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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 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by
the Conference of the Parties: measures to
reduce or eliminate releases from wastes**

Cooperation with the Basel Convention**

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention stipulates that:

“The Conference of the Parties shall cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to, inter alia:

- (a) Establish levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants as specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D are not exhibited;
- (b) Determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal referred to in [paragraph 1 of Article 6]; and
- (c) Work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C in order to define the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (iii).”

2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants adopted decision SC-1/21 on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants wastes. In this decision, the Conference welcomed the

* UNEP/POPS/COP.2/1.

** Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention; report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/21.

general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the guidelines pertaining to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) within the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, polychlorinated terphenyls or polybrominated biphenyls as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its seventh meeting in decision VII/13.¹ Those technical guidelines were set out in annexes II and III of the note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes developed under the Basel Convention.²

3. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention also welcomed the continuing work of the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention regarding the methodology for further definition of low POP content and levels of destruction and irreversible transformation, as well as on additional specific technical guidelines regarding POPs other than PCBs and encouraged Parties to the Stockholm Convention to participate actively in that work. Finally, it requested the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation and synergies with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention further with respect to those issues and to keep Parties informed about the status and content of the technical guidelines being developed under the Basel Convention.

4. In response to the above requests, the Secretariat prepared the information contained in the present note.

I. Updated information on the development of the technical guidelines

A. General technical guidelines and guidelines on PCBs

5. The general technical guidelines referred to above address all three issues raised in paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention. They provisionally:

(a) Define levels of destruction and irreversible transformation (see section III, part B, of the guidelines);

(b) Determine the methods that are considered to constitute environmentally sound disposal of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (see section IV, part G, of the guidelines);

(c) Define the low-level persistent organic pollutant content for the 12 chemicals listed in the Convention (see section III, part A, of the guidelines).

6. In its decision VII/13, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention requested the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention to review and, if appropriate, prepare proposals for updating both sets of technical guidelines and to prepare, as appropriate, proposals for updating them. In addition, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the methodology for further definition of low persistent organic pollutant content, levels of destruction and irreversible transformation should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2005–2006.

B. Draft technical guidelines on the eight persistent organic pollutant pesticides

7. At its fourth session, held from 4 to 8 July 2005, the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention considered draft technical guidelines prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex or toxaphene and draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing, or contaminated with hexachlorobenzene (HCB). In its decision OEWG-IV/11 on the preparation of technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants, the Open-ended Working Group agreed to merge the technical guidelines on the eight pesticides with the technical guidelines on HCB as an industrial chemical.³ The current draft does not contain any guidance with respect to low persistent organic pollutant content, levels of destruction and irreversible transformation and methods that

¹ Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/CHW.7/33), annex I, decision VII/13.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/12/Rev.1.

³ Report of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the work of its fourth session (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/4/18), annex I, decision OEWG-IV/11.

constitute environmentally sound management additional to that contained in the general technical guidelines.

8. Following the session, the draft technical guidelines were made available for comment by Parties and others and a revised draft has been prepared for the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group, which is scheduled for 3–7 April 2006. The draft guidelines and the comments received are available on the Basel Convention website (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

9. It is expected that the technical guidelines on pesticides and HCB as in industrial chemical will be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting, scheduled for late November 2006.

C. Draft technical guidelines on DDT

10. At its fourth session, the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention considered draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting or, containing or contaminated with DDT prepared under the lead of Mexico. The current draft does not contain any guidance with respect to low persistent organic pollutant content, levels of destruction and irreversible transformation and methods that constitute environmentally sound management additional to that contained in the general technical guidelines.

11. Following the session, the draft technical guidelines were made available for comments by Parties and others. Mexico is expected to prepare a revised draft, taking into account the comments received, in time for the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group. The draft guidelines, any revisions thereof and the comments received are available on the Basel Convention website (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

12. It is expected that the technical guidelines on DDT will be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting, scheduled for late November 2006.

D. Draft technical guidelines on unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants

13. Following the session, the draft technical guidelines were made available for comment by Parties and others and a revised draft has been prepared for the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group. The current draft, however, contains only additional guidance with respect to methods of destruction and irreversible transformation.

14. Following the session, the draft guidelines were made available for comments by Parties and others. Australia is expected to prepare a revised draft taking into account the comments received in time for the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group. The draft guidelines and the comments received are available on the Convention website (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

15. The technical guidelines on the unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants are expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting.

II. Best available technologies and best environmental practices

16. When it adopted the general technical guidelines at its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention invited the bodies of the Stockholm Convention to consider best available technologies and best environmental practices with respect to unintentionally produced POPs, including the more recent technologies for destruction and irreversible transformation listed in the technical guidelines.⁴ In response to this invitation, the Expert Group on Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices discussed the issue at its first meeting, held from 28 November to 2 December 2005. The Expert Group produced a preliminary response to the invitation, contained in the annex to the report of its meeting.⁵ In addition, the Expert Group agreed to undertake further work on the issue under the lead of the expert from Australia. The response to the request by the Basel Convention would be submitted to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention for consideration at its third meeting and forwarded to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

⁴ Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/CHW.7/33), annex I, decision VII/13, paragraph 6.

⁵ Report of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (UNEP/POPS/EGBATBAP.1/5), annex I.

III. Cooperation and synergies

17. The secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions cooperate with regard to other issues which are required to be addressed collectively under the two conventions and are mutually supportive of each other's work programmes. They are exploring opportunities for joint projects that may also involve the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

18. Other documents before the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting related to cooperation and synergies between the conventions are:

(a) A note by the Secretariat on regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/15), prepared in response to decision SC-1/16 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention.⁶ In paragraph 3 of that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to pursue cooperation with Basel Convention regional and subregional centres and other relevant existing institutions in the implementation of regional projects and programmes concerning the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;

(b) Notes by the Secretariat on enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/25 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF.12), prepared by the Secretariat in response to decision SC-1/18 of the Conference of the Parties.⁷ In paragraph 3 of that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a study on how cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other relevant programmes could be improved to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role that common structures might play. The study is to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting and at the upcoming meetings in 2006 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention;

(c) A note by the Secretariat on a supplementary analysis of the financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that may be proposed by the three secretariats and UNEP as a result of the study on enhancing synergies discussed in (b) above (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18). The analysis was prepared by UNEP in response to the invitation made by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its second meeting in decision RC-2/6 on enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions.⁸

⁶ Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/16.

⁷ Ibid., decision SC-1/18.

⁸ Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/19), annex I, decision RC-2/6.