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**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

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

Geneva, 1–5 May 2006

Item 5 (g) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:  
Technical assistance**

**Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on the  
terms of reference for the regional and subregional centres for  
capacity-building and transfer of technology\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. In developing the terms of reference for regional and subregional centres and criteria for evaluating the performance of such centres, the Secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of decision SC-1/16, invited Stockholm Convention focal points, existing regional and subregional centres and their host organizations providing technical assistance and technology transfer for chemicals and chemical waste issues to provide comments on the subject matter.
2. In response to that invitation, the Secretariat received submissions from the following Parties to the Convention: Brazil, Czech Republic, Morocco and Slovakia. Submissions were also received from the Governments of Guinea and Kazakhstan, the Basel Convention regional centres in Slovakia and Egypt, the African Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the secretariat of the Basel Convention and the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
3. Those submissions have been reproduced as received in the annex to the present note.

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



\*\* Stockholm Convention, Article 12, paragraph 4; 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, decision SC-1/16.

Annex

A. Submissions by Parties

Brazil

From: 02 Page: 1/3 Date: 01/12/2005 15:24:08

 <b>MINISTÉRIO DO MEIO AMBIENTE</b> SECRETARIA DE QUALIDADE AMBIENTAL NOS ASSENTAMENTOS HUMANOS Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco "B" - CEP: 70.068-900 - Brasília - DF - Brasil Telefone: +55 (61) 4009-1244 / Fax: +55 (61) 4009-1759/1760
<b>To:</b> John A. Buccini Acting Executive Secretary Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention Fax: +41 22 797 34 60 Data: November 28 <sup>th</sup> 2005  Number of sheets, including this: 03 Doc: <u>114/05-</u>
<b>MENSAGEM</b>
<b>Re: Follow up to decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance: regional and subregional centres adopted by the first COP to the Stockholm Convention.</b>
Dear Sir,
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. As a follow-up to the decision SC-1/16 adopted by the first meeting of the COP and in response to your letter from October 17th, we are sending attached our comments on the key elements of the terms of reference for regional and subregional centers and on the criteria for evaluating performance of such centers.</li><li>2. I would like to inform you that the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations will send to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention this position in an official manner.</li></ol>
Sincerely,
 <b>MARÍLIA MARRECO CERQUEIRA</b> Focal Point - BRAZIL Stockholm convention
Em caso de transmissão falha, favor contactar o telefone: +55 (61) 4009-1759/1760

11-2005  
30/11/05  
10:00

**Subject: Follow up to decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance: regional and subregional centers adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.**

Views on the Key elements of the terms of reference for regional and subregional centres and on the criteria for evaluation performance of such centers.

**1. Objective**

Describe the main requirements that regional and subregional centers of the Stockholm Convention must meet, as a result of the particular needs of the different regions, as well as the criteria for selection and performance assessment of the Centers.

**2. Criteria for licensing the Center**

The selection of regional and subregional centers should meet the following parameters:

- Experience in technical assistance, capacity building, consulting and technology transfer, at the regional level, in the area of environmentally sound chemicals management;
- Experience in the management and dissemination of information in the area of management of hazardous chemicals and chemical wastes, particularly in raising public awareness with regard to the risks caused by hazardous chemicals;
- Installed and established infrastructure, with laboratory capacity for analyzing wastes, particularly persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The institution should be capable of providing training sessions, own computers, telephones and other basic means of communication, suitable meeting rooms and provide for visitor safety;
- Highly qualified technical personnel, with recognized competence in the area of action of the Convention;
- Capacity to meet the different language needs of the region;
- Capacity to identify, document and implement actions and practices that help the region to promote the environmentally sound management of its hazardous wastes, particularly POPs;
- Experience in the identification, inventorying and cleaning of contaminated areas, particularly with POPs;
- Experience in the application and monitoring of legislation involving hazardous chemical wastes;
- Accredited at Standards and Quality Institutions;
- Stable organizational structure and experience in the mobilization of financial resources in order to ensure implementation of projects and programs with financial feasibility and sustainability;
- Experience in the development of partnerships and technical, scientific and financial cooperation agreements with public and private institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations;
- Renowned excellence in the region in the issues covered by the Convention;
- Institutional responsibility with the Convention obligations, while they remain government commitments;
- Knowledge and practice in the use and promotion of Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP);
- Strategic location in the region in order to ensure ease of access and suitable infrastructure conditions (international airport close to the center, electricity, telephone, internet access, banking services, good accommodation in hotels, medical services);

**3. Activities to be carried out**

Promote seminars, training courses, strengthening of capacities, technical assistance, technology transfer in the areas of persistent organic pollutants, with focus on the implementation and dissemination to the region of the objectives and provisions of the

Stockholm Convention. Centers should at first concentrate on assistance to the Parties of the region in the implementation of their National Implementation Plans.

**4. Technical Staff**

Should have renowned technical competence, with highly qualified personnel, capable of providing scientific support to technical assistance projects and programs in the area of the Convention and other environment related agreements that are of interest to the region.

**5. Center Autonomy**

The institutions should, preferably, have legal independence and autonomy, in order to operate as a separate legal entity with the appropriate immunities.

**6. Criteria for evaluating performance**

The criteria for evaluating the performance of the Centers should take into account the following aspects:

- Effectiveness of the results of the training and technical assistance provided by the Center, which are translated into the increased capacity for implementation by the assisted Parties of the commitments undertaken under the Stockholm Convention, as well as the obligations to other related environmental agreements;
- Long term financial sustainability capacity for the development and implementation of regional projects and work programs in the area of hazardous chemicals and chemical wastes, particularly POPs, adapted to the special needs of the Parties and that meet the objectives of the Stockholm Convention;
- Effectiveness in the establishment of partnerships and technical, scientific and financial cooperation agreements with various institutions in the areas of interest of the Convention;
- Implementation and maintenance of a system of exchange and dissemination of information related to the scope of the Stockholm Convention and other related agreements;
- Effectiveness in the establishment and interaction of synergies with other regional centers and institutions in the areas of interest of the Convention;
- Capacity to promote the engagement of the participating countries in the activities developed in the Center;
- Increase in the capacity to implement and strengthen legislation related to the Convention, in the region encompassed by the Center;
- Identification and implementation of projects and strategies to decrease regional differences in matter of environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and chemical wastes, particularly POPs.

## Czech Republic



**Libor Ambrozek**  
Minister of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic

Prague, December 11, 2005  
Ref: 300127/M/05, 43702/ENV/05

Dear Mr. Buccini,

Following the discussion held at the first Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants regarding the establishment of regional and subregional centres for the Stockholm Convention let me inform you that the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, is interested in hosting the Central and Eastern European Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants. Bearing in mind the experience of the Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology of this University and its current activities in the area of persistent organic pollutants I warmly welcome this initiative.

