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

Seventh session

Geneva, 14-18 July 2003

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Preparations for the Conference of the Parties**

**GUIDANCE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE\*\***

Note by the secretariat

1. At its sixth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in its decision INC-6/8, initiated a process for developing the guidance on the provision of technical assistance called for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 12 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and all possible arrangements for providing technical assistance, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first session.

2. In decision INC-6/8, the Committee invited Governments to provide the secretariat, by 31 October 2002, with the following, relating to implementation of the obligations under the Stockholm Convention:

(a) For developed countries and other countries in accordance with their capabilities, views and information on priorities and arrangements for their provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) For developing countries and countries with economies in transition, views and information on priorities and arrangements regarding technical assistance from developed countries and other countries in accordance with their capabilities.

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\* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1

\*\* Stockholm Convention, article 12 paragraphs 3 and 4; Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention, resolution 1, paragraph 4 (in document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I); report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of its sixth session (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), annex I, decision INC-6/8.

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3. In the same decision the Committee also requested the secretariat to prepare and submit for its consideration at its seventh session a report on priorities and arrangements for technical assistance, to be based on:
- (a) Views and information received from countries;
  - (b) Relevant experience gained from the development of the implementation plans under article 7;
  - (c) Information gathered and proposals developed throughout the negotiating process that relate to technical assistance;
  - (d) Information gathered from regional and subregional consultative workshops.
4. In response to the invitation mentioned in paragraph 2 above, 14 Governments submitted comments to the secretariat. Eleven responses came from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the other three came from developed countries. Transcriptions of the actual submissions are available in background document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/16.
5. In reviewing the views and information received from Governments, the relevant experience gained from the development of the implementation plans under article 7 of the Convention, the information gathered and proposals developed throughout the negotiating process on technical assistance and the information gathered from the regional and subregional consultative workshops on the Convention organized by the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariat identified some common elements of technical assistance needs and priorities that are outlined in the annex to the present note.

Possible action by the Committee

6. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided in the present note and consider:
- (a) Inviting Governments, when developing their implementation plans as called for in article 7 of the Convention, to identify areas and issues in addition to those in the annex to the present note for which they may require technical assistance, and to transmit this information to the secretariat, by 31 December 2003;
  - (b) Requesting the secretariat to prepare draft guidance pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 12 of the Convention, taking into account the information provided in the present note, the comments pertaining to technical assistance provided in background document UNEP/POP/INC.7/INF/16 and any further comments received by Governments in response to the suggested action in paragraph (a) above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first session and the possible adoption of a relevant decision.

AnnexSome common elements of technical assistance needs and priorities

- (a) Development of national implementation plans as called for in article 7 of the Convention;
- (b) Review of available infrastructure, capacity and institutions at the national and local levels, and the potential to strengthen them in light of the Convention;
- (c) Training for decision-makers, managers and personnel who are responsible for issues related to the Convention in:
  - (i) Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) identification;
  - (ii) Technical assistance needs identification;
  - (iii) Project proposal writing;
  - (iv) Legislation development and enforcement;
  - (v) POPs inventory development;
  - (vi) Risk assessment and management of PCBs, dioxins and furans;
- (d) Development and strengthening of research capacity at the national, subregional and regional levels:
  - (i) Development and introduction of alternatives to POPs;
  - (ii) Training of technical personnel;
- (e) Development and establishment of laboratory capacity, including promotion of standard sampling and analysis procedures for the validation of inventories;
- (f) Development, implementation and enforcement of regulatory controls and incentives for the sound management of POPs;
- (g) Identification and disposal of POPs wastes, including technology transfer for the destruction of such wastes;
- (h) Identification and promotion of best available techniques and best environmental practices;
- (i) Identification and remediation of POPs-contaminated sites;
- (j) Promotion of awareness-raising and information-dissemination programmes.

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