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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
First meeting**  
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 2–6 May 2005  
Item 6 (n) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters for consideration or action by the  
Conference of the Parties: Secretariat location**

**Offers to host the permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm  
Convention\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. In its resolution 6, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants called upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to consider the offers to host the Convention Secretariat received ... and to provide a comparative analysis of those offers regarding the physical location of the Secretariat for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. The analysis was to be carried out in consultation with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants.
2. To facilitate the comparative analysis, at its sixth session, the Committee adopted decision INC-6/19, in which it invited interested countries to provide the Secretariat, by 30 November 2002, with detailed information on the conditions and advantages attached to their offers to host the permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, with special focus on the items listed in the appendix to the decision. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to compile the offers received and submit them to the Committee for consideration at its seventh session.

\* UNEP/POPS/COP.1/1.

\*\* Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Article 20; Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Stockholm, Sweden, 22 and 23 May 2001, (UNEP/POPS/CONF/4), appendix I, resolution 6; Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its sixth session (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), annex I, decision INC-6/19 and appendix; Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its seventh session (UNEP/POPS/INC.7/28), annex I, decision INC-7/13.

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3. The Secretariat received detailed information on their offers to host the permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention from the Governments of Italy and Switzerland. In its decision INC-7/13, the Committee, at its seventh session, welcomed the offers and decided to submit them to the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting along with the detailed information as provided by the offering Governments. Those submissions are set out in documents UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/4 and 5, respectively.

4. Paragraph 3 of decision INC-7/13 requested the Secretariat to prepare a comparative analysis of the offers referred to above. In response to this request, the Secretariat has prepared the comparative analysis included in the annex to the present note. The annex has not been formally edited.

### **Possible action by the Conference of the Parties**

5. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Consider the above information and the detailed information related to offers to host the permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention contained in the documents listed in paragraph 3 above;
- (b) Consider the comparative analysis of those offers provided in the annex to the present note;
- (c) Decide on the permanent location of the Secretariat of the Convention.

## **Annex**

### **Comparative Analysis of Offers to Host the Permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention**

**Compiled from:**

**UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/4**, Information Concerning the Offer by the Government of Switzerland to Host the Permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Geneva.

**UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/5**, Information Concerning the Offer by the Government of Italy to Host the Permanent Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Rome.

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(Organized by Categories of Information Requested of Countries Interested in Hosting the Permanent Secretariat, as listed in the appendix to decision INC-6/19)

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Country Information Requested	Italy <sup>1</sup> Proposed Location: Rome	Switzerland Proposed Location: Geneva
<b>I. Legal framework</b>		
<p>1. Privileges and immunities that would be conferred on the permanent Secretariat and its staff members, as well as government representatives and other persons engaged in official business of the Convention.</p>	<p>In Rome the Secretariat and its staff will continue, as long as it remains part of the UN, to enjoy all the privileges and immunities conferred to the United Nations, including the following:</p> <p><b>For the Secretariat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction and execution.</li> <li>• Inviolability of the premises, archives, property, funds and assets.</li> <li>• Freedom from financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind.</li> <li>• Facilities in respect of communications.</li> <li>• Right to use codes and to receive and send correspondence through diplomatic couriers and sealed bags.</li> <li>• The Secretariat, its assets, income and other property is exempt from direct income taxes (with regard to buildings, however, such exemption applies to those owned by the Secretariat and occupied by its branches and to income deriving therefrom).</li> <li>• Exemption from customs duties for its official duties.</li> <li>• Exemption from indirect taxes (including value-added tax with respect to all purchases of goods for its official use and all services provided for its official use).</li> </ul> <p><b>For the staff with diplomatic status (officials of rank P-5 or above)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same privileges and immunities as accorded to members of the permanent missions to the UN with diplomatic status (for example: immunity from personal arrest or detention, immunity from jurisdiction and execution, inviolability of papers, goods and assets, etc.). The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 applies by analogy.</li> <li>• Exemption from direct taxes on salaries, emoluments and allowances paid to them by the POP's Secretariat. This exemption also applies to persons of the nationality of the host country, as long as the POP's Secretariat operates an internal taxation scheme.</li> <li>• Exemption from indirect taxes (including value-added tax on articles purchased for their strictly personal use and on all services supplied for their strictly personal use).</li> <li>• Exemption from custom duties on articles for their personal use.</li> <li>• Access to the Tax-free shop for diplomats in Rome to meet their personal needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Switzerland is a full Party to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963. This legal background provides privileges and immunities for persons with diplomatic status as well as for diplomatic missions.</p> <p>In Geneva the Secretariat and its staff will continue as part of the UN, to enjoy all the privileges and immunities conferred to the United Nations, including the following:</p> <p><b>For the Secretariat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction and execution.</li> <li>• Inviolability of the premises, archives, property, funds and assets.</li> <li>• Freedom from financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind.</li> <li>• Facilities in respect of communications.</li> <li>• Right to use codes and to receive and send correspondence through diplomatic couriers and sealed bags.</li> <li>• The Secretariat, its assets, income and other property is exempt from direct income taxes (with regard to buildings, however, such exemption applies to those owned by the Secretariat and occupied by its branches and to income deriving thereof).</li> <li>• Exemption from customs duties for its official duties.</li> </ul> <p>• Exemption from indirect taxes (including value-added tax with respect to all purchases of goods for its official use and all services provided for its official use).</p> <p><b>For the staff with diplomatic status (officials of rank P-5 or above)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same privileges and immunities as accorded to members of the permanent missions to the UN with diplomatic status (for example: immunity from personal arrest or detention, immunity from jurisdiction and execution, inviolability of papers, goods and assets, etc.). The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 applies by analogy.</li> <li>• Exemption from direct taxes on salaries, emoluments and allowances paid to them by the Secretariat. This exemption also applies to persons of the nationality of the host country, as long as the Secretariat operates an internal taxation scheme.</li> <li>• Exemption from indirect taxes (including value-added tax on articles purchased for their strictly personal use and on all services supplied for their strictly personal use).</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Italy's offer is limited to hosting the part of the Secretariat that will deal with pesticide issues.

