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**United Nations
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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Second meeting**
Geneva, 1–5 May 2006
Agenda item 5 (c)

**Matters for consideration or action by
the Conference of the Parties: measures to
reduce or eliminate releases from wastes**

**Submission of information on the development of technical
guidelines on the environmentally sound management of
persistent organic pollutants as waste under the Basel
Convention***

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note contains information on the development of technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as wastes under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Wastes and Their Disposal. The information is being circulated as submitted by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and has not been formally edited.

* Stockholm Convention, Article 6; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/21.

Annex

Information on the development of technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as wastes under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Wastes and Their Disposal



13 April 2006

Subject: Submission of Information Document on the Development of the Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Dear Mr. David Ogden,

I am pleased to inform you that the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group to the Basel Convention that met from 3 to 7 April 2006 considered and agreed to submit the following technical guidelines to the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention that will take place from 27 November to 1 December 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya:

- (i) Technical Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), Mirex or Toxaphene or with HCB as an industrial chemical;
- (ii) Technical Guideline for Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Containing or Contaminated with Unintentionally Produced Polychlorinated Dibenzop-dioxins (PCDDs), Polychlorinated Dibenzofurans (PCDFs), Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) or Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs); and
- (iii) Technical Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)ethane (DDT).

Consequential changes were also made to the following technical guidelines:

SECRETARIAT OF THE BASEL CONVENTION
ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL
15, chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine (Geneva), Switzerland
Tel: [41 22] 917 8218 • Fax: [41 22] 797 3454 • Email: sbc@unep.ch • Web: www.basel.int

- (i) General technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs); and
- (ii) Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, polychlorinated terphenyls or polybrominated biphenyls.

Please find attached an information document for submission to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on POPs that would meet from 1 to 5 May 2006.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals for their active participation and invaluable contribution towards the development of these technical guidelines.

With their involvement, coherence in contents and high quality products were ensured. We welcome their continuous involvement and cooperation in this area including the effective implementation of these technical guidelines at the national and regional levels.

Yours sincerely,

[original signed]

Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Basel Convention/UNEP

Mr. David Ogden
Coordinator
Stockholm Convention Secretariat
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine/Geneva

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Development of technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as waste

In addition to sections I and II of document UNEP/POP/COP.2/INF/6, the outcome of the fifth session, held from 3 to 7 April 2006, of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention is reported below (the related decision OEWG-V/12 is contained in an annex to this note).

I. Updated information on the development of the technical guidelines

A. General technical guidelines and guidelines on PCBs

1. At its fifth meeting, the Open-Ended Working Group agreed to forward for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (27 November to 1 December 2006) draft amendments to the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and to the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)¹. The draft amendments to the general technical guidelines contain one change of the guidance on levels of destruction and irreversible transformation, namely the value for atmospheric emissions for PCDDs and PCDFs of 0.14 ng TEQ/Nm³ was replaced by 0.1 ng TEQ/Nm³, and the clarification that the TEQ only for PCDDs and PCDFs should be used (refers to footnotes 11 and 14 of the general technical guidelines).

2. The Open-Ended Working Group also invited Parties and others to submit comments to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention by 30 June 2006 on the updating of the following issues in the general technical guidelines:

- (a) Destruction and irreversible transformation methods and related disposal operations (section IV.G.2), taking into account the suggestions by Germany on “waste-to-gas conversion” and “thermal and metallurgical production of metals”.
- (b) Other disposal methods when destruction or irreversible transformation does not represent the environmentally preferable option (section IV.G.3);
- (c) Other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutant content is low (section IV.G.4);
- (d) Examples of pertinent national legislation (annex II) and selected analytical methods for POPs (annex III).

3. A small intersessional working group was mandated by the Open-Ended Working Group to consider, working by electronic means and at a meeting to be held immediately before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the comments referred to in paragraph 2 above with a view to preparing any further amendments of the general technical guidelines and the technical guidelines on PCBs.

4. The Open-Ended Working Group also considered the methodology for the further definition of low persistent organic pollutant content and of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation (see paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 in the draft COP8 decision contained in the annex to this note). It concluded that it is not

¹ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/24 and Corr.1; unedited consolidated versions of these guidelines are available on the Basel Convention web site (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>)

practical or feasible for the time being to consider further, at the level of the Basel Convention, a methodology for further definition of low persistent organic pollutant content and of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation and that the concerns expressed in the discussion on this issue to date may better be addressed by further work in other areas (in particular consideration of further guidance on other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutant content is beneath the low POP content in areas where there may be a high risk for human health and the environment, inter alia through the food chain and for the soil, and consideration of the amendment of entry A4110 in Annex VIII of the Basel Convention, relating to PCDDs and PCDFs, and other relevant entries relating to pesticide persistent organic pollutants and DDT, in order to include a concentration level for these persistent organic pollutants). It also concluded that the definitions of low persistent organic pollutant content and of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation should be reviewed at a later stage after 2008 after sufficient experience has been gained in the application of the definitions contained in the general technical guidelines.

B. Draft technical guidelines on the eight pesticides and HCB as an industrial chemical, DDT and unintentionally produced POPs

5. The Open-ended Working Group has finalized its work on the three outstanding specific technical guidelines and agreed to forward for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting the draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of:

- (a) Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex or toxaphene or with HCB as an industrial chemical²;
- (b) Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)ethane (DDT)³;
- (c) Wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)⁴.

