



# STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)



Effectiveness Evaluation  
Provisional Ad Hoc Technical Working Group (PATWG)  
First meeting  
Brno, 9-12 October 2006

## Document GMP-TWG-1\_5

### DRAFT OUTLINE FOR A GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN

#### SECTION A: BACKGROUND

##### The context from Article 16

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention 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 paragraph 2;
  - (b) National reports submitted pursuant to Article 15; and
  - (c) Non-compliance information provided pursuant to the procedures established under Article 17.

##### Implementation decisions made by the COP

At its second meeting, the COP (Decision SC-2/13<sup>1</sup>) decided to complete the first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting in 2009, and agreed upon the essential modalities for the first and second evaluations. The decision included agreement to implement the elements of a global monitoring plan as proposed in an annex to that decision. It was also agreed to establish a provisional ad hoc technical working group (PATWG)

---

<sup>1</sup> See Annex 2

consisting of 15 Parties of the five United Nations regions to coordinate and oversee implementation of the plan. The COP will decide at COP-3 on whether or not the PATWG will continue.

## **SECTION B: OUTLINE OF THE GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The present document, prepared by the PATWG, is the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) requested by the COP.

The Global Monitoring Plan consists of the following elements:

- A statement of objectives (Section 2);
- A compilation of attributes (Section 3);
- Generic activities to address needs and opportunities for capacity-building (Section 4);
- An Implementation Plan to meet the minimum requirements for the first and subsequent evaluations (Annex 1);

### **2.0 Objective of the Global Monitoring Plan**

The objective is to provide a framework for activities aimed to inform the COP on environmental levels and global environmental transport of POPs as is specified in Article 16 of the Convention. Reports on these activities will provide one of the components of information to be compiled by the Secretariat to enable periodic effectiveness evaluations of the Convention by the COP. The framework described by the GMP closely follows the direction given in COP Decision SC2/13 and will be updated as and when necessary to reflect COP decisions.

### **3.0 Attributes of the Global Monitoring Plan**

The COP has requested that the plan should:

- a) Outline 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;
- b) Be practical, feasible and sustainable;
- c) Be inclusive, achieve global coverage and contain at least core representative data from all regions;
- d) Be designed to go beyond the first monitoring report and address long-term needs for attaining appropriate representative data in all regions;
- e) 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
- f) Enable phased enhancement of the ability of parties to participate in regional arrangements for producing comparable data.

### **4.0 Generic needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan through financial and technical assistance**

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 COP decision SC-2/13 has specified a number of tasks to identify needs and opportunities to increase participation. These generic tasks are fundamental to the GMP and include the following:

- a) That a comprehensive regional inventory of capacities should be developed and maintained and a corresponding needs assessment conducted by the Secretariat with contributions from national Stockholm Convention focal points;
- b) 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;
- c) That relevant regional centres could play a role in coordination efforts;
- d) That a network of databases containing monitoring information should be developed and maintained.

Non-generic capacity building needs that are specifically related to putting into operation individual elements of the 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 Implementation Plan.

The needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan are to be taken into account during the implementation of COP decision SC-2/9 on technical assistance.

#### **5.0 Implementation Plan for the GMP**

The initial implementation plan was developed at the first meeting of the PATWG. It is expected to be a living document that will evolve over time to meet the needs of the GMP. The Implementation Plan is attached as Annex 1.

## DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN

### 1.0 Introduction

The Implementation plan is expected to be a living document that will evolve to meet the needs of the GMP.