Country Information Requested	Italy <sup>1</sup> Proposed Location: Rome	Switzerland Proposed Location: Geneva
	<p><b>For the other staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the exercise of their functions.</li> <li>• Inviolability of their papers, data media and official documents.</li> <li>• Exemption from direct taxes on the salaries, emoluments and allowances paid to them by the POP's Secretariat (this exemption also applies to persons of the nationality of the host country as long as the POP's Secretariat operates an internal taxation scheme).</li> <li>• Exemption from any immigration restriction, aliens registration formalities and national service obligation.</li> <li>• -Facilities in respect of currency or exchange regulations.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the delegates to the conferences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from personal arrest or detention and immunity from seizure of their personal baggage, except in flagrant cases of offence.</li> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the exercise of their functions.</li> <li>• Inviolability of all papers, data media and official documents.</li> <li>• Exemption from any immigration restriction, aliens registration formalities and national service obligations.</li> <li>• Customs privileges and facilities in accordance with the national law.</li> <li>• The same facilities in respect of currency or exchange regulations as are granted to representatives of foreign Governments on temporary official missions.</li> <li>• The right to use codes in their official communications and to receive or send documents or correspondence by means of diplomatic couriers or bags.</li> <li>• The delegates with diplomatic rank have access to the Tax free shop for diplomats in Rome to meet their personal needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the experts on mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experts called upon by the POP's Secretariat will, for the duration of their missions on Italian territory, including travel time, enjoy, such privileges and immunities as to the extent necessary for the discharge of their duties, to wit:</li> <li>• Immunity from personal arrest or detention and immunity from seizure of their personal baggage, save in flagrant cases of offence.</li> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction for acts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemption from custom duties on articles for their personal use.</li> <li>• Access to the tax-free shop for diplomats to meet their personal needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the other staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the exercise of their functions.</li> <li>• Inviolability of their papers, data media and official documents.</li> <li>• Exemption from direct taxes on the salaries, emoluments and allowances paid to them by the Secretariat (this exemption also applies to persons of the nationality of the host country as long as the Secretariat operates an internal taxation scheme).</li> <li>• Exemption from any immigration restriction, alien registration formalities and national service obligation.</li> <li>• Facilities in respect of currency or exchange regulations.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the delegates to the conferences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from personal arrest or detention and immunity from seizure of their personal baggage, except in flagrant cases of offence.</li> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the exercise of their functions.</li> <li>• Inviolability of all papers, data media and official documents.</li> <li>• Exemption from any immigration restriction, alien registration formalities and national service obligations.</li> <li>• Customs privileges and facilities in accordance with the national law.</li> <li>• The same facilities in respect of currency or exchange regulations as are granted to representatives of foreign Governments on temporary official missions.</li> <li>• The right to use codes in their official communications and to receive or send documents or correspondence by means of diplomatic couriers or bags.</li> <li>• The delegates with diplomatic rank have access to the tax-free shop for diplomats to meet their personal needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the experts on mission</b></p> <p>Experts called upon by the Secretariat will, for the duration of their missions on Swiss territory, including travel time, enjoy, such privileges and immunities as to the extent necessary for the discharge of their duties, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunity from personal arrest or detention and immunity from seizure of their personal baggage, save in flagrant cases of offence.</li> <li>• Immunity from jurisdiction for acts (including</li> </ul>

Country Information Requested	Italy <sup>1</sup> Proposed Location: Rome	Switzerland Proposed Location: Geneva
	<p>(including words spoken or written) performed by them in the course of their missions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviolability of their papers, data media and official documents.</li> <li>• Exemption from any immigration restrictions, aliens registration formalities and national service obligations.</li> <li>• The same facilities in respect of currency exchange regulations as are granted to representatives of foreign Governments on temporary official missions.</li> <li>• The same immunities and facilities concerning their personal baggage as are granted to diplomatic agents.</li> </ul>	<p>words spoken or written) performed by them in the course of their missions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviolability of their papers, data media and official documents.</li> <li>• Exemption from any immigration restrictions, alien registration formalities and national service obligations.</li> <li>• The same facilities in respect of currency exchange regulations as are granted to representatives of foreign Governments on temporary official missions.</li> <li>• The same immunities and facilities concerning their personal baggage as are granted to diplomatic agents.</li> </ul>
2. Legal framework for ensuring equal treatment of premises and staff of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.	Not specified.	The necessary legal framework is already in place. In Geneva the Secretariat will continue, as long as it remains part of the UN, to benefit in the field of privileges and immunities from the status of the most favoured organisation granted to the UN.
3. Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of dependants of staff members.	<p><b>For spouses and children</b> The spouses of officials of the Secretariat in Rome enjoy access to the labour market, provided they reside in Italy and under the same roof as the principal holder of the identity card.</p> <p>The children of officials of the Secretariat who enter Italy on the ground of family reunification before the age of 18 and reside in the two countries under the same roof as the principal holder of the identity card will likewise enjoy access to the labour market even if they take up employment after this age.</p> <p>Such persons will not be subject to the application of regulations governing the labour market such as priority recruitment of resident workers and prior check on pay and working conditions.</p> <p><b>For domestic staff</b> Officials of the Secretariat (Senior officials and professional category officials), provided they reside in Italy and are not nationals of the host country, are entitled to hire private servants (domestic staff) under the legitimation card scheme without [having] to comply with the normal immigration rules.</p> <p>However, the conditions of employment must be compatible with the social order in the host country and minimal rules have in any case to be respected. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs have issued directives to help the concerned parties - employers as well as employees - to know what their minimal rights and obligations are in this field.</p>	<p><b>For spouses and children</b> The spouses of officials of the Secretariat in Geneva enjoy access to the labour market, provided they reside in Switzerland and under the same roof as the principal holder of the identity card.</p> <p>The children of officials of the Secretariat who enter Switzerland, on the ground of family reunification before the age of 21 and reside in the host country under the same roof as the principal holder of the identity card will likewise enjoy access to the labour market in Switzerland even if they take up employment after this age.</p> <p>Such persons will not be subject to the application of regulations governing the labour market such as priority recruitment of resident workers and prior check on pay and working conditions.</p> <p><b>For domestic staff</b> Officials of the Secretariat in Geneva (senior officials and professional category officials), provided they reside in Switzerland and are not nationals of the host country, are entitled to hire private servants (domestic staff) under the legitimation card scheme without having to comply with the normal immigration rules.</p> <p>However, the conditions of employment must be compatible with the social order in the host country and minimal rules have in any case to be respected. The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has issued directives to help the concerned parties – employers as well as employees – to know what their minimal rights and obligations are in this field.</p>
4. Nature of the headquarters agreement (e.g., stand-alone	Not specified.	No headquarters agreement will be required with Switzerland since the UN headquarters

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Country</b></p> <p><b>Information Requested</b></p>	<p><b>Italy<sup>1</sup></b>  <b>Proposed Location: Rome</b></p>	<p><b>Switzerland</b>  <b>Proposed Location: Geneva</b></p>
<p>agreement, incorporated into another existing agreement, etc.).</p>		<p>agreements already in force will continue to apply as long as the Secretariat remains part of the UN.</p>
<p><b>II. Features of the office site and related financial issues</b></p>		
<p>5. Main features of the building to house the permanent Secretariat, including office space and scope for its expansion, facilities for conferences and availability of general services (security, maintenance, etc).</p>	<p>In Rome, the Secretariat will be hosted in the FAO building.</p> <p>The FAO building is a large construction with a great architectural merit, built in the 30's to house a many government office. It was freely transferred to FAO for its own use in 1951. It has been modernised many times and it is located in one of the most picturesque places of the City (near the Circo Massimo and Caracalla Thermal Baths). The FAO building is specially equipped with numerous conferences rooms and modern electronic and communication means. Furthermore, very high satellite connectivity is available through link with Telespazio. The FAO building is provided with every comfort, including shops, restaurants, a bank, a newsagent, a bookstall, and a post office.</p> <p>Inside the FAO building a special duty free shop is available for international civil servants working at the FAO and members of diplomatic mission accredited to the FAO.</p> <p>The FAO building belongs to the Italian State, which ask no rent (other than the symbolic dollar to be paid each year according to the Headquarters Agreements). Italy provides to the special maintenance of the complex, and pays a notable amount for its day-to-day up-keep.</p> <p>The security needs of the complex are adequately met by the Organisation's security services.</p>	<p>The Secretariat is already located in Geneva in the International Environment House (IEH), close to UN headquarters and the many major intergovernmental organisations established in the city. The IEH is a large modern building with 13,000 m<sup>2</sup> of working space with up-to-date conveniences including numerous meeting rooms and a restaurant with full catering service for 140 persons. The IEH is fully equipped to accommodate all modern electronic and telecommunication facilities. Furthermore the IEH is offering such features as high-speed data transfer and in-house satellite video conferencing. Numerous organisations working entirely in or closely associated with the environment have their offices in this building. This allows them to exploit all the available synergies and to reap the full benefit of the services of the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), which consists of a network of some 30 intergovernmental organisations and NGOs.</p> <p>Amongst the major organisations located in the IEH are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEP's Regional Office for Europe;</li> <li>• UNEP Chemicals Programme;</li> <li>• UNEP Trade and Environment;</li> <li>• UNEP Earthwatch;</li> <li>• The interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam (PIC) Convention, industrial chemicals section;</li> <li>• The Secretariat of the Basel Convention;</li> <li>• The Secretariat of the CITES Convention on trade in endangered species;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Global Resources Information Database (GRID-UNEP);</li> <li>• The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD);</li> <li>• The European headquarters of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), which issues the Earth Negotiation Bulletin;</li> <li>• The European Office of UNDP;</li> <li>• UNITAR;</li> <li>• UNOPS;</li> <li>• The European Office of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).</li> </ul> <p>The International Environment House (IEH) has become the venue for numerous politically important conferences such as the meetings of the Environment Management Group of the UN (EMG), the joint bureaux of the governing bodies of UNEP, as well as several meetings in the domain of climate change (IPCC, Capacity Building and Compliance Work Shops) within</p>

