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Item 5 (j) of the provisional agenda*

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

Effectiveness evaluation**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 1 of Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants states that, commencing four years after the date of its entry into force and periodically thereafter at intervals to be decided by the Conference of the Parties, the Conference shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention.
2. Paragraph 2 of Article 16 states that, in order to facilitate such evaluation, the Conference shall, at its first meeting, initiate the establishment of arrangements to provide itself with comparable monitoring data on the presence of chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention as well as their regional transport.
3. Paragraph 3 of Article 16 states that the evaluation shall be conducted on the basis of available scientific, technical and economic information including:
 4. Reports and other monitoring information provide pursuant paragraph 2 of Article 16;
 5. National reports submitted pursuant to Article 15; and
 6. Non-compliance information provided pursuant to the procedures to be established under Article 17.
7. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-1/13 on effectiveness evaluation agreed to initiate arrangements to provide itself with comparable monitoring data on which to base its evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention.
8. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-2/13 on effectiveness evaluation, in which it among other things:

* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 16; report of the Conference of the Parties of the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/13; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/13.

- (a) Agreed to complete the first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting, in 2009;
- (b) Decided to implement the elements for a global monitoring plan as proposed in the annex to the decision;
- (c) Decided to establish a provisional ad hoc technical working group of 15 representatives of Parties of the five United Nations regions to coordinate and oversee implementation of the global monitoring plan as provided in the annex to the decision;
- (d) Requested the provisional ad hoc technical working group to report on progress in the implementation of the global monitoring plan to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;
- (e) Requested the Secretariat to compile the elements for the first effectiveness evaluation, including the global monitoring report, national reports and non-compliance information from any procedure that might be put in place by the Conference of the Parties, and to submit the report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting for its consideration;
- (f) Requested the Secretariat to identify monitoring programmes that may update the information in the note by the Secretariat on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes,¹ including other programmes that can contribute to the global monitoring plan, and to prepare a report for the provisional ad hoc technical working group.

9. The provisional ad hoc technical working group on the global monitoring plan met from 9 to 12 October 2006 and from 30 January to 3 February 2007. The reports of the meetings are contained in documents UNEP/POPS/GMP-TWG.1/6 and UNEP/POPS/GMP-TWG.2/8. A progress report by the chair of the group, Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic), is set forth in annex I to the present note. The group developed, among other things:

- (a) The draft global monitoring plan contained in annex II to the present note;
- (b) The draft implementation plan for the global monitoring plan for the first effectiveness evaluation, contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23;
- (c) The draft guidance on the global monitoring plan, contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/14.

10. As requested by the Conference in decision SC-2/13, the Secretariat has identified monitoring programmes to update the information in the note on existing human health and environmental monitoring programmes prepared for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The updated information is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/15.

11. A flowchart providing an overview of the effectiveness evaluation process to be completed at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is contained in annex III to the present note.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

12. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

- (a) To take note of the progress report by the chair of the provisional ad hoc technical working group and the reports of the first and second meetings of the group;
- (b) To adopt, with any amendments, the global monitoring plan;
- (c) To adopt, with any amendments, the implementation plan for the global monitoring plan for the first effectiveness evaluation;
- (d) To establish a global coordination group, the proposed mandate and terms of reference of which are included in the implementation plan referred to in paragraph (c) above, and invite Parties to nominate members of that group;
- (e) To endorse the guidance document on the global monitoring plan, invite Parties to use it as appropriate in implementing the global monitoring plan and request the Secretariat to identify modalities for updating the guidance document, taking into consideration any comments received from Parties.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF.10

(f) To request the Secretariat to support training and other capacity-building activities to assist countries in implementing the global monitoring plan and work with partners to undertake activities according to the operational and trust fund budgets of the Convention for the 2008–2009 biennium.

Annex I

Report by the Chair of the provisional ad hoc technical working group on the global monitoring plan

Introduction

13. At its second meeting held in May 2006, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-2/13 on effectiveness evaluation, in which it agreed to implement the elements for the global monitoring plan and decided to establish a provisional ad hoc technical working group to oversee the plan.

