

POPRC-4/8: Support for effective participation of the Parties in the work of the Committee

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,

Recalling that, pursuant to requests from members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee designated by developing country Parties, at its third meeting the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to undertake work to support and strengthen the capacity of Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to participate fully in the work of the Committee,

Also recalling that the Committee took note of the request at its third meeting and established an intersessional working group, chaired by Mr. Mario Yarto (Mexico), to work on the development of the activities proposed by the Secretariat,

Noting that the following activities have been implemented:

(a) A handbook on the work of the Committee and on what Parties and stakeholders need to do to contribute efficiently to its work has been produced;

(b) A methodology for the identification and compilation of information has been developed;

(c) Three regional workshops in the Latin American and Caribbean region, the Asia-Pacific region and the African region have been implemented to enhance participation of Committee members, focal points and national stakeholders in the review process;

(d) A national workshop has been organized in Sierra Leone with the technical assistance of the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, to improve access to technical and scientific information,

Also noting that during its fourth meeting the Committee took note of the activities implemented; that members of the Committee and observers provided positive feedback on the activities and their contribution towards enabling developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate fully in the review process of chemicals being proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention; and that members and observers requested the translation of the handbook into all six United Nations languages, together with the continuation of workshops on effective participation,

1. *Requests* the intersessional working group:

(a) To update the handbook on effective participation on the basis of comments received according to the workplan set out in paragraph 8 below;

(b) To take recommendations from the discussion paper on risk profiles offering a comparative assessment of the basis for conclusions by the Review Committee¹ into account as appropriate;

(c) To provide more guidance and an explanatory note on how to complete the forms for Annexes E and F to facilitate the task of Parties and observers;

(d) To develop, according to the workplan set out in paragraph 8 below, a shorter version of the handbook, ("pocket guide"), limited to a maximum of 20 pages, which includes the core elements of the handbook, focuses on the elements of data collection and submission and should, subject to the availability of funding, be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Invites* the Secretariat to make the handbook available electronically and in an interactive manner through the clearing-house mechanism of the Stockholm Convention;

3. *Also invites* the Secretariat to implement, subject to the availability of funding, further regional workshops on effective participation in the Committee;

4. *Further invites* the Secretariat to hold a side event on the Committee during the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2009 to launch the handbook on effective participation in the Committee;

5. *Invites* Parties and observers in position to do so to contribute and provide financial support for the translation of the pocket guide and the implementation of further regional workshops;

6. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties:

(a) To endorse the handbook on effective participation and to recommend to Parties that they make use of it;

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/INF/11.

(b) To provide financial resources to implement activities on effective participation in the Committee;

(c) To request the Secretariat to develop a resource kit providing information on the Stockholm Convention and the Committee;

7. *Agrees* to the following workplan for the intersessional working group:

Revise the draft handbook based on comments received during the regional workshops and at the Committee's fourth meeting in October 2008, as well as comments received from Parties and observers	November 2008
Distribute the revised version to the intersessional working group for final comments	December 2008
Edit final draft	January 2009
Develop additional guidance and an explanatory note for Annex E and Annex F for consideration by the Committee at its fifth meeting	January–June 2009
Facilitate the implementation of regional workshops on effective participation	Until October 2009
Work on condensed version ("pocket guide") of the handbook	March–June 2009
Launch the handbook on effective participation during a side event at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	May 2009
Invite Parties and observers to provide comments on the pocket guide by 31 June 2009	June 2009
Revise the pocket guide according to the comments received	July 2009
Present the pocket guide to the Committee at its fifth meeting	October 2009
