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**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-compliance**
Second meeting
Dakar, 25–27 April 2007

**Report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on
Non-compliance on the work of its second meeting**

Introduction

1. In its Article 17, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants states:
“The Conference of the Parties shall, as soon as practicable, develop and approve procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance with the provisions of this Convention and for treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance.”
2. At its first meeting, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 2 to 6 May 2005, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-1/14, in which it decided to convene an open-ended ad hoc working group to consider procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance under Article 17 immediately prior to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accordingly, a meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-compliance was held on 28 and 29 April 2006 at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. At that meeting, the Working Group considered a draft text on non-compliance procedures (UNEP/POPS/OEWG-NC.1/2). As outlined in the report of the meeting (UNEP/POPS/OEWG-NC.1/3) and in paragraphs 96–99 of the report of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), the Working Group made progress on the draft text but did not complete its consideration of it or reach agreement on all issues. The Group agreed, therefore, to forward the draft text, as amended in accordance with its deliberations thus far and with text on which agreement had not been reached enclosed in square brackets, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its second meeting (Geneva, Switzerland, 1–5 May 2006).
4. Following its consideration of the draft text at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided in its decision SC-2/14 that the Working Group should meet again for three days immediately prior to the Conference’s third meeting to continue its work on the draft text. The Conference also decided that it would consider the outcome of that work at its third meeting, which would take place from 30 April to 4 May 2007 at the Meridien President Hotel in Dakar, Senegal. The current meeting was convened in accordance with decision SC-2/14.

I. Opening of the meeting

5. The meeting was opened at 10.35 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 April 2007, by the Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada), who welcomed the representatives attending the meeting.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/POPS/OEWG-NC.2/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for the treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.
6. Closure of the meeting.

B. Organization of work

7. The Working Group agreed that it would meet each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary. It also agreed that, in order to maximize the time available for consideration of the substantive matters on the agenda and in view of the fact that the current discussions were a continuation of those at the Group's first meeting, at which general opening statements had been made, members of the Working Group would not make general statements and would proceed directly to consideration of the draft procedures. The Group also agreed that it would continue its consideration of the draft procedures at the point which it had stopped at its first meeting, as reflected in the report of that meeting.

8. Before the Group commenced its deliberations, a representative of the Secretariat paid tribute to the Government of Senegal for hosting the current meeting and to the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for providing financial support for the attendance at the current meeting of developing country parties.

9. Mr. Deon Stewart (Bahamas), who was elected Rapporteur of the Open-ended Working Group at the Group's first meeting, was unable to attend the current meeting. Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) served as Rapporteur in his stead.

C. Attendance

10. Representatives of the following Parties participated in the meeting: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

11. Representatives of the following States non-Parties attended the meeting as observers: Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

12. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units, convention secretariats and specialized agencies were represented: Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Basel Convention Regional Centre for Francophone Africa, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

13. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Centre for International Environmental Law, speaking on its own behalf and on behalf of the International POPs Elimination Network, and Island Sustainability Alliance C. I., Inc.

III. Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for the treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance

14. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it the draft text of procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance under Article 17 as it stood at the conclusion of the Group's first meeting (UNEP/POPS/OEWG-NC.1/3, annex).

15. Introducing the item, the Chair referred to non-compliance procedures that had been adopted by the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal or were at an advanced stage of negotiation by the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and suggested that the Working Group might find such provisions to be suitable for adaptation to the procedures under consideration for the Stockholm Convention. While agreeing that such an approach might expedite the Group's deliberations, several representatives urged caution, noting that the objectives and characteristics of the other conventions differed in some ways from those of the Stockholm Convention and that the procedures negotiated for those conventions might therefore be unsuitable; one representative added that the multilateral character of the Stockholm Convention meant that it was closer in character to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer than it was to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions. The Group agreed therefore that it would consider the provisions of non-compliance procedures negotiated under other multilateral environmental agreements, including the Montreal Protocol, but that in doing so it would take due account of the particular objectives of the Stockholm Convention and the differences between it and the other agreements. Copies of such procedures were made available to the members of the Working Group.