Country Information Requested	Italy <sup>1</sup> Proposed Location: Rome	Switzerland Proposed Location: Geneva
		<p>the framework of the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The IEH belongs to the Swiss Authorities. International resident organisations use the house rent free, paying only maintenance costs. Responsibility for security arrangements for the IEH is fully assumed by UN Security.</p> <p>Another building with 6,500 m<sup>2</sup> of working space adjacent to the IEH is under construction and available by the last quarter of 2003. Fully equipped, it will offer a high level of technology and communication facilities, including direct electronic link with the IEH, conference rooms with a capacity up to 100 participants and with interpreting facilities.</p>
<p>6. Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the permanent Secretariat, such as:</p> <p>a. Ownership by the permanent Secretariat (through donation or purchase);</p> <p>b. Ownership by the host Government without rent;</p> <p>c. Host Government ownership with rent, and amount of such rent.</p>	<p>The Pesticides section of the Secretariat is hosted on a rent-free [basis in] the FAO Building.</p>	<p>The interim Secretariat in Geneva is hosted in the IEH Building on a rent-free basis and only maintenance costs have to be covered by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Switzerland would allow the Secretariat to purchase or receive in donation property for the headquarters of the Secretariat.</p>
<p>7. Responsibility for:</p>		
<p>a. Major maintenance and repairs to the office facilities;</p>	<p>Major maintenance and repairs of the FAO Building are entirely on Italian charge.</p>	<p>In Geneva the international resident organisations of the International Environment House pay a monthly fee to cover the costs of major maintenance and repairs.</p>
<p>b. Normal maintenance and repair;</p>	<p>Normal maintenance and repairs are assumed by the resident organisation at their own costs. Nevertheless the Italian State contributes actively by means of yearly grants.</p>	<p>In Geneva normal maintenance and repairs are assumed by the resident organisations at their own costs.</p>
<p>c. Utilities, including communication facilities.</p>	<p>Utilities are paid by resident organisations.</p>	<p>Utilities in the IEH Building in Geneva are paid by resident organisations.</p>
<p>8. The extent to which the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the host Government.</p>	<p>The Secretariat is already fully operational.</p>	<p>In Geneva the Secretariat is already fully operational. In addition, the Swiss Government will grant a special contribution of CHF 150,000 for extra furnishing and equipping of the Secretariat.</p>
<p>9. Duration of the arrangements regarding office space.</p>	<p>The Secretariat can enjoy the facilities provided in Rome for as long as it wishes, at the same conditions.</p>	<p>The Secretariat can enjoy the facilities provided for as long as it wishes, under the above-mentioned conditions. The new building under construction will provide an office space reserve at the IEH for environmental organizations.</p>
<b>III. Local facilities and conditions</b>		
<p>10. Description of the following facilities and conditions:</p>		
<p>a. Diplomatic representation in the host city;</p>	<p>At present day, 216 Diplomatic Missions are established in Rome 130 are accredited to the Italian State, 63 to the Holy See and 23 to the FAO, and the other UN Organisations.</p>	<p>150 countries are represented in Geneva by 208 representations: 150 permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organisations, 21 missions to the World Trade Organisation, 16 delegations to the Conference of Disarmament, 10 special</p>

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Country</b></p> <p><b>Information Requested</b></p>	<p><b>Italy<sup>1</sup></b>  <b>Proposed Location: Rome</b></p>	<p><b>Switzerland</b>  <b>Proposed Location: Geneva</b></p>
		<p>missions, 7 permanent delegations of international organisations and 2 entities with observer status, as well as 83 consulates.</p> <p>Due to Geneva's importance as the first United Nations centre outside the UN-headquarters, the number of diplomatic representations has continuously increased in recent years.</p> <p>To facilitate the establishment of permanent representations by all countries in Geneva, the local authorities contribute towards the costs of renting mission premises for least developed countries. At present, 27 countries benefit from this advantage.</p> <p>The presence of missions is important for communication. It allows Governments to have regular contact with the Secretariat, attend information briefings on upcoming or past meetings, participate in meetings held in Geneva and attend to any follow-up for them. During major meetings, it provides delegations from capitals with support that would otherwise not be available, or would have to be provided at additional costs to the country.</p>
<p>b. Presence of international organizations;</p>	<p>In the last years the presence of international organisations acting in Rome was much increased, accentuating in this way the international character which has always distinguished this city.</p> <p>Presently the central seats or Permanent Representations of 23 international organisations are hosted in Rome, among which we can remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</li> <li>• International Found for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</li> <li>• World Food Program (WFP)</li> <li>• IPGRI</li> <li>• ACNUR</li> <li>• OMS</li> <li>• OIL</li> <li>• OIM</li> <li>• IDLI</li> <li>• UNICRI</li> <li>• UNIDROIT</li> </ul> <p>Moreover, are present the Seats and offices of the Latin Union, the League of the Arab States of the European Commission of UN of more than 70 ONG, most of which are specialised in matters related to agriculture and development, but among which we also find organisations dealing with environment such as WWF-Italy, Association Friends for the Earth, The League for Environment and the League for Birds.</p>	<p>In Geneva most of the major intergovernmental organisations together with some 170 international NGO's are permanently represented.</p> <p>The work done by a number of these organisations has made Geneva the centre of international chemical activities.</p> <p>Especially important for the Secretariat are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Basel Convention on Toxic Wastes (SBC);</li> <li>• The interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, industrial chemicals section (PIC);</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS);</li> <li>• World Health Organisation (WHO);</li> <li>• International Labour Organisation (ILO);</li> <li>• World Trade Organisation (WTO);</li> <li>• World Meteorological Organisation (WMO);</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);</li> <li>• World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)</li> <li>• UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);</li> <li>• UN Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Europe (UNDP);</li> <li>• UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR);</li> <li>• UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);</li> </ul>

Country Information Requested	Italy <sup>1</sup> Proposed Location: Rome	Switzerland Proposed Location: Geneva
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS);</li> <li>• Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)</li> <li>• World Conservation Union (IUCN);</li> <li>• World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF);</li> <li>• Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL);</li> <li>• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);</li> <li>• International Organisation for Migration (IOM);</li> <li>• International Development Law Institute (IDLI);</li> <li>• United Nations International Crime &amp; Justice Research Institute (UNICRI);</li> <li>• International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT);</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Geneva is the host city to many other international organisations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Green Cross International (GCI), the International World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Bellerive Foundation, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) the Union Centre for Nuclear Research, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</p> <p>The presence of international organisations in Geneva has increased in recent years, accentuating in this way the international character of the city. An example of an important newcomer that has chosen Geneva as its host city is the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF-ATM).</p>
<p>c. Determinants of synergies of chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements and agencies in the proposed location;</p>	<p>Not specified.</p>	<p>Switzerland is convinced, that for the protection of our environment and health from the harmful effects of chemicals and wastes, only the best is good enough.</p> <p>Successful management of chemicals and wastes issues nationally and internationally requires an integrated approach, and a coherent and coordinated program development and implementation. Good communication is essential to identify and optimize potential synergies between key players.</p> <p>Synergistic benefits exist where the same chemicals are covered by different international conventions and agencies located in Geneva. This would certainly be the case for chemicals falling under the Stockholm Convention as well as under the Rotterdam Convention. Another example is chemicals covered by the Stockholm</p>