### 2.0 Implementation for the first evaluation.

The present implementation plan is focused upon fulfilling the minimum requirements of the first effectiveness evaluation, as has been requested by the COP in decision SC-2/13. Therefore the implementation plan is structured in the following sequence to reflect the details of the decision concerning:

- a) the fundamental parameters and tasks for the first evaluation identified by the COP as minimum requirements. This includes identification of the core data that should be obtained from all regions;
- b) the approach to be taken to acquire core for the first evaluation. This is a stepwise process that begins with a review of programmes and activities at a global, regional, and national level and their potential capacities to contribute core comparable information and data. Potential programmes and data are examined according to agreed criteria to ensure that data used is of a quality to ensure the comparability required according to Article 16 of the Convention. The outcome is the identification of programmes that can immediately contribute; programmes that can contribute with an identified level of capacity enhancement; and, a geographic perspective on priority regions for capacity enhancement in order to obtain core data from all regions;
- c) the development of methodological guidance to ensure that only comparable data is obtained for the evaluations;
- d) the development and implementation of regional strategic arrangements and partnerships to obtain core media data for the first monitoring report, taking into account the work described in a-b above;
- e) how data is to be summarized and presented on a regional basis for the first effectiveness evaluation; and,
- f) planning for the data gathering needs of the second and subsequent evaluations.

### 2.1 The minimum requirements for the first evaluation.

The COP has determined that the minimum requirements for the first evaluation are that:

- a) The first monitoring report will provide baselines for further evaluations;
- b) Air monitoring and human exposure through breast milk or blood serum would be used as core data;

- c) Such comparable and representative core data should be obtained from all five regions;
- d) Guidance should be provided on standardization;
- e) Strategic arrangements and partnerships shall be established, including with the health sector; and;
- f) Reports are prepared for the COP summarizing and presenting the data on a regional basis.

## **2.2 The identification and evaluation of potential sources of core media data for the first monitoring report, providing baselines for further evaluations.**

Air monitoring and human exposure through breast milk or blood serum will be used as core media data, and comparable and representative core data should be obtained from all five regions. Data will be derived from:

- a) existing international programmes and activities;
- b) existing national programmes and activities; and,
- c) national or regional programmes and activities initiated as a function of capacity building.

The following sections describe how arrangements are being established to obtain information from these three potential sources.

### **2.2.1 Review of existing programs, information (or data), and capacities related to the core media data in all regions**

The COP has requested this review to update information contained in the note by the Secretariat on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/10).

Modalities and time schedule: The work will be based upon a questionnaire distributed by the Secretariat to Convention focal points and relevant Intergovernmental organizations in July 2006 and will enable:

- a) Preparation by the Secretariat of a draft report of questionnaire responses (Update of (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/10). This report will contribute to:
  - the step by step plan for capacity enhancement to be prepared by the Secretariat; and,
  - the report on progress by the PATWG for COP-3;
- b) Establishment by the Secretariat of an inventory database of regional capacity, to be available in early 2007.
- c) The identification of contributing programmes and activities for the first evaluation, using the processes described below.

### **2.2.2 The use of criteria to evaluate programmes and capacities in all regions related to the core media data**

Modalities and time schedule: Criteria developed at PATWG-1 are used to evaluate programs and activities and to assess capabilities. The criteria are presently organized into a five-step process where successive steps sequentially categorize activities and capacities to:

- a) Establish whether the programmes or activities are collecting core data potentially of relevance to the first evaluation (air, human milk / human serum)
- b) Assess the ability of programmes or activities to provide information that will be sufficiently comparable for it to be used in the first and successive evaluations;

- c) Assess the accessibility and data archiving characteristics of programmes and activities with respect to data being readily available for the first and successive evaluations;
- d) Assess the longevity of the programme and activities to provide information for use in the first or subsequent evaluations; and,
- e) Identify and assess programmes and activities with a potential to contribute to the GMP through the provision of identified levels of capacity enhancement.

The criteria are appended to the implementation plan.

### **2.2.3 The preliminary identification of potential monitoring programmes and capacities for contributing to baseline data production (first monitoring report)**

Modalities and time schedule: At PATWG-1, a preliminary sequential application of the criteria upon the information made available by the Secretariat through the updated version of UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/10 was undertaken, in order to categorize existing and other human health and environmental monitoring programmes as indicated in section 3.2.2 above. This work gives the first insight into how existing programmes and activities may be grouped according to the three categories given in section 2.2. It therefore supports identifying where arrangements can be made with existing programmes to provide information, and where identified levels of capacity enhancement can improve geographical coverage of information. The preliminary report on this work undertaken at PATWG-1, will be further elaborated through their regional application (see section 3.4 below) and finalized at PATWG-2. It will form the basis of decisions on the data gathering activities to support the first evaluation. It will also contribute to the step-by-step plan for capacity enhancement to be prepared by the Secretariat and to the report on progress by the PATWG for COP-3.