16. Following discussions in plenary session, the Working Group decided to establish three contact groups to further the discussions on specific sections of the draft procedures. The first, chaired by Mr. Stephan Michel (Switzerland), was asked to examine the paragraphs in the draft procedures relating to underlying principles of the procedures. The second, chaired by Ms. Therese Yarde (Barbados), was asked to examine the provisions in the draft procedures relating to facilitation, additional measures and decisions of the committee. The third, chaired by Ms. Daniel, was asked to consider the question of who would make the submissions that would initiate the operation of the procedures.

17. On the basis of the work of the three contact groups and its discussions in plenary session, the Working Group made significant progress on the draft text. Following a proposal by the Chair, the Working Group agreed that the provisions in the draft text relating to the establishment, composition, election and meetings of the Committee, as well as aspects of the procedures for submissions, handling of information and monitoring, should exactly duplicate those that had been negotiated in the context of discussions on the non-compliance procedures for the Rotterdam Convention, except insofar as they related to the number of Committee members and quorum, with respect to which the Group reached no decision. The Working Group also reached agreement on the general procedures for the Committee, drawing on both the draft text before it and the draft procedures under the Rotterdam Convention.

18. In other areas, the Working Group moved closer to reaching agreement and succeeded in refining the draft text to facilitate future discussions. While the Working Group did not reach agreement on the provisions pertaining to the nature and underlying principles of the procedures or the extent to which they should be set out in the procedures themselves or in the decision by which the procedures would be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, it did agree to reword and streamline the text. Similarly, the provisions on facilitation and subsequent action by the Conference of the Parties, information and submissions were reworded to provide the basis for future discussions.

19. The Working Group agreed to forward the draft text of the proposed procedures, with those provisions on which it had not reached final agreement enclosed in square brackets, to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at its third meeting. The draft text is contained in the annex to the present report. The Working Group also agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that, in order to build on the significant progress that had been achieved to date, a contact group be established early in the week during the Conference's third meeting to work further on the draft text.

IV. Other matters

20. The Working Group considered no other matters.

V. Adoption of the report

21. The Working Group adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated (UNEP/POPS/OEWG-NC.2/L/1), on the understanding that the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the Secretariat and the Chair, would be entrusted with its finalization.

VI. Closure of the meeting

22. The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, 27 April 2007.

Annex

[[Non-compliance][Compliance] procedures under Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention

[The following procedures and institutional mechanisms have been developed in accordance with Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as the “Convention”].¹

Objective, nature and underlying principles

1. The objective of the procedures is to assist Parties to comply with their obligations under the Convention and to facilitate, promote, monitor, assist in, advise on and aim to secure the implementation of and compliance with the obligations under the Convention.
2. The procedures shall be simple, effective, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, forward-looking, flexible, transparent, fair, predictable and cooperative in nature.²
3. The procedures shall complement the work performed by other Convention bodies and the financial mechanism established under Article 13 of the Convention.
4. All obligations under the Convention are subject to the present non-compliance procedures and mechanisms. The non-compliance procedure shall take into account [all principles of the Convention and the] special needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition and the specific characteristics of the Convention, such as Articles 12, 13 and 7.]

The Compliance Committee

Establishment

5. A Compliance Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”, is hereby established .

Composition

6. The Committee shall consist of [10] [15] [19] members. Members shall be [experts, drawn from a list of individuals] nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties. In electing members, due consideration shall be given to [the principle of equitable geographical representation [of the regional groups of the United Nations]] [a balance between developed and developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition] and gender balance.
7. Members shall have expertise and specific qualifications in the subject matter covered by the Convention. They shall act objectively and in the best interests of the Convention.

