



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
26 July 2005

Original: English

**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
First meeting
Geneva, 7–11 November 2005
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda***

Organizational matters: organization of work

**Scenario note for the first meeting of the Persistent Organic
Pollutants Review Committee**

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a scenario note developed by the Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, Mr. Reiner Arndt (Germany), to assist participants in preparing for the first meeting of the Committee.

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/1.

Annex

Scenario note for the first meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist participants in preparing for the first meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee by communicating initial planning and expectations for the meeting. All pre-meeting documents are expected to be available on the Stockholm Convention website (www.pops.int) by 15 September 2005.

Objectives and possible outcomes of the meeting

2. The primary objective of the meeting is to ensure that the Committee undertakes the work assigned to it by the Convention. To meet this objective, the Committee will:

(a) For each of the chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention that are under consideration, examine the proposal, apply the screening criteria specified in Annex D and complete an evaluation as to whether it has fulfilled those criteria;

(b) For each of the proposals for which it is satisfied that the screening criteria have been fulfilled, determine the mandate and develop a plan for further work on the chemical, including lead responsibilities and schedule;

(c) Develop a format for submission to the Committee of information specified in Annex E.

3. The secondary objective of the meeting is to complete tasks assigned to the Committee by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. Although these tasks do not include deadlines, their completion will facilitate the future work of the Committee. To meet this objective, the Committee will:

(a) Establish criteria, which shall be submitted for approval by the Conference of the Parties, for the selection of experts from the roster of experts to provide needed expertise;

(b) Establish confidentiality arrangements ensuring that paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention is respected.

Meeting agenda

4. The annotated agenda for the meeting (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/1/Add.1) identifies the issues for discussion and the meeting and information documents pertaining to each issue. Most documents identify the provisions of the Convention or the decisions of the Conference of the Parties that provide the mandates for the activities that are discussed in the documents. Meeting documents also identify possible actions to be taken by the Committee. Members of the Committee are invited to notify the Secretariat prior to the meeting or, at the latest, during the consideration of the agenda during the meeting, of any issues that they feel should have been included on the agenda.

Organization of work

5. The meeting will take place from 7 to 11 November 2005 (Monday to Friday). The proposed schedule for plenary meetings will be two three-hour sessions per day (10:00–13:00 and 15:00–18:00). There are no plans to hold evening plenary meetings. Working groups will be established as needed throughout the week. A tentative schedule for the week is provided in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/INF/2.

6. Monday morning will begin with opening formalities and then proceed to organizational matters. Under this item, the Committee will need to elect a Vice-Chair, who will also be asked to serve as the Rapporteur for the meeting; adopt its agenda with any amendments; and agree on the organization of work for the week. This will be followed by a review of the role and mandate of the Committee.

7. The Committee will then consider its operational procedures. This will include a review of the screening criteria in Annex D, how the initial 12 persistent organic pollutants fulfill those criteria, and the risk management options set out in the Convention that could be applied to chemicals proposed for inclusion in Annex A, B or C of the Convention.

8. Following this review, the Committee will need to consider the following actions related to its working procedures:

- (a) Establishment of criteria for the selection of experts from the roster of experts to provide needed expertise;
- (b) Establishment of confidentiality arrangements;
- (c) Development of a standard outline or elements for plans for completing work on chemicals under consideration by the Committee;
- (d) Development of a format for submissions of information specified in Annex E to be taken into account in the development of draft risk profiles.

It is expected that an initial discussion on these issues would be followed by the establishment of one or more drafting groups to develop text for each issue to be considered during plenary later in the week.

9. Much of the week's work will involve the consideration of the proposals submitted by Parties for listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C. For each proposal, the following procedure is suggested:

- (a) The Party that put forward the proposal will present it to the Committee. The presentation will be limited to 15 minutes;
- (b) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions about the submission;
- (c) The Committee will discuss how the proposal fulfils the screening criteria;
- (d) The Committee will decide whether it is satisfied that the proposal fulfils the requirements of Article 8 and Annex D;
- (e) The Committee will, for each chemical for which it is satisfied that the requirements of Article 8 and Annex D have been met, agree on a work plan that includes a lead member, a mandate and a schedule for completing work.

It is expected that, for each proposal, the plenary will consider sub-items (a)–(d) in an initial discussion, following which an ad hoc working group will be established to prepare a decision concerning whether the chemical under consideration fulfils the requirements of Article 8 and Annex D and, for each chemical for which these requirements have been met, develop work plans to be considered during plenary later in the week.

10. The report of the meeting will likely be considered on Friday afternoon. It is an important product of the meeting and will serve as a useful document to remind participants (and inform those who were not at the meeting) of the developments arising and agreements reached during the meeting. The report of the meeting as of the end of plenary on Thursday afternoon will be approved with any amendments in plenary on Friday. Consistent with past practice, the Committee may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the results of the Friday plenary meetings will be prepared by the Vice-Chair serving as rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated in the meeting report under the authority of the Chair.