Taking into account that the terms of reference for regional and subregional centres are being developed and will be discussed at the second Conference of the Parties I am planning to gain before this Conference the mandate of the Government of the Czech Republic to officially offer the creation of such centre in the Czech Republic. Although I can not anticipate the decision of the Government of the Czech Republic in this regard, I would like to submit you the declaration prepared by the Masaryk University and announce you that the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, as National Focal Point for the implementation of the Convention, strongly supports the Masaryk University's proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

CC: Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Mr. John A. Buccini  
Acting Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on POPs  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Geneva

UNEP - Stockholm	
Date Received:	4 Jan 06
File no / n. inv.:	352
For action:	JAW → PD
Co:	



Masaryk University in Brno  
 RECETOX  
 EU-DG Research Centre of Excellence for  
 Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology




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Central and Eastern European POPs Centre

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DECLARATION

Based on the experiences from the activities of the European POPs Expert Network and Central and Eastern European section as a common contribution of the Central and Eastern European Countries, the Czech Republic and Masaryk University, Brno and its Centre RECETOX to activities which are connected with the implementation of the Stockholm Convention (SC), we would like introduce a proposal of the establishment of

**Central and Eastern European Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants (CEEPOPsCTR).**

Centre will be located in the area of new campus of Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

These activities are and will be covered and managed by RECETOX (Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology), Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic which EU DG Research Centre of Excellence for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology. RECETOX also as a part of Consortium RECETOX – TOCOEN & Associates covers activities of Czech National POPs Centre. Later on, CEECPOPsCTR will ask for official adoption of 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties of the Stockholm Convention as a Regional POPs Centre of the SC and regional Centre of EU for the implementation of the SC in the CEE region.

CEECSPOPsCTR will associates country representatives, institutions and experts from CEE and any other countries in and out of CEE region.

CEECSPOPsCTR will act as a scientific and technical bridge platform for EU, CEE and NIS countries and its activities will be also addressed to harmonize POPs initiatives at regional level. The Centre, after its establishment, will promote joint initiatives with the involvement of UN Agencies and UN Institutions operating in the field of environmental protection and recovery focused on POPs. Possible future partnership with UNEP Chemicals, UNIDO-CPC, ICS-UNIDO and other UN bodies and with European Union and other regional institutions to be discussed in future steps.

Centre is opened for the co-operation with any country, institutions and experts out of the region.

Brno, CR, 01 September, 2005

Prof. Dr. Petr Fiala  
 Rector of Masaryk University  
 Brno, Czech Republic



Prof. Dr. Ivan Holoubek  
 Director of RECETOX  
 Masaryk University  
 Brno, Czech Republic

**Objectives:**

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted in May 2001 with the objective of protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.

Parties to the Stockholm Convention are required to develop National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to demonstrate how the obligations of the Convention will be implemented.

Taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, and countries with economies in transition, especially the need to strengthen their national capabilities for the management of chemicals, including through the transfer of technology, the provision of financial and technical assistance and the promotion of cooperation among the Parties.

Obligation – contained in Article 7 of the Convention Article 7 of the Convention states defined that:

1. Each Party shall:
  - (a) Develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under this Convention;
  - (b) Transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force for it; and
  - (c) Review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Parties shall, where appropriate, cooperate directly or through global, regional and subregional organizations, and consult their national stakeholders, including women's groups and groups involved in the health of children, in order to facilitate the development, implementation and updating of their implementation plans.
3. The Parties shall endeavour to utilize and, where necessary, establish the means to integrate national implementation plans for persistent organic pollutants in their sustainable development strategies where appropriate.

Article 10 defines public information, awareness and education including the training of workers, scientists, educators and technical and managerial personnel; development and exchange of educational and public awareness materials at the national and international levels; and development and implementation of education and training programmes at the national and international levels.

Article 11 describes the problems of research, development and monitoring including data interpretation and evaluation. This problem is closely connected with Article 16 which is concerning to the effectiveness evaluation of Convention measures. This evaluation will be defined by the Conference of the Parties and will need the establishment of arrangements to provide itself with comparable monitoring data on the presence of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C as well as their regional and global environmental transport and will need the effective tool for data evaluation.

Based on the regional co-operation the enabling countries under UNIDO as implementing agency would like perform regional activities focused on the pos NIP activities.

## BACKGROUND

RECETOX (Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and EcoTOxicology) was established in July 7, 1994 as a research unit of the Department of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology. This establishment was covered from PHARE Programme. Its activities pursue the objectives of the TOCOEN Project. In 2001, RECETOX merged with the Department of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, and since, provides master and postgraduate studies in the fields of environmental protection, ecotoxicology and environmental chemistry. Research activities are focused on the study of persistent organic pollutants and their effects to organisms.

Centre is not setting a goal to be a large research workplace or institute of classical type but instead, it is based on the philosophy of relatively smaller group of co-workers and ad hoc research teams of specialists from all the Europe getting together to solve problems, grants, and demands from industry etc. External co-workers of the Centre take significant part in both, master and doctoral level of education.

From 1997, cooperating research teams under the umbrella of RECETOX and TOCOEN use the acronym RECETOX - TOCOEN & Associates (R - T & A) for their common presentations.

The main fields of RECETOX scientific, research and educative activities are as follows:

- Environmental chemistry
- Ecotoxicology
- Ecological and human risk assessment
- Environmental impact assessment
- Biostatistics and data evaluation

These main fields are effectively combined in several long-term conceptual research projects with features of fundamental and applied research:

- Project TOCOEN - TOxic COmpounds in the ENvironment
- Project BETWEEN - The study of relationships BETWEEN environmental levels of pollutants and their biological effects
- Project IDRIS I, II - Regional and local ecological risk assessment

The main topics of these research projects are:

- The study of the fate of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs) in the environment
- Modelling of the fate and distribution on the global, regional and local scale
- Specific ecological risk assessment activities: on regional scale, based on available multivariate environmental data of high quality
- Contribution to effective biomonitoring of stressed soils
- The development and application of methods for study of PBTs carcinogenic potential
- Studies focused on toxic effects of metabolites of PBTs formed in vivo;
- The development of the novel type software for environmental science, based on expert-system built over interactive database

Activities of RECETOX are very closely connected with government and local authorities and various industrial companies.

Research activities of RECETOX cover the Czech participation in EMEP Programme of UN/ECE Convention CLRTAP and complete regional background monitoring of persistent, toxic substances in the area of Košetice observatory of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.

At present, RECETOX as a part of R - T & A is the implementation agency of Stockholm Convention in the Czech Republic (GEF/UNIDO project Enabling activities to facilitate early action in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Convention) in Czech Republic).



Also, RECETOX participated in the UNEP/GEF Project Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances (co-ordination of region III - Europe).

**RECETOX** is, from 2002, EU-DG Research Centre of Excellence for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology (EVK1-2002-00519) based on Fifth Framework Programme, EC RTD project proposal for Programme "Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development" which is focused on the support for the integration of Newly Associated States (NAS) in the European Research Area.

**This project** was proposed as a base for increasing integration of RECETOX to the environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology scientific community and research area, increasing "visibility" of its work and results, but also the presentation of research in environmental science in the region of Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) and the integration of CEE countries to the EU including networking. From this reason the POPs Networks on the European, Central and Eastern European and Czech national levels were established.