Election of members

8. At the meeting at which the present decision is adopted, the Conference of the Parties shall elect half the members for one term and half the members for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, elect for two full terms new members to replace those members whose period of office has expired or is about to expire. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. For the purpose of the present procedures and mechanisms, “term” shall mean the period that begins at the end of one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ends at the end of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
9. If a member of the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete her or his term of office or to perform her or his functions, the Party who nominated that member shall nominate an alternate to serve for the remainder of the term.

¹ This text will be moved to a decision adopting these procedures

² To be reflected in the decision by which the procedures are adopted as a preambular paragraph: “The procedures shall be applied in an expeditious manner in order to ensure that the threat to human health and the environment caused by a Party’s failure to comply with provisions of the Convention is minimized.”

Officers

10. The Committee shall elect its own Chair. A Vice-chair and a rapporteur shall be elected, on a rotating basis, by the Committee in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Meetings

11. [The Committee shall hold meetings as necessary [, at least once [a year] [[between]] and whenever possible in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties or other Convention bodies].

12. [XX]³ members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

13. Subject to paragraph 25 below, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and the public unless the Committee decides otherwise. When the Committee is dealing with submissions pursuant to paragraph 18, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and closed to the public unless the Party whose compliance is in question agrees otherwise.

14. The Parties or observers to whom the meeting is open shall not have a right to participate in the meeting unless the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question agree otherwise.

[15. The Committee shall undertake its work in the six languages of the United Nations.]

Decision-making

[16. The Committee shall [make every effort to] reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, any decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a [two-thirds][three-quarters] majority of the members present and voting [or by six members, whichever is greater]. The report of any meeting of the Committee at which consensus is not reached shall reflect the views of all the Committee members.]

[17. In the event that a member of the Committee is a citizen of a Party whose compliance is question, that member shall recuse herself or himself from proceedings on the case.] [Each member of the Committee shall, with respect to any matter that is under consideration by the Committee, avoid direct or indirect conflicts of interest. Where a member finds himself or herself faced with a direct or indirect conflict of interest, that member shall bring the issue to the attention of the Committee before consideration of that particular matter. The concerned member shall not participate in the elaboration and adoption of a recommendation of the Committee in relation to that matter.]

Procedures for submissions*Submissions*

18. Submissions to the Committee may be made by:

(a) A Party which decides that, despite its best endeavours, it is, or will be, unable to comply with its obligations under the Convention. Any submission under this subparagraph shall be made in writing, through the Secretariat, and should include details as to which specific obligations are concerned and an assessment of the reason why the Party may be unable to meet those obligations. Where possible, substantiating information, or advice as to where such substantiating information may be found, shall be provided. Any such submission may include suggestions for solutions which the Party considers may be most appropriate to its particular needs;

[(b) A Party that [has concerns about or] is affected or may be affected by an alleged failure to comply with the Convention's obligations by another Party [with whom it is directly involved under the Convention]. [Any Party intending to make a submission under this subparagraph should before so doing undertake consultations with the Party whose compliance is in question]. Any submission made under this subparagraph shall be made in writing, through the Secretariat, and is to include details as to which specific obligations are concerned, and information substantiating the submission.];

[(c) The Secretariat, if, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, [it becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention to submit national implementation plans and reports under Articles 7 and 15, respectively]in particular

³ This number will be decided once the number of members in the committee is decided. Representatives at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group suggested a range of options including two-thirds or three-quarters of the size of the committee or, if the committee consists of 10 members, a quorum of 8.

on the basis of reports received pursuant to Article 15, provided that the matter has not been resolved within ninety days by consultation with the Party concerned. [In such cases, the Secretariat may also consider information received from bodies or agencies having observer status under paragraph 8 of Article 19 of the Convention.] Any submission made under this subparagraph shall be made in writing and shall set out the matter of concern, the relevant provisions of the Convention and the information substantiating the matter of concern.]⁴

[19. If the Secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties by a Party in complying with its obligations to submit national implementation plans and reports under Articles 7 and 15, respectively, of the Convention, it may request the Party concerned to furnish necessary information about the matter. If there is no response from the Party concerned within ninety days or such longer period as the circumstances of the matter may require, [or][and] the matter is not resolved [through administrative action or through diplomatic contacts], the Secretariat shall report to the Parties pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention and shall inform the members of the Committee, which shall consider the matter at its next meeting.]

