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EXPERT GROUP ON BEST AVAILABLE
TECHNIQUES AND BEST ENVIRONMENTAL
PRACTICES

First session

Research Triangle Park, 10-14 March 2003

Item 2 (c) on the provisional agenda¹

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Scenario note for the first session of the Expert Group²

Note by the secretariat

Contained in the annex to the present note is a scenario note for the first session of the Expert Group provided by the interim co-Chairs of the Expert Group, Mr. Robert Kellam (United States of America) and Mr. Sergio Vives (Chile). This information is circulated as received.

¹ UNEP/POPS/EGB.1/1.

² This document has not been formally edited.

Annex**SCENARIO NOTE FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE BAT/BEP EXPERT GROUP**

We thought it would be useful, as John Buccini has done in advance of the POPs INCs, to communicate our thoughts and expectations for the initial meeting of the Expert Group, scheduled for March 10-14, 2003, in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, U.S.A.

Objectives for the First Meeting:

Depending on how the participants agree to proceed, we believe it will require at least two and possibly three meetings of the Group to complete our work. From each meeting we should expect a specific product. On the assumption that these meetings will occur during the intersession between INCs, we anticipate forwarding the Group's final recommendations to the Parties for their review in advance of the first Conference of the Parties (COP). If the Convention enters into force and the first COP occurs before we have completed our work, we will be obliged to seek the Parties' guidance before continuing. The initial meeting of the Expert Group, then, is important for several reasons. First and foremost, it will set the framework and the tone for our present and future discussions. In this light, it is our hope that we will continue to enjoy the constructive dialogue, spirit of cooperation, and strong sense of purpose that marked the negotiation of Article 5 and Annex C of the Convention. In addition, it will be important to take decisions early in our discussions on issues such as the nature and scope of the guidance and a process for updating the technical information included, since these decisions will have a significant bearing on the subsequent work of the Group. It is also important to note that the language of the Convention suggests that priority attention be given to BAT and the categories in Part II of Annex C. Finally, we believe it will be critical to finish the week with the adoption of a report that will give INC7 as clear an understanding as we can provide of where we are going and how we intend to get there.

Organization of the Work:

Despite the abundance of technical information that is relevant to the development of this provisional guidance, we have attempted to keep formal presentation time at the meeting to a minimum and allow as much time as possible for open discussion. Presentations will be limited to background information on the relevant sections of the Convention, brief technical overviews of the source category groupings, and a small number of more specialized talks in areas of high interest (e.g., barrel burning, municipal waste disposal). Given our relatively small size, we intend to work in plenary for most of the week, but will establish subgroups as necessary.

Although there are a number of relevant areas that our discussions could expand into (e.g., PCB disposal, inventory development, etc.), we believe it is critical to remain focused on BAT and BEP for the unintentional POPs. We recognize, for example, that inventories of these substances will be necessary for both establishing the baseline and tracking changes in releases over time, however, approaches to the development and updating of inventories are outside the scope of the Expert Group.

We intend also for the level of discussion in the Group to be informal and fully participatory. As indicated in the Terms of Reference, included in the first mailing to the Group, we will operate on a consensus basis among participating governments. Designated observers will also have free license to participate in the Group's discussions, with the exception of the negotiation of specific report language. On any points where consensus cannot be reached, the report of the meeting will reflect the divergent views of the participants.

The Meeting Agenda:

The daily schedule for the week will include a morning (09:00 -12:00) and an afternoon (13:00 - 17:00) session. The morning of the first day will be devoted to introductions, background information, and a discussion of the nature and scope of the provisional guidance. We will be aided in the latter by an options

paper developed by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/EGB.1/2) that will be included in this mailing. In the afternoon we will launch our discussion of the specific category groups, beginning with the large stationary production processes.

We will continue with the remaining category groups on Tuesday and Wednesday, hopefully concluding our initial discussions by mid-day on Thursday. If we have identified areas that it would be profitable for sub-groups to pursue, we will suspend plenary for the Thursday afternoon session so that the groups can meet. On Friday morning, the groups will report to plenary and, in the afternoon, we will turn our attention to preparations for the next meeting, including the need for intersessional work, and the adoption of our report.

For the tentative schedule for this week, see UNEP/POPS/EGB.1/INF/2.

Outcomes of the First Meeting:

By the end of our meeting in March, we would hope to have:

1. A general consensus on the scope and nature of the provisional guidance and a process for periodically updating the technical information;
2. Draft “techniques” and “practices” for at least some of the major source categories;
3. A plan for gathering additional information during the intersession to address identified data gaps and problem areas; and
4. A report to INC7 that captures the progress we’ve made to date, the issues that remain, and our schedule for completion.

Future Work:

1. The second and third meetings would focus on elaborating specific BAT for the Part II and Part III source categories in Annex C, and identifying BEP.
2. In our view, the aims of the Convention would be best served by the early provision of guidance that could be updated and expanded later. The use of technical annexes to this document that could be updated as necessary would facilitate that approach.

Sergio Vives
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January 31, 2003

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January 31, 2003