

**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
President's Summary Record
of the Teleconference Call of the Bureau**

12 March 2007

Participants

Mr. Nicholas Kiddle, President of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

Mr Jan-Karel Kwisthout, Vice President

Ms. Katya Stanke Vasileva, Vice President

Dr. Tarek Eid Mohamed Mahmoud El-Ruby, Vice President

Anne Daniel, chair of the OEWG on Compliance

Dr Reiner Arndt, chair of the POPs Review Committee

Dr Maged Younes, Director UNEP Chemicals, Acting Executive Secretary
Stockholm Convention Secretariat

Mr David Ogden, Coordinator, Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNEP

Ms Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNEP

Ms Maria Cristina Cardenas, Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNEP

Agenda as adopted

- 1 Meeting Arrangements
- 2 Documentation
- 3 Scenario Note
- 4 POPs Monitoring and Evaluation
- 5 Compliance
- 6 POPs Review Committee
- 7 The AHJWG on Cooperation and Coordination
- 8 Bureau Meeting, Dakar
- 9 AOB

Item 1: Meeting Arrangements

1. On the initiative of Dr. Tarek Eid Mohamed Mahmoud El-Ruby, the Bureau took note that as Senegal will be taking over the Presidency at COP3, one of the two Bureau members elected by the Africa group will need to step aside for the duration of Senegal's term in office. The Africa group was encouraged by the Bureau to settle this decision prior to the opening of the conference on Monday 30 April.

2. The President explained that no high level segment has been scheduled for the third Conference of the Parties. The secretariat is working with the host government, Senegal, on arrangements covering the opening session and the chairing of plenary sessions of the conference. Senegal has the option to participate at any level, including at Head of State or Ministerial levels.
3. Mr Jan-Karel Kwisthout drew attention to the need to elect a Chair of the Committee of the Whole. The President explained that further work would be required to identify a candidate. The next regional group that may be expected to provide a candidate had been Asia, but both Bureau members from Asia (India and Mongolia) had rotated out of their national positions and were no longer on the Bureau. It was not clear who their successors might be. (Subsequently it was learned that India has notified the Secretariat of a successor.) The President observed that if Asia is not in a position to nominate a representative it might fall to Central and Eastern Europe to be prepared to fill that role. Ms Katya Stanke Vasileva took note of the possibility.
4. The President explained that the Plenary meeting is likely to adjourn late Monday and convene a Committee of the Whole to work through the conference agenda until Friday. At that point the Plenary would resume its session, adopt decisions and the report of the meeting.
5. No night sessions have been planned for the Committee of the Whole or the Plenary.
6. The President said that at this stage it appears that 5 or 6 issues may require treatment in smaller contact groups: the budget; effectiveness evaluation; DDT; terms of reference for the selection of regional centres; terms of reference associated with needs assessments; and compliance. Any contact groups that are established should be carefully managed and sequenced to avoid excessive overlaps.

Item 2: Documentation

7. Mr Ogden briefed the Bureau on the status of preparation of documents. He explained that over 60% of the documents required for the meeting are already available on the pops.int website. The remainder are expected to be posted before the expiry of the standard 6 week deadline for circulation.

Item 3: Scenario note

8. Mr Kiddle, in his capacity as current President of the Bureau of COP2, and acknowledging the important role of his successor in determining the outcomes of the Dakar meeting, outlined his expectations of the key outcomes that participants may wish to achieve at COP3:
 - a The successful launching of the Effectiveness Evaluation process.
 - b Agreement on terms of reference for selecting regional centres.
 - c Agreement on terms of reference for the work on modalities to assess the needs of developing countries in implementing the convention.
 - d An evaluation on the continued use of DDT.
 - e An evaluation of Art 3 (2 b) including a review of the continued need for, and effectiveness of, export and notification measures that are required when parties export chemicals that are subject to production or specific use exemptions.

9. In addition, the outgoing President identified other issues as key outcomes to be sought from the Conference:
 - f adoption of: (i) a review process for the specific register of exemptions; (ii) guidelines on BAT/BEP (unintentional releases); (iii) a process for reviewing the toolkit (dioxin & furans); (iv) a strategic plan for the secretariat to implement the clearing house mechanism, and (vii) the budget.
 - g consideration of: (i) the Basel Convention's guidelines on POPs wastes; (ii) guidance to parties on assessing social and economic measures and costs arising from their implementation of the convention; (iii) matters referred by the POPs Review Committee; (iv) the report of the compliance group; (v) any report or recommendations received from the AHJWG on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and (vi) parties' reports.

10. The Bureau also received a debrief from President Kiddle on the programme of work between COP3 in 2007 and COP4 in 2009. The President made clear that at this stage he has not heard any suggestion that the Stockholm Convention adopt the approach of some other MEAs by establishing an Open Ended Working Group to meet between Conferences of the Parties.