[20. In addition, the Committee may initiate a procedure if in the course of its functions it becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention.]

21. The Secretariat shall forward submissions made under subparagraph 18 (a) above, within fifteen days of receipt of such submissions, to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

[22. The Secretariat shall, within fifteen days of receipt of any submission made under subparagraph 18 (b) above, send a copy to the Party whose compliance with the Convention is in question and to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.]⁵

[23. The Secretariat shall send any submission it makes in accordance with paragraph 18 (c) above directly to the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question within fifteen days of the conclusion of the ninety-day period referred to in paragraph 18 (c) above;]⁶

24. A Party whose compliance is in question may present responses or comments at every step of the proceedings described in the present procedures and mechanisms.

25. Such Party shall be entitled to participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee. For this purpose the Committee shall invite such a Party to participate in the discussions on the submission no later than sixty days before the start of the discussions. Such Party, however, may not take part in the elaboration of a recommendation of the Committee.⁷

26. Comments or additional information in response to a submission, provided by a Party whose compliance is in question, should be forwarded to the Secretariat within ninety days of the date of receipt of the submission by that Party, unless the Party requests an extension. Such extension may be provided by the Chair, with a reasonable justification, for a period of up to 90 days. Such information shall be immediately transmitted to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting. [Where a submission has been made pursuant to subparagraph 18 (b) above, the information shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Party that made the submission.]

27. The Committee shall share its draft conclusions and recommendations with the Party concerned for consideration and an opportunity to comment within ninety days of receipt of the draft by the Party concerned. Any such comments are to be reflected in the report of the Committee.

28. The Committee may decide not to proceed with submissions which it considers to be:

- (a) De minimis;
- (b) Manifestly ill-founded.

⁴ Paragraphs 18 (c) and 19 may be considered as alternatives for possible action by the Secretariat.

⁵ This paragraph is in brackets as paragraph 18 (b) is still in brackets.

⁶ This paragraph is in brackets as paragraph 18 (c) is still in brackets.

⁷ One representative considered that this paragraph referred to a Party-to-Party trigger, the inclusion of which has not yet been agreed.

Facilitation by the Committee

29. The Committee shall consider submissions made to it in accordance with paragraph 18 above [or any matter referred to it in accordance with paragraph 19 above] [taking into account the type, degree, duration and frequency of compliance difficulties] with a view to establishing the facts and the root causes of the matter of concern and to assisting in its resolution, and may [after coordination/[consultation with the Party whose compliance is in question]:

- (a) Provide advice;
- (b) Issue non-binding recommendations [to the Party concerned] [, including on establishing and strengthening domestic regulatory regimes and monitoring, [and on steps to remedy the non-compliance situation] [and on the need for financial [and technical] assistance];
- (c) Facilitate [the provision and obtaining of][access to] technical and financial assistance, including by providing advice on sources and modalities of technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;
- (d) Request the Party concerned to develop a [voluntary] compliance action plan, including timelines, targets and indicators and submission of progress reports within a timeframe to be agreed upon by the Committee and the Party concerned;
- (e) Provide assistance, on request, in the review of the implementation of the action plan [and providing and further information/assistance required to assist the Party in developing such a plan].
- (f) Pursuant to paragraph (d) above, reporting to the Conference of the Parties on efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance, including through national reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, and maintaining the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved;]

Possible Action by the Conference of the Parties

30. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 29 above and taking into account the cause, type, degree, duration and frequency of compliance difficulties, including the financial and technical capacities of a Party whose compliance is in question, the Committee considers it necessary to pursue further action to [promote][attain] a Party's compliance, it may recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider one or more of the following actions [, to be taken in accordance with international law,][, including]:

- (a) [Assessing the adequacy of the support provided to the Party concerned and] Providing further support under the Convention for the Party concerned, including further advice and the facilitation, as appropriate, of access to financial resources, technical assistance, technology transfer, training [and other capacity building measures];
- (b) Providing advice regarding future compliance in order to help Parties implement the provisions of the Convention and avoid non-compliance [promote cooperation between all Parties][including on the need for financial and technical assistance];
- (c) Issuing a cautionary statement about current non-compliance; [Issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance.]
- (d) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public non-compliance]
- (e) In cases of repeated or persistent non-compliance, [as a last resort,] suspending rights and privileges under the Convention, in particular rights under Articles 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the Convention[undertaking any final action that may be required to achieve of the objective of the Convention.]
- (f) Undertaking any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objective of the Convention].

[31. In case a developing country is found to be non-compliant because of a lack of technical and financial assistance, sub-paragraphs 30 (c)–(f) shall not be applicable.]⁸

⁸ One delegation wished to retain this provision until the outcome of negotiations on paragraph 30.

Monitoring

32. The Committee should monitor the consequences of action taken in pursuance of paragraphs 29 and 30 above and report on it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 36

Information*Consultation and information*

33. [In carrying out its functions, the Committee may:

- (a) Request further information from all Parties, through the Secretariat, on issues of general compliance under its consideration;
- (b) Consult with other bodies of the Convention, in particular the Conference of the Parties and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
- (c) Maintain, in particular for the purpose of drawing up its recommendations, an exchange of information with the GEF Council related to the provision of financial assistance under Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention;
- (d) Request further information from experts, as it considers necessary and appropriate, as directed by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d alt) Request further information from any source and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate, either with the consent of the Party concerned or as directed by the Conference of the Parties;
- (e) Undertake, with the agreement of any Party, information gathering in that Party's territory for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the Convention;
- (f) Consult with the Secretariat and draw upon its expertise and knowledge base and request through the Secretariat information, where appropriate in the form of a report, on matters under the Committee's consideration;
- (g) Review any national reports of Parties required or encouraged by the provisions of the Convention, in particular reports received pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention or decisions of the Conference of the Parties;
- (h) Use and request information from all sources it considers relevant.]

Handling of information

34. Subject to paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention, the Committee, any Party and any person involved in the deliberations of the Committee shall protect the confidentiality of information received in confidence.

General procedures*General compliance issues*

35. The Committee may examine systemic issues of general compliance and implementation of interest to all Parties when:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties so requests;
- (b) The Secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, obtains information from Parties on the basis of which the Committee decides that there is a need for an issue of general non-compliance to be examined and for a report thereon to be made to the Conference of the Parties;
- (c) The Secretariat draws the attention of the Committee to relevant information it has obtained through reports by Parties under the Convention and other sources.

Reports to the Conference of the Parties

36. The Committee shall submit a report to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties reflecting:

- (a) The work that the Committee has undertaken;
- (b) The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee;

(c) The future programme of work of the Committee, including the schedule of expected meetings which it considers necessary for the fulfilment of its programme of work, for the consideration and approval of the Conference of the Parties.

Other subsidiary bodies

37. Where the activities of the Committee with respect to particular issues overlap with the responsibilities of another Stockholm Convention body, Committee may consult with that body.

Other multilateral environmental agreements

38. Where relevant, the Committee may solicit information, upon request by the Conference of the Parties [,or directly,] from compliance committees dealing with hazardous substances and wastes under the auspices of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and report on these activities to the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the compliance mechanism

39. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation and effectiveness of the procedures and mechanisms set forth in the present decision.

Relationship with dispute settlement

40. These procedures and mechanisms shall be without prejudice to Article 18 of the Convention.

Rules of Procedure

41. The rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Committee except as otherwise provided for in these procedures.

42. The Committee may develop any additional rules that may be required and shall submit them to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and approval.]
