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**United Nations
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Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
Third meeting
Geneva, 19–23 November 2007
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Bioaccumulation assessment

Consideration of the screening criteria on bioaccumulation set forth in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Annex D of the Stockholm Convention

Note by the Secretariat

1. Annex D of the Convention relates to information requirements and screening criteria for listing new chemicals under the Convention's Annexes A, B or C. Subparagraph 1 (c) of Annex D relates to bioaccumulation data required for screening purposes as follows:

“(i) Evidence that the bio-concentration factor or bio-accumulation factor in aquatic species for the chemical is greater than 5,000 or, in the absence of such data, that the log K_{ow} is greater than 5;

(ii) Evidence that the chemical presents other reasons for concern, such as high bio-accumulation in other species, high toxicity or ecotoxicity; or

(iii) Monitoring data in biota indicating that the bio-accumulation potential of the chemical is sufficient to justify its consideration within the scope of this Convention”.

2. At the second meeting of the Committee and the third meeting of the Conference of Parties, it was requested that, in evaluating new substances, the Review Committee should give due consideration to the full range of screening criteria listed in Annex D of the Convention, including the three criteria relating to bioaccumulation, in order to ensure that the Convention retained its focus on chemicals about which there was broad global concern.

3. In response to that request, the Chairman of the Committee proposed to address, at the third meeting of the Committee, the issue of assessing bioaccumulation potential when a substance does not quite fulfil all or any of the quantitative criteria listed in subparagraph 1 (c) (i) of Annex D.

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/1/Rev.1.

4. Document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/INF/8 discusses how the Committee may consider “high bioaccumulation in other species, high toxicity or ecotoxicity” and “ monitoring data in biota” as surrogates for suitable quantitative bioaccumulation or bioconcentration factors in aquatic species of greater than 5,000 or a log Kow greater than 5.

Possible action by the Committee

5. The Committee may wish:

- (a) To discuss the issue of the screening criteria for bioaccumulation which was raised at the second meeting of the Committee;
 - (b) To consider the information provided in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/INF/8;
 - (c) To agree on an approach to evaluating the bioaccumulation potential of chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention.
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