

SC-4/20: Operating procedures of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

Welcomes the report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on its third and fourth meetings¹ and the report of the Chair of the Committee;²

1. *Takes note* of the information in those reports on developments in the Committee, including in respect of its procedures;
2. *Also takes note* of the workplans for the preparation of a draft risk profile (2007–2008 and 2008–2009), the workplan for the preparation of a draft risk management evaluation (2007–2008) and the workplan for the intersessional working group on effective participation (2008–2009), which were adopted by the Committee at its third and fourth meetings;
3. *Encourages* Parties that wish to submit proposals for listing chemicals in Annex A, B or C of the Convention to submit such proposals to the Secretariat at least five months before the meeting of the Committee at which they will be discussed;
4. *Adopts* the amendments to the terms of reference of the Committee set out in annex I to the present decision;
5. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat on preventing and dealing with conflicts of interest on the part of members of the Committee;³
6. *Endorses* the decision by the Committee to meet in closed session before the start of each meeting of the Committee to discuss any issues related to conflicts of interest of members of the Committee;
7. *Requests* the Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, should any conflict of interest of a member of the Committee arise, to consult the President of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary with a view to making a decision on the member's participation in the work of the Committee in respect of a particular chemical;
8. *Requests* the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting amendments, as appropriate, to the rules of procedure of the Committee set out in decision SC-1/8 for preventing and dealing with conflicts of interest relating to the activities of the Committee and the terms of reference of the Committee contained in decision SC-1/7 to reflect that procedure and any experience gained with it;
9. *Adopts* the revised form for the declaration of conflicts of interest of members of the Committee set out in annex II to the present decision;
10. *Confirms* the appointment of the new members of the Committee;⁴
11. *Also confirms* the nomination of Mr. Jope Rinabobo Davetanivalu (Fiji) to replace Ms. Razia Zariff; Ms. Camila Arruda Boechat (Brazil) to replace Ms. Adriana Maximiano; Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan) to replace Mr. Ziad Abu Kaddourah; and Ms. Maria Delvin (Sweden) to replace Mr. Bo Wahlström to serve for the remainder of the terms of office of the members being replaced;
12. *Adopts* the list of Parties to be invited to nominate Committee members for terms of office commencing on 5 May 2010 set out in annex III to the present decision;
13. *Endorses* the handbook for effective participation in the work of the Committee and recommends to Parties that they make use of it;
14. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue activities to assist Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition as listed in decision POPRC-4/8 and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

1 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15.

2 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16, annex.

3 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/3 and UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16.

4 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/INF/4 and UNEP/POS/POPRC.4/INF/18.

15. *Urges* Parties and observers in a position to do so to provide financial resources to support activities for the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to develop a resource kit providing information on the Stockholm Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

Annex I to decision SC-4/20

Amendments to the terms of reference of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

- (a) Paragraph 27 should be amended to read:

“Proposals for listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C shall be distributed at least three months in advance of the meeting at which they are to be discussed. Other documents shall be distributed at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.”
- (b) A new paragraph 27 bis should be added, reading:

“A Party proposing the listing of a chemical in Annex A, B or C of the Convention shall provide to the Secretariat, no later than five months in advance of the meeting at which it is to be discussed, a proposal consisting of a letter from the proposing Party, documents supporting the proposal and a summary in English of the documents supporting the proposal of up to 20 pages in length.”
- (c) Paragraph 31 should be amended to read:

“For practical reasons, only the major resource documents for a meeting will be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed at least six weeks in advance of the meeting. The term “major resource documents” means the summary in English of the documents supporting the proposal for adding a chemical to Annexes A, B or C to the Convention, the risk profile, the risk management evaluation and any report or recommendation for the meeting.”
- (d) A new paragraph 31 bis should be added, reading:

“Proposals for listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C shall be distributed at least three months in advance of the meeting at which they are to be discussed in any official language of the United Nations in which they are submitted to the secretariat. The summary in English of the documents supporting the proposals shall be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.”

Annex II to decision SC-4/20

Revised form for the declaration of conflicts of interest

Name: _____ Designating Government: _____

Term of office: [] – []

Have you or your partner any financial or other interest in the subject matter of any meeting or work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in which you will be involved that might be considered as constituting a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest? If yes, please give details in the box below.

Yes: No:

Do you have, or have you had during the past four years, an employment or other professional relationship with any entity directly involved in the production, manufacture, distribution or sale of chemicals or pesticides or directly representing the interests of any such entity? If yes, please give details in the box below.

Yes: No:

1. Type of interest, e.g. patent, shares, employment, association, payment (including details on any compound, work, etc.)	2. Name of commercial entity	3. Belongs to you, partner or unit?	4. Current interest? (or year ceased)

Is there anything else that could affect your objectivity or independence in respect of any meeting or work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in which you will be involved, or the perception by others of your objectivity or independence? If yes, please give details in the box below.

Yes: No:

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the disclosed information is correct and that no other situation of real, potential or apparent conflict of interest is known to me. I undertake to inform you of any change in these circumstances, including if an issue arises during any meeting or the conduct of any work.

I hereby declare that I shall regulate my conduct in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision SC-1/8 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention.

Signature

Date

Annex III to decision SC-4/20

List of Parties identified by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting to nominate Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee members whose terms of office will commence on 5 May 2010

From the African group

1. Egypt
2. Nigeria
3. United Republic of Tanzania
4. Zambia

From the Asian and Pacific group

1. China
2. Japan
3. Jordan
4. Thailand

From the Central and Eastern European group

1. Czech Republic
2. Ukraine

From the Latin American and Caribbean group

1. Argentina
2. Colombia
3. Costa Rica

From the Western European and others group

1. Canada
2. Finland
3. Germany
4. New Zealand