**The POPs Networks** were officially, but very informal established during the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop of RECETOX CoE, which were held in Brno, CR, 10-12 November 2003. These Networks activities are performed - especially in the first period - basically virtually and all these activities are fully open to anybody.

**Scientific networks** are established in very close co-operation with industry, industrial associations and governmental institutions on the national, regional a European levels will be suitable platform for ongoing projects and new joint proposals. These future network activities will be covered from the budget of RECETOX, funding of the currently proposed measures would be a convenient base for starting period when scientific conferences, workshops and summer schools which will be organized as an opportunity for new contacts between people, solving similar problems and preparing joint projects.

**These networks** are focused also to implementation of Stockholm Convention, POPs Protocol of CLRTAP and other EU and international documents and scientific work connecting with these conventions.

**EUROPEAN NETWORK (EURPOPSNET)** brings together scientists to explore the potential developing and carrying out research of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals at a European level. This scientific network aims to provide a platform for scientists working in the field of environmental chemistry, environmental toxicology, ecotoxicology and risk analysis.

**Central and Eastern European part (CEECPOPSNET)** (countries of Central and Eastern Europe including Newly Independent States) of this European networks brings together scientists to explore the potential developing and carrying out research of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals at a Central and Eastern European region.

This scientific network aims to provide a platform for scientists working in the field of environmental chemistry, environmental toxicology, ecotoxicology and risk analysis.

**Czech National Network (CZNPOPSNET)** is focused on the same topics as European with special attention to POPs expert activities for Czech Government, local authorities and NGO and public and also with special attention to educational programmes. Environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology are relatively young subjects of university education in the Czech Republic. The network of universities with these study programmes can be useful for development in this important field of university education. These activities will be focused on:

This type of National activities can serve as an example for other countries especially CEECs and NIS region.

All activities in the CR are performed under umbrellas of RECETOX and Czech National POPs Centre.

Networks are also basically oriented to the organisation of joint activities which can be a base for better and more effective contacts, relationships and increasing co-operation among the scientists and institutions in European area (workshops, conferences, summer school, networks, exchange visits, common projects).

Strategically, it is very important to position Central and Eastern European scientists in this up-coming field well now. This research is lead by European and North-American groups today. The knowledge produced by Networks planned will improve competitiveness of the CEE institutions and researchers with respect to the EU.

**Central and Eastern European POPs Centre** The basic interest of CEECsPOPsCTR brings together scientists, researchers and institutions from the region of CEECs to explore the potential developing and carrying out research of POPs at a Central and Eastern European level and the solving of problems which are connected with POPs environmental contamination. This scientific aims to provide a platform for scientists working in the field of environmental chemistry, environmental toxicology, ecotoxicology, risk analysis, degradation and biodegradation, disposal, remediation.

The main goals are oriented to the following scientific and research topics:

- ↳ The fate of OPPs in the European region - source inventories, emission/deposition processes, long-range transport, transformation processes and bioavailability of POPs in terrestrial ecosystems, modeling of chemical fate in the environment at the local, regional and global scale with special attention to new types of chemicals and those for which inadequate monitoring data exist;
- ↳ The developing of new sampling and analytical methods for POPs;
- ↳ The study of effects on various types and levels of biota with special attention to study of effects of environmental mixtures and study of "unknown" effects - study of phytotoxic effects, effects on soil microbial populations and soil fauna, effects on aquatic biota, the developing of mechanism-based biomarkers of effect;
- ↳ Technologies for destruction, disposal, remediation and bioremediation of POPs
- ↳ Central and Eastern European hot problem - inventories, environmental levels, hot spots, monitoring;
- ↳ The study of effects on various types and levels of biota and human, epidemiological studies;
- ↳ Ecological and human risk assessment;
- ↳ Common strategy - using of regional capacities for measurements, research, validation of sampling, analytical and testing procedures based on the European standards, remediation capacities, common approaches;
- ↳ Technologies for destruction, remediation and bioremediation of POPs
- ↳ Exchange of information
- ↳ Database of experts, information etc.
- ↳ Consultations and co-operation in the process of the implementation of Stockholm Convention and other international conventions
- ↳ Exchange of staffs, PhD students and postdocs, training courses
- ↳ Organisation of common discussion tables, workshops, conferences
- ↳ Preparation of common projects on the national levels
- ↳ Expertises for governmental and local authorities
- ↳ Bulletin of network and common publication in national journals
- ↳ Public interpretation of environmental pollution problems
- ↳ Website presentation of common activities

## Morocco

From: 21237772858 Page: 1/2 Date: 13/02/2006 17:11:50

**Termes de référence des Centres de la Convention de Stockholm (ccs) :**  
**Proposition du MAROC**

Le Centre doit avoir comme principales missions :

- o la promotion de l'application de la convention de Stockholm,
- o la vérification et l'évaluation de l'efficacité de cette convention de manière régulière.

Pour cela, le centre doit œuvrer dans les domaines suivants :

- **Renforcement des capacités :**

L'identification des lacunes et des obstacles à l'application de la Convention et le renforcement des capacités techniques, institutionnelles et réglementaires des pays de la région, pour combler ces lacunes et favoriser l'application de la Convention.

Dans ce cadre, le renforcement des capacités des pays de la région dans le domaine du suivi des POP dans l'environnement et l'évaluation des impacts sur la santé humaine est d'une importance capitale.

- **Surveillance des POP :**

Cette surveillance doit se faire de manière régulière pour évaluer la contamination par les POP des milieux naturels (eau, sol, air), et les impacts sur la santé humaine (analyse des POP dans le lait maternel, les milieux biologiques, les aliments....).

Pour ce faire, le Centre doit impérativement constituer un centre d'excellence en matière de suivi des POP, et être rattaché à un organisme scientifique performant (Laboratoire scientifique).

En effet, le suivi de l'application de la Convention ne doit pas être seulement un **suivi administratif**, mais plutôt un suivi technique et scientifique.

Ce centre d'excellence doit promouvoir le renforcement ou la création de laboratoires spécialisés dans le domaine de suivi des POP dans les pays de la région, pour faciliter aux pays le suivi des ces polluants hautement toxiques.

- **Elaboration de rapports d'évaluation :**

A l'occasion de la tenue de chaque COP, le Centre devra présenter, sur la base des résultats de surveillance et de suivi, un rapport scientifique sur l'évolution de la problématique des POP dans la région, les tendances, et les propositions à adopter par la COP pour améliorer l'efficacité de la Convention. Ces rapport doivent guider les décisions à prendre par la COP.

**- Promotion de la coopération régionale et internationale :**

Le Centre devra favoriser, à travers ses activités, les échanges d'expériences et de savoir faire entre les pays de la région, ainsi qu'avec les autres régions à travers des séminaires, des stages, ....

Pour ce faire, le centre devra assister les pays de la région dans l'identification et le montage de projets « bancables » selon les sources de financements disponibles qu'il devra identifier de manière continue.