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		<p>Convention and the Basel Convention such as obsolete pesticide stocks, PCBs, and similar. Synergistic benefits can be expected as well between the work within the Stockholm Convention and the risk assessments done by WHO, ILO, and the UNEP-Chemicals regarding human health and the environment (e.g. POPs and POP candidates).</p> <p>The Secretariat is actually located in the International Environment House side by side with the Basel Convention, UNEP Chemicals, and the interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention. Together these chemicals and waste related organisations form the core of the international chemicals and waste cluster. Moreover, the presence of the headquarters of all the other major international organisations and institutions relevant for the work of the Stockholm Convention has proven crucial for the excellent cooperation between these different institutions, facilitating the synergies that are essential for the Secretariat to fulfill its mandate.</p>
<p>d. Availability of international conference facilities and the conditions for their use (free of charge, rental, etc.);</p>	<p>The FAO Building is equipped with 21 conferences rooms varying in size from 15 to 1.210 places; they are all fitted with the most modern technology and are freely available to the Secretariat. The total number of seats is 3.025 and the room equipment includes a screen, a movie projector, fittings for video-conferences and simultaneous translation. Inside the FAO Building there are two restaurants, various cafeterias, a bookstall, a post office, various cafeterias and many shops</p>	<p>The Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) was specially built to host diplomatic conferences. It is the property of the Swiss Authorities and located in the immediate vicinity of the United Nations. Conference rooms of various sizes are available free of charge to all international organisations and NGOs. The CICG can accommodate conferences with up to 2,200 participants in rooms of different capacities and configurations (from 16 to 1,740 places). It is equipped with state-of-the-art technical facilities, such as simultaneous interpretation in up to 8 languages, Secretariat offices, restaurant facilities with seating for up to 450, a coffee shop, a post office, an internet café, and a newsagent.</p> <p>Located across the street from the CICG, the Varembe Conference Centre provides further conference facilities with capacity of up to 280 participants, comprising five spacious meeting rooms with 40 to 100 places each (three of these rooms offer interpretation facilities for up to six languages), a café and Secretariat rooms. A bank with multilingual staff is adjacent.</p> <p>200 parking spaces are available free of charge in the Parking des Nations, next to the CICG and the Varembe Conference Centre, for delegates taking part in conferences.</p> <p>Beyond this, many of the Geneva-based</p>

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		international organisations have their own high-quality conference rooms, including the UN Palais des Nations, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Health Organisation (WHO) etc. They also offer convenient cafeteria and restaurant services open to delegates as well as to members of the international organisations and of diplomatic missions.
e. Access to qualified conference servicing staff, e.g., interpreters, translators, editors and meeting coordinators familiar with United Nations conferences and practices;	<p>In Rome, thanks to the presence of FAO, WFP and other international UN organisations, highly qualified staff for simultaneous translations and for every other need inherent to the organisation of conferences, including security services, is locally available.</p> <p>Moreover, there is a large foreign community in the city for study or work reason, through which it is easy to find qualified staff.</p>	<p>In Geneva, the cost of bringing in personnel to service major meetings is reduced, and in some categories eliminated, due to the large number of major international organisations and multinational companies based in Geneva and the many important conferences held there. Geneva is indeed privileged with the following qualified conference servicing staff capable of servicing high-level meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly qualified translators and interpreters in all working languages of the UN;</li> <li>• Multilingual secretarial staff;</li> <li>• First class conference service companies specialising in the organisation of international congresses and conferences;</li> <li>• Several editors used to working in UN languages.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Switzerland as a multilingual and multicultural country offers a high level of education and a strong appeal for highly educated foreigners. In Geneva, the official language is French, with English and many other international languages widely used. The labour market situation is such that qualified staff can readily be hired.</p> <p>Further, a large foreign community resides in the city for study or work reasons, as a result of which it is easy to find qualified staff.</p>
f. International transport facilities;	<p><b>By air:</b> Rome has two intercontinental airports: one in Fiumicino ( Leonardo da Vinci Airport), about 20 km away from downtown and from where intercontinental flights depart regularly, the other in Ciampino ( Giovan Battista Pastine Airport), which is situated 15 km from the centre of the town, and is specialised in charter flights. 85 airlines serve these two airports in addition to many charter companies. A total of about 145 destinations can be reached from Rome. In the year 2000, the total number of flights amounted to 320.000, carrying more than 26 million passengers.</p> <p>Fiumicino airport is very well linked to the new international hub of Milano-Malpensa by the Italian Railways.</p> <p>Both at Fiumicino airport and at Ciampino airport, free parking places are available for cars displaying a diplomatic plate.</p>	<p><b>By air:</b> Geneva airport is served by 81 scheduled airlines, which between them offer direct flights to 138 destinations, 53 in Europe and 25 in other continents. More than 28 million passengers are served per year.</p> <p>Number of weekly flights from Geneva including the Zurich hub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1608 to 32 European capitals;</li> <li>• 1442 to 53 European cities;</li> <li>• 55 to 10 cities in the Middle East;</li> <li>• 82 to 20 cities in Africa;</li> <li>• 94 to 9 cities in North America;</li> <li>• 68 to 12 cities in the Far East;</li> <li>• 6 to 2 cities in Latin America;</li> <li>• 41 to New York.</li> </ul> <p>The other major destinations in the world are served from Geneva including the Zurich hub via the main European hubs;</p>

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	<p>In both airports there are various duty free shops.</p> <p><b>By surface:</b></p> <p>Italian Railways link Rome – Fiumicino airport to the main stations in the city. There is a direct connection with Termini station (30 minutes) and an indirect one with many stops, one of which is at Roma - Ostiense Station (35 minutes) near the FAO Building (1 underground stop).</p> <p>Many trains depart from Rome Termini Station, connecting Rome with Paris, Barcelona, Geneva, Monaco and Vienna, in addition of course to other Italian cities such as Naples, Florence, Venice, Milan and Turin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flight time Geneva-Zurich: 40 minutes; 10 flights per day;</li> <li>• flight time Geneva-London: 50 minutes: 45 flights per day;</li> <li>• flight time Geneva-Paris: 70 minutes; 30 flights per day;</li> <li>• flight time Geneva-Frankfurt: 85 minutes; 20 flights per day;</li> <li>• flight time Geneva-Amsterdam: 100 minutes; 17 flights per day;</li> <li>• or via the other European hubs, especially via Basel, Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid, Munich, Rome and Vienna.</li> </ul> <p>Geneva airport is directly linked to the Swiss Federal Railways network and it takes six minutes by train to reach the central station of the city (Cornavin Station).</p> <p>The bus trip from the airport to the Place des Nations and the CICG (international quarter) takes 14 minutes and from the central train station 9 minutes.</p> <p>There is a free parking area at Geneva airport that is reserved for vehicles with diplomatic (“CD”) or consular (“CC”) plates. Persons with diplomatic status can park free of charge for one hour in the paying public parking lot.</p> <p>The airport has numerous duty-free shops for travelers. Persons with diplomatic status have access to a duty-free shop in Geneva itself, near the international organisations.</p> <p><b>By surface:</b></p> <p>From Geneva all European destinations are served every day by fast, comfortable trains such as the TGV, Euronight and Pendolino; e.g. Paris (seven times per day), Brussels (four times per day), Berlin (four times per day), Rome (four times per day), Monaco (twice per day) and Vienna (three times per day).</p>

