



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/POPS/INC.6/9
9 February 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Sixth session

Geneva, 17-21 June 2002

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Format and timing of Party reporting under Article 15 **

Note by the secretariat

1. Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants states that “Each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention”. Paragraph 2 of that article sets out the information to be reported, and paragraph 3 of that article states that “Such reporting shall be at periodic intervals and in a format to be decided by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.”
2. Other articles or annexes of the Convention requiring regular Party reporting include:
 - (a) Subparagraph (a) (v) of Article 5, which requires a review to be undertaken every five years of those strategies pursuant to the development of an action plan to identify, characterize and address the release of the unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C and their success;
 - (b) Article 7, which requires each Party to develop and endeavour to implement an implementation plan and transmit it to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force for that Party and which requires each Party to review and update its plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified in a decision of the Conference of the Parties;

* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1.

** References are to the Stockholm Convention, Article 15, paragraph 3; Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention, resolution 1, paragraph 4.

(c) Article 16, which calls for an evaluation of effectiveness commencing four years after the date of entry into force of the convention and periodically thereafter and which calls for reports and information, including the reports and monitoring information called for in paragraph 2 of Article 16 (results of monitoring activities on a regional and global basis), the national reports submitted pursuant to Article 15 and non-compliance information provided pursuant to the procedures to be established under Article 17;

(d) Subparagraph (g) of Part II of Annex A, which requires each Party to provide a report every five years on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls and submit it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Article 15;

(e) Each Party that uses DDT in accordance with Part II of Annex B is required under paragraph 4 of that annex to provide every three years to the Secretariat information on the amount used, the conditions of such use and its relevance to that Party's disease management strategy in a format to be decided by the Conference of the Parties in consultation with the World Health Organization (discussed in UNEP/POPS/INC.6/5).

3. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, in paragraph 4 of its Resolution 1, invited the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee "to focus its efforts during the interim period on those activities required or encouraged by the Convention that will facilitate the rapid entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention upon its entry into force, including, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties the development of, ... periodicity and format of reports by Parties ..." (Appendix I of UNEP/POPS/CONF/4).

4. Regular reporting by Parties is a common feature of multilateral environmental agreements, including the:

(a) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Article 5) and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Article 7);

(b) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Article 13);

(c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Article 12);

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 26).

5. The form, interval and procedure for national reports under existing multilateral environmental agreements vary. In general terms, reporting provisions aim to provide information relevant to, inter alia, assessing the progress achieved towards meeting the objectives of the Convention and identifying the needs of Parties in order to fulfil their obligations.

6. Of relevance to the development of the format and process for Party reporting is the development of implementation plans under Article 7. The implementation plans may provide information that will form the basis for development of Party reporting procedures.

Possible action by the Committee

7. The Committee may wish to prepare recommendations on the format and timing of reporting by the Parties required under Article 15 of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. In so doing, the Committee may wish to consider the experiences and lessons learned under other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. For this purpose, the Committee may wish to request the secretariat to prepare a document that reviews the reporting obligations, processes and formats established under those agreements for consideration at its next session. Should the Committee request the secretariat to produce that document, it may wish to request the secretariat to take into consideration the reporting under other articles of the Convention.