**- Transmission de l'information :**

Le Centre devra jouer un rôle de « carrefour de l'information sur les POP » pour alimenter tous les pays de la région par les informations et les données sur les POP, en mettant à leur disposition cette information sous une forme facile d'accès et facile à exploiter.

L'information devra concerner entre autres, les informations sur le plan institutionnel, réglementaire et juridique, scientifique ....

De même, le Centre devra informer en continu les pays de la région sur les opportunités de financement existants pour des projets sur les POP.

De plus, le Centre devra préparer des bases de données d'experts régionaux et internationaux, qui au besoin, peuvent aider les pays de la région dans les différents aspects liés à l'application de la Convention, notamment les Plans Nationaux de Mise en Ouvre.

Le Directeur de la Surveillance et  
de la Prévention des Risques  
**Abdelhak CHARIK**

## Slovakia

**Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic**  
**Waste Management Department**

Bratislava 28.11.2005  
Number: 2732/2005-6.2.

Mr John Buccini

ssc@pop.int

Dear Mr Buccini,

On the basis of the request from 17 October 2005 regarding the communication about the key elements of the terms of reference for regional and sub-regional centres and on the criteria for evaluating performance of such centres of the Stockholm Convention on POPs we would like to advice you, that this issue was the subject of the discussion with involved experts from Slovak Hydrometeorology Institute and Slovak Environmental Agency as possible institutions for this activity.

After relevant discussion about this issue we can create following SK position:

- we agree with the decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance for regional and sub-regional centres adopted by the COP-1,
- we support the establishment of regional and sub-regional centres in the Central and Eastern European Region
- we try to recognize the possibility to consider regional and sub-regional centres in the framework of existing Regional Centre Basel Convention at the Slovak Environmental Agency
- we advice you that the result of this discussion at national level will be send to you in special letter .

With best regards

Prepared by Marta Fratricová

Approved by Ing. Peter Galovic, Head of the WMD at the MoE of the SR.

**B. Other submissions**

**Guinea**

MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
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REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE

Travail - Justice - Solidarité

DIRECTION NATIONALE DE LA PREVENTION  
ET DE LA LUTTE CONTRE LES POLLUTIONS  
ET NUISANCES

Conakry, le 29/01/2005

N° 0039/ME/DNPLPN/

**Le Directeur National**

Au Secrétariat de la Convention de Stockholm  
Att : Technical assistance  
United Environment Programme  
11-13 Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219, Châtelaine, Genève SUISSE  
Fax (+41 22) 7973460  
Email : ssc@pops.int

**Objet : Termes de références relatifs à SC -1/16 :**  
Assistance technique : Centres régionaux et sous régionaux

Madame, Monsieur,

Je voudrais vous communiquer l'avis de la Guinée sur les points clés des termes de références sur les Centres régionaux et sous régionaux et les critères d'évaluations de leurs performances. La Guinée estime que la tenue d'un atelier sous régional est nécessaire pour déterminer le mandat des centres régionaux et sous régionaux ainsi que les critères d'évaluation de leurs performances. De ce fait, nous suggérons compte tenu du rôle capital que joueront ces centres, de mettre à profit les ateliers sous régionaux prévus en février 2006 dans le cadre des POPs pour inclure une séance de travail en vue de mettre au point le mandat des centres régionaux et sous régionaux ainsi que les critères d'évaluation de leurs performances.

Vous en souhaitant bonne réception, recevez l'expression de mes meilleures salutations.

Le Directeur National  
PO/ La Directrice Nationale Adjointe,  
Point Focal Convention Stockholm



*Hamaty*

Dr Halimatou Tandéta DIALLO  
E-mail : hamaty@hotmail.com

Siège : CONAKRY Route du Niger, Quartier Lanséboundji, face ENAM  
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## Kazakhstan

From: unknown Page: 1/2 Date: 21/12/2005 10:27:01

ҚАЗАҚСТАН  
РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ  
ҚОРШАҒАН ОРТАНЫ  
ҚОРҒАУ МИНИСТРЛІГІ



МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ОХРАНЫ  
ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН

010000, Астана қаласы, Жәңгір даңғылы, 31 үй  
Тел. 59-19-44, факс 59-19-73

010000, город Астана, пр. Победы, 31  
Тел. 59-19-44, факс 59-19-73

№ 02-2-2-13/30PP-21  
та № \_\_\_\_\_ от 13.12.05

15 December 2005

Dear Mr. Buccini,

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereafter, the Ministry), in accordance with your application dated 17 October 2005 concerning submission proposals on the key elements of the Terms of Reference and submission of the criteria of work assessment being created for developing countries and the countries with economy in transition of the Regional (subregional) Centers on the Stockholm Convention on POPs, would like to inform of the following situation.

The Ministry held a meeting on 23 November 2005 on organizational (institutional) structures and working models of the future centers on the Stockholm Convention on POPs jointly with UNDP/GEF project on "Initial Assistance to the Republic of Kazakhstan to Meet Its Obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POPs."

Representatives of two regional organizations: the Regional Environment Center for the Central Asia (REC CA) located in Kazakhstan and the Kazakhstan Subdivision of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development in the Central Asia (ICSD CA) as well as representatives of the World Bank, European and the Asian Bank, the USA and the United Kingdom Embassies, the concerned ministries and departments of Kazakhstan took part in the meeting.

Based on opinion of the participants of the meeting who supported necessity of creation a Center network, we would like to propose the following:

the **ideology** of the activity of the Subregional Center on the Stockholm Convention on POPs to take as a basis and to acknowledge practical implementation of the environmental idea – to work without boundaries for the future without POPs and creation of the institutional basis for implementation the commitments adopted by the Central Asian countries under the Convention after it has been ratified;

the **principles** of the Centers activity should be sustainability, transparency, responsibility, professional approach, reliability, intersectoral and subregional interstate cooperation;

the **management models** of the Centers should be based on understanding the global threat of POPs without any political or administrative barriers and departmental interests;

**programme and project** approaches (based on REC CA experience) should be used when managing the projects;

the supreme management body of the Center on the Stockholm Convention should be defined by the Governing Council and the consultative body should be defined by the Consultative Council. The current leadership of the Center activity, in accordance with the

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general principles and the programme adopted by the Director Council, will be fulfilled by an executive director, the office staff should include administration, manages on the programmes and projects and technical services. There may be branches of the Center in the countries of the region.

The participants of the meeting supported the proposal of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan on establishment of one of the subregional centers on the Stockholm Convention on POPs in the new capital of Kazakhstan, Astana city.

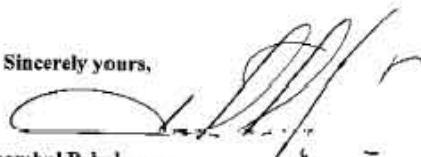
Along with this it was mentioned that Kazakhstan has all necessary conditions for sustainable functioning of the Subregional Center, i.e. the country has political stability, it is well known in the world and it has favorable geopolitical location (including location in the middle of the region and transport accessibility), there are simplified custom procedures and strengthening currency-financial situation.

