

**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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**Your Reference:****File:** EE/FO/KM**Our Reference:** UNEP/WHO Milk Survey**Date:** 28 January 2008

**Subject:** Initiation of the UNEP-WHO milk survey under the Stockholm Convention  
global monitoring plan on persistent organic pollutants

Dear sir / madam,

The Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, at its third session held on 30 April–4 May 2007 in Dakar, Senegal, in its decision SC-3/19 on effectiveness evaluation, adopted the global monitoring plan (GMP) on persistent organic pollutants and the implementation plan for the first effectiveness evaluation. It has also decided to establish regional organization groups to facilitate the regional implementation of the GMP and invited Parties to nominate members of the regional organization groups. The Conference requested the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake the implementation activities.

The Conference identified human data (maternal milk or blood) and ambient air as core matrices for which baseline data on POPs levels should be obtained from all United Nations Regions, on the basis of which the effectiveness of the Convention would be evaluated in the future.

During a workshop to initiate implementation of the global monitoring plan in your region major data gaps were identified, among others, the availability of human data. The workshop report is available on <http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/effeval/implementation/followup.htm>.

In order to reduce these gaps, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention together with the World Health Organization undertook a joint UNEP-WHO milk survey to produce additional human milk data.

Limited funding is available for this survey to cover the costs involving purchase of collection bottles, incentive gifts for breastfeeding mothers, breast pumps, shipping of the pooled samples, sample analysis, as well as the shared costs connected with milk collection and in-country coordination of the survey. It is, however, expected that interested countries would at least partially contribute in-kind the personnel necessary to implement the survey.

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that it is essential that you cooperate with the relevant representatives of the health sector in your country, since the collection of human samples stays in their competence. You may also wish to communicate with the regional organization group for implementation of the global monitoring plan in your region. Relevant contacts are attached to this letter.

Final selection of countries to be included in the UNEP-WHO milk survey will be performed on the basis of received expression of interest and demonstrated commitment to take part in this survey.

By completing the attached form, you are invited to express your interest to participate in this survey. We would appreciate receiving it **preferably before the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2008** at the following address:

**The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention**  
**Attention: UNEP-WHO Milk Survey**  
**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**11-13 Chemin des Anémones**  
**CH-1219 Geneva, Switzerland; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98**  
**E-mail: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int)**  
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The contact point in the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention is Ms. Katarina Magulova tel: +41 22 917 8170, fax: +41 22 917 80 98 or email: [kmagulova@pops.int](mailto:kmagulova@pops.int); and in the World Health Organization Mr. Seongsoo Park, tel: +41 (22) 791 33 64, fax: +41 (22) 791 48 93 or email: [parks@who.int](mailto:parks@who.int).

Yours sincerely,

*(original signed)*

Donald Cooper  
Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants

Attachments: - Form for expression of interest  
- Summary of Guidelines for developing a national protocol according to "Fourth WHO-Coordinated Survey of Human Milk for Persistent Organic Pollutants in Cooperation with UNEP"