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**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Effectiveness Evaluation  
Provisional Ad Hoc Technical Working Group (TWG)  
First meeting  
Brno, 9-12 October 2006  
Agenda item 9  
Adoption of the report**

## **Report of the Provisional Ad Hoc Technical Working Group (TWG) on the work of its first meeting**

### **Introduction**

1. 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 to establish a provisional ad hoc Technical Working Group, hereinafter referred to as the TWG to oversee the plan.
2. The first meeting of the TWG was held at RECETOX Research -Centre of Excellence for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology - Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, from 9-12 October 2006.

### **I. Opening of the meeting**

3. The meeting was declared open at 9 a.m. on Monday, 9 October 2006.
4. Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, gave an opening statement in which she welcomed the participants and recalled that the TWG had a significant challenge in terms of objectives and anticipated outcomes. Namely, in just two meetings, and perhaps intersessionally, to develop criteria for evaluating POPs monitoring programmes, and to identify those that fulfill those criteria and could contribute to the baseline data production; to prepare a report on such programmes and others that may make useful contributions, subject to enhancement of their capacities; to outline the global monitoring plan and to develop guidance for data comparability; to develop an

implementation plan to fulfill the minimum requirements for the initial effectiveness evaluation; and, to submit the results for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Adoption of the agenda**

5. The TWG adopted the agenda set out below, on the basis of the provisional agenda which had been circulated as document GMP/TWG-1/0:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Organization of work;
  - (c) Report by the Secretariat on preparatory work for the meeting;
  - (d) Objectives of the meeting and terms of reference (TOR) of the TWG.
3. Workplan for the TWG.
4. Participation in the Global Monitoring Plan.
5. Elements of the Global Monitoring Plan.
6. Guidance for the Global Monitoring Plan.
7. Needs assessment and capacity building.
8. Preparations for the next meeting.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the meeting.

### **B. Organization of work**

6. The Secretariat drew attention to the objectives and possible outcomes of the meeting, as set out in the introductory presentations.

7. TORs were presented to the TWG, which agreed to use in order to organize its work.

8. The TWG agreed to conduct its work at the meeting in two parallel sub-group sessions, followed by plenary presentation and discussion of the sub-group outcomes. The sub-group sessions, as well as the plenary sessions, would be open to observers as well as to members of the TWG. Officers

9. The TWG members initially elected Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic) as Chair of the meeting, Mr. Nee Sun Choong-Kwet Yive (Mauritius) and Ms. Ana Patricia Martinez Bolivar (Mexico) as Vice-chairs and Mr. Yasuyuki Shibata (Japan) and Mr. Tor Johannessen (Norway) as Rapporteurs for the entire duration of the TWG work to officiate as the bureau during the plenary sessions and also intersessionally. The five United Nations regions are represented in this bureau.

#### **1. Attendance**

10. The meeting was attended by the following nominated regional representatives: Mr. Peter Weis (Austria), Mr. Mansourou Moudachirou (Benin), Ms. Tsvetanka Dimcheva (Bulgaria), Mr. Tom Harner (Canada), Mr. Lorenzo Caballero (Chile), Mr. Minghui Zheng (China), Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic), Mr. Yasuyuki Shibata (Japan), Mr. Demba Sidibe (Mali), Mr. Nee Sun Choong-Kwet Yive (Mauritius), Ms. Ana Patricia Martinez Bolivar (Mexico), Ms. Anna Cumanova (Moldova) and, Mr. Tor Johannessen (Norway). Two of the nominated regional representatives, Ms. Therese Yarde (Barbados) and Ms. Indrani Chandrasekharan (India), were unable to attend the meeting.

11. The meeting was also attended by the following non-member experts and representatives of existing monitoring programmes and efforts: Mr. Anders Bignert (Sweden), Mr. Bo Wahlström (Sweden), Mr. Hindrik Bouwman (South Africa), Mr. Juan C. Colombo (Argentina), Mr. Seongsoo

Park (World Health Organization), and Mr. Lars-Otto Reiersen (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme).

12. A complete list of participants, including non-governmental organizations and observers, is set out in annex VI to the present report.

### **C. Report by the Secretariat on preparatory work for the meeting**

13. The Secretariat made a brief presentation outlining the work that had been undertaken in preparation for the TWG meeting, drawing particular attention to the draft documents to be considered and further elaborated by the TWG.

### **III. Workplan for the TWG**

14. The TWG discussed the workplan and agreed on the necessary amendments, as well as the revised timetable. The TWG workplan is contained in annex I to the present report.

15. With regard to paragraph c) of the workplan: to prepare a report on such programmes and others that may make useful contributions, subject to enhancement of their capacities, further submissions may be submitted and the TWG agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with TWG bureau, should evaluate those submissions according to the criteria developed during the meeting. The outcome would be circulated to the TWG for consideration at its second meeting.

16. With regard to paragraph d) of the workplan, the TWG agreed that further drafting of the global monitoring plan would be undertaken intersessionally by the TWG bureau, the co-chairs and rapporteurs of the sub-groups, and the Secretariat.

17. With regard to paragraph e) of the workplan, TWG agreed that revision of the guidance document would be undertaken by an expert group consisting of a selection of TWG members supported by invited experts and assisted by the Secretariat.

18. The TWG gave the Secretariat, in consultation with the bureau, the mandate to modify the workplan as appropriate, and according to the outcomes produced by the TWG.

