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Item 5 (j) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference  
of the Parties: effectiveness evaluation**

**Draft plan for regional field testing of arrangements for  
providing comparable data for use in the effectiveness evaluation  
of the Convention\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Introduction**

As referred to in paragraph 5 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/21 on effectiveness evaluation, set forth in the annex to the present note is a draft plan for regional field testing of arrangements for providing comparable data for use in the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention. The draft plan was prepared by the Secretariat and has not been formally edited.

\* UNEP/POPS/COP.2/1.

\*\* Stockholm Convention, Article 16; Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the work of its seventh session (UNEP/POPS/INC.7/28), annex I, decision INC-7/12, Report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/13.

## Annex

### **Draft plan for regional field testing of arrangements for providing comparable data for use in the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention**

#### **Overview**

1. The proposal below is aimed at providing a flexible approach for obtaining a first set of comparable data on POPs levels in environment and biological tissues for the purpose of effectiveness evaluation. As the first set of data will likely compose the baseline for future evaluations of the effectiveness of the Convention, attempts will be made to have consistent core data for most parts of the world, using to the largest extent possible existing monitoring data sets, but making room for limited supplementation in region where core data are not available. The plan would largely rely on available regional expertise and will provide support from existing programmes outside regions where needed.

#### **Introduction**

2. Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention requires the Conference of the Parties (COP) to periodically review the effectiveness of the Convention, with the first review commencing four years after entry into force. Paragraph 3 of Article 16 also states that the evaluation shall be conducted on the basis of information, including comparable monitoring data on the presence of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B, and C of the Convention, and on their regional and global transport.

3. The Conference of the Parties, in its decision SC-1/13, has agreed to initiate arrangements to provide itself with comparable monitoring data on which to base its evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention and has requested the secretariat to field test arrangements on a national or regional basis subject to available funding, and to report on the results of the field test to the COP at its third meeting.

4. The document (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/21) analyses three indicative options to assist the COP establish arrangements of global monitoring plan. The three options are indicative of a range of possibilities rather than illustrating prescriptive and discrete entities and outlined as:

(a) Option I: A global monitoring plan based upon a network of existing international programmes with some national programmes.

(b) Option II: A global monitoring plan based upon a network of existing international and national programmes but including initial elements to address priority gaps in regional coverage, together with features to enable future strategic enhancement of regional contributions.

(c) Option III: A comprehensive and inclusive global monitoring programme that would provide all Parties with an opportunity to participate at all levels of the activity, from sample collection through sample analysis to report production.

5. The long term strategy on the arrangements is awaiting a decision at COP2.

6. The Convention entered into force on the 17th May 2004. Therefore the environmental monitoring information for the first evaluation should be available for the COP before 17 May 2008. Earlier still, the monitoring material must be assessed by scientists, reports written, and at least regionally agreed upon. On the basis of experience from other international monitoring programmes, it is unlikely that this will be achieved in less than a year. This implies that by May 2007 the secretariat needs to have both the field testing results for the COP, and the environmental monitoring results available for the assessment.

7. Given the timing constraints, whatever long term strategy is decided by the COP, the first evaluation will be based primarily on existing programs and sources of information. However, this evaluation will also be the only opportunity to establish a large-scale "base-line" of information on POP levels in the environment. The Convention requests to base the work as much as possible on existing

programmes and the secretariat as initiated arrangements for that. It however appears that if only existing data from these programmes were used, much of the world would remain uncovered. Therefore, to avoid having the baseline information for the first evaluation leaving out much of the world uncovered, the field testing exercise could be used to target supplemental information gathering in the under-represented regions.

8. Arrangements to collect monitoring data must be quickly put into effect immediately after COP 2 if there is to be an expectation that information will be available for 2008. This can only happen in the suggested time frame if as a matter of urgency, Parties begin activating the funding and organizational possibilities to gather the “core information” both within and outside of the existing programmes. Core information could be defined as the minimum information necessary to enable the COP to evaluate effectiveness

#### **Tiered approach for testing the monitoring arrangements**

9. A plan to test the monitoring arrangements must be compatible with future decisions by the COP on a long term environmental monitoring strategy for effectiveness evaluation. Therefore the plan presented here can evolve in a phased fashion over time in response to such decisions. In its initial phase, it is designed to test ways of obtaining information from existing programmes, and to use such activities as an opportunity to facilitate information gathering from regions under-represented by existing programmes. This will strengthen the 2008 baseline for future evaluations. Furthermore, it provides an organizational model that could serve to coordinate all activities leading to the provision of reports on information on environmental levels of POPs for the first effectiveness evaluation.

10. The plan would:

- (a) Be directed initially towards the first evaluation;
- (b) Seek to provide at a minimum a “core-baseline” of information in all regions;
- (c) Be based upon existing and emerging programmes, but would be supplemented where possible in regions where existing programmes and data are absent. Regions suggested as a priority in this context include Africa, Oceania, South America, East Asia and the Caribbean;
- (d) Be implemented at regional levels and would adopt a flexible tiered approach, which could include different levels of complexity according to regional capacity and availability of resources.

