinary conferences of the parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Bali, Indonesia, in February 2010. The campaign was a framework for the newly established joint information service and global programmes of public awareness and outreach. The campaign addressed all stakeholders and used a variety of models and tools, including the media, national celebrities, musical events and social networks, to promote the issue. One of the aims of working with the media on the Campaign was to demonstrate the link between activities under the Convention and the Campaign. The Secretariat stressed that the Campaign was not only global but also engaged with local communities. The Secretariats of the three Conventions were cooperating to ensure the success of the campaign.

53. The Secretariat noted that those populations exposed to hazardous chemicals and wastes as well as decision makers in the public and private sectors, civil society, the wider public and industry and green business would all benefit from the Campaign among others through increased awareness of the work of the Convention, increased funding from the private sector who were already expressing interest in the campaign and increases focus on the issue by governments that might encourage mainstreaming the issues into development and green economy programmes. Additional information was provided on public events planned for the future.

54. The Bureau took note of the information provided and an expressed support for the Safe Planet Campaign initiative.

(c) POPs free products programme

55. The Secretariat informed the meeting that, similar to the Safe Planet Campaign, the initiative for a persistent organic pollutants-free products programme had developed from a desire to expand

the outreach of the Convention. The main aims of the programme were to raise the awareness of end-users and consumers of products that might contain persistent organic pollutants, provide a means of information exchange on such products and facilitate the introduction of persistent organic pollutants-free products on the market by making publicly available a list of tested products. Under an initial phase, selected companies that are leaders in spearheading green business would be invited to send in persistent organic pollutants-free products to an independent lab that would verify that claim. The products would have to be credible substitutes and an attempt would be made to address companies in many different sectors and in all geographic regions. Participation in the programme would be voluntary and the cost of the testing would be borne by the participating company. The overarching strategy would be to focus on provision of information on persistent organic pollutants substitution. The link with the programme on chemical in products under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was noted.

56. In response to a request for clarification on how such a programme would link to the obligation to list substances that are in a product it was noted that the voluntary nature of the programme would attract companies wishing to promote their green business standards. It was suggested that while the Convention could oversee such an activity it should be left to industry to organize their participation in and implementation of the programme. Caution should also be exercised to not interfere with existing labelling requirements.

57. The Bureau took note of the information provided and expressed support for the initiative for a persistent organic pollutants-free products programme.

(d) Small Grants Programme involving regional centres

58. The main aim of the programme is to provide technical assistance for capacity building of eligible parties through Regional Centres by allocating funds to the selected project proposal on a competitive basis. Under the programme calls for proposals from regional centres were solicited that cost approximately 50,000 U.S. dollars. The programme could serve as a means to leverage larger projects. The Secretariat said that an amount of 100,000 US dollars had been received from the Government of Norway to initiate the programme, which had contributed to fund two projects in the first round. The programme was currently expanding beyond the Stockholm Convention to become a joint activity that also involved the Basel and Rotterdam conventions. Further contributions for the programme have been received from Norway and Sweden.

59. The Bureau took note of the information provided and expressed support for the activities under the Small Grants Programme.

(e) Global Environment Facility Medium- Sized Projects

60. The Secretariat informed the meeting that it had initiated cooperation on and facilitated the elaboration of two medium-sized GEF project proposals to prepare relevant guidance for parties to implement their obligations related to the new persistent organic pollutants. The first project involved the development of a set of guidance documents to assist parties in updating their National Implementation Plans. The second project would establish tools and methods to include the new persistent organic pollutants in the Global Monitoring Programme. Sampling and monitoring methods had to be expanded to cover the new persistent organic pollutants and a basis for analysis created according to international standards.

61. In the ensuing discussion the Secretariat was requested to update the information note on medium-sized project proposals to include the role of all executing and implementing agencies such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

62. The Bureau took note of the information and expressed support for the activities under the GEF medium sized projects.

8. Status of preparations for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

(a) Venue and date of the meeting

63. The Secretariat recalled that the date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties had to be changed following the withdrawal of an offer to host the meeting. Consequently, and agreed at a conference call with Bureau members in May 2010 to discuss the matter, the meeting would now be held from 25 to 29 April 2011 at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.

64. The Bureau took note of the information and expressed their gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for its assistance in securing the dates and venue of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(b) Paperless meeting

65. The Secretariat suggested that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be conducted as a paperless meeting as was done already at similar meetings (e.g., Meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legal globally binding instrument on mercury). While it was suggested that a limited number of laptop computers could be made available for those without them, it was noted that similar recent meetings had demonstrated that delegations were adapting to paperless meetings and few computers were being requested.

66. Savings would be made, as there would be almost no photocopying equipment, paper or technicians required. Much of those savings might be absorbed in setting up wireless and intranet facilities at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, however as the costs were being shared with the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, subsequent meetings would use the same equipment resulting in long-term savings. Printing stations would still be available for those wishing to make limited copies and it was expected that those wishing to distribute publications would bring with them the required number of copies. The Secretariat was urged to ensure the paperless meeting was as user friendly as possible.

67. The Bureau took note of the information provided expressed support for the conducting the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as a paperless meeting

(c) Election of the President at the fifth meeting

68. The Secretariat recalled that the President of the Conference of the Parties would normally rotate among the regions at each of the meetings of the Conference. Since the Presidents for the first four meetings of the Conference of the Parties were from Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Other states, Africa and Asia regions, at the fifth meeting, the presidency would be held by a representative from the Central and Eastern European region. It was the prerogative of that region to decide whether it would nominate one of the current Vice-Presidents to become President or whether it would choose another representative in which event one of the current Vice-Presidents would have to step down. The Secretariat noted that although there was no obligation to nominate the President until the start of the fifth meeting, the sooner the President was nominated and the Secretariat informed of that selection, the sooner the nominated President could begin working with the Secretariat to prepare for the meeting.

69. The Bureau member from the Czech Republic informed the meeting that a decision on who would stand for President from the Central and Eastern European region could be made at the Regional Awareness Raising workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia in early November. Thereafter the Secretariat would be informed of the decision taken.

70. The Bureau put forward its points of view on the possibility of modifying the terms of office of the President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention to take office at the close of one meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the close of the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as was done by the Conference of the Parties to Rotterdam Convention at its meeting. Currently the President was elected at the beginning of a meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the term of office began immediately thereafter and

ended at the election of the President of the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau considered it preferable to modify the term of office as discussed, as it would enable the President to work closely with the Secretariat during the entire interim period between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. It was noted that such a change would require an amendment to Rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure.

71. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

(d) Agenda for the meeting

72. The Secretariat introduced the draft provisional agenda that it had prepared in consultation with the secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions.

73. The bureau had no suggestions for modifying the draft provisional agenda. The President indicated that he agreed with the draft provisional agenda that had been prepared.

6. Other Matters

74. No other matters were raised.

7. Closure of the meeting

75. The meeting was declared closed at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 5 October 2010.