Besides that, among the countries of the Central Asia, the project, which are being implemented in Kazakhstan was evaluated by the participants of the meeting as the largest and progressive one, and it has been already provided expert consultations and support in implementation of similar projects to the Central Asian countries, which has signed the Stockholm convention (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).

Currently, at the stage of completion of the National Implementation Plan on the obligations of Kazakhstan under the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan has initiated the process of its ratification.

Using this opportunity please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

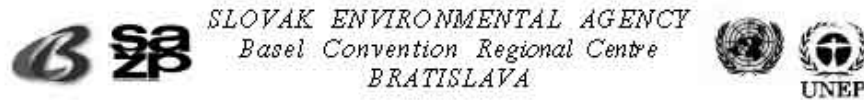


**Zhambal Bekzhanov,  
Vice-Minister,  
National Focal Point of  
Stockholm Convention on POPs**

**Mr. John Buccini,  
The Secretariat of Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent  
Organic Pollutants (POPs)**



## Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia



811 01 Bratislava, Klbovnicka 7/1  
Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421 2 5443 2061, 54641398  
Fax: +421 2 54 64 1397  
E-mail: [lapešová@sazp.sk](mailto:lapešová@sazp.sk)

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention  
Att: Technical Assistance  
UNEP  
11-13 chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva

Bratislava, November 9, 2005  
CBD – 33/2005

Dear Mr Buccini,

Thank you for sending us the letter concerning the ‘Follow up to decision SC – 1/16 on technical assistance: regional and subregional centres adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention’.

In relation to this, please, let me provide you with information that Basel Convention Regional Centre in Bratislava (BCRC) is a part of Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA). The BCRC highly welcomes the possible co-operation with the Secretariat to the Stockholm Convention and taking into account my recent discussion with our Director General Mr Miroslav Tomčík, I would like to kindly ask you to provide us with more detailed information concerning the establishment of such centre. Please, would you be so kind as to specify in detail what is expected from such centres, particularly from the point of view of capacity building, technical arrangement and related activities. In addition, we would need to know what kind of support we could receive from the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

I am looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Dana Lapešová  
Director  
BCRC Bratislava

## Basel Convention Regional Centre in Cairo

### Sent to: Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention

At: Technical Assistance  
United Nations Environment Programme  
11-13 chemin des Anemones  
CH-1219, Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
Fax: (+41 22) 797 34 60  
**E-mail: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int)**  
John A. Buccini  
Acting Executive Secretary

**Subject:** Follow up to decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance: regional and sub-regional centers adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

Dear Mr. John A. Buccini

As requested to BCRC-Cairo to provide its experience to develop terms of reference for regional and sub-regional centers and criteria for evaluating the performance of such centers, within a framework of a process to synthesize information that may serve as a methodological note for drafting TORs for establishing Stockholm Convention Regional Centre(s), the following issues are worth mention:

#### *Issues related to the candidate country (ies) for hosting the proposed centre*

Having considered the country's proposals and identification of portfolio of initiatives for development of Stockholm Convention Regional Centre(s) (SCRC), it is important to develop terms of references (TOR) covering the different aspects of administrative, technical, and geographic and/or political situations of the countries serviced by such centers. The purpose of these TOR should provide countries parties to SC with some requirements (human, physical and financial) for establishing such regional centers on specific thematic areas taking into consideration that the potentialities of the countries to start the process of launching (SCRC) are not at the same level, depending on the political and economical situation. The possible involvement of existing Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRC) and use of their expertise into the process of establishing (SCRC) is, therefore, very important.

In this respect BCRC-Cairo recognizes the following:

- The candidate country (ies) should take a lead in planning and implementing SC activities in close cooperation with other members countries serviced by the proposed regional centre.
- The candidate country (ies) should allow membership to all interested Parties of the region ignoring any possible political obstacles, and through designated institution(s)/organization(s) will develop scientific cooperation and promote dynamic interaction among the members countries and relevant agencies.
- The candidate country (ies) shall consult and cooperate to prepare, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant regional implementation of SC, sub-regional and/or regional action programmes to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes and ensure concrete outcomes from activities to be undertaken by the proposed centre.
- The candidate country (ies) shall explore the possibilities of identifying activities on scientific and technical cooperation in the priority areas pertaining to SC and the possibilities of promoting exchange of technologies

#### *Issues related to the entity of the proposed regional centre*

- The proposed SCRC should be an existing training centre, with the necessary equipment for conducting presentations and seminars (conference room with computer and/or overhead projection) and should have a good telecommunication infrastructure and availability of basic services and technical devices including telephones, fax, photocopier, printer and Internet connections with service providers. The proposed SCRC should also have logistical facilities (accommodation possibilities, travel agency support etc..)
- The proposed (SCRC) should be coordinated by an institution designated for that purpose i.e. ministries of environment or environmental affairs agencies and should cooperate closely with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to avoid duplication of efforts.
- It is expected that the (SCRC) to be established will provide or arrange for qualified and experienced *technical working group* available to conduct training sessions and facilitate the organization of workshops, seminars, and study tours relevant to the SC
- The trainers should have a good knowledge of the English language, both oral and written and provide training for scientific, technical and management personnel and other stakeholders with a view to harmonizing programmes and to organizing exchanges of experience among them. Experience is also necessary in dealing with human resources and multicultural aspects.
- The sphere of activities of (SCRC) may include the preparation and implementation of projects; research and studies; collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information; capacity building, education and public awareness; the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology; and training.
- Other activities may also include the following:
  - (I) Consolidating existing knowledge, both from within and outside the region;
  - (ii) Establishing links among researchers and practitioners in the development and application of innovative methodologies and approaches; and
  - (iii) Contributing to capacity building and strengthening the ability of government research and service agencies throughout the region in the crucial area.
- The proposed (SCRC) should have a secretariat of qualified personnel in documentation, information and networking, both professional and general staff with good knowledge/fluency/ of English language, oral and written. Competencies should include: Internet, Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc. and knowledge of automated information systems as applied to libraries and/or information networks.
- The proposed (SCRC) should design its own information policy on the base of the national information legislation and focus its efforts on planning activities to assure the rapid and interactive exchange of information with institutions of the region in the specific thematic area and will distribute information upon request where possible in a respective format: hard or electronic.
- The proposed (SCRC) should build up a dynamic information database and web site and prepare newsletters and publications and keep updated a list of members and international partners.
- A (SCRC) on a specific thematic area should serve as an information "node" for all members parties. It is expected the database that would be established by the (SCRC) would provide information on available sources of information in the selected thematic area and will provide linkages with other information directories and databases, national libraries, depository libraries, scientific and research institutes, university libraries, digital libraries, and full-text databases to optimize the exchange of information, hard and electronic copies of publications, reports, dissertations, specialized documentation etc.

- The proposed (SCRC) will establish linkages with regional reference centers such as (BCRC) and other regional thematic host institutions on the same thematic area in order to efficiently coordinate training sessions and to locate personnel who are ready and able to conduct the training.
- Establish a coordination committee or steering committee composed of representatives of some or all country Party concerned, to review progress in the regional centre activities.
- The proposed (SCRC) should have the ability to mobilize financial resources in close cooperation with other members' parties.