14. The annex to the decision sets out the tasks for the provisional ad hoc technical working group, which include:

- (a) Developing criteria for evaluating programmes;
- (b) Identifying monitoring programmes that fulfil the criteria for contributing to the baseline data production, taking into account the updating of the information contained in the note by the Secretariat on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/10);
- (c) Preparing a report on such programmes and others that may make useful contributions, subject to enhancement of their capacities;
- (d) Outlining the global monitoring plan, along the lines of the principles and requirements also contained in the annex to the decision;
- (e) Developing guidance for data comparability, taking into account the guidance document prepared by the Chemicals Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Chemicals);
- (f) Developing an implementation plan to fulfil the minimum requirements for the first evaluation, including measures:
 - (i) To use data from regional monitoring programmes and data provided by Parties;
 - (ii) To ensure that data are comparable, namely by applying quality assurance and quality control standards;
 - (iii) To summarize and present the data on a regional basis, to be used as a baseline;
- (g) Coordinating and overseeing implementation of the plan in accordance with the elements described;
- (h) Reporting on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

15. The first meeting of the provisional ad hoc technical working group was held at the Research Centre of Excellence for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, from 9 to 12 October 2006. The second meeting was held at International Environment House in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 January to 3 February 2007. At its first meeting, the provisional ad hoc technical working group agreed to convene an expert drafting group meeting in Geneva in December 2006 to revise the guidance document on the global monitoring plan originally prepared by UNEP Chemicals in 2004, focusing on the requirements for the first effectiveness evaluation, and to submit it for review at the second meeting of the provisional ad hoc technical working group.

A. Outcome and products of the work of the group

1. Draft global monitoring plan

16. The provisional ad hoc technical working group developed a draft global monitoring plan, which is contained in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22. With regard to overseeing implementation of the plan, the group examined various options, which included maintaining the existing structure of the group, expanding its mandate and membership or establishing a new group. Although no final decision was reached, suggestions were made with regard to the possible functions of what might eventually be known as a global coordination group. It was suggested that the group might consist of three to five members from each region and that those members should also participate in the regional organization groups.

2. Preliminary inventory of monitoring programmes

17. In response to a questionnaire distributed by the Secretariat, a preliminary inventory of national, international and regional monitoring programmes was developed and submitted to the provisional ad hoc technical working group. Criteria for the selection of monitoring programmes developed at the group's first meeting were applied to the inventory and the programmes were categorized into four groups, as follows: group 1 programmes were those which could immediately provide information for the first evaluation; group 2 programmes were those which, with identified capacity enhancement, could provide information in areas that would otherwise be inadequately represented in the first evaluation; group 3 programmes were those which might be enhanced with capacity-building for future assessments; and group 4 programmes were those for which more information would be needed before they could be categorized. The preliminary inventory is available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/15.

3. Draft guidance document on the global monitoring plan

18. The draft guidance contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/14 addresses the requests by the Conference of the Parties for guidance with regard to data standardization and provides a uniform activity framework for all tasks associated with the collection, assessment and reporting of environmental background levels of the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annexes A, B and C to the Convention in order to provide comparable information for the Conference of the Parties as required by paragraph 2 of Article 16. The draft guidance document is focused on the requirements for the first effectiveness evaluation. The first monitoring report will, however, provide baseline information that will in the future help to indicate changes in environmental levels of the listed persistent organic pollutants. Therefore the document also looks to the future. It is intended to be a living framework, in other words one that may evolve over time, to reflect future decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the experience gained and emerging specific needs.

4. Draft implementation plan, workplan and timetable

19. The provisional ad hoc technical working group agreed on a draft implementation plan which outlines the main tasks that must be completed in relation to the global monitoring plan for the first evaluation. It is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23. It sets out actions, modalities, responsibilities and time lines for the completion of the work and is intended to be a living document that will evolve to meet the needs of the global monitoring plan. Within each region, all activities will be under the direction of a regional organization group. It was suggested that the nominated members of the proposed global coordination group for each region will constitute the core of the regional organization group. Details of the specific activities and tasks of the regional organization groups are provided in the draft terms of reference set out in annex III to the draft plan. Subregional arrangements that take into account linguistic, political and geophysical considerations could be introduced to support further the organization of the work. Furthermore, twinning and partnerships between regions is to be encouraged whenever possible. The draft implementation plan includes a flow chart of action, as well as:

20. (a) Elements of a generic, step-by-step capacity enhancement plan that might be completed and used by regional organization groups for the purpose of implementing Article 16;
21. (b) Draft terms of reference for regional organization groups and a proposed regional structure with a map and list of countries broken down into geographical groupings that might be used for monitoring purposes;
22. (c) Draft terms of reference for the global coordination group; and
23. (d) Criteria for the evaluation of monitoring programmes as developed by the provisional ad hoc technical working group at its first meeting.

B. Issues related to the different outputs

1. Workplan and schedule

24. The provisional ad hoc technical working group agreed at its second meeting that the workplan and schedule for producing the first monitoring report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, to be held in 2009, might not afford the time necessary to accomplish the requirements set out in the global monitoring plan. The current workplan has been directed towards the Convention requirement to commence the effectiveness evaluation four years after the Convention's entry into force. The poor response to the questionnaires sent by the Secretariat has, however, hindered the preparation of the comprehensive inventory of monitoring programmes which is required for the expeditious implementation of the global monitoring plan. It was suggested that the Conference of the Parties might wish to examine the workplan and schedule and consider, at its fourth meeting, whether to allow additional time for the provision of adequate baseline information.

2. Generic step-by-step capacity enhancement plan

25. Owing to a limited response to the Secretariat's survey on capacity needs assessment, the provisional ad hoc technical working group decided to focus on preparing the outline of a generic step-by-step capacity enhancement plan and to leave its further development, which would reflect a regional perspective, to the regional organization structures.

3. Regional structure

26. The provisional ad hoc technical working group emphasized the need for an adequate basis for generating, collecting, reporting and presenting regional data. To this end, the Group decided that the most appropriate solution would be to form regions on the basis of geographical entities, which would also facilitate the evaluation of the regional and global environmental transport of persistent organic pollutants. To keep the number of regions to a manageable figure, while maintaining geographical balance, it was proposed that, for the purposes of the first monitoring report, six geographic groups be designated as follows: Africa; Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands; the Caribbean, Central and South America; Central, Eastern and Western Europe (including the entire United Nations Central and Eastern European region); Eastern, Southern and Western Asia (excluding the United Nations Central and Eastern European region); and North America. It was also suggested that information from the Arctic and Antarctic would be incorporated in the appropriate regions taking care to avoid overlaps between regions.

4. Proposal for a process for updating and completing the draft guidance document for future evaluations

27. The provisional ad hoc technical working group revised the draft guidance document taking into account the elements for establishing and implementing a global monitoring plan set out in the annex to decision SC-2/13. The draft guidance document would be further updated if the Conference of the Parties should decide to include additional matrices for monitoring reports in the future.

5. Financial implications

28. The provisional ad hoc technical working group requested the Secretariat to undertake an estimation of the operational costs for the regional organization groups and for the global coordination group, based on the elements agreed to at the group's meetings. This estimation is reflected in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/16.

6. Transparency and endorsement

29. The provisional ad hoc technical working group noted that, although the wording of Article 16 required only that monitoring data be compiled and summarized, it was important to undertake an analysis of the data to ensure their usefulness. Diverse views were expressed regarding the desirability of national endorsement of scientific data. Regarding human data that would be collected on a regional basis, it was noted that the regional reports might assess and interpret such data, possibly in collaboration with partner organizations. For the global report, however, it is not yet clear how the data will be treated. Based on ethical considerations, it is not acceptable to present human data without proper interpretation or assessment.

7. Overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan

30. At its third meeting, the Conference of Parties should decide on the future of the provisional ad hoc technical working group. The Conference may wish to extend the mandate of that group or develop some other means of coordinating the global monitoring plan following the third meeting. It is important that such a coordination group be created immediately following the third meeting of the Conference in order to ensure continuity of the process. Possible terms of reference for such a global coordination group are set out in annex IV to the draft implementation plan (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23).