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<p>g. Local transport facilities and their proximity to the office facilities at the disposal of the permanent Secretariat;</p>	<p>Public transportation services are available inside the host city with access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed building/accommodations</li> <li>• The residence sections</li> <li>• The International Airport</li> <li>• Hotels</li> </ul> <p>In Rome there is a complete service of buses, trolley-cars and an underground system crossing all zones of the city with more than 200 lines. The underground B line, which connects quickly the main stations in town (Termini, 4 stops, 10/12 minutes, Roma - Ostiense, 1 stop, 3 minutes stop at Circo Massimo - FAO) which is directly in front of the entrance of the FAO building, and thus connects it very conveniently with the rest of the city.</p>	<p>Public transportation services are available inside the host city with access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the proposed building/accommodations;</li> <li>• the residence sections;</li> <li>• the International Airport;</li> <li>• hotels.</li> </ul> <p>Geneva Public Transport (TPG) provides urban transport in Geneva (town and surrounding areas) with an efficient network of buses and trams.</p> <p>Average time taken to go by bus or tram to the centre of town (railway station):</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Starting point</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Time to station</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Place des Nations (international quarter)</td> <td>10 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residential areas (Petit-Saconnex, Grand Saconnex, Champel, Florissant)</td> <td>15 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geneva Airport (4 km from station/town centre)</td> <td>20 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hotels close to the UN Palais des Nations</td> <td>0-15 minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The office facilities at the disposal of the permanent Secretariat in the International Environment House are very close to downtown and to the international quarter.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Starting Point</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Time to IEH</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Palais des Nations (international quarter)</td> <td>15 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cornavin railway station</td> <td>12 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geneva airport</td> <td>20 minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Frequency; every 8 – 10 minutes during rush hours</p>	<u>Starting point</u>	<u>Time to station</u>	Place des Nations (international quarter)	10 minutes	Residential areas (Petit-Saconnex, Grand Saconnex, Champel, Florissant)	15 minutes	Geneva Airport (4 km from station/town centre)	20 minutes	Hotels close to the UN Palais des Nations	0-15 minutes	<u>Starting Point</u>	<u>Time to IEH</u>	Palais des Nations (international quarter)	15 minutes	Cornavin railway station	12 minutes	Geneva airport	20 minutes
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<p>h. Local availability of trained personnel for possible employment in the permanent Secretariat, taking account of language and other skills;</p>	<p>The presence of numerous diplomatic representations, Academies, Institutes of Culture, International organisations and ONG make it possible and easy to find highly qualified staff to work in an international environment.</p> <p>The recent choice of Rome as the seat of the Secretariat of some important international organisations, such as IPGRI, is a further evidence of the facility with which international organisations succeed in working in the context of UN Roman Pole.</p>	<p>Geneva has a major pool of trained personnel to support the Secretariat.</p> <p>Switzerland is a multilingual (German, French, Italian) and multicultural country acknowledged to have a very high standard of education. Schoolchildren learn a second national language and at least one other foreign language (mostly English) from an early age. Foreign residents account for 37% of the local population in Geneva.</p> <p>In Geneva, the official language is French, while English is widely used, as it is almost</p>																		

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	<p>The possibilities of jobs for the family of foreign staff, due to the presence of many international bodies and societies and of a tourism sector always in quest of multilingual personnel, are excellent.</p>	<p>everywhere in Switzerland. Both are official UN languages. The other UN languages are commonly used also.</p> <p>The family of foreign staff also find it easy to assimilate and to work in Geneva as, due to its cosmopolitan character, there is a high demand for linguistic and technical skills on the local market. The presence of the missions, international bodies and societies also provide for career opportunities.</p> <p>Studies show that Geneva ranks among the most sought-after duty postings among UN and expatriate personnel, thus making it easy to recruit staff of all levels.</p>
<p>i. Health facilities and access to them by staff members of the permanent Secretariat;</p>	<p><b>Health care</b> Italy offers excellent medical and hospital facilities of all kinds. Rome's hospital network and private clinics operate to the highest medical standards and can offer all types of care. These institutions are accustomed to patients from abroad and are able to cope not only with their patient's medical requirements but also their linguistic and cultural needs. In addition to the public sector hospitals, there are many private clinics offering a variety of medical facilities. Within one hour's drive from Rome, there are several thermal baths, such as Fiuggi, Tivoli and Saturnia, which are very well known for the effectiveness of their special rheumatological and dermatologist treatments, as well for the cosmetic qualities of their mineral waters and mud. All of these spas are available for daily treatment as well as for longer stays.</p> <p><b>Medical insurance</b> Italy's Public Health system provides basic treatment free of charge or with partial reimbursement, (a small percentage paid by the patient) for special cures. These facilities are available for foreign citizens enrolled in the Local Health Agencies (ASL) and they may benefit from treatments provided by the Italian Health Service, both in public hospitals and in most private clinics.</p> <p>Furthermore it is possible to subscribe to a private insurance scheme, which offers a full reimbursement of medical expenses incurred in private clinics.</p>	<p><b>Health care</b> Switzerland offers world wide known, excellent medical and hospital facilities of all kinds and is a world leader in neurology, genetically diseases, genomics and proteomics and in pharmacology diagnostics.</p> <p>Geneva's hospital network and private clinics operate to the highest medical standards and can offer all types of care. These institutions are accustomed to patients from abroad and are able to cope not only with their patients' medical requirements but also their linguistic and cultural needs. In addition to the public sector hospitals, there are many private clinics offering a variety of medical facilities.</p> <p>This medical density is explained and supported by numerous medical and health research institutions based in the region, with first class institutions in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancer research (Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research);</li> <li>• Biotechnology (Serono, as a world leader);</li> <li>• Medical technology (with the European headquarters of Medtronics, as world leader in medical technology);</li> <li>• Genomics and proteomics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medical insurance</b> In Switzerland medical insurance is compulsory for residents. However, members of permanent missions, international civil servants and members of their families may decide whether they want to join the insurance scheme or not.</p> <p>In the Swiss health insurance system, funds cover the medical expenses and hospital costs of the insured persons. The latter pay part of the</p>

