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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT
FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON
CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Fourth session

Bonn, 20-25 March 2000

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING
INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Schedule and financial needs for the completion of the negotiations for an
international legally binding instrument for implementing international
action on certain persistent organic pollutants

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. In its decision 19/13 C, paragraph 17, of 7 February 1997, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called upon Governments and other actors: "to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, in particular the full and effective participation of developing countries, especially least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition which may be interested". In paragraph 12 of the same decision, the Governing Council also requested that the international legally binding instrument for international action to reduce/eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) be concluded preferably by the year 2000.

2. In its decision 20/24, paragraph 4, of 5 February 1999, the Governing Council of UNEP called on Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to consider providing financial contributions

* UNEP/POPS/INC.4/1.

for further negotiations of the international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants, particularly through the "POPs Club".

3. The present document provides an update on the schedule and financial needs for completion of the negotiations for consideration by the Committee at its fourth session.

4. For planning purposes, the secretariat has estimated that the negotiations of the convention on persistent organic pollutants are expected to include, in total, five sessions of the Committee. Previous estimates had included three inter-sessional meetings of the Criteria Expert Group, but the Committee agreed at its third session that the Group had successfully completed its mandate in two sessions. Following the completion of the negotiations, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries will be held to adopt the convention and any resolutions deemed necessary by Governments, and sign the convention.

5. In addition to the question of covering the financial requirements for the negotiations, the Governing Council, also in decision 19/13 C, requested UNEP to undertake immediate action to promote the reduction and/or elimination of releases of POPs into the environment. Further, in its decision 20/24, paragraph 5, the Governing Council of UNEP encouraged Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting the implementation of immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of decision 19/13 C. The financial requirements for those actions are not addressed in the present document, but a number of Governments have made very significant contributions towards the work of UNEP in this regard.

I. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

6. The schedule of meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), the Criteria Expert Group (CEG) and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (DipCon) is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
29 June - 3 July 1998	INC1	Montreal
26-30 October 1998	CEG1	Bangkok
25-29 January 1999	INC2	Nairobi
14-18 June 1999	CEG2	Vienna
6-11 September 1999	INC3	Geneva
20-25 March 2000	INC4	Bonn
4-9 December 2000	INC5	South Africa
21-23 May 2001	DipCon	Stockholm

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II. FINANCIAL ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS SESSIONS UP TO THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE

7. To date substantial funding for the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain POPs has been made available to cover the meeting costs, although in some cases funds have not been received until costs have been incurred. In addition, in a number of cases there has been a balance of pledges outstanding. In such cases, the UNEP Executive Director has approved the borrowing of funds from the Environment Fund reserve to cover meeting costs until donor finances are made available to replenish the Fund. This borrowing has amounted to a total of \$1,067,379.
8. The first session of the Committee was hosted and fully funded by the Government of Canada.
9. The first session of the Criteria Expert Group was hosted by the Government of Thailand and funded through contributions from the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
10. The second session of the Committee held in Nairobi was made possible through an advance from the Environment Fund reserve and is to be replenished using contributions received through the "POPs Club".
11. The second session of the Criteria Expert Group held in Vienna was funded by Austria and Germany. The balance of funding is expected to be forthcoming.
12. The third session of the Committee was funded by the Environment Fund reserve and is to be reimbursed by the "POPs Club".
13. The fourth session of the Committee was funded by the Environment Fund reserve on the basis of a pledge of 1.2 million German marks by the Government of Germany. The Environment Fund reserve will be reimbursed by the German contribution and the "POPs Club".
14. Not included in the above meeting costs are the costs of consultant contracts required to complete the inter-sessional work requested by the Committee or the secretariat. Such contracts amounted to \$45,000 between the first and second sessions of the Committee, \$55,000 between the second and third sessions, and \$28,000 between the third and fourth sessions.
15. As of 8 March 2000 the following countries, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have contributed or pledged funding to the "POPs Club": Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Madagascar, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, European Commission and International POPs Elimination Network.

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16. The table below shows estimates^{1/} of the costs of each of the sessions of the Committee and the Criteria Expert Group, and indicates the amount available for reimbursement from the "POPs Club" and other Government contributions.

Session	Estimated cost	Reimbursement or pledge
INC1	\$551,223	\$551,223
CEG1	\$376,202	\$376,202
INC2	\$703,790	\$481,326
CEG2	\$336,201	\$220,599
INC3	\$652,576	\$459,491
INC4	\$698,000	\$498,425
INC5	To be determined	To be determined
DipCon	To be determined	To be determined
TOTALS	\$3,318,002	\$2,587,266

III. FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

17. The Government of South Africa has offered to host the fifth session of the Committee. The Government of Denmark has offered to provide financial support of approximately \$400,000 for conference services for the session and has indicated that further arrangements, including financial support for participation of developing countries, may be possible.

18. The Government of Sweden has offered to host and fully fund the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

19. The cost of inter-sessional work to be completed for the remainder of the negotiations is projected to be between \$30,000 and \$45,000.

^{1/} All figures are provisional pending final clearance of accounts.