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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 (g) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters for consideration or action by the  
Conference of the Parties: technical assistance**

**Guidance on technical assistance\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. Paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention states:  

“Technical assistance to be provided by developed country Parties, and other Parties in accordance with their capabilities, shall include, as appropriate and as mutually agreed, technical assistance for capacity-building relating to implementation of the obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties.”
2. In its decision SC-2/9, the Conference of the Parties, invited Parties and relevant international organizations to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences in the provision of technical assistance and transfer of technology according to the guidance on technical assistance, as set forth in decision SC-1/15, to developing countries in order to assist implementation of their respective national implementation plans and other obligations under the Convention.
3. In response to that invitation, the Secretariat received information on the application of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies from the following Parties: Brazil, Burundi, Czech Republic, Finland and Slovakia. A table summarizing the information received by the Secretariat is available in annex II to the present note. The submissions received by the Secretariat are also reproduced in full in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/11.
4. At the time of preparing the present note, the Secretariat had not received information from any relevant international organizations regarding the application of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

\* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

\*\* Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Article 12; reports on the work of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/15 and at its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/9.

5. By paragraph 2 of decision SC-2/9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to submit a report based on the information to be provided pursuant to paragraph 1 of the same decision and any other pertinent information on progress in the application of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology.
6. In preparing the present note in response to that request, the Secretariat took into account the following:
- (a) An analysis of national implementation plans focusing on the frequently identified national priority actions and best practices for controlling persistent organic pollutants, prepared pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision SC-2/7 and contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/11;
  - (b) Relevant decisions regarding technical assistance and technology transfer that had been adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
  - (c) Other requests for capacity-building and technical assistance received by the Secretariat from Parties.
7. As noted in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/11, although the majority of the implementation plans transmitted pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention include information on priorities, such priorities are not clearly highlighted and are seldom ranked in order of importance, making it difficult to identify common priorities for Parties at the subregional, regional and global levels for the next five or ten years.
8. Nevertheless, in decisions adopted at its first and second meetings, the Conference of the Parties identified specific needs in the area of technical assistance and technology transfer and requested action. The table in annex I to the present note lists both the decisions in which needs were identified and those responsible for responding to such needs.
9. The types of activities to be undertaken can be placed into two categories:
- (a) Awareness raising, guidance and training to be undertaken by the Secretariat;
  - (b) Capacity-building and research support to be facilitated by intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, bilateral agencies and other financial institutions.

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

10. The Conference may wish:
- (a) To take note of the information contained in the present note;
  - (b) To request the Secretariat to develop a draft strategy for delivering technical assistance and transfer of technology, taking into account the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies set out in the annex to decision SC-1/15 and also the priorities and needs identified by the Conference of the Parties for consideration by the Conference at its forth meeting;
  - (c) To request the entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, in particular the Global Environment Facility as the principal such entity on an interim basis, to give special consideration to those relevant activities identified in decisions SC-2/2 on DDT and SC-2/13 on effectiveness evaluation when deciding on the funding of activities under the Convention;
  - (d) To invite Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences in implementing the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of technology adopted by the Conference in decision SC-1/15;
  - (e) To request the Secretariat to submit a report based on the information provided pursuant to subparagraph 10 (b) above and any other pertinent information on progress in the application of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology.

## Annex I

### Technical assistance and capacity-building needs identified by the Conference of the Parties

**Table 1. Technical assistance and capacity-building needs identified by the Conference of the Parties**

Conference of the Parties decision	Need identified	Provider of assistance
SC-2/2 on DDT (paragraph 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further evaluation of the comparative efficacy and environmental and human health safety of alternative insecticides to DDT and other control measures and strategies</li> <li>• Verification of the continued efficacy and cost-effectiveness of these alternatives at the national level</li> </ul>	The Global Environment Facility, bilateral agencies and other financial institutions
(paragraph 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties as referred to in paragraph 8 (b) of the note by the Secretariat on evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and alternative strategies to replace DDT<sup>1</sup> and in accordance with section 3.2 of the proposal for reporting on and evaluating the use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control, prepared by the World Health Organization in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat in accordance with decision SC-1/25<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	The Secretariat in collaboration with the World Health Organization
(paragraph 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the research and development of new, locally-safe, effective and affordable alternatives to DDT and for the work outlined in decision SC-2/2</li> </ul>	Governments, donors and relevant organizations. Non-party States encouraged to participate in data gathering activities

1 UNEP/POPS/COP.2/4.

2 UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/3.

Conference of the Parties decision	Need identified	Provider of assistance
<p>SC-2/13 on effectiveness evaluation, annex, paragraphs 8–11, on needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan through financial and technical assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and maintenance of a comprehensive regional inventory of capacities and a corresponding needs assessment</li> <li>• Development and maintenance of a network of databases containing monitoring information</li> <li>• Capacity-building for the purpose of implementing Article 16 should be guided by a plan for step-by-step capacity enhancement for Parties on a regional basis.</li> </ul>	<p>The Secretariat with contributions from national Stockholm Convention focal points</p> <p>Relevant regional centres could play a role in coordination efforts</p>
<p>SC-1/20 Guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices and guidance on training and awareness raising activities (paragraphs 1 and 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities to promote guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices through awareness raising, information dissemination and promotion at the regional, subregional and national levels.</li> </ul>	<p>The Secretariat with support from Parties, non-Parties and other donors</p>

