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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Second meeting**

Geneva, 1–5 May 2006

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: election of officers**

**Election of officers of the Conference of the Parties at its second  
meeting\*\***

**Note by the secretariat**

1. Paragraphs 1 to 3 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, adopted by the Conference at its first meeting in its decision SC-1/1, state as follows on the issue of election of officers of the Conference:

**“Rule 22**

1. At the first ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a President and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. These officers shall serve as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. Each of the five United Nations regional groups shall be represented by two Bureau members. The Bureau, with the exception of the President, shall remain in office until the closure of the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. The President shall remain in office until a new President is elected at the commencement of the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

2. At the second and subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a President and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. These officers shall serve as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. Each of the five United Nations regional groups shall

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

\*\* Report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/1, annex.

be represented by two Bureau members. The term of office of the President shall commence immediately and the terms of office of the Vice-Presidents shall commence upon the closure of the meeting at which they are elected. The President shall remain in office until a new President is elected at the commencement of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

3. The offices of the President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the United Nations regional groups. No elected officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two consecutive terms.”

2. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of rule 22 provide for staggered terms of office for the President and the Vice-Presidents. The rationale for the staggering of the terms of office is stated by the negotiators of the rules of procedure in footnote 2 to rule 22 of the draft rules of procedure submitted to the Conference by the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (document UNEP/POPS/COP.1/25):

“Consideration may be given to staggered terms of office, where the term of office of the President runs from the beginning of the Conference of the Parties to the beginning of the next Conference of the Parties, and the term of office of the Vice-Presidents runs from the closure of the Conference of the Parties to the closure of the next Conference of the Parties. This approach would accommodate the situations where offers to host the Conference of the Parties are made intersessionally or where the host country Party changes during the intersessional period. The Committee may also wish to consider whether to stagger the terms of office of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to enhance continuity and expertise.”

3. In setting out the working arrangements for the election of officers at the second meeting of the Conference, the Secretariat took into account the need to stagger the term of office of the President with those of the Vice-Presidents, the requirement that each of the United Nations regional groups be represented in the Bureau by two officers and the normal practice of rotating the office of President and Rapporteur among these regional groups. The table found in the annex to the present note provides an example how this could be accomplished over the first five meetings of the Conference. The process for election of officers at the second meeting of the Conference could proceed as follows:

(a) The President elected at the first meeting of the Conference could open the second meeting of the Conference and proceed with the election of the new President and nine Vice-Presidents;

(b) The Conference could then elect a President for its second meeting, who would be from a region other than the region from which the President of the first meeting was elected. Immediately following the elections, the term of office of the President elected at the first meeting of the Conference would end and the term of office of the newly elected President would begin;

(c) If the newly elected President was not one of the nine Vice-Presidents elected at the first meeting, one of the Vice-Presidents from the region represented by the new President would terminate his or her term of office in order to maintain regional balance on the Bureau. If the newly elected President was one of the nine Vice-Presidents elected at the first meeting, a Vice-President from the region represented by the President elected at the first meeting would be elected for the duration of the second meeting of the Conference only;

(d) The Conference would then elect nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom would serve as Rapporteur and would be selected from a region other than one which the Rapporteur elected at the first meeting represented. The terms of office of the Vice-Presidents, including the term of office of the Rapporteur, would commence at the closure of the second meeting of the Conference.

4. In drawing up the process outlined in the previous paragraph, the Secretariat intended to give consideration to precedents of staggered terms of office of officers in bureaus of other multilateral environmental agreements. Of the rules of procedure governing more recent multilateral environmental agreements, only rule 21 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity might serve as an example of staggered terms of office. Pursuant to that rule, elections of officers are held at the beginning of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the term of office of the newly elected President commences immediately following the elections, and the terms of office of the newly elected Vice-Presidents commence upon the closure of the meeting at which they

are elected. This rule, however, cannot serve as a precedent for setting up a relevant process for election of officers to the Bureau of the Stockholm Convention because the Bureau composition is different than that of the Biological Diversity Convention: the former has ten Bureau members, two from each United Nations region, one of which is President and nine of which are Vice-Presidents; and the latter has eleven Bureau members, one of which is President from any of the United Nations regions and ten of which are Vice-Presidents, two from each of the United Nations regions. Since the President of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a member of the Bureau in addition to the two Vice-Presidents from each region, there is no conflict in the terms of office of Bureau members or in the numbers of representatives on the Bureau from each region.

**Possible action by the Conference**

5. The Conference may wish to decide to follow the procedure for the election of officers as set forth in paragraph 3 above, with any amendments, and decide whether such arrangements would be applicable to subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference.

**Annex**

**Possible terms of office for bureau members<sup>1</sup>**

Time-frame	Region A		Region B		Region C		Region D		Region E		Comment
COP-1	P1	VP/R1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	
Inter-session	P1	VP/R1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	
COP-2	VP-TBD	VP/R1	P2	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	VP1	Region A must replace retiring President with a Vice President. <sup>2</sup> Region B, if the President is elected is not one of its current Vice-Presidents, must determine which Vice-President from its region will step down.
Inter-session	VP2	VP2	P2	VP2	VP/R2	VP2	VP2	VP2	VP2	VP2	
COP-3	VP2	VP2	VP-TBD	VP2	VP/R2	VP2	P3	VP2	VP2	VP2	Region B must replace retiring President with a Vice-President. <sup>2</sup> Region D, if the President elected is not one of its current Vice-Presidents, must determine which Vice-President from its region will step down.
Inter-session	VP3	VP3	VP3	VP/R3	VP3	VP3	P3	VP3	VP3	VP3	
COP-4	VP3	VP3	VP3	VP/R3	VP3	VP3	VP-TBD	VP3	P4	VP3	Region D must replace retiring President with a Vice-President. <sup>2</sup> Region E, if the President is elected is not one of its current Vice-Presidents, must determine which Vice-President from its region will step down.
Inter-session	VP4	VP4	VP4	VP4	VP4	VP4	VP4	VP/R4	P4	VP4	
COP-5	VP4	VP4	VP4	VP4	P5	VP4	VP4	VP/R4	VP-TBD	VP4	Region E must replace retiring President with a Vice-President. <sup>2</sup> Region C, if the President elected is not one of its current Vice-Presidents, must determine which Vice-President from its region will step down.
Inter-session	VP5	VP5	VP5	VP5	P5	VP5	VP5	VP5	VP5	VP/R5	

<sup>1</sup> In the table, “P” indicates “President”; “VP” indicates “Vice-President”; “VP/R” indicates “Vice President also serving as Rapporteur; the numbers following P, VP and VP/R indicate the meeting of the Conference at which they are elected; and “TBD” indicates “to be determined” by the Conference.

<sup>2</sup> Options for this include asking the Vice-President who had been elected to begin his or her term of office at close of the meeting to instead begin immediately or to elect someone to serve as Vice-President for the meeting only.