Revised terms of reference and mandate of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group referred to in the annex to decision SC-4/31

A. Regional organization groups

* + - 1. Regional organization groups were established in the five United Nations regions by decision SC-3/19. The main objective of the regional organization groups is to define and implement the strategy for regional information gathering, including facilitating capacity‑enhancement activities, and to produce the regional monitoring reports.

1. Membership

* + - 1. The terms of membership are as follows:

(a) Members are appointed for a minimum six‑year period beginning after the Conference of the Parties has considered the report of an evaluation and ending after the results of the following evaluation are considered by the Conference;

(b) To maintain continuity, members may renew their terms for subsequent evaluations;

(c) If a member steps down, Parties from the region in question should nominate a new member with expertise in monitoring and data evaluation, submitting the nomination to theSecretariat through the Bureau members from their region.

2. Tasks

* + - 1. The tasks of each regional organization group will be guided by the recommendations put forward in the report of the co-chairs of the coordination group[[1]](#footnote-1) and the recommendations in the third[[2]](#footnote-2) and subsequent global monitoring reportsandwill include, among other things:

(a) Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the regional monitoring plan, taking into account the work already achieved;

(b) Identifying where existing suitable monitoring data are and are not available;

(c) Promoting and updating as necessary the regional strategy for implementation of the global monitoring plan;

(d) Promoting and helping to maintain regional, subregional and interregional monitoring networks and extending them as necessary to improve geographic coverage;

(e) Coordinating with Parties and experts on persistent organic pollutants involved in sampling and analytical arrangements;

(f) Checking compliance of persistent organic pollutants data with protocols for quality assurance and quality control, noting the examples described in the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants for sample collection and analytical methodologies, for data archiving and accessibility and for trend analysis methodologies to ensure quality and allow comparability of data;

(g) Ensuring and improving internal consistency of the methods and comparability of the data within a particular programme over time;

(h) Maintaining the interaction with other regional organization groups and the Secretariat, as appropriate;

(i) Identifying further capacity enhancement needs in its region;

(j) Assisting, for the purpose of filling gaps, in the preparation of project proposals, including through strategic partnerships;

(k) Preparing a summary of experiences in implementing the duties assigned in subparagraphs (h) and (j) above for transmission to the coordination group via the Secretariat;

(l) Preparing regional reports including, where appropriate, information from Antarctica;

(m) Encouraging transparency of communication and information dissemination within and between regions, noting the need for stakeholder involvement;

(n) Nominating for each evaluation cycle three of its members to serve in the global coordination group.

B. Global coordination group

* + - 1. The main objective of the global coordination group is to assist the Secretariat in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan and to produce the global monitoring report.
      2. The global coordination group will comprise three members from each region, nominated by the respective regional organization groups, and will meet at least twice during the evaluation periodto perform the following tasks:

(a) Assisting the Secretariat in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan, taking into account the work already undertaken;

(b) Assessing regional work with the aim of achieving consistency between regions;

(c) Identifying impediments to the implementation of the global monitoring plan and actions to tackle them;

(d) Updating the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants in the light of the listing of new chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, with the assistance of invited experts, as necessary;

(e) Establishing a coordinated cross-regional approach to analysing and assessing data on regional and global environmental transport, considering current international efforts;[[3]](#footnote-3)

(f) Nominating one of its members to serve on the effectiveness evaluation committee;

(g) Promoting:

(i) Experience-sharing within and between regions;

(ii) Capacity‑enhancement to fill gapsin coverage for the core media where possible;

(iii) Comparability between air monitoring programmes in support of modelling and assessment of the global long-range transport of persistent organic pollutants;

(iv) Awareness of the results of the global monitoring plan;

(h) Reporting on the results of the global monitoring plan by means of a global monitoring report,[[4]](#footnote-4) including:

(i) Compilation of the results from the regional monitoring reports;

(ii) Evaluation and assessment of changes in persistent organic pollutant levels over time;

(iii) Assessment of long-range transport and the effect of variable climate and meteorology on observed trends for persistent organic pollutants;

(i) Evaluating the global monitoring plan and developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the end of each evaluation phase and reporting on the following matters:

(i) Role, membership and activities of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in support of subsequent effectiveness evaluations;

(ii) Media;

(iii) Need for further updating of the global monitoring plan, the implementation plan and the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants as the Convention itself evolves;

(iv) Need for further capacity enhancement of Parties on a regional basis;

(v) Any other issues relevant for the implementation of further evaluations.

C. Schedule

* + - 1. Monitoring data gathered through the global monitoring plan are compiled and analysed every six years in the regional monitoring reports and the global monitoring report. The global monitoring report is developed on the basis of the regional monitoring reports and constitutes one of the major sources of information for the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention.
      2. While activities under the global monitoring plan are ongoing throughout the six-year evaluation cycles, effectiveness evaluations are conducted during the last two years of the evaluation cycles.
      3. The global monitoring report is made available to the effectiveness evaluation committee by 31 January of the year preceding the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the effectiveness evaluation is to be completed. It is submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties two years after the submission of the regional reports, at the same meeting at which the Conference of the Parties is to consider the effectiveness evaluation report.

1. UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/38. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For example, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution of the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or any other body studying global transport of persistent organic pollutants. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)