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

Fifth session

Johannesburg, 4-9 December 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

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

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\* UNEP/POPS/INC.5/1.

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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 fifth session.

4. 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. Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have provided financial and in-kind contributions for supporting other actions related to POPs, including capacity-building activities. Although the financial requirements for those actions are not addressed in the present document, it is noted that Australia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Inuit Circumpolar Conference have provided very significant funding to support their implementation.

## I. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

5. The schedule of meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), the Criteria Expert Group (CEG), the small group on financial resources and mechanisms (SGF), 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
19-21 June 2000	SGF	Vevey
4-9 December 2000	INC5	Johannesburg
22-23 May 2001	DipCon	Stockholm

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

6. To date substantial funding for the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain POPs has been made available through the POPs Club. For a number of the sessions, however, there remains an outstanding balance. 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 \$936,773.

7. 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, \$28,000 between the third and fourth sessions, and \$32,800 between the fourth and fifth sessions.

8. As of 24 November 2000 the following countries, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have contributed or pledged funding to the "POPs Club": Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, European Commission and International POPs Elimination Network.

9. The table below shows the cost of each of the sessions of the Committee, the Criteria Expert Group, and the small group on financial resources and mechanisms, and indicates the amount of funds received or pledged to date to the “POPs Club” to support the sessions.

<b>Session</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Funds received/pledged (\$)</b>
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	813,670	729,423
SGF	31,769	31,769
INC5	1,170,000 <sup>1/</sup>	1,136,721
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,603,662</b>	<b>3,986,744</b>

### III. FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

10. Sweden has offered to host and fully fund the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
11. Approximately \$600,000 is still sought to repay the UNEP Environment Fund reserve.

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<sup>1/</sup> Estimated.