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File: POPRC/Regulatory schemes

Date: 10 November 2010

Subject: Invitation to submit additional information related to the application of Annex D criteria in the regulatory and assessment schemes of chemicals as provided in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention requires Parties that have regulatory and assessment schemes for new or existing pesticides or industrial chemicals to take into consideration the criteria contained in Annex D to the Convention when regulating or assessing the chemicals. Reference is provided in Annex I to this letter.

In order to facilitate initial discussions at the sixth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Secretariat invited Parties and observers in June 2010 to provide information on this matter. Information was submitted by 36 Parties and one observer and is summarized in the attached document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/INF/17/Rev.1.

At its sixth meeting on 10-15 October 2010, the Committee decided in decision POPRC-6/10 that the submitted information was useful and could be further revised with additional information received before 31 December 2010. The report of the meeting will be available at the Committee's website:
<http://www.pops.int/poprc/>.

You are therefore invited to review the attached document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/INF/17/Rev.1 and **provide any corrections or additional information** as listed below:

1. Whether your national regulation or policy as well as assessment schemes for new and existing chemicals have a system for identifying chemicals with POPs properties in accordance with the criteria specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Convention; and
2. If they do,
 - i) What are the criteria for identifying POPs?
 - ii) Which chemicals have been identified under this scheme?
 - iii) What measures have been taken to address the production and use of those chemicals?

To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Stockholm Convention National Focal Points
Observers to the Stockholm Convention

Cc: Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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The information will be presented at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place on 25-29 April 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

For submission of additional information, please use the questionnaire attached to this letter (Annex II for Parties, Annex III for observers).

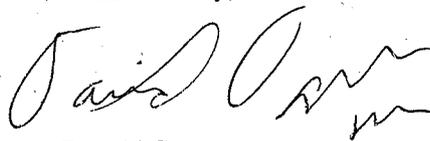
Please submit your information to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention **before 31 December 2010** by e-mail to: ssc@pops.int and kohn@pops.int.

Should this not be possible, please forward hard copies to:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Att: POPRC
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)
Switzerland
Fax : +41 22 917 8098

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kei Ohno (e-mail: kohn@pops.int, telephone +41 22 917 8201).

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cooper
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants

Annex I

Reference: excerpts from the text of the Stockholm Convention

This annex contains excerpts from the text of the Stockholm Convention relevant to the questionnaires in Annexes I and II, for your reference.

Article 3

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

3. Each Party that has one or more regulatory and assessment schemes for new pesticides or new industrial chemicals shall take measures to regulate with the aim of preventing the production and use of new pesticides or new industrial chemicals which, taking into consideration the criteria in paragraph 1 of Annex D, exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants.
4. Each Party that has one or more regulatory and assessment schemes for pesticides or industrial chemicals shall, where appropriate, take into consideration within these schemes the criteria in paragraph 1 of Annex D when conducting assessments of pesticides or industrial chemicals currently in use.

Annex D

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS AND SCREENING CRITERIA

1. A Party submitting a proposal to list a chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C shall identify the chemical in the manner described in subparagraph (a) and provide the information on the chemical, and its transformation products where relevant, relating to the screening criteria set out in subparagraphs (b) to (e):
 - (a) Chemical identity:
 - (i) Names, including trade name or names, commercial name or names and synonyms, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry number, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) name; and
 - (ii) Structure, including specification of isomers, where applicable, and the structure of the chemical class;
 - (b) Persistence:
 - (i) Evidence that the half-life of the chemical in water is greater than two months, or that its half-life in soil is greater than six months, or that its half-life in sediment is greater than six months; or
 - (ii) Evidence that the chemical is otherwise sufficiently persistent to justify its consideration within the scope of this Convention;
 - (c) Bio-accumulation:
 - (i) Evidence that the bio-concentration factor or bio-accumulation factor in aquatic species for the chemical is greater than 5,000 or, in the absence of such data, that the log Kow is greater than 5;
 - (ii) Evidence that a chemical presents other reasons for concern, such as high bio-accumulation in other species, high toxicity or ecotoxicity; or
 - (iii) Monitoring data in biota indicating that the bio-accumulation potential of the chemical is sufficient to justify its consideration within the scope of this Convention;

- (d) Potential for long-range environmental transport:
- (i) Measured levels of the chemical in locations distant from the sources of its release that are of potential concern;
 - (ii) Monitoring data showing that long-range environmental transport of the chemical, with the potential for transfer to a receiving environment, may have occurred via air, water or migratory species; or
 - (iii) Environmental fate properties and/or model results that demonstrate that the chemical has a potential for long-range environmental transport through air, water or migratory species, with the potential for transfer to a receiving environment in locations distant from the sources of its release. For a chemical that migrates significantly through the air, its half-life in air should be greater than two days; and
- (e) Adverse effects:
- (i) Evidence of adverse effects to human health or to the environment that justifies consideration of the chemical within the scope of this Convention; or
 - (ii) Toxicity or ecotoxicity data that indicate the potential for damage to human health or to the environment.

2. The proposing Party shall provide a statement of the reasons for concern including, where possible, a comparison of toxicity or ecotoxicity data with detected or predicted levels of a chemical resulting or anticipated from its long-range environmental transport, and a short statement indicating the need for global control.

3. The proposing Party shall, to the extent possible and taking into account its capabilities, provide additional information to support the review of the proposal referred to in paragraph 6 of Article 8. In developing such a proposal, a Party may draw on technical expertise from any source.