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

Geneva, 1–5 May 2006

Item 5 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production:
best available techniques and best environmental practices**

**Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance
on best environmental practices****

Note by the Secretariat

1. Subparagraphs (d) and (e) of Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants both include the following provision:

“[W]hen applying best available techniques and best environmental practices, Parties should take into consideration the general guidance on prevention and release reduction measures in Annex C [of the Convention] and guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices to be adopted by decision of the Conference of the Parties...;”

2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention adopted decision SC-1/19, on guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to Article 5, which is contained in annex I to the report of the meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31).

3. Decision SC-1/19 welcomes the draft guidelines and provisional guidance contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/7 and encourages Parties to take the draft guidelines and provisional guidance into consideration, where practicable and feasible, in the development of action plans and other activities related to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants. It also established an expert group with a mandate to complete the tasks identified in section II of the group’s

* UNEP/POPS/COP.2/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 5 and Annex C; report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decisions SC-1/19 and SC-1/20.

terms of reference, which are set out in the annex to decision SC-1/19, for consideration by the Conference at its third meeting.

4. The first meeting of the Expert Group was held from 28 November to 2 December. The report of the meeting is available in the six official United Nations languages and is contained in document UNEP/POPS/EGBATBEP.1/5. The second meeting of the Expert Group is scheduled to take place from 4 to 8 December 2006.

5. Among other matters, the Expert Group at its first meeting requested the Secretariat to examine the possibility, funds permitting, of holding:

(a) A briefing session during the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the work in progress on the guidelines;

(b) Awareness-raising regional workshops in the intersessional period leading up to the second meeting of the Expert Group;

(c) A second round¹ of informal consultations between the second meeting of the Expert Group and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties².

6. In response to the request from the Expert Group, the Secretariat has begun planning for the briefing session requested and will take steps necessary to hold the awareness-raising workshops and informal consultations requested, provided sufficient funding is made available for these activities.

7. On a related matter, the Conference at its first meeting also adopted decision SC-1/20, on guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices and guidance on training and awareness-raising activities. Paragraph 1 of the decision requests the Secretariat to initiate activities to promote guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices through awareness raising, information dissemination and publicity at the regional, sub-regional and national levels, subject to available funding. Paragraph 2 of the decision urges Parties and non-Parties and other donors in a position to do so to support such activities.

8. In response to the above request, the Secretariat has initiated an awareness-raising programme aimed at providing information on the draft guidelines at the regional, sub-regional and national levels through user friendly pamphlets and handbooks on the issue.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

9. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To take note of the report of the Expert Group on best available techniques and best environmental practices on the work of its first meeting contained in document UNEP/POPS/EGBATBEP.1/5;

(b) To invite Parties and other donors to in a position to do so, to support:

(i) Awareness-raising activities pursuant to decision SC-1/20, including awareness-raising workshops on the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as requested by the Expert Group at its first meeting;

(ii) Informal consultations on the guidelines between the second meeting of the Expert Group and the third meeting of the Conference.

¹ A first round of six informal consultations was undertaken from February to April 2005 (see UNEP/POPS/EGBATBEP.1/INF/4).

² Report of the Expert Group on the work of its first meeting, UNEP/POPS/EGBATBEP/5, para. 52.