### **2.3 Guidance on standardization.**

The COP has requested the PATWG to develop guidance for data comparability, taking into account the available guidance document produced and made available by UNEP Chemicals in 2004. The 2004 document was produced for a different model for a GMP than the model now favored by the COP and revision is required to ensure compatibility with the emerging GMP and implementation plan. The intent of this document is to provide technical guidance on all aspects of implementation of the GMP, including issues related to statistics, sampling, sample preparation, analytical methodology, and data management.

Modalities and timeframes: The PATWG has identified the main elements of revision required to make the guidance document produced by UNEP in 2004 applicable to the present GMP. The revision is being undertaken by a small group of experts specialized in the various document sections (based upon the experts who prepared the original document). As part of the statistical considerations, the experts will advise on what is appropriate and sufficient comparable data for the regional evaluation of effectiveness of the Convention. The revised document will be available for PATWG review by the end of January 2006.

### **2.4 The development of strategic arrangements and partnerships for the acquisition of core media data for the first monitoring report.**

The outputs resulting from the activities described in sections 2.2; 2.2.1; 2.2.2; and 2.2.3 have enabled potential contributing sources of information for the first evaluation to be grouped according to:

- a) existing international programmes and activities;
- b) existing national programmes and activities; and,
- c) national or regional programmes and activities that could contribute with an identified level of capacity building in order to provide information in regions under-represented by presently available data.

Strategic arrangements are being developed to utilize all three of the groupings a-c above as appropriate. The COP has requested that implementation should be strategic and cost effective, and build on, but not be limited

to existing programmes to the extent possible. It has also requested that the plan should address long-term needs to obtain data from all regions with progressive enhancement being planned from the outset. Finally, the COP has also specified that the data be presented on a regional basis. Therefore this activity is organized regionally with the secretariat and PATWG taking care to ensure compatibility between regions. Work is undertaken using a regional monitoring implementation network in each of the five UN (Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Central and Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Western Europe and other States). Each network has been established by an organizing group that agrees upon and oversees modalities for providing the comparable environmental monitoring information required by the COP for effectiveness evaluation. The outputs are to be:

**Output 1: Establishment of the regional organization groups and networks.**

Modalities and timeframes: The Secretariat and the three PATWG members for each region are setting up appropriate arrangements in regions for the establishment of the organization groups and networks. As much work as possible is achieved electronically. The aim is to have the organizational groups active as soon as possible to ensure that they can make significant progress with their work between the meetings of PATWG-1 and PATWG-2.

**Output 2: Regional identification of existing and national, and international programmes or activities that can, or may with specified capacity enhancement, contribute to the first and subsequent evaluations.**

Modalities and timeframes: The regional organization groups with the aid of the Secretariat are elaborating and finalizing the work of the PATWG and Secretariat to identify possible contributing programmes from each region. The work is to be completed as soon as possible following after PATWG-1

**Output 3: Selection of those programmes and activities that should be adopted for contributing data and information for each region for the first monitoring report and effectiveness evaluation.**

Modalities and time schedule: The work is being achieved through the regional organization groups (with assistance from the Secretariat) examining and if necessary adjusting the work of the PATWG in applying the criteria previously established (appendix 1) to known programmes in each region. The collective output of the regional groups is identifying a mix of existing programmes and activities that can deliver the required data and or information without enhancement, and those that could contribute following a specified degree of capacity enhancement. The organizational groups will review this output in terms of the degree of regional coverage and decide upon whether and what regional capacity enhancement should be achieved for the first monitoring report. This information will then provide a key input for Task 6 below. Exact modalities are being determined by the regional organizational groups to reflect regional conditions, but the work should be undertaken as soon as possible following PATWG-1.

