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

Dakar, 30 April–4 May 2007

Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by
the Conference of the Parties: listing chemicals
in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention**

**Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: relevant
developments for action by the Conference of the Parties****

Note by the Secretariat

A. Introduction

1. The second meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee was held in Geneva from 6 to 10 November 2006, the report of which is contained in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17. The Committee considered the requests made by the Conference of Parties at its second meeting in decision SC-2/8 and adopted decisions in response to those requests. The decisions are discussed in parts B and C below.

2. The terms of reference for the Committee, which are set out in the annex to decision SC-1/7, contain elements that require consideration by the Conference at its third meeting. Those elements are discussed in parts D and E below.

B. Confidentiality arrangements

3. Paragraph 19 of the terms of reference for the Committee requires the Committee to establish confidentiality arrangements as a matter of priority, while ensuring that paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention is respected.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 8; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/7; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/8.

4. At its first meeting, held in Geneva from 7 to 11 November 2005, the Committee adopted decision POPRC-1/1 in which it decided to apply the provisional arrangements to confidential information contained in the decision and requested the Secretariat to develop draft confidentiality arrangements for consideration at its second meeting.

5. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 6 of decision SC-2/8 requested the Committee to continue its deliberation of confidentiality issues based on the guidance provided by the Conference at that meeting. It also requested the Committee to provide its final proposal for confidentiality arrangements for consideration by the Conference at its third meeting.

6. At its second meeting, the Committee considered a draft code of practice for the treatment of confidential information by the Committee, which had been prepared by the Secretariat. Following discussions, the Secretariat prepared a revised version of the draft code, which is contained in the annex to decision POPRC-2/12. In that decision, the Committee decided to submit the draft code to the Conference of Parties for consideration at its third meeting.

C. Isomers

7. At its second meeting, the Conference in paragraph 7 of decision SC-2/8 requested the Committee to provide for consideration by the Conference at its third meeting its recommendations for an approach for addressing the issue of how to consider isomers or groups of isomers of chemicals proposed by Parties pursuant to Article 8 for inclusion in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention.

8. At its second meeting, the Committee agreed on the recommended approach for considering isomers or groups of isomers of chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B or C to the Convention which is contained in the annex to decision POPRC-2/11 and decided to submit the decision to the Conference of Parties for its consideration and possible endorsement.

D. Membership

9. According to paragraphs 7–9 of the terms of reference for the Committee, for the purposes of the initial appointments of members of the Committee and in order to promote an orderly rotation of membership, one half of the members of each region shall be nominated for an initial term of two years, and the remaining members of each region shall be nominated for an initial term of four years, commencing from the date of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹ After the initial appointments, each member shall serve for a term of four years from the date of appointment, and for no more than two consecutive terms. A new list of Governments to replace the list in appendix II of the terms of reference shall be adopted, consistent with the provisions indicated in paragraph 2 of the terms of reference,² at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties so that vacancies created by outgoing members may be filled. Any vacancy arising during an intersessional period shall be filled in accordance with such procedure as the region concerned may determine and the qualifications of the new member shall be circulated to the Parties to the Convention through the Secretariat.

10. Of the current 31 members of the Committee, 14 have terms of office of two year duration that will expire on 4 May 2008, which is between the third and the fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. These members were designated by the following Parties: Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Fiji, Mauritius, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Yemen. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties will need to adopt a new list of Governments to replace the list in appendix II of the terms of reference, so that the vacancies created by the outgoing members may be filled. The new Committee members will begin their terms of office on 5 May 2008.

11. During the intersessional period between the second and the third meetings of the Conference, Committee member Ms. Janneche Utne Skåre (Norway) was not able to complete her term of office. The Government of Norway nominated Ms. Liselott Säll to replace her. Ms. Säll's curriculum vitae is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/20. Consistent with the Committee's terms of

¹ For those regions for which the number of members is an odd number, the phrase "one half of the members of such region" shall be interpreted to mean the nearest whole number less than one half of the number of members in that region. Accordingly, if a region has five members, one half of that number will be taken to mean two.

² Paragraph 2 of the terms of reference states: "The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account gender and the need for a balance between different types of expertise."

reference, the Conference shall consider whether it wishes to confirm the appointment of Ms. Säll to complete the term of office previously held Ms. Skåre.

