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

Sixth session

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Guidance on the Evaluation of Current and Projected Releases
of Chemicals Listed in Annex C**

Note by the secretariat

1. Subparagraph (a) of Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requires each Party to:

“Develop an action plan or, where appropriate, a regional or subregional action plan within two years of entry into force of the Convention for it, and subsequently implement it as part of its implementation plan specified in Article 7, designed to identify, characterize and address the release of the chemicals listed in Annex C and to facilitate implementation of subparagraphs (b) to (e).”

One of the elements that shall be included in the action plan is “an evaluation of current and projected releases, including the development and maintenance of source inventories and release estimates, taking into consideration the source categories identified in Annex C” (Article 5, subparagraph (a) (i)).

2. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, held in Stockholm on 22 and 23 May 2001, decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee “shall develop provisional guidance on the evaluation of current and projected releases of chemicals in Annex C, including the development and maintenance of source inventories, in order to facilitate interim work under subparagraph (a) (i) of article 5, for consideration by the Conference of Parties upon entry into force of the Convention” (UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, Appendix I, resolution 1, paragraph 6).

* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 5; Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention, resolution 1, paragraph 6.

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3. In developing this provisional guidance, the Committee may wish to consider completed or ongoing work relating to evaluation of current and projected releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, including the documents prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) -- Dioxin and Furan Inventories - National and Regional Emissions of PCDD/PCDF (polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins/polychlorinated dibenzofurans) (May 1999); and Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases (January 2001). The latter is a methodology to identify potential PCDD/PCDF sources in a country and to quantify these sources according to technical and performance criteria. Both documents are available via the Internet at: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/newlayout/repdocs.html> or from the secretariat, upon request.

4. Provisional guidance on the evaluation of current and projected releases of chemicals in Annex C of the Convention may include advice on:

(a) Identifying sources of releases: The Convention requires that all anthropogenic sources be considered. Annex C of the Convention lists two classes of source categories: those having the potential for comparatively high formation and release of Annex C chemicals into the environment are listed in Part II of the Annex; additional source categories are listed in Part III of the Annex;

(b) Quantifying releases from the identified sources: Quantification for a given source or activity can be done by measuring all individual sources or by applying validated emission factors, which provides the mass of PCDD/PCDF releases by a given source per unit of activity, e.g., quantity of feed processed or product manufactured;

(c) Combining individual sources to develop a nation-wide release inventory: National inventories will include the sum of all quantified releases from identified sources. Establishing a standard format for these reports would facilitate exchange of information and experiences.

Possible action by the Committee

5. In order to develop provisional guidance on the evaluation of current and projected releases of chemicals listed in Annex C of the Convention for consideration by the first Conference of the Parties, the Committee may wish to consider further application of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases and refinement of the existing methodology contained therein, and, inter alia, the elements in paragraph 4, above.
