

SC-3/12: Terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* the nomination by regions, through the regional representatives on the bureau, of institutions, including Basel Convention regional centres or other relevant existing institutions, to serve as Stockholm Convention regional centres or subregional centres;
2. *Underlines* the importance of increased cooperation and coordination between conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster in promoting the effective regional delivery of capacity-building and the transfer of technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
3. *Affirms* that such regional or subregional centres should be capable of meeting the technical assistance and technology transfer needs and priorities identified in the annex to decision SC-1/15 and fulfilling the terms of reference for such centres set out in annex I of decision SC-2/9;
4. *Requests* regional representatives on the bureau to submit to the secretariat, as soon as practicable after the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, nominations for institutions to become Stockholm Convention regional centres or subregional centres in accordance with the terms of reference for the selection of such centres set forth in the annex to the present decision;
5. *Decides* that institutions nominated by regions will be formally recognized as “nominated Stockholm Convention centres” until the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting decides whether to confirm their endorsement;
6. *Requests* each nominated Stockholm Convention centre to submit a report which explains the status and components set forth in decision SC-2/9 and the annex to that decision, in a format to be provided by the secretariat by 31 July 2007;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its next meeting;
8. *Underlines* that the performance of regional and subregional centres will be evaluated by the Conference of the Parties according to the criteria set out in annex II of SC-2/9 and that, based on that evaluation, the Conference of the Parties may reconsider the status of the centres as regional and subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention.

Annex to decision SC-3/12

Terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention

Mandate

1. Paragraph 4 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention calls for Parties to establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of the Convention. These arrangements are to include regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article 12, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision SC-2/9, adopted terms of reference for regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology as well as criteria for evaluating the performance of such centres. The terms of reference and criteria are set out in annexes I and II, respectively, to that decision.

3. Paragraph 3 of the terms of reference for the centres as contained in decision SC-2/9 indicates that “[e]ach centre, in accordance with its area of expertise, may be entrusted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention with the implementation of specific tasks related to priorities identified in a particular region or subregion being served by the centre.”

4. Paragraph 31 of the terms of reference states as follows:

“Activities in the area of capacity-building and the promotion of transfer of technology undertaken by regional and subregional centres to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention according to Article 12 of the Convention may be funded as appropriate and mutually agreed through the financial mechanism of the Convention which was established under Article 13 and consequently must be consistent with the guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-1/9 and set forth in the annex to that decision.”

Process

5. With the aim of ensuring that regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology are able to address the needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Stockholm Convention, in particular the priorities set out in their national implementation plans, the process for selecting regional and subregional centres will be undertaken as follows:

(a) Each of the United Nations regions will nominate, as soon as practicable, institutions from within the region which are willing to serve as regional and/or subregional centres to provide technical assistance and promote the transfer of technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Such institutions shall be known as “nominated Stockholm Convention Centres.” The nominations should take into account, inter alia:

- (i) The ability of such institutions to fulfil the technical assistance and technology transfer needs and priorities identified in the annex to decision SC-1/15;
- (ii) Compliance with the terms of reference for the centres set forth in annex I of decision SC-2/9;
- (iii) The promotion of efficiency and effective use of resources;
- (iv) The need for enhanced cooperation and coordination among existing centres in the area of chemicals management;

(b) The Basel Convention regional centres, as well as other existing institutions within the chemicals and waste cluster, may be encouraged to serve as regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology under the Stockholm Convention;

(c) The secretariat will verify in consultation with the bureau that the nominated Stockholm Convention centres meet the criteria contained in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9;

(d) Each nominated Stockholm Convention centre may develop a work plan through a process of regional or subregional consultation;

(e) Each of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres will, in consultation with stakeholders, develop project proposals for submission to the financial mechanism and other potential sources of assistance. Such project proposals shall include the following elements:

- (i) A full project proposal with objectives, a workplan, a budget, a description of the intended geographical scope and an evaluation plan, which should be consistent with the guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
- (ii) Relevant endorsement letters from eligible Parties included in the project;
- (iii) Information concerning any sources for financing of the project and, where relevant, letters pledging such support;

(f) In accordance with the eligibility criteria in decision SC-1/9, support from the Global Environment Facility for projects proposed by developing countries or countries with economies in transition in collaboration with nominated Stockholm Convention centres located in developed countries would be limited to activities undertaken within developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of building institutional capacity in order to facilitate regional/subregional institutional ownership;

(g) At its next meeting, the Conference of the Parties will consider the endorsement of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres;

(h) Without prejudice to future decisions, the process of nominating centres to serve as regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology under the Stockholm Convention may be facilitated by the Secretariat as appropriate and will be done within existing budgetary resources.