

**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**اتفاقية استكهولم بشأن الملوثات العضوية الثابتة - 关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约 - Convention de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes - Стокгольмская конвенция о стойких органических загрязнителях

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To: Members of the regional organization group for the
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File: EE/FO/KM

Mr. Jean de Dieu Nzila, Congo-Brazzaville
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Mrs. Halimatou Traore, Mali
Mr. Abdelhay Zerouali, Morocco
Mr. Enock Masanja, Tanzania

Our Reference: ROG initiation

Date: 23 08 2007

Subject: Initiation of the regional organization group activities in the Africa Region

Dear colleagues:

At its third session, held 30 April–4 May 2007 in Dakar, Senegal, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention adopted decision SC-3/19 on effectiveness evaluation, by which it adopted a global monitoring plan on persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, annex II) and the implementation plan for the first effectiveness evaluation (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1). The decision also established regional organization groups to facilitate the regional implementation of the global monitoring plan; and invited Parties, to nominate their members with expertise in monitoring and data evaluation.

The main objectives of the regional organization group are to define and implement the regional strategy for information gathering, including capacity-building, and to prepare the regional monitoring report for the first effectiveness evaluation to be performed by the Conference of the Parties in May 2009. Detailed tasks, activities and timeframe are outlined in the generic terms of reference for the regional organization groups (annex III to the implementation plan).

You have been selected by the regional bureau as members of the regional organization group for the Africa. The purpose of this letter is to welcome you to this role and to help you initiate regional activities, as well as to prepare for the inception workshop scheduled for 29-31 October 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. You will receive invitation to this workshop these days.

The workshop will aim at presenting and discussing the regional monitoring plan elements and obtaining commitments for their implementation. The main objectives of this workshop are to:

- Establish regional organization group strategy, workplan and timetable;
- Agree on arrangements to receive readily available data;
- Establish strategic partnerships to produce supplementary data and to provide enabling capacity strengthening;
- Identify necessary enabling capacity-strengthening to group 2 programmes;
- Establish arrangements for regional cooperation;
- Establish arrangements to draft the regional monitoring report.

The regional organization group members have an important role to play in this workshop, highlighted also in the attached annotated agenda (Annex 1). Before the workshop in particular the following information should be updated and/or prepared, to be presented and discussed at the workshop:

- Update the inventory of group 2 programmes (see Annex 2 for more information);
- Update the inventory of capacity strengthening needs (see Annex 3 for more information);
- Propose regional strategy for information gathering, including capacity building and coordination mechanism and needs to produce the regional report;
- Identify necessary support by the Secretariat, within the available funds.

The main reference documents providing framework for the tasks and activities of the regional organization groups are as follows:

- Article 16 of the Convention, that provides the formal basis for the need to establish a means of obtaining monitoring information on the persistent organic pollutants that are subject to control;
- Decision SC-3/19;
- The global monitoring plan and the implementation plan (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, and UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1);
- Updated information on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/15); and
- The amended preliminary version of the guidance document on the global monitoring plan (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF.14/Rev.1).

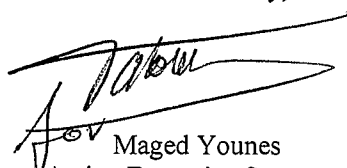
Documents related to effectiveness evaluation can be found at <http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/effeval/default.htm>

You have a demanding task ahead. Particular challenge will be arranging for the necessary work to be completed in the available timeframe. It is recommended that the regional organization group concentrate its efforts in Nairobi on finding simple solutions to issues and on focusing attention on the necessary arrangements to obtain information related to the core media.

The Secretariat looks forward to your work and to meeting you and assisting as required at the Nairobi workshop, and when necessary throughout the implementation of your regional strategy for the first evaluation.

You may wish to contact Katarina Magulova on my staff if you have any questions:
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Yours sincerely,



Maged Younes
Acting Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants

Annexes:

1. Draft annotated agenda
2. Updating information on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes
3. Suggested guidance on the development of regional capacity building needs