**Output 4: Agreement on how arrangements to assure compliance with methodological guidance can be achieved and the necessary levels of comparability of data can be maintained.**



Arrangements to make the guidance document produced by UNEP in 2004 applicable to the present GMP were agreed upon at PATWG-1 and the revised document will be available for review by the end of January 2007. However, the key elements concerning the media for human exposure and for air will remain relevant, as will the sections on statistics and quality assurance and control (QA/QC). The latter aspects are essential in the consideration of comparability because the GMP must be able to distinguish between variability representing true changes in the levels of POPs over time and differences that reflect variance derived from sampling and analytical procedures. For some POPs, this represents a significant challenge.

Modalities and time schedule: The regional organizational groups assisted by the Secretariat are examining Output 3 in the context of the results from the UNEP / GEF work on laboratory capacities and performance and are preparing plans to ensure that only data and information that satisfies measures to ensure information comparability are used for the monitoring reports. This plan will be an essential input to Output 6 and will be available before PATWG-2

**Output 5: Identifying how data and information may be stored and accessed including the possibility of developing a regional data warehouse.**

The section on this topic in the original “Guidance Document” that was produced by UNEP in 2004 should now be revised to reflect the emerging model for the GMP.

Modalities and time schedule: Following discussions and decisions at PAT-WG-1, an expert group has been established to revise the “Data handling” section of the Guidance document. The new section will be available for review by the end of January 2007.

**Output 6: Consolidation of Outputs 3, 4, and 5, to provide data and information for the first monitoring report and putting into place those arrangements.**

Modalities and timeframes: To consolidate and reconcile Outputs 3, 4, and 5, the regional organization groups and the Secretariat have established regional monitoring network arrangements for the collection of core data both:

- i) directly from those Parties that wish to contribute nationally; and,
- ii) through international collaborative programmes for those Parties that wish to follow this approach.

The regional organization groups are (when appropriate) each setting set up a regional process to supplement existing core data to address regional gaps in coverage. Opportunities are being taken up (when possible and feasible) to establish strategic arrangements and partnerships, including with the international health sector and by developing collaborative twinning arrangements with other countries or with international monitoring organizations. Specific modalities include:

- a) The organization of arrangements with Parties and signatories with existing capacity and capability to provide comparable monitoring data on the core media;
- b) The organization of arrangements with existing international programmes (regional and global) that can provide comparable monitoring data on the core media relevant to effectiveness evaluation. This work would not be subject to capacity building support except when it is related to assisting Parties and or regions without capacity to participate in those programmes; and,
- c) The organization of arrangements in regions without the necessary capacity to contribute to a GMP as envisaged by the COP. This work would be expected to require capacity building support.

The arrangements will be described in a short and concise report titled “Regional monitoring network arrangements for Region “X” for the GMP 2008 monitoring report”. The first draft should be available before PATWG-2. This paper will also describe specific measures that are to be undertaken to secure data for the first assessment in order that a report on “Field testing of arrangements” can be provided to COP-3.

**Output 7: Planning and implementing regional capacity building that may be necessary to implement the arrangements described in each “Regional monitoring network arrangements for Region “X” for the GMP 2008 monitoring report”.**

Modalities and timeframes:

- a) The Secretariat is developing and maintaining a comprehensive regional inventory and analysis of capacities and a corresponding needs assessment with contributions from national Stockholm Convention focal points. The assessment will match regional capacities with the arrangements described in the reports on “Regional monitoring network arrangements for Region “X” for the GMP 2008 monitoring report”. The capacity inventory and initial analysis will be available at the end of January 2007
- b) The Secretariat will develop a plan for step-by-step capacity enhancement for Parties on a regional basis for the purpose of implementing Article 16 of the Convention. It will be based upon the capacity inventory and initial analysis described in b) above and would be in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 (on technical assistance] and Article 13 (on the financial mechanism). The first draft will be available in early February 2007 for discussion at PATWG-2 and for finalization after the latter meeting. The final document would be forwarded to the Technical Assistance Working Group. The needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan are to be taken into account during the implementation of COP decision SC-2/9 on technical assistance.

In completing the work described above, the Secretariat is consulting with both the PATWG and with the regional organizational groups.

