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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

**EVALUATION OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED RELEASES OF CHEMICALS LISTED IN
ANNEX C -- REVISED "STANDARDIZED TOOLKIT FOR IDENTIFICATION
AND QUANTIFICATION OF DIOXIN AND FURAN RELEASES"****

Note by the secretariat

1. Paragraph 1 of article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requires each Party to develop an action plan to identify, characterize and address the release of the chemicals listed in annex C. The action plan is to include an evaluation of current and projected releases, including the development and maintenance of source inventories and release estimates, taking into account the source categories identified in annex C.
2. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in its decision INC-6/4 on the evaluation of current and projected releases of chemicals listed in annex C:
 1. Notes that the 'Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases' (Toolkit) of the United Nations Environment Programme provides a basis for the development of provisional guidance on the evaluation of current and projected releases of chemicals listed in annex C of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
 2. Notes further that it may be appropriate to update the Toolkit and to include additional chemicals, emissions factors, levels of detail and other elements to enhance its usefulness;

* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1

** Stockholm Convention, article 5 and annex C; report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on its sixth session (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), annex I, decision INC-6/4.

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3. Invites Governments and others to provide the secretariat with comments on how the Toolkit can be updated and expanded before 31 December 2002;

4. Requests the secretariat to develop an updated and expanded version of the Toolkit, taking into consideration the comments received as well as experience in field-testing the Toolkit in countries, for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its next session.”

4. In response to the Committee’s request in decision INC-6/4, nine Governments (including one on behalf of a regional economic integration organization), one intergovernmental organization and two non-governmental organizations submitted comments to the secretariat. The actual submissions are compiled in the document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/17. Further recommendations on the Toolkit were developed during two subregional workshops held in Latin America, with the participation of seven countries, and in Asia, with the participation of five countries.

5. In general, the submissions welcomed the Toolkit as an appropriate and useful tool to address the issues under article 5 of the Convention; in particular, to assist countries in preparing inventories and to provide consistent estimation methods. Countries, which have used the Toolkit in developing their national inventory on dioxins and furans, found it to be very useful, and expressed a wish that the Toolkit not change too much during the revision process.

6. The comments on the Toolkit can be categorized as:

(a) Editorial issues, edits and inconsistencies;

(b) Technical items easily included in the revision;

(c) Complex technical items not readily accommodated in the time available; and

(d) Issues of scope of the Toolkit, particularly the need to include the other chemicals to be controlled under article 5.

7. An analysis of all comments and the manner in which they have been reflected in the revised draft is contained in UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/23. The secretariat circulated the revised draft to those Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that submitted comments. The Toolkit will be further revised to reflect subsequent comments. The new version of the Toolkit will be posted on the Convention web site www.pops.int during the week of 2 June 2003 and will be available at the meeting as UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF 14.

8. Due to the lack of financial support for this activity, and the relative scarcity of data on the releases of hexachlorobenzene and PCBs as unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, the secretariat was unable to expand the scope of the Toolkit to cover those chemicals.

Possible Action by the Committee

9. The Committee may wish to:

(a) Note the revised Toolkit and consider recommending it to the Conference of the Parties for adoption as the methodology to undertake release reporting pursuant to article 5 and annex C of the Convention; and

(b) Request the secretariat to develop guidance to be included in the Toolkit to cover other chemicals addressed in article 5 and annex C, resources permitting, and to submit that guidance to the Conference of the Parties at its first session.