11. Instead the President and the Secretariat had jointly identified a number of other activities and forums that, if they were agreed at COP3, would appear to constitute a full program of work between COP3 and COP4.

Firstly, COP 3 may wish the Bureau to be given an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting between COP3 and COP4. In addition, COP3 might mandate a number of specialist groups to continue their work between sessions: Effectiveness Evaluation and the POPs Review Committee were two that are almost certain to continue meeting. Depending on COP3 deliberations it was possible that other groups may be required: a group on DDT, a group on the Toolkit, and one on compliance. Finally, the President reminded the Bureau that the Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Convention AHJWG on cooperation and coordination would also be likely to continue its work over 2008.

12. In the light of those possibilities, the Bureau took note that at this stage the inter sessional work of the Convention is likely to consist of ongoing specialist and technical working groups.

Item 4: Effectiveness Evaluation (POPs Monitoring and Evaluation)

13. Ms Fatoumata Keita-Ouane of the Secretariat briefed the Bureau on two meetings that have taken place on POPs Monitoring and Evaluation. Ms Keita-Ouane explained that 6 documents were in preparation including a draft monitoring plan and a draft implementation plan. The Bureau was reminded that the current working group on effectiveness evaluation had been established only provisionally - that is, its mandate would expire and the COP needs to take a decision on its future. One of the key issues to emerge in the group's work to date is the question of the definition of geographical regions. The group has found that the Pacific region appears to warrant a separate identity from the "Western Europe and Others" group to facilitate effective planning for monitoring purposes there. Finally, the COP will be asked to consider the establishment of a global coordination group.

Item 5: Compliance

14. Anne Daniel, Chair of the Open Ended Working Group on Compliance, briefed the Bureau on progress to date and expectations for the group's meeting scheduled for 25-27 April in Dakar. The chair underscored that Bureau members should urge participants from their respective regions to come prepared to finalise the text of a compliance mechanism so that it could be adopted at COP3. The Chair noted that funding had been sought to facilitate the expert participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and that it was her understanding that the working group was expected to meet in parallel to the Committee of the Whole in order to finalise its work.
15. In response to a query posed by Mr Kwisthout, Mr Ogden explained that \$270,000 had been required to facilitate participation of developing

countries and countries with economies in transition. But not all this money has been received. Allocation to applicants is on a “first come, first served” basis. There remains a risk that some of those seeking support may find that sufficient funding has not been made available.

Item 6: POPs Review Committee

16. The President noted that 15 of the 31 members of the POPs RC rotate off the committee after COP3 (in May 2008). New terms begin in November 2008. It would be useful therefore if Bureau members could raise the succession of their regional representatives within their respective regional groups and be prepared to notify successors before COP3 concludes its business.
17. In response to enquiries from the Bureau, the secretariat explained that this issue is described in the relevant documentation, and has been the subject of a letter that has been sent to all parties.

Item 7: The AHJWG on Cooperation and Coordination

18. Mr Kiddle noted that most of the arrangements for the Helsinki meeting had been settled by the government of Finland and the treaty Secretariats. Details could be found on the excellent new website that has been established for the AHJWG. It was Mr Kiddle's understanding that the Finnish government was still considering the possibility of a high level opening address.
19. The issue of observers remains unresolved at this stage. The Secretariats had received conflicting written views from different parties. Mr Kiddle said that it was his personal understanding that the matter will need to be resolved by the group itself shortly after opening – or perhaps the evening before. In response to questions from the Bureau and an ex-officio member, Mr Kiddle offered his personal view that until the representatives of the working group made a decision, there remained a risk that anyone travelling to Helsinki with a view to observing the meeting may be excluded from proceedings, or not, as the case may be.
20. Mr Kiddle informed the Bureau that the Presidents of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have been invited as resource persons to the Helsinki meeting. He also flagged the possibility that the Rotterdam Convention's President, Ms Andrea Repetti, might act in the capacity of provisional Chair until the election of officers.
21. Following the election of officers, it was expected that the group would move to adopt the agenda, possibly conduct a tour de table, invite the

President of the Stockholm Convention (Mr Kiddle) to introduce the supplementary report, and invite opening statements from participants.

22. The option of drafting groups was being kept open to manage textual outcomes. The AHJWG would need to agree on the future organisation of its work, and report of its first round of deliberations, including a first set of recommendations, should they be ready.

Item 8: Bureau meeting, Dakar

23. The Bureau is to meet from 1.00pm-3.00pm on Sunday 29 April at the Meridian President Hotel.

Item 9: AOB

24. There were no additional items of business. The teleconference was closed.

Nik Kiddle
President, 2nd Conference of the Parties
to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

12 March 2007