C. Recommendations to the Conference

31. The provisional ad hoc technical working group agreed to invite the Conference of the Parties to consider the possible action set out in paragraph 9 of the note by the Secretariat on effectiveness evaluation (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22).

Annex II

Global monitoring plan as amended by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting

I. Background to environmental monitoring and elements of effectiveness evaluation

A. Mandate

1. Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants states:

“1. Commencing four years after the date of entry into force of this Convention, and periodically thereafter at intervals to be decided by the Conference of the Parties, the Conference shall evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention.

2. In order to facilitate such evaluation, the Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, initiate 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. These arrangements:

(a) Should be implemented by the Parties on a regional basis when appropriate, in accordance with their technical and financial capabilities, using existing monitoring programmes and mechanisms to the extent possible and promoting harmonization of approaches;

(b) May be supplemented where necessary, taking into account the differences between regions and their capabilities to implement monitoring activities; and,

(c) Shall include reports to the Conference of the Parties on the results of the monitoring activities on a regional and global basis at intervals to be specified by the Conference of the Parties.

3. The evaluation described in paragraph 1 shall be conducted on the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical and economic information, including:

(a) Reports and other monitoring information provided pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2;

(b) National reports submitted pursuant to Article 15; and,

(c) Non-compliance information provided pursuant to the procedures established under Article 17.”

B. Decisions by the Conference of the Parties relating to implementation of Article 16

2. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-2/13 in which it decided to complete the first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting in 2009 and agreed on the essential modalities for the first and second evaluations. The Conference also agreed in that decision to implement the elements of a global monitoring plan as proposed in the annex to that decision. It also agreed to establish a provisional ad hoc technical working group consisting of 15 representatives of Parties of the five United Nations regions to coordinate and oversee implementation of the plan. The Conference of the Parties decided at its third meeting that the mandate of the provisional ad hoc technical working group was successfully completed and thanked the group for its work.

3. In addition to the present document, which provides a short, concise and non-technical description of the main operational elements of global monitoring, various texts provide information on environmental information gathering and reporting methodologies to support effectiveness evaluation. In order of increasing complexity, these texts include:

(a) Article 16 of the Convention;

(b) Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including decision SC-2/13;

(c) The implementation plan for the first evaluation amended by the Conference at its third meeting, which is contained in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1 and itemizes the work to be completed for the first evaluation. It sets out actions, modalities, responsibilities and time lines for the completion of the work;

(e) The amended preliminary version of the guidance document on the global monitoring plan, which is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/14/Rev. and focuses on the core media for the first evaluation. This document provides detailed technical guidance on, for example, how information is to be collected, analysed, statistically treated and reported in order to obtain comparable information in all regions. It also describes a harmonized regime for the preparation of monitoring reports to support the periodic evaluations of effectiveness to be undertaken by the Conference of the Parties.

(f) Media specific protocols on methodology. These are highly detailed media specific technical documents (e.g. on human milk) that describe exactly how activities such as sampling and chemical analysis are to be carried out in order to obtain comparable data. Examples for such protocols are included in the amended guidance document on the global monitoring plan.

II. Objective of the global monitoring plan

4. Article 1 of the Stockholm Convention states that the objective of the Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. The Convention calls for the reduction or elimination of releases of persistent organic pollutants, which should translate into reduced environment levels over time. The working objective of the global monitoring plan could be described as providing a harmonized organizational framework for the collection of comparable monitoring data or information on the presence of the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention in order to identify trends in levels over time as well as to provide information on their regional and global environmental transport.

5. The information required under Article 16 on the environmental levels of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention is intended to enable the detection of trends over time for the purposes of effectiveness evaluation. Rather than using data from emission sites, however, effectiveness evaluation should be based on background environmental levels of persistent organic pollutants at locations not influenced by local sources. In the case of human samplings, focus will be on the general population.

6. The structure of the present global monitoring plan closely reflects the elements for the plan as proposed in the annex to decision SC-2/13. The plan will be updated as and when necessary to reflect the future decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The outputs of the data collection activities under the plan will provide information for the reports that will enable the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention by the Conference of the Parties.