**Output 8: Mechanisms for information collection for the purposes of the regional reports and for preparation of regional reports.**

In each region, data and information for production of the regional monitoring report will be derived from a variety of different sources (including global and regional monitoring programmes; and individual Parties and Signatories to the Convention). Each region will need to agree on how information from these sources can be accessed for the purpose of reporting to the COP.

Modalities and timeframes: The Secretariat will produce a proposed procedure based upon discussions on the topic at PATWG-1. The proposed procedure will be available for PATWG review in December 2006. After review, it will be forwarded to the PATWG and the regional organizational groups in early 2007.

**2.5 Summarizing and presenting data on a regional basis, to be used as a baseline in the first evaluation.**

The COP has requested the PATWG to coordinate and oversee the summarization and presentation of the monitoring information on a regional basis, while the Secretariat is responsible for compiling the elements for the first effectiveness evaluation as it relates to the first global monitoring report..

Modalities and timeframes: Based upon meeting discussion at PATWG-1, the Secretariat will produce a paper for discussion and decision at PATWG-2. The Secretariat will suggest that one approach would be for the regional organizational groups (in consultation with the Secretariat) take responsibility for preparation of the regional reports, either by undertaking the work themselves, in cooperation with other groups such as international programmes, or through contract. The reports would follow a uniform structure to be agreed upon at PATWG-2. To assist, the Secretariat could produce a proposed structure for consideration at that meeting. The Secretariat could be responsible for producing the global summary.

Paragraph 2 of Article 16 states that the COP shall make arrangements to provide itself with comparable monitoring data on the substances listed in the annexes to the Convention, as well as on their regional and global environmental transport. There are therefore two objectives for the arrangements, or two sets of arrangements could be envisaged.

Concerning information on levels, Article 16 does not suggest that the reports are to contain any interpretation or assessment on the significance of the levels in environmental media. COP Decision SC-2/13 similarly describes “summarizing and presenting the data on a regional basis”. Therefore the interest of the COP is on the levels themselves and there would appear to be no role for the use of such assessment tools as modelling. Successive data reports provided over a number of years will also enable the COP to view changes over time, providing the data is of sufficient quality and precision.

The COP has not indicated its expectations concerning reporting on regional and global environmental transport. If the intent is gain an understanding on the environmental movement of the listed chemicals, then a range of possibilities could be considered. These could include:

- i) Back trajectory analysis (relatively simple in terms of data and infrastructure support);
- ii) Modelling using GMP data (more complex and demanding in terms of input data, although a range of models are available); and,
- iii) A passive approach. This could interpret Article 16 as indicating the need for the COP to make two independent sets of arrangements, one for gathering information on levels in media, and the other for reporting on regional and global environmental transport. The PATWG could nominate a small team of experts to prepare a report or reports, based upon published literature and / or the data derived from the air monitoring component of the GMP. With this approach interpretive techniques (such as modelling and back trajectory analysis would be a part of the reports reviewed by the experts, and not directly a component of the GMP.

Modalities and timeframes: At PATWG-1, a small group of experts and the Secretariat will be entrusted with drafting a short paper for the attention of COP-3, outlining the issues, and suggesting alternative approaches. The draft paper will be available in time for consideration and finalization at PATWG-2.

### **3.0 Implementation elements for the second and subsequent evaluations**

The plan for future evaluations:

- (a) Should ensure regional representativeness in scope and geographic coverage;
- (b) Should enhance the core comparable representative dataset from all five regions;
- (c) Should endeavour to supplement the core data with data from other media such as biota, water, soil and sediments, as appropriate, including community-based participatory research data;
- (d) Should provide for the establishment of baselines relevant to the enhancements referred to above.

Modalities and timeframes: Consideration could be given at PATWG-2 to an appropriate implementation plan and time schedule for arrangements for information gathering related to the second and subsequent monitoring reports.