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		expenses up to a maximum amount per year (known as the “franchise”), plus 10% of costs in excess of the franchise. Insurance premiums vary depending on the franchise, the place of residence and complementary services (such as dental care, “private” hospital accommodation, etc.).
j. Availability of suitable housing, including information on prices and vacancy rate and the proximity of this housing to the office facilities at the disposal of the permanent Secretariat;	<p>In Rome the “rent-a-flat situation” offers a variety of possibilities for all economic needs, ranging from residences just outside town, with all comforts, such as swimming pool and tennis courts, to the fascinating houses in the historical centre or modern apartments in residential areas.</p> <p>The recent liberalisation of leases and rents has given rise to an increased supply, which was quite limited in the past, and to a general reduction in rents. Today, an apartment of 150 mq can be rented for 2.000-2.500 Euro per month; rents in the historical centre are slightly higher (an apartment of 100 mq can entail a rent of 1.500-2.000 Euro per month), while for houses in the outskirts of Rome, in areas with a great architectural value (such as the Appia Antica or Cassia) rents are between 2.500 to 5.000 Euro per month.</p> <p>A diplomatic clause may be added to most leases facilitating the termination of the lease in case of an earlier leave.</p>	<p>In Geneva as in many other attractive cities, the housing market can become tight in time of economic growth. This has been the case since the end of 1999 with lower vacancy rates. However housing is to be found easily in the area of the canton de Vaud as well as in the neighbouring France. However the situation in the building sector is expected to improve within the foreseeable future. In Geneva prices remain stable with e.g. less than 2% average augmentation in 2001.</p> <p>Today an apartment with one bedroom costs an average rent of CHF 981 per month, CHF 1,300 for two bedrooms and CHF 1,600 for three bedrooms. Prices are somewhat higher for residential accommodation. For a house - four bedrooms and up - the prices start at CHF 3,200 per month. It might be added, that opposed to other major cities like London or Brussels, the rented housing represents 85 % of the total real estate stock.</p> <p>A diplomatic clause may be added to most leases facilitating the termination of the lease where a tenant leaves early.</p>
k. Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing classes in languages other than the local language;	<p><b>Pre-school system</b> Pre-school activities reserved for children from 0 to 4 years old are organised by the Municipality of Rome (<a href="http://www.comune.roma.it/">www.comune.roma.it/</a>), which administers a network of 147 nursery schools, located in all areas of town and where, during the parent’s working hours, more than 8.000 children are looked after by a highly qualified teaching staff.</p> <p>In Rome there are about 180 nursery schools administrated by the municipal authorities.</p> <p>There are also private institutes, both religious and secular, which offer top-quality teaching at reasonable costs.</p> <p><b>Primary, Intermediate and High school system</b> Italy’s state school system, which is totally free of charge, is recognised to have one of the highest standards in the western world. Presently, after primary school, from the age of 6 to the age of 10, children are directed to a second cycle of compulsory schooling (intermediate school) lasting until they reach 13. Secondary education lasts until 18th year of age. Children can choose between</p>	<p>As the children represent our future, it is a priority in Switzerland to provide high-quality educational institutions of all kinds and at all levels so as to properly equip them to succeed in life. The Swiss are proud to be known as having one of the best education systems in the world. Geneva has many international schools providing instructions in multiple languages. Children with learning disabilities who need to receive special education and therapy in their mother tongue can obtain this in the Geneva area in English, French, Italian or German.</p> <p><b>Pre-school/nursery system</b> In Geneva nursery schools for children up to the age of 4 (crèches, day-care centres, kindergartens) are the responsibility of the local authorities. In the city itself there are 46 day-nurseries for infants, offering 1,600 places taken up each year by over 4,000 children. In addition, services are offered by “child minders” and a number of private day-care centres.</p> <p><b>Primary, intermediate and high school system</b> In Switzerland, because of the high standards of</p>

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	<p>secondary schools with different orientations, including the sciences, languages, fine arts, design, etc.. They all give access to university. In Rome there are 394 educational institutes, among which 143 are secondary schools. All Institutes are administered by the Provincial Education Office in Rome.</p> <p>In Rome there is a conspicuous number of private schools, both religious and secular, which follow the Italian state curricula studiorum. On account of the vast community of foreign people in Rome, there are also some international schools where lessons are given in one or more foreign languages. Presently, there are 12 foreign schools in Rome, which have been officially recognised by the Italian Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lycée Chateaubriand (prim., sec., sec. sup.) french (<a href="http://www.france-italia.it/chateau/">www.france-italia.it/chateau/</a>)</li> <li>• Saint Dominique Ecole Francaise di Roma (sec., sec. sup.) french (<a href="http://www.infotelpg.it/isd/">www.infotelpg.it/isd/</a>)</li> <li>• Liceo Spagnolo Cervantes di Roma (prim., sec., sec. sup.)</li> <li>• Scuola elementare svedese di Roma (prim.)</li> <li>• The St George's English School di Roma (prim., sec., sec. sup.) (<a href="http://www.stgeorge.school.it/">www.stgeorge.school.it/</a>)</li> <li>• St. Stephen's School di Roma (prim., sec., sec. sup.) (<a href="http://www.ststephens.it/">www.ststephens.it/</a>)</li> <li>• Marymount International School di Roma (prim., sec., sec. Sup.) <a href="http://www.marymountrome.com/">www.marymountrome.com/</a></li> <li>• American Overseas School di Roma (prim., sec.) (<a href="http://www.aosr.org/">www.aosr.org/</a>)</li> <li>• The New School (prim., sec., sec. sup.) (<a href="http://www.newschoolrome.com/">www.newschoolrome.com/</a>)</li> <li>• Scuola Giapponese di Roma (prim., sec.)</li> <li>• Scuola Germanica di Roma (prim., sec., sec. sup.) (<a href="http://www.dsrome.de/">www.dsrome.de/</a>)</li> <li>• Scuola Svizzera di Roma (prim., sec., sec. sup.) (<a href="http://www.tiscalinet.it/ssroma/">www.tiscalinet.it/ssroma/</a>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Universities</b> Italian Universities have gained universal recognition in the academic world for their first-class level of teaching and research. In addition to the Ateneo della Sapienza (University of Rome), - one of the most famous Universities in the world and the largest one in terms of number of students enrolled – a number of other universities have recently been founded.</p> <p>Academic Institutes in Rome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Università degli studi di Roma “La Sapienza” (13 faculties ), <a href="http://www.uniroma1.it/">www.uniroma1.it/</a></li> <li>• Università degli studi di Roma “Tor</li> </ul>	<p>the state education system, most children attend secular state schools. These schools are open to all pupils and are free of charge. Schooling is compulsory up to the age of 15. Primary school includes six years for children between the ages of 6 and 11. The last stage of compulsory schooling is provided by a number of secondary schools open to all pupils between the ages of 12 and 15 who have completed primary school. Secondary education may lead to university e.g. Collège de Genève, to vocational training in schools or businesses, or to a general education, e.g. Ecole de culture générale.</p> <p><b>Private schools</b> There are many private schools in Geneva and the surrounding region (<a href="http://www.agep.ch">www.agep.ch</a>) which follow study programmes similar to those of the public sector. Some of them offer bilingual French/English or French/German teaching, others all German, English or Arabic. A number of schools introduce other foreign languages such as Spanish, Italian, Russian or Hebrew.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASC International Language House (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian). Depending on the sections, Latin and Greek are also taught at secondary-school level.</li> <li>• International School of Geneva, Léman (Collège du Léman), College of Ferney-Voltaire (Lycée international de Ferney-Voltaire), bilingual French/English teaching with national sections (German, Spanish, etc.);</li> <li>• Bilingual School of Geneva and Moser School (Ecole Moser) in Nyon, bilingual French/German teaching;</li> <li>• Geneva German School (Deutsche Schule, Genf): teaching in German;</li> <li>• Geneva Arabic School (Modar Sa Educa Système): teaching in Arabic;</li> <li>• Brechbühl School (Ecole Brechbühl), teaching in French, with intensive English teaching from first year of primary school;</li> <li>• Girsal School (Ecole Girsal), teaching in French, with lessons in Hebrew.</li> </ul> <p>There are also many private language schools. The schools most used by the international community (primary, secondary and gymnasium) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The International School of Geneva, situated in two locations: Grande Boissière (on the left bank in Thônex) and la Châteigneraine (Canton of Vaud, in Founex). There is also a primary division located close to the Palais des Nations, in Pregny, <a href="http://www.ecolint.ch/">www.ecolint.ch/</a></li> <li>• Collège du Léman, located in Versoix, <a href="http://www.cdl.ch/">www.cdl.ch/</a></li> </ul>