III. Strategic attributes of the global monitoring plan

7. The provisions of Article 16 of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties have defined the main attributes of the plan, which is designed to ensure that cost effective comparable monitoring information on the environmental levels of persistent organic pollutants is available from all regions and is presented in a form suitable to support the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. The arrangements for the global monitoring plan should be implemented on the basis of a regional approach. The plan has a range of attributes, which include:

- (a) It is strategic and cost effective;
- (b) It is practical, feasible and sustainable;
- (c) It is inclusive, providing global coverage;
- (d) It has a long-term purpose;
- (e) It allows for data supplementation;
- (f) It allows for capacity enhancement.

8. The Conference of the Parties decided that information-gathering on environmental levels of persistent organic pollutants will focus on core media and that information on these core media should be obtained from all regions for global coverage. For the first monitoring reports, which will be prepared to support the first effectiveness evaluation, the core media are air, human milk and human blood. Regions should focus on data relating to the core media. Data relevant to other media may be also covered if already available. Concentrating initial efforts on these media will ensure that the plan remains cost-effective, sustainable and inclusive and will help ensure that activities associated with capacity enhancement are effectively focused. Air was selected in particular because it is available everywhere and because Article 16 of the Convention specifically asks for information on the regional and global transport of persistent organic pollutants. Very few biological species have a global distribution, which therefore makes it very difficult to find a single suitable subject for the provision of comparable biological monitoring information. Humans, however, do have a near global distribution and are at the top of their food chain. Thus, human milk and human blood were chosen as indicators of human exposure. For future evaluations, it is envisaged that additional media will be taken into consideration.

9. Further details of the attributes of the plan are provided below.

(a) Strategic and cost-effective

10. To achieve a strategic and cost-effective approach and build on, but not be limited to, existing and scientifically sound human health and environmental monitoring programmes to the extent possible, with the aim of providing appropriate and sufficient comparable data for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention, the global monitoring plan is structured to include:

- (a) Global and regional inventories of programmes and capacities;
- (b) Distinct criteria developed to categorize existing programmes and activities according to their ability to provide comparable data, using for example, established quality assurance and quality control procedures;
- (c) Cooperative arrangements with existing programmes and activities to enable them to contribute to the global monitoring plan, providing that they can provide useful data on the core matrices. This data must satisfy the criteria for evaluating the ability of programmes to provide comparable data or information;
- (d) Activities to supplement existing information in order to achieve monitoring data from all regions. Specific measures are summarized in section (e) and in chapter IV below.

(b) Practical, feasible and sustainable

11. Elements to achieve a practical, feasible and sustainable plan include:

- (a) Participation of existing research institutions as long as they can provide (or can be expected to be able to provide) comparable monitoring information;
- (b) Mechanisms for linking global monitoring plan activities with national implementation plans as an option that for some countries may help secure funding assistance (for example, through the Global Environment Facility);
- (c) Capacity-building through strategic partnerships;
- (d) Collaborative networks between Governments and institutions;
- (e) Taking care to ensure consistency between future measurements and baseline data (for example, by taking into account site location, sampling strategy and time and by ensuring broad representation in accordance with the objectives of the global monitoring plan);
- (f) Using a tiered approach by identifying programmes and projects that monitor core matrices including air and human milk and blood to provide minimal trend information (tier 1), and building on these for future evaluations including other matrices (tier 2);
- (g) Allowing integration of existing information from other projects and programmes.

(c) Inclusive, with global coverage

12. In order to be inclusive, achieve global coverage and contain at least core representative data from all regions, the global monitoring plan aims at:

- (a) Establishing global coverage by obtaining comparable data or information for all core media in all the global monitoring plan regions. In other words, the focus of implementation (data gathering and reporting) is regional, as stated in Article 16, and not national. Globally uniform criteria have been developed as a management tool that can be regionally applied to assess the ability of existing programmes, activities and laboratories to provide comparable monitoring data for the monitoring reports. Use of the criteria will allow Parties to the Convention within regions to categorize existing activities into for example, those activities that can immediately provide data for the first reports, those that with identified capacity support may be able to contribute data and those that may with further support provide information for future reports;
- (b) Maintaining as the priority for the first monitoring reports (in support of the first evaluation) activities associated with the core media, but not restrict the use of other media for the first reports if comparable data for those media are already available;