*Issues related to financial sustainability*

- It is proposed that it will be the responsibility of the (SCRC) to mobilize resources and political support for its activities. The (SCRC) might seek financial inputs and partnership from the various special agencies of the UN system such as GEF, UNEP, NEPAD , and contributions in kind from bodies within the private sector, European Commission, NGOs, and the national and international research institutions to reach optimum functioning.
- Members Parties shall seek full use and continued qualitative improvement of all national, bilateral and multilateral funding sources and mechanisms, using consortia, joint programmes and parallel financing, and shall seek to involve private sector and mechanisms, including those of nongovernmental organizations
- The SC Secretariat may, at the request, provide a supporting role in assisting development of project proposals and facilitate and explore related opportunities, possibilities and ideas for funding such projects.
- The proposed (SCRC) should have a long-term financial planning to make the best use of the financial resources available and turn them towards financial sustainability; and mechanisms to increase its own fund-raising activities.
- Ensure resources for sustainable employment of the technical working group and secretariat staff.

My Best Regards  
Prof. M.M. El Aref  
BCRC\_Cairo  
Director  
Cairo University, Egypt  
elaref@baselegypt.org

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**African Regional Office of FAO**

Original Message-----

**From:** Baeta, Rosemary (FAORAF) [mailto:Rosemary.Baeta@fao.org]

**Posted At:** 10 November 2005 16:29

**Posted To:** SSC

**Conversation:** PL 31/2 -Invitation to provide views on Stockholm ConventionRegional and Subregional Centres

**Subject:** RE: PL 31/2 -Invitation to provide views on Stockholm ConventionRegional and Subregional Centres

**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Buccini

Thank you for your letter dated 18 October 2005, requesting views of my Organization on the TORs of the Stockholm Convention Centres.

Having read through the decision concerning the Regional and Sub-Regional Centres, is not immediately obvious why there is a need for the centres and the purpose they would serve. Given the limited resources available, it is not clear why the additional requirements of the Stockholm Convention could not be accommodated within one or more of the existing offices that fall within the purview of UNEP.

We further note that one of the major challenges faced by the centres is how to secure financial assistance for projects while maintaining support for the structure of the centre.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely

Oloche Anebi Edache

Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Africa

## Secretariat of the Basel Convention

From: Clara.GUZMAN@unep.ch  
Posted At: Friday, December 02, 2005 3:55 PM  
Conversation: Follow up to decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance:  
regional and subregional centres adopted by the first meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention  
Posted To: SSC

Subject: Follow up to decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance:  
regional and subregional centres adopted by the first meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

Importance: High

Further to Mr. Buccini's correspondence of 17 October 2005 inviting the  
Secretariat to provide its views on terms of reference, please find  
such input in the annex.

Best regards,

Pierre Portas  
Deputy Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Basel Convention

(See attached file: PORTAPORTASSSC Technical assistance\_regional  
centres Nov 2005.doc)

(See attached file: PORTAS Decision VI 3.pdf)

## ANNEX

### 1. **Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRCs)**

An important area for the Basel Convention is the provision of technical, legal and capacity-building assistance, particularly through the Regional Centres. The Basel Convention has undertaken pioneering work in the establishment of Regional Centres.

The Centres, operating under the authority of the COP, are valuable instruments of the Convention to respond to the specific needs of different regions. They are well positioned to promote South-South cooperation, enhance local capacities and, most importantly, they are closer to the ground where the Convention is actually implemented. The Basel Convention, in Article 14, provides for the establishment of Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRCs). The Parties have emphasized the importance of the role of these Centres especially in enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Convention. BCRCs are one of the key delivery mechanisms to implement the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention. The Strategic Plan also directs the Centres to work with other multilateral environmental agreements in the field of chemicals and wastes.

The COP has established 14 Regional Centres delivering technical and capacity-building assistance in Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Russian Federation, South Africa, South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme – SPREP, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

### 2. **Terms of reference of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres**

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention that was held in Geneva, from 9 to 13 December 2002 adopted the decision VI/3 on Establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer, that was an essential step to clarify the legal status of the Regional Centres and to enhance their operation and management. Please find this decision attached.

This decision contains the core functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres, please kindly refer to Appendix I to the decision and the roles and functions of the Coordinating Centres, please kindly refer to Appendix II to the decision.

Most of the Centres have been operational for a number of years and have carried out activities to increase the capacity of the countries in their respective regions. Their main functions include: training, technology transfer, information, consulting and awareness raising. The Centres plan their activities through their Business Plans,

which are updated every two years. Each Business Plan contains activities that are recognized as priorities for the region by the countries served by the relevant centre. Business Plans are dynamic instruments that are open to donor countries, institutions and other organizations to comment on.

The Business Plans for the period of 2005-2006 are posted in the following Internet address:

<http://www.basel.int/bussplan/index.html>

It has been recognised by the Parties to the Basel Convention that the legal and formal establishment of the BCRCs is an essential step towards creating stable institutions with the capacity to assist in the implementation of the Basel Convention at the regional level.

At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, countries adopted a decision (Decision V/3) mandating the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to elaborate "a draft framework agreement, including a core set of identical basic elements for all centres" to be signed between the Secretariat, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, and the Governments hosting regional centres. The Framework Agreement would take into account the different needs and priorities of each region and would serve as the basis for negotiation with the host Governments. In decision VI/3, the COP set out the core set of elements for inclusion in the Agreements.

The Secretariat developed model agreements establishing two different types of institutions:

- an inter-governmental institution (i.e. an inter-governmental institution concludes an agreement with the Secretariat to undertake the functions of the BCRC), and
- a national institution with regional role (i.e. an institution established under the national law of the host Government. SBC concludes an agreement with the Host Government to exercise the regional functions of the BCRC).

The host Governments consulted the countries in their regions and, following such consultations, each region selected one of these models. To date, only English-speaking Africa has adopted the inter-governmental model.

In addition, it provides that signature of the Framework Agreements will establish the BCRCs as legally independent entities.

This independent legal personality is important because:

- BCRCs with a solid structure and formally established will be recognised by the international community as reliable actors and regional "implementers" of the Basel Convention, particularly by potential donors.
- The legal establishment will also clarify the functioning of each BCRC in relation to the countries in each region.
- In addition, the legal personality allows them to operate independently and efficiently.

To date, eight agreements have been signed.

Nelson Sabogal



The remaining host Governments are in the process of undertaking the internal and regional consultations necessary to comply with the requirements for signature of the Framework Agreements and, thus, enter into international legal obligations. It is expected that all Centres will be legally established, by conclusion of the Framework Agreements, by the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in November 2006.