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	<p>Vergata" (6 faculties ), <a href="http://www.uniroma2.it/">www.uniroma2.it/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Università degli studi di Roma "Roma Tre" (8 faculties ), <a href="http://www.uniroma3.it/">www.uniroma3.it/</a></li> </ul> <p>In Rome there is a large number of Research Institutes and Centres for post-graduate vocational training at an international level.</p> <p>Private universities</p> <p>Private Universities in Rome, both Italian and foreign , are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libera Università Internazionale per gli Studi Sociali - LUISS (2 faculties ), <a href="http://www.luiss.it/">www.luiss.it/</a></li> <li>• Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta - LUMSA (4 faculties )</li> <li>• Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore</li> <li>• Pontificia Università Gregoriana</li> <li>• Pontificia Università Salesiana</li> <li>• Pontificia Università S.Tommaso</li> <li>• American University of Rome</li> <li>• European School of Economics</li> <li>• John Cabot University, <a href="http://www.johncabot.edu/">www.johncabot.edu/</a></li> <li>• The Pennsylvania State University</li> <li>• St John's University, <a href="http://www.stjohns.edu/">www.stjohns.edu/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Cost of schooling</b></p> <p><i>Public sector:</i> In Rome, the whole schooling system (including day nursery and nursery schools) is entirely free of charge also for the children of foreign citizens regularly residing in Italy. University taxes are calculated on the basis of students' family income and vary between 100 and 700 Euro per year.</p> <p><i>Private sector:</i> In Italy private schools fees vary depending on the cycle, level and orientation of the schools are comprised between 1.000 and 5.000 Euro per year.</p> <p>Private Universities have fees which can vary between 3.000 and, for specialisation courses, up to 12.000 Euro per year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geneva English School, teaching in English, <a href="http://www.geneva-english-school.ch/">www.geneva-english-school.ch/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Universities</b></p> <p>Swiss state universities are well known for their high standards of education and research and are widely recognised throughout the world. They are free of charge with only a minimal administration fee. Partnerships have been developed with European and American universities.</p> <p>Academic institutes in Geneva:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Geneva 7 faculties: Law, Medicine, Economic and Social Sciences, Letters, Psychology and Educational Sciences, Science, Theology, <a href="http://www.unige.ch/">www.unige.ch/</a></li> <li>• Graduate Institute of International Studies, <a href="http://www.unige.ch/">http://www.unige.ch/</a></li> <li>• Graduate Institute of Development Studies, <a href="http://www.unige.ch/iued/">www.unige.ch/iued/</a></li> </ul> <p>Academic institutes close to Geneva (within one hour by train):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Lausanne, <a href="http://www.unil.ch/">www.unil.ch/</a></li> <li>• Swiss Institute of Technology, <a href="http://www.epfl.ch/">www.epfl.ch/</a></li> <li>• Graduate Institute of Economics, <a href="http://www.hec.unil.ch/">www.hec.unil.ch/</a></li> <li>• Institute for Advanced Studies in Public Administration, <a href="http://www.unil.ch/idheap/">www.unil.ch/idheap/</a></li> <li>• International Institute for Management Development, <a href="http://www.imd.ch/">www.imd.ch/</a></li> </ul> <p>In addition, the following private universities are operating in Geneva International University, <a href="http://www.iun.ch/">www.iun.ch/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webster University, <a href="http://www.webster.ch/">www.webster.ch/</a></li> <li>• European University, <a href="http://www.euruni.edu/">www.euruni.edu/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Cost of schooling</b></p> <p><i>State School system</i> Compulsory schooling is free of charge. Post-compulsory students pay CHF 487 per year, if their parents or guardians are tax-exempted in Geneva.</p> <p>Universities and academic institutes collect an administration fee of up to CHF 636 per semester.</p> <p><i>Private School system</i> In Geneva, schooling fees up to university level vary between CHF 7,840 and CHF 15,687 per year, according to children's age. Special financial arrangements may be offered in individual cases. Private universities charge between CHF 29,000 and CHF 49,000 per year, depending on the</p>

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l. Facilities for the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the permanent Secretariat and its staff members;	Not specified.	chosen studies. There is no financial or currency exchange control between Switzerland and other countries. In addition to the banking system, there are many branches of foreign banks, through which it is easy to arrange international transfer of funds. The Swiss banking system is renowned for its high efficiency, speed and reliability of operation. The CICG and the Palais des Nations both have banks on site with multilingual staff. Banking staff elsewhere in Geneva are multilingual, and understand the banking needs of visitors and clients.
m. The time needed for processing entry requirements and ability to ensure that participants in meetings organized by the permanent Secretariat in the territory of the host Government are granted visa entry permits, where necessary, in expeditious manner.	<p>Short stay visas for delegates and experts designated by a government or invited by an intergovernmental organisation to attend a meeting in Italy are normally granted within 24 hours after submission of the required documents to the competent Embassy or Consulate. Longer processing times, that however should not exceed 2 weeks, might occur in particular cases. Visas are issued free of charge.</p> <p>Visas for staff members and their families who have been posted as officials for an intergovernmental organisation or permanent missions will be granted in the shortest possible time and not longer than one month.</p> <p>Multiple-entry visas with a period of validity up to 3 years can be issued for persons traveling frequently to Italy.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances a procedure is available to issue short stay visa upon arrival at the airport in Italy.</p> <p>Thanks to the Schengen agreement an entry visa to Italy is valid for most of the European Union countries.</p>	<p>Switzerland has a long history as a host to the international community and to international meetings. Its processes for granting visas is demonstrably swift and responsive to the needs of the delegate. Switzerland welcomes delegates and experts of all nationalities together with their families. Therefore short stay visas for delegates and experts including their family members designated by a government or invited by an intergovernmental organisation to attend a meeting in Switzerland are normally granted within 24 hours after submission of the required documents to the embassy or consulate. Longer processing times, that however should not exceed 2 weeks, might occur in particular cases. Visas are issued free of charge.</p> <p>Visas for staff members and their families who have been posted as officials for an intergovernmental organisation or permanent missions will be granted in the shortest possible time and within one month at the most.</p> <p>Multiple-entry visas with a period of validity of up to 3 years can be issued for persons traveling frequently to Switzerland.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances a procedure is available to issue short stay visa upon arrival at the airport.</p>
<b>IV. Other relevant information</b>		
11. Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet the operating costs of the permanent Secretariat or to defray conference-servicing expenses. These contributions must be divided into contributions that:	Italy offers a contribution of 600,000 Euro/year to meet the operational costs of the section of the Permanent or to defray conference-servicing expenses.	<p>In the past year (2002) Switzerland has supported world wide chemicals projects on capacity building and on technical assistance for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes to the tune of approximately CHF 6 million (4 million USD).</p> <p>From the outset Switzerland has always actively supported the international endeavours in the field of chemical management and has consistently been one of the main contributors to the POPs process. It has an undisputable record of meeting its pledges fully and unreservedly.</p> <p>In addition, once the final decision is taken to establish the Secretariat in Geneva, it will benefit from an initial Swiss payment of CHF 150,000 to consolidate its infrastructure.</p>

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		<p>The close co-operation between Switzerland and the developing countries in the field of chemicals is further highlighted by the fact, that Switzerland makes a major contribution and works closely together with Uruguay in order to organise the first Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in Punta del Este, Uruguay.</p>
<p>a. Are not earmarked (i.e. are provided to the Secretariat without any restrictions placed on their expenditure by the host country);</p>		<p>Switzerland is committed to pay a total sum of CHF 2 million to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat each year as long as the Secretariat remains in Geneva. This amount consists of a contribution to the Secretariat of CHF 1,7 million and an approximate mandatory contribution to the Convention of CHF 0,3 million if Geneva is chosen to host the permanent Secretariat.</p> <p>This contribution will not be earmarked and will be provided to the Secretariat without any restrictions.</p>
<p>b. Are earmarked for certain purposes, together with an explanation of the nature of the restrictions.</p>		<p>As the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes is one of the priorities of Swiss foreign environment policy, Switzerland will maintain its support for technical assistance and capacity building projects especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the years ahead in accordance with the priorities set by the Conference of the Parties for the Stockholm Convention.</p> <p>The close cooperation between Switzerland and the developing countries in the field of chemicals is further highlighted by the fact, that Switzerland makes a major contribution and works closely together with Uruguay in order to organise the first Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in Punta del Este, Uruguay.</p>
<p>12. Information on potential synergies from cooperation and coordination with other international chemical management organizations in proposed locations.</p>	<p>Not specified.</p>	<p>Today, within the United Nations system environmental affairs are to a large extent centred in Geneva. The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) point to the synergies arising from integrated and coherent implementation of the chemicals and waste cluster of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The elements to provide that synergy are all present and available in Geneva. Further, as the interrelationship between trade, environment, development emerges, the importance of the link between the WTO and its subsidiary bodies, especially the Committee for Trade and the Environment and the Committee for Trade and Development, becomes essential. Clearly, Geneva is the heart of the international chemicals and waste cluster with the chemical and waste related multilateral environment agreements and most of the chemicals and waste</p>