(c) Allowing in global monitoring plan reports the use of any data or information that may be available, providing that the potential for the comparability of the data or information can be assured (for example, it should contain reference to valid quality assurance and quality control protocols and histories of successful inter-calibration exercises). This may include the use of comprehensive surveys that have been reported in peer-reviewed scientific literature;

(d) Strengthening or creating partnerships within each global monitoring plan region to address identified needs;

(e) For a global monitoring plan region for which strategic or implementation needs have been noted, identifying at least one strategic or implementation partner from another region that already possesses capacity for that activity. A potential role of Stockholm Convention focal points might be to help link national institutions. This concept could be applied to a variety of global monitoring plan activities such as data collection, chemical analysis and procedures to obtain data comparability and various global monitoring plan management functions such as regional data management, regional reporting for the first effectiveness evaluation and reporting on the regional and global transport of persistent organic pollutants;

(f) Establishing outreach efforts and incentives (such as active participation in different stages of monitoring through strategic partnerships and capacity-building).

(d) Long-term purpose

13. It is intended that the core media identified for the initial monitoring reports will continue to be monitored for all future reports. Subject to the availability of resources, however, it is anticipated that the reports will be supplemented with information on other media such as biota, water, soil and sediments. To support the elaboration of information collection (core media and future supplementation with other media), additional organizational measures will be necessary to achieve comparable datasets from all regions.

14. In order to apply also to the second and subsequent monitoring reports and to address long-term needs for attaining appropriate representation in all regions, the global monitoring plan aims:

(a) To secure long-term commitments concerning financial and institutional support for the global monitoring plan and its infrastructure requirements (e.g. data storage), particularly in terms of ensuring that each global monitoring plan regional monitoring report contains information on each of the core media. This may require, for some countries, the linking of global monitoring plan efforts with national implementation plans as an option to help secure funding;

(b) To endeavour to maintain the sustainability of intra and inter-regional strategic and implementation partnerships for the global monitoring plan, for as long as they may be required;

(c) To maintain an updated inventory of programmes that may contribute to the global monitoring plan, hence enabling identification of new programmes to adjust to possible expansion of the core media, chemicals listed in Annexes A, B or C and the needs for establishing new regional baselines.

(e) Providing for data supplementation

15. The global monitoring plan should also provide for supplementing data, where necessary, taking into account the differences between regions and their capabilities to implement monitoring activities. Such progressive enhancement should be planned at the outset. Substantial geographic differences presently exist in the capacity of regions to contribute comparable data and information for the purpose of an effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention. Therefore, decision SC-2/13 sets out a number of tasks that might be undertaken to identify needs and opportunities to increase participation. Elements to achieve this are discussed in chapter IV below.

16. In addition, operational elements will build upon the identification of existing comparable data and data gaps and the identification of programmes with the potential to provide such data with certain capacity enhancement. Such elements will include:

(a) Defined capacity enhancement (through training, support, etc.) to fill regional data gaps identified from the global and regional inventories of programmes and capacities;

(b) Targeted new projects and programmes (based upon the analysis of data gaps);

(c) Strategic partnerships between existing programmes with appropriate capacity (group 1)² and programmes identified as requiring some additional capacity (group 2)³ may also help to fill data gaps, encourage capacity-building (training, etc.) and improve comparability of data. The elements of a strategic partnership may include:

- (i) Identifying the strengths of existing programmes or projects possessing the capacity to produce comparable monitoring data and matching them with the needs of potential programmes in regions highlighted for attention through the gaps analysis;
 - (ii) Encouraging mechanisms to assist countries and regions with data gaps to collaborate with programmes identified through the above activities to achieve cost effective generation of comparable data and information;
- (d) Elements of the agreed cooperative projects may include:
- (i) Transfer of knowledge and technology such as:
 - a. Training and capacity-building;
 - b. Organization of inter-calibration programmes;
 - (ii) Data production, such as:
 - a. Sampling (in countries or partner laboratories);
 - b. Sample analysis and data analysis;
 - (iii) Data integration and review such as:
 - a. Data handling;
 - b. Data review, summary and reporting;
 - (iv) Establishment of partnership programmes to provide for knowledge transfer and support for data production through the enhancement of regional capacity, which may include activities to support:
 - a. Information gathering;
 - b. Data generation through sampling and analysis in collaboration with existing programmes and laboratories;
 - c. Data analysis and interpretation by regional experts;
 - d. Data management and transfer protocols between scientists, countries and regions and the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

