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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

**DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL GUIDELINES ON THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND
MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANT WASTES****

Note by the secretariat

1. Paragraph 2 of article 6 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants reads as follows:

“The Conference of the Parties shall cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to, inter alia:

“(a) Establish levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants as specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D are not exhibited;

“(b) Determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal referred to above;¹ and

“(c) Work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C in order to define the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii).”

2. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 5, the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention invited the bodies of the Basel Convention to prepare appropriate technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1.

** Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, article 6, paragraph 2; Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 5 (in document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I); decision INC-6/5, in report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on its sixth session (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), annex I.

¹ This refers to paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of article 6.

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3. At its sixth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in its decision 6/5, welcomed the progress made by the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention in developing technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes and requested the secretariat to prepare a report for the Conference of Parties of the Stockholm Convention on such guidelines as may be adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention, including an analysis of the implications of those guidelines for the Stockholm Convention and an indication of elements that might be considered suitable for adoption under paragraph 2 of article 6 of the Stockholm Convention.

4. In response to the above, what follows is a brief progress report on activities within the Basel Convention to develop technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes.

5. In June 2002, a first draft of the technical guidelines was submitted by the consultants engaged by the secretariat of the Basel Convention. Second and third drafts of the document were circulated in October 2002 and January 2003 respectively. Both the drafts and comments by stakeholders have been posted on the Basel Convention web site, www.basel.int. In its comments on this work in progress, the interim secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, through the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP Chemicals), expressed reservations as to whether the guidelines, as drafted, would meet the needs of the Stockholm Convention, bearing in mind the particular requirements for technical guidelines in respect of the issues set forth in paragraph 2 of article 6 of the Convention.

6. At its sixth meeting, held in December 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in its decision VI/23 called for final adoption of the completed guidelines at its seventh meeting, which is expected to be held towards the end of 2004.

7. The draft guidelines will be further considered at the first session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention scheduled for 28 April to 2 May 2003. The relevant paragraphs and decision from the report of that meeting will be included in document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/19, in advance, unedited form.

Possible action by the Committee

8. The Committee may wish:

(a) To note the progress made in the preparation of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent wastes under the Basel Convention;

(b) To request the secretariat to continue to monitor and contribute to the development of the guidelines, bearing in mind the requirements in relation to paragraph 2 of article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

(c) To encourage Governments and other interested stakeholders to participate actively in the development of the guidelines through their representatives in the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention.