### **IV. Participation in the Global Monitoring Plan**

19. The TWG discussed and adopted the criteria for evaluation of the monitoring programmes as contained in UNEP/POPS/GMP-TWG.1/4, with the amendments proposed by the sub-group on participation. The revised criteria are set out in annex II to the present report. The sub-group applied the criteria to international and global monitoring programmes, as well as to the national programmes submitted to the Secretariat, and categorized the latter into four groups as follows. Group 1: Programmes that could immediately provide information for the first evaluation; Group 2: Programmes that with identified capacity enhancement could provide information in areas that would otherwise be inadequately represented in the first evaluation; Group 3: Programmes that may be enhanced with capacity building for future assessments; and Group 4: Programmes for which more information would be needed. The sub-group also noted important statistical considerations that needed to be taken into account when implementing measures to enable the acquisition of comparable monitoring data. The related outcomes are included in annex II.

20. The sub-group noted that, in order to further evaluate the programmes which could immediately be used for the first assessment, or those which could be used after minor capacity enhancement, it would be necessary to further consult with the organizers of those programmes.

21. The TWG agreed that the results of the sub-group provided the basis for further work in determining participation in the global monitoring plan.

22. The TWG further agreed that the Secretariat, would undertake intersessional work on the issue, the results of which would be circulated to the TWG intersessionally for comments and presented to it at its second meeting.

## V. Elements of the Global Monitoring Plan and the implementation plan for the first assessment

23. The elements of the global monitoring plan were discussed in two sub-groups. The TWG reviewed and took note of the meeting documents related to the global monitoring plan and noted the comments resulting from the sub-group discussions. Those comments are provided as annotations to the draft global monitoring plan and implementation plans contained in annex III to the present report.

24. The TWG discussed briefly the issue of regional groupings but decided to defer the matter to the consideration of the TWG at its second meeting at which time a draft proposal will be tabled for discussion.

25. The TWG agreed that further drafting of the global monitoring plan and implementation plan would be undertaken intersessionally by the bureau and the co-chairs and rapporteurs of the sub-groups assisted by the Secretariat. The drafting would take into account the discussions of the sub-groups as recorded in the annotations to annex III to the present report.

## VI. Guidance for the Global Monitoring Plan

26. The TWG proposed to amend some elements of the guidance document for the global monitoring plan related to quality procedures in order to obtain comparable data for the first assessment. Other parts of the guidance document will need to be reviewed and revised to make it suitable for that assessment.

27. Such revision will be undertaken at an intersessional meeting of several TWG members, supported by invited experts and the Secretariat. The expert group meeting to revise the guidance document is tentatively scheduled for 4-8 December 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. The revised guidance document would be available for consideration by the TWG at its second meeting. The approach to be followed for this work is summarized in annex IV to the current report.

- Modalities and timeframes for compilation by the Secretariat of the elements for the first effectiveness evaluation as it relates to the first global monitoring report were discussed including how issues relating to the environmental transport of persistent organic pollutants should be addressed..

28. Discussion took place on how to divide the regions for the purpose of the GMP and related reporting to the COP. It was agreed that possibilities of regional division will be explored by the TWG at its second meeting. The issue of how to acquire information from multiple sources for the purposes of preparing the monitoring report was not discussed and it was agreed that the Secretariat in consultation with the bureau would table a proposal for consideration but the TWG at its second meeting.

## VII. Needs assessment and capacity building

29. The TWG recollected that paragraph 9 of Annex II of decision SC-2/13 which states that 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, ) required development of a step-wise plan for capacity enhancement.

30. Generic elements for capacity enhancement had been identified, as well as some programmes and institutions that might provide support for phased capacity enhancement. The outcome of the sub-group discussing that issue is contained in annex V. More specific work on regional step-by-step capacity enhancement needs will be undertaken at a later stage by the Secretariat in consultation with the TWG members.

31. Regional coordination structures, as referred to in the annex to decision SC-2/13, to support global monitoring plan implementation in the regions had been discussed and their possible role and functions identified. The importance of such structures was underlined by all members of the TWG.

32. A preliminary list of institutions able to provide immediate assistance was identified, and their expertise indicated. Further suitable national institutions, which could provide assistance immediately or

following some capacity enhancement, and possibilities of cooperation, for example through strategic partnerships, would need to be investigated further.

## **VIII. Preparations for the next meeting**

33. The TWG discussed the possible date and venue for its next meeting. The Secretariat pointed out that documents had to be submitted by 15 February 2007 at the latest in order to be translated into the six languages of the United Nations in time for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

34. Some TWG members indicated that time was necessary for consultations with countries of the region that they are representing.

35. Considering the above deadline, as well as the need to have the meeting documents for the second TWG meeting available at least 3 weeks before that meeting, the week of 29 January to 2 February 2007 was identified as suitable for most participants. The possible venue of the meeting may be Geneva.

36. Given that the minimum reporting requirement of the TWG to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties was a progress report, the meeting discussed which documents should be made available as discussion documents and which could be submitted as information documents.

## **IX. Adoption of the report**

37. The TWG adopted its report on the basis of the draft text circulated during the meeting, as amended, and on the understanding that finalization of the report would be entrusted to the bureau working in consultation with the Secretariat.

## **X. Closure of the meeting**

37. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 12 October 2006.