(f) Allowing capacity enhancement

17. Decision SC-2/13 requires the Secretariat to identify needs and opportunities to increase participation, specifically through the development of a comprehensive regional inventory and analysis of capacities and of a corresponding needs assessment with contributions from national Stockholm Convention focal points. The implementation of Article 16 does not however intend and cannot provide for the fully-fledged establishment of analytical capacity in countries. For an inclusive global monitoring plan, designed to achieve global coverage and to provide for additions to existing monitoring data, however, some amount of capacity strengthening activity is required. An inventory of capacities and capacity-building needs has been undertaken to extend the knowledge of existing human health and environment monitoring programmes around the world and to help identify the needs of programmes that can contribute to the global monitoring plan on persistent organic pollutants for effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention.

18. Programmes included in the inventory of monitoring programmes and other programmes that may contribute to the global monitoring plan are grouped into four categories following the application of the criteria developed by the provisional ad hoc technical working group and set out in annex I to document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23, as follows:

- (a) **Group 1:** Programmes which can immediately provide information for the first evaluation;

² Group 1: programmes that can immediately provide information for the first evaluation.

³ Group 2: programmes that with identified capacity enhancement can provide information coverage in areas that would otherwise be inadequately represented in the first evaluation.

- (b) **Group 2:** Programmes which with identified capacity enhancement can provide information coverage in areas that would otherwise be inadequately represented in the first evaluation;
- (c) **Group 3:** Programmes which may be enhanced with capacity-building for future evaluation;
- (d) **Group 4:** Programmes for which additional information is needed before they can be categorized.

19. These groupings will form the basis of the phased enhancement of the capacities of Parties to participate in regional arrangements for producing comparable data. Elements to achieve this are explored in paragraphs 17 and 18 above and chapter IV below.

IV. Needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan through financial and technical assistance

20. Decision SC-2/13 also requires that:

- (a) Capacity-building for the purpose of implementing Article 16 should be guided by a plan for step-by-step capacity enhancement for Parties on a regional basis;
- (b) Relevant regional centres could play a role in coordination efforts;
- (c) A network of databases containing monitoring information should be developed and maintained.

21. The capacity-building to increase the participation in the global monitoring plan will be based on the capacity inventory and initial analysis described above and would be in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 on technical assistance and Article 13 on the financial mechanism. The identified needs and opportunities are to be taken into account during the implementation of decision SC-2/9 on technical assistance.

22. Specific capacity-building needs that are related to putting into operation individual elements of the draft implementation plan (such as, for example, the development and operation of an air monitoring sampling and analytical capacity in a region) will be addressed through the regional modalities within the draft implementation plan. The activities foreseen may cover the availability of materials regarding study design, sampling, storage, extraction, analysis and data treatment and training regarding study design with particular emphasis on sampling, sample storage and preparation, analysis and data treatment. Implementation of limited⁴ capacity enhancement for the production of supplemental data on the core media (including quality assurance and quality control) may also be considered.

V. Implementation plan for the global monitoring plan for the first evaluation reports

23. The draft implementation plan was developed by the provisional ad hoc technical working group on the global monitoring plan and amended by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting. It is expected to be a living document that will evolve over time to meet the needs of the global monitoring plan. The amended implementation plan is available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1.

24. The primary responsibility for implementation is with Parties, on a regional basis. It is proposed that regional organization groups be established that will bring together the countries of a region to collaborate for the preparation of regional persistent organic pollutant monitoring reports for the purposes of effectiveness evaluation. The Secretariat will support the work of the regional organization groups through the provision of guidance documents and by facilitating contacts and communications within and between regions.