E. Workplans for chemicals under consideration by the Committee

12. Paragraph 24 of the terms of reference indicates that the Committee shall establish workplans with time frames for each of the chemicals under its consideration and shall submit its workplans to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

13. At its second meeting, the Committee considered and adopted risk profiles for five chemicals, which had been developed during the intersessional period between the first and second meetings of the Committee in accordance with decisions POPRC-1/3, POPRC-1/4, POPRC-1/5, POPRC-1/6 and POPRC-1/7 and in accordance with the standard workplan for the preparation of a draft risk profile set forth in annex II of the report of the Committee on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/10). The chemicals were:

- (a) Pentabromodiphenyl ether;
- (b) Chlordecone;
- (c) Hexabromobiphenyl ;
- (d) Lindane;
- (e) Perfluorooctane sulfonate.

14. In decisions POPRC-2/1, POPRC-2/2, POPRC-2/3, POPRC-2/4 and POPRC-2/5, the Committee decided, in accordance with paragraph 7 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, that each of the chemicals in question is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and environmental effects such that global action is warranted. The Committee furthermore decided to establish an ad hoc working group to prepare a risk management evaluation for each of the chemicals in question, which would include an analysis of possible control measures for the chemical. In addition, it invited Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat the information specified in Annex F before 2 February 2007. In order to prepare the draft risk management evaluations, the Committee adopted the workplan set forth in annex II, part B, of the report of the work of the Committee at its second meeting.

15. At its second meeting, the Committee also had before it new proposals submitted by Parties for the inclusion in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention of the following five chemicals:

- (a) Commercial octabromodiphenyl ether (proposed by the European Community and its member States which are Parties to the Convention);
- (b) Pentachlorobenzene (proposed by the European Community and its member States which are Party to the Convention);
- (c) Short-chained chlorinated paraffins (proposed by the European Community and its member States which are Party to the Convention);
- (d) Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane (proposed by Mexico);
- (e) Beta hexachlorocyclohexane (proposed by Mexico).

16. The Committee examined the proposals and applied the screening criteria listed in Annex D in a flexible and transparent way. In decisions POPRC-2/6, POPRC-2/7, POPRC-2/8, POPRC-2/9 and POPRC-2/10, the Committee decided, in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, that it was satisfied in the case of each chemical that the screening criteria had been fulfilled. In addition, it decided to establish ad hoc working groups to review each proposal further and to prepare a draft risk profile in accordance with Annex E of the Convention.

17. In order to prepare the draft risk profiles, the Committee adopted the workplan set forth in annex II, part A, of the report of the work of the Committee at its second meeting.

18. The draft risk management evaluations and the draft risk profiles are to be considered and completed by the Committee at its third meeting, which is scheduled to take place from 19 to 23 November 2007 in Geneva.

F. Other matters: Support for effective participation in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

19. Certain Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition have expressed to the Secretariat the need for support and strengthened capacity to participate fully in the work of the Committee, in particular with regard to identifying and compiling the information requested by the Committee relating to the chemicals being evaluated for listing in the Convention. In order to assist Parties in gathering information to support the work of the Committee, it is proposed that the Secretariat might be requested:

- (a) To prepare a guidance document on methodologies to support Parties in activities to collect data and analyse the requested information;
- (b) To assist an initial set of Parties that can demonstrate use, export, import or the presence of stocks of chemicals under review in the use of the guidance document;
- (c) To revise the guidance document taking into consideration the experience gained;
- (d) To develop activities relating to the assessment of persistent organic chemicals.

20. A costing analysis of the proposal is provided in document UNEP/POS/COP.3/INF/16.

G. Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

21. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

- (a) To welcome the report of the second meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
 - (b) To adopt, with any amendments, the code of practice submitted to it by the Committee for the treatment of confidential information by the Committee;
 - (c) To endorse, with any amendments, the recommended approach submitted by the Committee for addressing the issue of how to consider isomers or groups of isomers of chemicals proposed by Parties for inclusion in Annexes A, B or C;
 - (d) To adopt a list of Parties who would be invited to nominate new Committee members for a term of office commencing on 5 May 2008;
 - (e) To confirm the appointment of Ms. Säll to replace Ms. Skåre as a current member of the Committee;
 - (f) To take note of the standard workplans adopted by the Committee;
 - (g) To consider the request by Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition for support in gathering and compiling information to assist the Committee in its work;
 - (h) To request the Secretariat to undertake the activities to assist Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition outlined in paragraph 19 of the present note and to report on the results of the activities to Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;
 - (i) To invite Parties and observers in a position to do so to contribute the necessary resources to support members of the Committee in accessing information tools for contributing to the work of the Committee and to support Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition in gathering, compiling and analysing information to assist the Committee in its work.
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