



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/POPS/INC.7/14
16 April 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL CENTRES**

Note by the secretariat

1. In article 12, paragraph 4, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requires that Parties “establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of this Convention. These arrangements shall include regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties”.

2. At its sixth session, in its decision 6/9, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee requested the secretariat to undertake, in consultation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, as appropriate, a feasibility study on regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology. In addition, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee requested the secretariat to communicate terms of reference for the feasibility study to Governments for comments prior to its commencement, and to present the intermediate or final report of the study to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session. The final report was to be presented no later than 31 December 2003, unless otherwise decided by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1.

** Stockholm Convention, article 12, paragraph 4; Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention, resolution 1, paragraph 4; report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on its sixth session (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), annex I, decisions INC-6/9 and INC-6/11.

K0361199 210503

3. Further to this, at its sixth session, in its decision 6/11, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee requested the secretariat to include in the feasibility study referred to in decision INC-6/9 arrangements for developing possible modalities for a capacity assistance network, as agreed upon in resolution 3, paragraph 2, of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and taking into consideration the work done in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19.

4. In response to the above-mentioned mandates, on 13 August 2002 the secretariat communicated terms of reference for the feasibility study to Governments for their comments. In all, 17 Governments submitted comments on the above-mentioned terms of reference. Transcriptions of the actual submissions are available in document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/16.

5. In the light of the comments received from Governments the secretariat revised the terms of reference. The revised terms of reference are contained in the annex to the present note.

6. The secretariat regrets to inform the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that, owing to a lack of financial support for this activity, it has been unable to initiate the feasibility study on regional and subregional centres.

Possible action by the Committee

7. The Committee may wish:

(a) To take note of the above information and the terms of reference for the feasibility study on regional and subregional centres as contained in the annex to the present note;

(b) To invite Governments to provide, as soon as possible, the necessary funds to undertake the feasibility study on regional and subregional centres as called for in decision 6/9 adopted by the Committee; and

(c) To request the secretariat to present a report on the results of the study to the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.

AnnexDraft terms of reference for a feasibility study on regional and subregional centres

The feasibility study shall:

- (a) Take into account the views and information on priorities and arrangements for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that is provided by Governments in response to decision INC-6/8;
- (b) Identify the needs of countries in the area of capacity-building and transfer of technology that might be facilitated by regional and subregional centres;
- (c) Assess the capacity of all relevant regional and subregional centres, in particular, but not limited to Basel Convention regional centres, to facilitate capacity-building and transfer of technology. Such an assessment shall include, but not be limited to, a review of mandates, functions, performance, institutional arrangements, human resource and financial requirements and the needs identified in paragraph (a) above;
- (d) Assess the gaps and limitations of existing arrangements, including the availability of technology to be transferred, and the means to address these constraints;
- (e) Review the experiences gained by other international agreements in capacity-building and transfer of technology;
- (f) Identify and analyse the potential synergies between the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and other multilateral environmental agreements regarding the provision of capacity-building and transfer of technology;
- (g) Take into account the case studies on regional and subregional centres, called for in decision INC-6/10; and
- (h) Identify arrangements for developing possible modalities for a capacity assistance network as agreed upon in resolution 3, paragraph 2, of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and taking into consideration the work done in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19.
