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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Third meeting**

Dakar, Senegal, 30 April–4 May 2007
Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
implementation plans**

Guidance for implementation plans**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 1 (a) of Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requires each Party to “[d]evelop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under [the] Convention”.
2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision SC-1/12 on national implementation plans, among other things adopted guidance for assisting countries in the preparation of national implementation plans. The guidance was made available at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/7 and is available on the Convention website at www.pops.int.
3. The development of additional guidance was sought by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12, in which the Conference requested:

“...the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and subject to resource availability, to develop additional guidance on social and economic assessment, calculation of action plan costs, including incremental and total costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants, and in doing so

* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 7; reports of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/12 and on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/7.

to take into consideration the particular circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition”.

4. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-2/7 noted the progress made by the Secretariat in developing the above-mentioned additional guidance and requested the Secretariat to complete a draft of the additional guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, provided that resources were made available for that activity.

5. In response to the above request, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as part of a pilot project to develop national implementation plans in 12 countries for the management of persistent organic pollutants, developed draft guidance on social and economic assessment for the development and implementation of persistent organic pollutant national implementation plans. The draft guidance is set forth in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8.

6. In addition, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other relevant organizations, has started to develop additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs, and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants. It will be able to complete this work as resources become available to do so.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

7. The Conference may wish:

- (a) To consider the information provided in the present note;
- (b) To adopt, for immediate use by Parties and with any amendments, the draft guidance on social and economic assessment for the development and implementation of persistent organic pollutant national implementation plans set forth in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8;
- (c) To encourage Parties to use the guidance on social and economic assessment in the development and implementation of their national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention;
- (d) To request Governments to provide comments to the Secretariat, based on their experience in using the guidance set forth in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8, on how to improve its usefulness;
- (e) To request the Secretariat to complete the draft of the additional guidance, as called for in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12, for consideration by the Conference at its fourth meeting, provided that resources are made available for this activity;
- (f) To invite Parties and others in a position to do so to provide the additional funding required for developing the additional guidance.