Nelson Sabogal

**VI/3. Establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 17 of decision V/5 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the result of the process of consultation undertaken by the secretariat with the host countries and the Regional Centres,

Welcoming the financial and/or support in kind provided by host Governments, donor countries, industry, United Nations and other relevant international organizations and bodies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme for the functioning of these Centres,

1. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultative Meeting of the Basel Convention Regional Centres, held in Cairo, contained in annex 3 of the report of the Consultative Meeting, towards the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (see UNEP/CHW/WGI/175);

2. Adopts the core functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres, as contained in appendix I to the present decision and the roles and functions of the Coordinating Centres, as contained in appendix II to the present decision;

3. Adopts the following core set of elements for inclusion in the Framework Agreement to be signed between the secretariat of the Basel Convention (on behalf of the Conference of the Parties) and the representative of the host countries' Governments:

- (a) Identification of the Parties entering into the agreement;
- (b) Overall purpose for entering into the agreement;
- (c) Legislative authority on which the agreement is based;
- (d) Official name and address of the Regional Centre;
- (e) Legal status of the Centre (for example, separate national legal entity with a regional role or intergovernmental institution and authority under which the Centre was established and operates);
- (f) Countries consenting to be served by the Centre;
- (g) Management/governance arrangements (for example, national committee/body to mobilize and coordinate the national inputs into the Centre; steering committee attended by the representatives of the countries served by the Centre to determine the business plan of the Centre and oversee the plan's

implementation; terms of reference of these bodies; rules and procedures governing the meetings organized by the Centre);

(h) The possible involvement of donors with respect to financial and technical assistance to support the Centre;

(i) Effective cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Basel Convention and among the Regional Centres;

(j) Reporting channels;

(k) Contributions of host countries in kind, cash and services towards the operation of the Centre and, if possible, contributions of the countries served by the Centre;

(l) Contributions from the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to assist developing countries and other countries in need of technical assistance in the implementation of the Basel Convention and other voluntary contributions towards the financing of the core functions of the Centre and operational and other associated costs related to the core functions of the Centre;

(m) Matching funds (contributions in cash, kind or services) to be raised by the Centre;

(n) Working language(s) of the Centre;

(o) Exemption by the host country from taxation and other levies on the resources (including equipment) provided from the funds under the control of the Contracting Parties according to its national legislation, whenever possible;

(p) In the case of an intergovernmental institution, the terms and conditions of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations shall apply as appropriate;

(q) Reporting on substantive activities undertaken by the Centre and financial reporting on the funds raised by the Centre and the expenditures of the Centre to the secretariat of the Basel Convention;

(r) Arrangements to settle any disputes between the signatories of the agreement;

(s) Duration of the agreement;

(t) Provisions for the periodic external review, extension, termination or amendment of the agreement; and

(u) A business plan for the period 2003-2004 for the Regional Centre, approved by the countries served by the Centre, shall be prepared before the signature of the Framework Agreement.

4. Endorses the mechanism of establishing the Basel Convention Regional Centres by signing the Framework Agreement;

5. Mandates the secretariat of the Basel Convention to negotiate and sign in the name of the Conference of the Parties, the Framework Agreement with the representative of the Government of the country hosting or willing to host the Centre and with whom consultations have been completed by the secretariat and selected by the Conference of the Parties and, where necessary, with the regional or international organizations which will perform the functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres. The negotiation and signature of the Framework Agreement shall be completed without delay in order to formalize the establishment of the Centres approved by the Conference of the Parties.

6. Requests the secretariat to submit the concluded Framework Agreements to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

7. Endorses the role of the Basel Convention Regional Centres in carrying out the implementation of the Basel Declaration and the priority actions of the strategic plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention, using contributions from the Trust Fund for the Basel Convention, as agreed periodically by the Conference of the Parties;

8. Requests the secretariat to prepare, based on the reports received from the Centres, a document on the implementation of the present decision and progress and difficulties encountered in the activities of the Centres, to be presented to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting with a view to assessing the adequacy of the arrangements for the functioning of the Centres, including financial mechanisms;

9. Urges all Parties and non-parties in a position to do so, as well as international organizations, including development banks, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make financial contributions directly to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund or in kind contributions, or contributions on a bilateral level, to allow all the Centres to become fully operational;

10. Requests the secretariat to explore, in collaboration with the Regional Centres, possibilities for the establishment of partnerships with industry and other stakeholders in the work of the Regional Centres in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of their operation;

11. Requests the secretariat to establish, pursue and reinforce its closer collaboration with relevant United Nations and other international and regional agencies and conventions in the work of the Regional Centres, in particular with the United Nations Environment Programme offices and programmes, including its Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, International Environmental Technology Centre, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, National Cleaner Production Centres, and Chemicals Branch, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations

regional economic commissions, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization – Interpol General Secretariat, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Ozone Secretariat and the regional organizations for the protection of the marine environment, to explore new areas of cooperation.

**Appendix I****CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRES**

The role of the Centres is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within their own region, through capacity-building for environmentally sound management, to achieve the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.

The description of the core functions of the Centres is as follows:

1. Training;
2. Technology transfer;
3. Information;
4. Consulting;
5. Awareness-raising.

The explanations of the core functions of the Centres are as follows:

- (a) Developing and conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the field of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, transfer of environmentally sound technology and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes, with specific emphasis on training of trainers and the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Convention and its instruments;
- (b) Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or their minimization in the region;
- (c) Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of hazardous wastes and other wastes to Parties of the region and to the secretariat;
- (d) Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and know-how relating to environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and disseminating these to Parties of the region at their request;
- (e) Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels;
- (f) Organizing meetings, symposiums and missions in the field, useful for carrying out these objectives in the region;
- (g) Providing assistance and advice to the Parties and non-parties of the region at their request, on matters relevant to the environmentally sound management or minimization of hazardous wastes, the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related matters;
- (h) Promoting public awareness;

(i) Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes, for example, through case studies and pilot projects;

(j) Cooperating with the United Nations and its bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the specialized agencies, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations, and, where appropriate, with any other institution, in order to coordinate activities and develop and implement joint projects related to the provisions of the Basel Convention and develop synergies where appropriate with other multilateral environmental agreements;

(k) Developing, within the general financial strategy approved by the Parties, the Centres' own strategy for financial sustainability;

(l) Cooperating in mobilization of human, financial and material means in order to meet the urgent needs at the request of the Party(ies) of the region faced with incidents or accidents which cannot be solved with the means of the individual Party(ies) concerned;

(m) Performing any other functions assigned to it by the decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention or by Parties of the region consistent with such decisions.

#### **Appendix II**

#### **ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COORDINATING CENTRES OF THE BASEL CONVENTION IN ADDITION TO THE CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRES CONTAINED IN APPENDIX I**

1. Ensuring interaction, including exchange of information, between the secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Regional Centres, among the subregional centres, Parties and other related institutions;
2. Conveying regional consultation to identify priorities and formulate strategies;
3. Supporting and coordinating common tasks of the subregional centres in the field of policies, information, communication, technical and financial assessment;
4. Defining and executing programmes of regional scope in coordination with the subregional centres;
5. Identifying, promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation among the subregional centres and other stakeholders in environmentally sound management and the minimization of generation of hazardous waste and technology transfer in and outside the region;
6. Keeping a compilation system for information and making such information accessible to stakeholders.

## Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



ORG-1/14/1

24 October 2005

Mr. John A. Buccini  
Acting Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention  
on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
International Environment House  
11-13, chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine  
Geneva, Switzerland

Fax Number: +41 22 797 34 60

Subject: **Follow up to decision SC-1/16 on technical assistance: regional and sub-regional centres adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention**

Dear Mr. Buccini,

Let me first of all take this opportunity to thank you for the Stockholm Convention Secretariat's recognition of SPREP as a potential institution for hosting the Pacific Regional Centre for the Stockholm Convention. In the last 3-4 years, both UNEP Chemicals (acting as the Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention) and SPREP have worked closely and cordially to build a strong and healthy relationship in providing technical assistance and training in progressing the work related to the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific region and we hope that this can be strengthened and continued into the future.

Secondly, thank you for the invitation for SPREP to provide its views on the Term of Reference and the Criteria for Evaluating the performance of the Regional and sub-regional Centres of the Stockholm Convention. We are very glad to provide the details of our views.

As you are well aware, Paragraph 4 of Article 12 on *Technical Assistance* in the Stockholm Convention stipulates that:

*The Parties shall establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of the Convention. These arrangements shall include regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfill their obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties.*

We envision the role of the Regional Centres, as outlined in the above paragraph of the Convention, to assist developing countries in the Pacific region, through capacity building activities and through the use of appropriate technology to meet and fulfill the objectives of the Convention.

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E: [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org)  
T: +685 21 929  
F: +685 20 231  
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*Terms of Reference*

We at SPREP feel that an integral part of implementing the Stockholm Convention is the effort to build the capability of the Parties in the Pacific islands region to recognize, manage and dispose of chemicals that are scheduled in the Convention. Through appropriate training and the transfer of the appropriate technology, the small islands developing countries in the Pacific can gain the skills and tools necessary to properly assess, recognize, determine, manage and dispose of these chemicals in an environmentally sound manner. The setting up of Regional Centres at various locales around the world would play a vital role in achieving these.

The envisaged core functions of the Centres to be as follows:

1. Training and capacity building;
2. Technology transfer;
3. Information management and dissemination;
4. Integrated Communication and awareness raising;
5. Consulting;

The explanations of the core functions of the Centres are as follows:

1. Training and capacity building:
  - (i) Developing and conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the field of the control and environmentally sound management of the scheduled chemicals, transfer of environmentally sound technology and minimization of the generation (and the ultimate elimination) of the scheduled POPs chemicals, with specific emphasis on training of trainers and the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Convention and its instruments. These can be done as follows:
    - (a) Develop and conduct training to address matter pertaining only to the Stockholm Convention such as the development and formulation of the national implementation plans and their subsequent implementation; and
    - (b) Develop and conduct training collaboratively and synergistically with other relevant global Conventions such as the Basel or Rotterdam Conventions and the Pacific regionally-orientated Waigani Convention
2. Technology transfer
  - (i) Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of:
    - (a) Monitoring and environmentally sound management of the scheduled chemicals or their minimization and their ultimate elimination in the region;
    - (b) Best available techniques and best environmental practice (BAT/BEP) in the management of unintentionally produced POPs chemicals in region specific situations.

Information management and dissemination

- (i) Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of scheduled POPs chemicals and other wastes to Parties of the region and to the Secretariat:
  - (a) Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and know-how relating to environmentally sound management, minimization of the generation and the ultimate elimination of the scheduled POPs chemicals and other wastes and disseminating these to Parties of the region at their request;

- (b) Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels;
  - (c) Collaboratively and synergistically working with relevant global and regional MEAs in the management of information relevant to the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels;
4. Integrated Communication, social marketing and awareness raising
- (i) Working collaboratively with the Parties in developing regional and national integrated communication strategies that contain social marketing and awareness raising components to address issues relevant to the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, and implementing these strategies at the national and regional levels;
  - (ii) Organizing meetings, symposiums and missions in the field, useful for carrying out these objectives in the region;
  - (iii) Providing assistance and advice to the Parties and non-parties of the region at their request, on matters relevant to the control, environmentally sound management, minimization and the ultimate elimination of, the implementation of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and other related matters;
  - (iv) Advocacy and promoting public awareness;
  - (v) Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for environmentally sound management, minimization of the generation and the ultimate elimination of scheduled POPs chemicals and other wastes, for example, through case studies and pilot projects;

#### 5. Consulting

- (i) Cooperating with the United Nations and its bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the specialized agencies, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations, and, where appropriate, with any other institution, in order to coordinate activities and develop and implement joint projects related to the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and develop synergies where appropriate with other multilateral environmental agreements. This cooperation should also involve activities that lead to mobilization of resources for the regional centre to perform its functions and roles;
- (ii) Developing, within the general financial strategy approved by the Parties, the Centres' own strategy for financial sustainability;
- (iii) Cooperating in mobilization of human, financial and material means in order to meet the urgent needs at the request of the Party(ies) of the region faced with incidents or accidents which cannot be solved with the means of the individual Party(ies) concerned;
- (iv) Performing any other functions assigned to it by the decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention or by Parties of the region consistent with such decisions.

While the regional centre's core functions are elaborated upon in broad general language, the specifics of the activities and how they would be carried out would be contained in the regional centre's business plan.

**Criteria for evaluating the performance of the regional and sub-regional centres**

As the main roles of the regional centres are to assist developing countries in the Pacific islands region, through capacity building activities and through the use of appropriate technology to meet and fulfill the objectives of the Stockholm Convention, the evaluation of their performance and effectiveness should be measured by how the developing Parties are able to meet their obligations under the Convention. The assistance that the centres will be providing to the developing Parties should be contained in the centre's business plan so an evaluation of their performance would in a sense be evaluating how the work program or plan (activities) is being implemented against the verifiable indicators and the impact that this assistance is having on the Parties' ability to meet the obligations under the Convention.

The evaluation process can be done in two major ways:

1. By way of an agreed process such as a performance evaluation and monitoring process, the centre's ability to deliver on the planned activities can be measured and evaluated. The achieved activities can be forwarded to the Secretariat by way of a Progress Report of the activities carried out by the regional center - this can be done on an annual or biennial basis.
2. As part of the reporting process of the Parties in the region, the regional centre's work in assisting the Parties can be evaluated. This can be done by including a component in the reporting format that outlines the type of assistance that has been rendered to the Parties and how the assistance has been provided. Additionally, there should be something about how the assistance provided by the regional centre has impacted on the Parties' ability to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

Other criteria that could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the centre's could also include the ability for the centre to sustainable in terms of finance and relevant resources and the ability for the centre to be able to synergistically and harmoniously work with other regional centres of relevant chemical Conventions such as the Basel (and Waigani) Conventions as well as the Rotterdam Convention (once established).

We trust these functions are valuable in the Secretariat's work in finalizing a terms of reference and list of criteria for the evaluation process for the setting up and performance of a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention.

We would be happy to provide further information pertinent to the Pacific region if required.

Yours Sincerely,



F. Vitolo Lau  
Acting Director

UNEP/POPS