#### **Data component**

11. The first phase data would be comprised of two tiers:

(a) “Core Tier 1” would include the media considered to be essential (e.g., human milk and/or human maternal blood, and air deposition). Available data relevant to these media will be compiled for all regions for analysis and assessment. Attempts will be made to provide “core tier 1” information in all regions, even those that are currently under-represented regions. This may be done either through collaborative arrangements between the Secretariat and executing agencies and/or by strengthening regional programmes that have a demonstrated potential to provide comparable monitoring information. Some obvious candidates for such extension (as identified in the Background Scoping Paper) include the “Trial Air Monitoring in Asia”; the Global Atmospheric Passive Sampling Study (GAPS); and the proposed WHO global human milk survey.

(b) “Optional Tier 2” could include other media, where such data is already available or where capacity and resources are available to generate such data.

12. The second phase data would respond to any further COP decisions on arrangements. It may comprise an extension of the production of optional Tier 2 data for regions where such data are not level.

## Implementation of the Plan

### *Organizational Issues*

13. Organizational arrangements should be compatible with the long-term monitoring strategy decided upon by the COP. As far as possible, existing structures will be used. The arrangements proposed below are intended to be flexible and accommodate whatever monitoring approach is selected by the COP. These arrangements may include:

(a) A Technical Steering Group would be established to advise on the development and implementation of the monitoring arrangements. It would include at least one member from each region in order to facilitate regional implementation, together with representatives of participating executing international organizations. The group would be tasked with the followings:

(i) Consideration of the minimum essential elements of a regionally based global monitoring programme that would provide sufficient information to the COP for effectiveness evaluation;

(ii) Identifying existing and candidate programs with relevance and potential for supplementation;

(iii) Identifying optional tier 2 matrices for regions;

(iv) Identifying institutions, laboratories, and responsible authorities necessary to ensure quality assurance and control for sampling, analyses, and reporting of results;

(v) Considering how collected information from various sources may be reviewed and synthesized for the evaluation.

(b) At country levels, existing Stockholm Convention focal points may act as national contacts. They will coordinate work at the national level and will identify national experts as necessary;

(c) Regions will be required to identify one or two representatives. Regional representatives would contribute to the work and would oversee the development and implementation of the monitoring arrangements. The secretariat would provide support to regional representatives in the fulfillment of their duties. The duties of the regional representative(s) would include:

(i) Serving as member of the Technical Steering Group;

(ii) Coordination of the regional monitoring network;

(iii) Being the contact point for regional implementation of arrangements and linking with other regional representatives and or national Stockholm Convention focal points;

(iv) Compiling data from regions;

(v) Overseeing the management of data and information and the production of reports for the evaluation;

(d) Executing programmes described in paragraph 10 would assist in the preparation and the assessment of information and will provide reports of their work to the Secretariat.

(e) When international monitoring programmes function as executing programmes for elements of the monitoring arrangements, they will secure regional/national agreements as may be necessary;

(f) The Secretariat would oversee the arrangements and the assessment of information for the purposes of the effectiveness evaluation. It would coordinate the establishment of organizational agreements with international monitoring programmes that may contribute as executing agencies for the arrangements; and report to the COP on progress.

*Proposed Activities*

14. The practical steps to initiate after COP2 would include:
- (a) Identification of regional representative(s)/coordinator to oversee the development and implementation of arrangements;
  - (b) The establishment of a Technical Steering Group (TSG)
  - (c) Review and revision of the June 2004 Guidance for a Global Monitoring Programme to be consistent with COP decisions on a monitoring strategy;
  - (d) Updating the present review of existing international and national monitoring activities, taking into account information relevant to POPs monitoring contained in completed National Implementation Plans (NIPs);
  - (e) Identification of regional data owners and establishment of regional monitoring networks for data collection when appropriate data exists and for communication;
  - (f) Establishment of appropriate arrangements for data management;
  - (g) Collection of existing core tier 1 data and supplementation by existing programmes which have the capacity to do so where needed;
  - (h) Development and implementation of a data/information management and transfer policy to facilitate making data available for the effectiveness evaluation from organizations collecting data (including Parties and international monitoring programmes).

*Expected Results/Outputs*

15. The expected results/outputs of the proposed plan would include:
- (a) Mobilization (within the context of Article 16), of existing and emerging candidate programs to provide comparable monitoring information for the first effectiveness evaluation.
  - (b) Establishment of supplemental information gathering in regions not served by existing programmes in order to establish a core baseline for the first and future evaluations;
  - (c) The testing of the above two elements as components of a monitoring strategy
  - (d) The establishment of an organizational mechanism which could form the basis of an organizational model for overseeing the monitoring arrangements agreed upon by the COP;
  - (e) The establishment of data and or information storage arrangements;
  - (f) A better understanding of POPs monitoring issues and enhancement of monitoring capability/capacity at national and regional levels;
  - (g) A synthesis report that summarizes the findings and lessons learned for future COPs
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