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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Other matters

Terms of office of members of the Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting,¹ 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.”

2. According to paragraphs 3 and 4 of its terms of reference, the Committee shall consist of 31 members drawn from 5 different regions. These members “shall be government-designated experts in chemical assessment or management from Parties.”

3. Paragraph 7 of the terms of reference states:

“For the purposes of these initial appointments 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.”

4. According to paragraph 8 of the Committee’s terms of reference, 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.”

5. Appendix II to the terms of reference contains the list of Governments identified by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting to nominate a member to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. Parties identified to nominate members for an initial term of two years were: Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Fiji, Mauritius, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/1.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31, annex I, decision SC-1/7, annex.

Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Yemen. Parties identified to nominate members for an initial term of four years were: Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden and Thailand.

6. Following the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, members of the Committee were nominated by the Parties identified to do so. The appointment of those members was confirmed by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, in paragraph 2 of decision SC-2/8.²

7. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in Geneva, from 1 to 5 May 2006. Thus, the terms of office of the Committee members commenced on 5 May 2006, the date on which decision SC-2/8 was adopted. The terms of office of those members with initial terms of two years will end on 4 May 2008. Those of members with initial terms of four years will end on 4 May 2010.

8. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held from 30 April to 4 May 2007 and the fourth meeting will be held two years later, in 2009. Consequently, the terms of office of those Committee members with initial terms of two years will expire after the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, but before the fourth meeting. Therefore, the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting will need to decide on a list of Parties that are to nominate a member to the Committee to fill the offices of those members whose initial term expires on 4 May 2008. The newly-nominated members would have a term of office from 5 May 2008 to 4 May 2012.

9. To facilitate the nomination process, Parties may wish to consider selecting an individual whose name could be put forward to the Committee in the event that they are identified by the Conference of the Parties to make such a nomination. This would allow the Conference of the Parties to confirm the appointment of the new Committee members prior to the close of its third meeting.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30, annex I.