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		<p>related international agencies (such as those listed below) located in Geneva:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chemicals Unit of UNEP (UNEP Chemicals)</li> <li>• The interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention (PIC), industrial chemicals section</li> <li>• The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (SBC)</li> <li>• The International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)</li> <li>• The Inter-Organisation Programme on Chemical Safety (IOMC)</li> <li>• The World Health Organisation (WHO)</li> <li>• The International Labour Organisation (ILO)</li> <li>• The World Trade Organisation (WTO)</li> <li>• The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)</li> <li>• The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</li> <li>• The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</li> <li>• The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)</li> <li>• The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</li> </ul> <p>A clear potential for synergies exist with the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and regarding risk assessment of chemicals with ILO, UNEP, and WHO. WHO and UNITAR are actively involved in the projects to implement the Stockholm Convention. The WHO and the Basel Convention are cited specifically in the Stockholm Convention as partners in its implementation. These UN organizations and programmes are all located in Geneva.</p> <p>The Stockholm Convention designated UNEP to provide its Secretariat. The interim Secretariat has been provided through UNEP Chemicals in Geneva. The collocation of UNEP Chemicals- and the interim Stockholm and Rotterdam Secretariats within it-within the UNEP family in Geneva has demonstrated the benefits that can arise from sharing personal and administrative and scientific know-how, computer and legal services. Further, there has been extensive support available from the UN through its Geneva Office. The location of the Secretariat has proven to be very practical, effective, efficient and financially sound at the same time, both for the organisation and for the stakeholders involved.</p> <p>As most excellent structures for the permanent Secretariat only exist in Geneva, Switzerland</p>

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		<p>welcomes and supports the permanent Secretariat being built on this solid foundation.</p> <p>Relocation of the Secretariat away from Geneva would entail a significant reduction in capability to implement the Stockholm Convention, with losses for member States, delegates to conferences, other stakeholders and the Secretariat itself, in terms of costs, synergies, and efficiencies.</p>
<p>13. Any other information that the potential host country may deem relevant.</p>	<p>Rome has a long experience of hosting intergovernmental organisations and international conferences. National and local administrations deal diligently and with a minimum of red tape with the sort of questions that organisations, missions, members of their staff and delegates may encounter. Security and border services work rapidly and friendly when delegates arrive. Translation and conference services are to be found on the spot.</p> <p>To help newcomers, the Italian authorities provide special services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cerimoniale della Repubblica, depending from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offers to the staff of International Organisations and to foreign guests, its support for all matters related to privileges and immunities.</li> <li>• The Cerimoniale and the Office of Relazioni Internazionali of the city of Rome, help the officers of the international organisations and their families in their relations with local bodies.</li> <li>• The Association of spouses of diplomats in Rome provides all sort of information and help to newcomers including to domestic staff. In particular, it organises visits to places of natural and cultural interest.</li> <li>• The numerous Embassies and Diplomatic Representations, in co-operation with the Italian authorities, help actively the foreign staff and their families to solve every problem that might arise during their stay.</li> </ul> <p>Rome attracts the attention of the international media, insuring that the organisations get the coverage they need to make their action known.</p> <p>In Rome several hundreds of international journalists permanently established are organised in associations:</p> <p>L'Associazione della stampa estera in Italia (<a href="http://www.stampa-estera.it">www.stampa-estera.it</a>), established in 1912 and has 540 members from 55 countries, and more than 800 information organs are therein</p>	<p>Geneva has a considerable experience in hosting intergovernmental organisations and international conferences. The local administrations like those of the country as a whole are able to handle with a minimum of red tape the sort of issues that organisations, missions, members of their staff and delegates are likely to encounter. Obtaining visas for Switzerland is very uncomplicated. Therefore short stay visas for delegates and experts as well as their family members designated by a government or invited by an intergovernmental organization to attend a meeting in Switzerland are normally granted within 24 hours after submission of the required documents to the embassy or consulate. Security and border services work quickly and helpfully when delegates arrive. Translation and conference services are to be found on the spot. Geneva can boast proudly that it is home to no fewer than 208 representations from 150 countries.</p> <p>To help newcomers, the Swiss authorities provide special services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Geneva Welcome Centre helps international guests to find their feet in their new surroundings and to solve any problems that might arise during their stay.</li> <li>• The Host Country Division of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations in Geneva deals with all matters related with the privileges and immunities of the 30,000 members of the international community in Geneva including domestic staff; it acts as a helpful intermediary with the local and federal authorities.</li> <li>• The Geneva Diplomatic Committee, established in 1989, deals with all questions which permanent missions and their members may want to discuss with the Swiss authorities.</li> <li>• The Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI) has been set up by the Geneva and federal authorities to provide convenient offices to all organisations settling in Geneva. It is very familiar to the special needs of these entities and helps to solve any question raised by them.</li> <li>• The Geneva authorities are open and active hosts keen to demonstrate their openness to hosting international conferences and</li> </ul>

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	<p>represented.</p> <p>Rome is amongst the favourite cities providing for headquarters for international activities and home for staff and families.</p> <p>From all points of view, such as quality of life, jobs, safety, infrastructure, cultural activities, medical services, education and climate, Rome offers many remarkable advantages.</p> <p>Rome combines the fascination of its monuments and of its history with a very relevant and intensive cultural life. Museums, musical performances, art galleries, theatres and opera houses in such an attractive environment, make the staying in Rome a unique worthwhile life experience.</p>	<p>organisations: they support the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) with special grants to help cover the rents for offices, they assist NGOs settling in Geneva, they organise social events in order to help the foreign community to feel comfortable in their new city and to feel home in Geneva.</p> <p>Geneva's international composition is also reflected in the diversity of religions practiced by the community. Every major religious group has facilities to enable its members to practise and pursue their beliefs.</p> <p>The international media have a large and active presence in Geneva, ensuring that organisations get the coverage they need to make their action known. Organisations based there comprise hundreds of international journalists belonging to the following associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Geneva Branch of the UN Correspondents' Association (UNCA) comprises nearly 200 journalists who are accredited to the Information Service of the UN Office in Geneva.</li> <li>• The Association de la Presse étrangère en Suisse et au Liechtenstein (Association of the Foreign Press in Switzerland and Liechtenstein), established in 1928, has its secretariat in the Palais des Nations and about 100 members.</li> <li>• The Geneva Press Club (<a href="http://www.pressclub.ch">www.pressclub.ch</a>) gathers representatives of Swiss media, altogether about 300 members.</li> </ul> <p>Besides the UN Headquarters in New York, Geneva is the most important location of the UN offices and specialised agencies. It is also the first place for international negotiations, diplomatic conferences and meetings.</p> <p>Whichever way you look at it—whether from the point of view of quality of life, jobs, security, infrastructure, cultural activities, medical services, education or climate—Geneva offers many advantages.</p> <p>All this makes Geneva the perfect choice for the seat of the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.</p>