

POPRC-7/12: Effective participation in the Committee's work

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,

Taking note of the activities undertaken to date to assist developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to participate effectively in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,

Recognizing the need for all parties to gather information, including monitoring data, on candidate persistent organic pollutants, paying due attention to parties' differing capabilities and conditions,

Recognizing also the need to promote awareness of stakeholders, young people and the general public in relation to the work carried out under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to protect human health and the environment, including work on assessing the risks posed by persistent organic pollutants and their alternatives,

1. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties:

(a) To take note of the lack of scientific and technical data on candidate persistent organic pollutants under the conditions experienced by developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition;

(b) To take appropriate action to enhance the capacity of those countries to identify and gain access to data on candidate persistent organic pollutants by strengthening laboratory capacity, potentially through regional collaboration, for example with regional centres, and through other networks, such as the Chemical Information Exchange Network;

2. *Invites* the Secretariat to continue its efforts to facilitate effective participation in the Committee's work, subject to the availability of resources, including through the organization of web-based seminars with the technical input of the Committee members at the regional level in the official United Nations language of each region and the organization of regional meetings to bring together stakeholders, including Governments, non-governmental organizations, Committee members and other experts, with the following objectives:

(a) To enhance stakeholders' understanding of the Committee's work and to provide guidance on how to contribute to it;

(b) To provide guidance on information sources available in the regions and to discuss challenges faced by countries in collecting information;

(c) To raise awareness of issues posed by alternatives to newly listed persistent organic pollutants, including endosulfan, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and brominated diphenyl ethers, in terms of such aspects as cost-effectiveness, efficacy and health and environmental effects;

(d) To raise awareness of issues posed by perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and the brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, including methods for identifying articles and products containing those substances and disposal options for and alternatives to them;

(e) To enhance the coordinated implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements 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 at the national level by exploring the opportunities and benefits of possible synergies;

3. *Also invites* the Secretariat to stress the critical importance of information on exposure under specific country circumstances in the letter sent to the parties requesting information pertaining to Annexes E and F;

4. *Invites* the regional centres and the parties, with the technical contribution of the Committee members, to develop strategies for collecting and providing information on candidate persistent organic pollutants, in addition to the newly listed persistent organic pollutants, as part of national implementation plans, and taking into account the methodologies laid out in the handbook for effective participation in the work of the Committee;¹

5. *Invites* parties and observers in a position to do so to contribute to the Committee's work and to provide financial support for the implementation of activities in support of effective participation by parties in that work.