## Annex II

### Summary of information submitted by Parties on their experiences providing technical assistance and transfer of technology

Table 2. Summary of information submitted by Parties on their experiences providing technical assistance and transfer of technology in accordance with the guidance in decision SC-1/15

Party	General observations	Summary of activities
<b>Brazil</b>	Submitted information on the experience of the Companhia de Tecnologia de Saneamento Ambiental (CETESB), in providing technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer	<p>The <b>main objectives</b> of CETESB are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the achievement of environmental quality standards in the state of Sao Paolo, in compliance with the current legislation</li> <li>• To publish technical material related to environmental quality and pollution sources</li> <li>• To define environmental indicators and standards</li> <li>• To establish and develop partnerships for technical, scientific and financial cooperation with the public and private sectors and also with national and international entities.</li> </ul> <p>To reach these objectives, CETESB <b>undertakes the following main activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision of fixed and mobile sources of pollution</li> <li>• Research to improve existing technologies, including pollution prevention techniques</li> <li>• Programmes for control, supervision and monitoring of the environmental quality of water, air and soil</li> <li>• Proposals for and revisions of environmental regulations</li> <li>• Laboratory analysis to support the private sector</li> <li>• Public awareness activities</li> <li>• Technical assistance to other environmental agencies in Brazil and Latin America</li> </ul>
<b>Burundi</b>	Indicated that it is a developing country that should benefit from technical assistance and the transfer of technology.	

Party	General observations	Summary of activities
Czech Republic	Submitted a description of bilateral and multilateral activities undertaken by the Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology (RECETOX) of the Masaryk University in Brno, in its capacity as the National Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Czech Republic.	<p>RECETOX:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was <b>responsible for development of the Czech National Implementation Plan</b>. The National Persistent Organic Pollutants Centre, which is a part of the RECETOX structure, is the national body responsible for the realization of the Czech National Implementation Plan. Based on the work of the European Persistent Organic Pollutants Expert Network and its long-term activities in the field of persistent organic pollutants, Masaryk University and the Ministry of the Environment established the Central and Eastern European Centre for Persistent Organic Pollutants (CEEPOPsCTR) in September 2005, which will be put forward by the Government of the Czech Republic to serve as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention.</li> <li>• <b>Participated in the development and training activities</b> connected with the preparation of national implementation plans in Armenia, Croatia, Egypt, Hungary, Macedonia, Oman, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia.</li> <li>• <b>Gained experience in the coordination of international scientific activities</b> within the European Commission's Fifth Framework Programme, specifically through its support for the project entitled "Assessment of the selected persistent organic pollutants in the atmosphere and water ecosystems from the waste materials generated by warfare in area of former Yugoslavia" (APOPSBAL). RECETOX served as a manager and coordinator of the joint project of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Serbia, and Slovenia in frames of the Fifth Framework Programme Centre of Excellence focused on scientific networking in European region.</li> <li>• <b>Provided professional training</b> in the field of environmental analytical chemistry to scientists from Armenia with the support of the Czech Government, and to scientists from Serbia as part of the APOPSBAL project. Post doctorate and Ph.D. students from Bulgaria and Belarus are part of the RECETOX team. The RECETOX annual summer school attracts international students from many countries including those from Southern and Eastern Europe.</li> </ul>

Party	General observations	Summary of activities
<b>Finland</b>	Submitted information on the financial and technical assistance it has provided to developing countries related to their implementation of their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.	<p>Finland's assistance towards the implementation of developing countries' Stockholm Convention obligations can be divided to three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multilateral financing:</b> Finland's total funding to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the period 2002–2006 was €31,120,000.</li> <li>• <b>Support to developing countries' participation in Stockholm Convention negotiations and other international meetings relevant to the Convention:</b> For the year 1999 it provided a total of €8,866; for the year 2001 it provided €17,000; and for the year 2002 it provided €20,000.</li> <li>• <b>Bilateral development cooperation:</b> several projects financed by the Government of Finland primarily serve to support the Stockholm Convention or can be seen as otherwise related to its goals. Finland's development cooperation has specifically contributed to the following areas: training of people responsible for issues related to the Convention, including identification of persistent organic pollutants; development of legislation and management of PCB (10.c); strengthening research capacity for the development of alternatives to persistent organic pollutants (10.d.i); and identification and disposal of persistent organic pollutant wastes (10.g).</li> </ul>
<b>Slovakia</b>	Reported that it has received financial assistance from GEF that enabled it to prepare its National Implementation Plan pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention and indicated that it still requires financial assistance and intends to make use of European Union support funds for the period 2007–2013.	In addition to reporting on the financial assistance received from GEF for the development of its National Implementation Plan, Slovakia indicated that it is currently implementing a GEF project entitled “Demonstration of viability and removal of barriers that impede adoption and effective implementation of available non-combustion technologies for destroying persistent organic pollutants”.