II. BAT and BEP

6. The Open-ended Working Group considered the report of the first meeting of the Expert Group on BAT and BEP and concluded that it should be welcomed that the bodies of the Stockholm Convention are considering best available techniques and best environmental practices with respect to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, including the more recent technologies for destruction and irreversible transformation listed in the general technical guidelines, and that experts of the Basel Convention should be invited to contribute to this work (see paragraph 12 in the draft COP8 decision contained in the annex to this note).

² UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/8/Rev.1.

³ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/9/Rev.1.

⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/7/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

Annex

Decision OEWG-V/12: Technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants

The Open-Ended Working Group,

Recalling Conference of the Parties decision VII/13 and its own decision OEWG-IV/11,

1. *Agrees* to forward for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting the draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of:

(a) Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex or toxaphene or with HCB as an industrial chemical⁵;

(b) Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)ethane (DDT)⁶;

(c) Wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)⁷;

2. *Agrees* to forward for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting draft amendments to the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and to the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)⁴;

3. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments to the Secretariat by 30 June 2006 on the updating of the following issues in the general technical guidelines:

(a) Destruction and irreversible transformation methods and related disposal operations (section IV.G.2), taking into account the suggestions by Germany on “waste-to-gas conversion” and “thermal and metallurgical production of metals”⁵;

(b) Other disposal methods when destruction or irreversible transformation does not represent the environmentally preferable option (section IV.G.3);

(c) Other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutant content is low (section IV.G.4);

(d) Examples of pertinent national legislation (Annex II) and selected analytical methods for POPs (Annex III);

4. *Mandates* the small intersessional working group to consider, working by electronic means and at a meeting to be held immediately before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

⁵ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/8/Rev.1.

⁶ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/9/Rev.1.

⁷ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/7/Rev.1 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/7/Rev.1/Corr.1.

⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/24 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/24/Corr.1.

⁵ Available on the Basel Convention website (www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html).

(a) The comments referred to in paragraph 3 of the present decision with a view to preparing any further amendments of the general technical guidelines and the technical guidelines on PCBs;

(b) The elements listed in paragraph 6 of the present decision for a draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to present the outcome of the work of the small intersessional working group to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting for its consideration and adoption;

6. *Agrees* on the following elements for a draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:

“The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision VII/13 on technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants as wastes,

Noting with appreciation the roles played by Parties and others, especially the lead countries, in the preparation of the technical guidelines,

1. *Adopts* the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of:

(a) Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex or toxaphene or with HCB as an industrial chemical⁶;

(b) Wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis- (4-chlorophenyl)ethane (DDT)⁷;

(c) Wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)⁸;

2. *Adopts* the amendments to the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and to the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)⁹;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present decision¹⁰ to Parties, signatories, intergovernmental organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry in all official languages of the United Nations;

4. *Further requests* the Secretariat to submit the technical guidelines to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its third meeting through the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention;

⁶ UNEP/CHW.8/INF/[]

⁷ UNEP/CHW.8/INF/[]; lead country: Mexico.

⁸ UNEP/CHW.8/INF/[]; lead country: Australia.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.8/INF/[]

¹⁰ For the general technical guidelines and the technical guidelines on PCBs, the Secretariat is requested to disseminate consolidated versions.

5. *Invites* Parties and others to use the technical guidelines and to submit, not later than two months before the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on their experience in the application of the guidelines, including any difficulties or obstacles encountered, with a view to improving them as necessary;

6. *Notes* that, having considered, among other things, comments compiled by the Secretariat¹¹, it is not practical or feasible for the time being to consider further, at the level of the Basel Convention, a methodology for further definition of low persistent organic pollutant content and of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation and that the concerns expressed in the discussion on this issue may better be addressed by the further work referred to in paragraph 8 of the present decision;

7. *Agrees* to review the definitions of low persistent organic pollutant content and of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation at a later stage after 2008 after sufficient experience has been gained in the application of the definitions contained in the general technical guidelines;

8. *Agrees* that the following should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2007–2008:

(a) Review and updating of the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants, if appropriate;

(b) Consideration of further guidance on other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutant content is beneath the low persistent organic pollutant content in areas where there may be a high risk for human health and the environment, *inter alia* through the food chain and for the soil;

(c) Consideration of an amendment of entry A4110 in Annex VIII of the Basel Convention, relating to PCDDs and PCDFs, and other relevant entries relating to pesticide persistent organic pollutants and DDT, in order to include a concentration level for these persistent organic pollutants;

9. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments to the secretariat by 31 March 2007 on the issues referred to in paragraph 8 above;

10. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group to continue to monitor and assist in the review and updating, as appropriate, of technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants, working in particular by electronic means;

11. *Requests* the small inter-sessional working group to consider the comments referred to in paragraph 9 above and to present its outcome, through the secretariat, to the Open-ended Working Group for its consideration;

12. *Welcomes* that the bodies of the Stockholm Convention are considering best available techniques and best environmental practices with respect to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, including the more recent technologies for destruction and irreversible transformation listed in the general technical guidelines, and *invites* experts of the Basel Convention to contribute to this work.

¹¹ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/21.