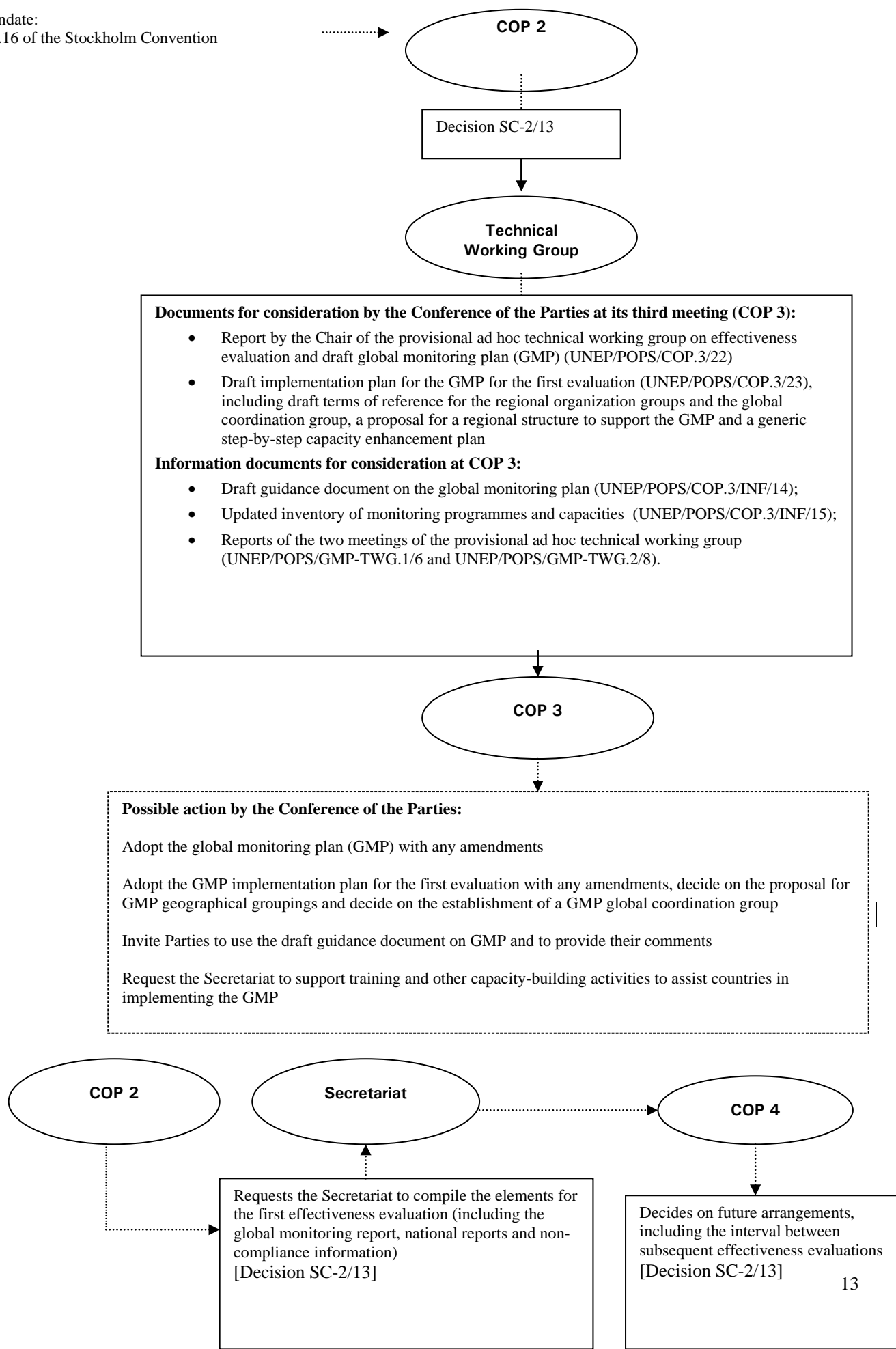
⁴ "Limited" means that institutionally-organized personnel and basic infrastructure are already in place and available for capacity enhancement for the first assessment.

Annex III

25. Elaboration of the global monitoring report for the first effectiveness evaluation

Mandate:

Art.16 of the Stockholm Convention



* Any procedure that might be put in place by the Conference of the Parties (decision SC-2/13).