## Annex 2

### SC-2/13: Effectiveness evaluation

*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Agrees* to complete the first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting, in 2009;
2. *Decides* to implement the elements for a global monitoring plan as proposed in the annex to the present decision and urges implementation. The field test requested by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, necessary to this implementation, should be carried out according to the elements of the annex to the present decision, subject to the availability of funds;
3. *Also decides* 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 present decision;
4. *Requests* 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;
5. *Decides* to review the progress of the provisional ad hoc technical working group at its third meeting and to decide whether or not the group should continue;
6. *Requests* 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 a report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting for its consideration;
7. *Decides* to review at its fourth meeting the arrangements, including the global monitoring plan, used for providing the Conference of the Parties with the information for effectiveness evaluation as implemented for the first report and to decide on future arrangements, including the intervals of subsequent effectiveness evaluations;
8. *Invites* Parties in a position to do so to contribute necessary resources to facilitate global coverage, generation of core data and capacity-building to support the global monitoring programme for the first effectiveness evaluation, including through existing monitoring programmes when appropriate;
9. *Requests* 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,<sup>2</sup> including other programmes that can contribute to the global monitoring plan, and to prepare a report for the technical working group;
10. *Agrees* that immediate actions for long-term funding arrangements, including capacity-building to implement the global monitoring plan, should be started, taking into account gaps in information between regions and their capabilities to implement monitoring activities to enable long-term evaluation of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of its Article 13 on the financial mechanism;
11. *Invites* Parties that are in a position to do so to support the setting up and the long-term implementation of the global monitoring programme.

### Annex to decision SC-2/13

#### Elements for establishing and implementing a global monitoring plan

1. The plan:

- (a) Should outline 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;

---

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/10.

- (b) Should be practical, feasible and sustainable;
- (c) Should be inclusive, achieve global coverage and contain at least core representative data from all regions;
- (d) Should be designed to go beyond the first monitoring report and address long-term needs for attaining appropriate representative data in all regions;
- (e) Should 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;
- (f) Should enable phased enhancement of the ability of parties to participate in regional arrangements for producing comparable data.

### **Minimum requirements for the first evaluation**

2. The first monitoring report will provide baselines for further evaluations.
3. Air monitoring and human exposure through breast milk or blood serum would be used as core data.
4. Such comparable and representative core data should be obtained from all five regions.
5. Guidance should be provided on standardization.
6. Establish strategic arrangements and build partnerships, including with the health sector.

### **Monitoring for future evaluations**

7. The plan for future evaluations:
  - (a) Should ensure regional representativeness in scope and geographic coverage;
  - (b) Should enhance the core comparable representative dataset from all five regions;
  - (c) Should endeavour to supplement the core data with data from other media such as biota, water, soil and sediments, as appropriate, including community-based participatory research data;
  - (d) Should provide for the establishment of baselines relevant to the enhancements referred to above.

### **Needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan through financial and technical assistance<sup>3</sup>**

8. A comprehensive regional inventory of capacities should be developed and maintained and a corresponding needs assessment conducted by the Secretariat with contributions from national Stockholm Convention focal points.
9. 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.
10. Relevant regional centres could play a role in coordination efforts.
11. A network of databases containing monitoring information should be developed and maintained.

### **Organizational arrangements**

12. A provisional ad hoc technical working group of representatives of Parties of the five United Nations regions will coordinate and oversee implementation of the global monitoring plan.

---

<sup>3</sup> This section should be taken into account during the implementation of decision SC-2/9 on technical assistance.

13. Tasks for the technical working group include:
- (a) To develop criteria for evaluating programmes;
  - (b) To identify 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) To prepare a report on such programmes and others that may make useful contributions, subject to enhancement of their capacities;
  - (d) To outline the global monitoring plan along the lines of the principles and requirements contained in the present annex;
  - (e) To develop guidance for data comparability, taking into account the available guidance document produced by UNEP Chemicals;
  - (f) To develop an implementation plan to fulfil the minimum requirements for the first evaluation, including the following measures:
    - (i) Using data from regional monitoring programmes and data provided by Parties;
    - (ii) Ensuring that data are comparable, namely, by applying quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) standards;
    - (iii) Summarizing and presenting the data on a regional basis, to be used as a baseline;
  - (g) To coordinate and oversee implementation of the plan in accordance with the elements described;
  - (h) To report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.;