

SC-1/15: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Adopts* the guidance on technical assistance contained in the annex to the present decision and recommends its use by Parties and the financial mechanism of the Convention;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to transmit the guidance on technical assistance to Parties, donors, relevant intergovernmental organizations and the entity or entities participating in the financial mechanism for consideration when developing and implementing their work programmes;
3. *Further requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in application of the guidance on technical assistance to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision SC-1/15

Guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies

Introduction

1. Pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 12 of the Convention, technical assistance to be provided by developed country Parties, and other Parties in accordance with their capabilities, should include, as appropriate and as mutually agreed, technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for capacity-building relating to the implementation of Parties' obligations under the Convention. The aim of the present document is to provide guidance for potential donors and providers of technical assistance in their programme development.

Sources of technical assistance

2. The experience gained during the interim period suggests that potential sources of technical assistance might include:

(a) *Intergovernmental organizations*: Intergovernmental organizations have been active in the interim period either individually, in partnership with others (for example, through the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)) or as implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). IOMC works directly with the Secretariat and serves as a coordinating mechanism facilitating action by its participating organizations on issues related to the Convention and identifying potential needs, and also areas in which those organizations can be of assistance. Other intergovernmental organizations and regional development banks may interact directly at all levels, for example with the Secretariat, with regional and subregional centres, including through their regional offices where appropriate, and with the Stockholm Convention national focal points;

(b) *Developed countries through their bilateral development agencies*: In coordination with focal points in recipient countries, bilateral development agencies are expected to be actively involved in the provision of technical assistance and should be able to promote funding programmes and identify opportunities, allowing them to tailor their assistance to the needs of recipient countries;

(c) *Non-governmental organizations and civil society*: Non-governmental organizations and civil society are key players in the implementation of the Convention and are also potential sources of technical assistance. Thus, they can play a direct role in the execution of projects. Their potential to mobilize funding and raise awareness is an important asset at the regional and national levels. Regional centres, if established, could develop strategies to encourage the involvement of the private sector by highlighting investment opportunities in relevant areas. In that

connection, Governments and other partners are encouraged to establish an enabling environment suitable for attracting technology-transfer enterprises;

(d) *Research institutions and universities*: In playing a leading role in scientific research and the discovery and analysis of cutting-edge technology, research institutions and universities can offer valuable information on alternative strategies and remediation programmes for POPs. These entities are resources for training exercises and for locating workshops to allow technical information flow to policy makers, Government regulators and technicians, users and exposed consumers.

3. In addition, the Secretariat, pursuant to paragraphs 2 (b) and (c) of Article 20 of the Convention, should facilitate assistance to the Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of the Convention, and ensure the necessary coordination with the Secretariats of other relevant international bodies.

Eligibility

4. Eligibility for technical assistance under the Convention is subject to the following criteria:

(a) *Country eligibility*: To be eligible to receive technical assistance under the Stockholm Convention, a country must be:

- (i) A developing country or a country with an economy in transition; and
- (ii) A Party to the Convention;

(b) *Eligible activities*: Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 12, eligible activities must include, as appropriate and as mutually agreed, technical assistance for capacity-building to implement obligations under the Convention.

Policy and strategy

5. The rendering of timely and appropriate technical assistance in response to requests from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition is essential to the successful implementation of the Convention.

6. Technical assistance should be tailored to Parties' specific needs with the aim of enabling them to implement their obligations under the Convention. Requests must therefore be country driven. When providing technical assistance in the context of Article 12 of the Convention, donors should take full account of the specific needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, especially of the least developed countries and small island developing States which are Parties to the Convention.

7. In addition to providing the basis for Parties' actions in meeting their obligations under the Convention, the implementation plans called for in Article 7 of the Convention provide an indication of the needs of Parties, including the need for technical assistance. Collectively, the national implementation plans are a valuable input to the Conference of the Parties in its consideration of the technical assistance to be provided to Parties under Article 12.

8. When considering technical assistance and technology transfer, Parties should take into account the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices developed pursuant to Article 5 (c) of the Convention.

9. To minimize duplication of efforts and ensure timely delivery of adequate technical assistance, synergies should be identified and promoted with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations, institutions and processes, including the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Identified areas of technical assistance and technology transfer needs and priorities

10. Priority consideration should be given to the provision of technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies relevant to:

(a) Development, updating and implementation of the national implementation plans called for in Article 7 of the Convention;

(b) Review of available infrastructure, capacity and institutions at the national and local levels and the potential to strengthen them in the light of the Convention;

(c) Training for decision-makers, managers and personnel responsible for issues related to the Convention in:

- (i) Persistent organic pollutants identification;
- (ii) Technical assistance needs identification;
- (iii) Project proposal writing;
- (iv) Legislation development and enforcement;
- (v) Development of an inventory of persistent organic pollutants;
- (vi) Risk assessment and management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans;
- (vii) Evaluation of social and economic impacts;
- (viii) Development of pollutant release and transfer registers;

(d) The development and strengthening of research capacity at the national, subregional and regional levels, including:

- (i) The development and introduction of alternatives to persistent organic pollutants, with special emphasis on reducing the need for specific exemptions;
- (ii) The training of technical personnel;

(e) The development and establishment of laboratory capacity, including the promotion of standard sampling and analysis procedures for the validation of inventories;

(f) The development, implementation and enforcement of regulatory controls and incentives for the sound management of persistent organic pollutants;

(g) The identification and disposal of persistent organic pollutant wastes, including transfer of environmentally sound technologies for the destruction of such wastes;

(h) The identification and promotion of best available techniques and best environmental practices;

(i) The identification and remediation of sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;

(j) The development and updating of a list of technologies that are available to be transferred to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Article 12 of the Convention;

(k) The promotion of awareness-raising and information-dissemination programmes, including awareness-raising among the general public, of issues related to the Convention;

(l) The identification of obstacles and barriers to the transfer of technology and identification of the means to overcome them;

(m) Effectiveness evaluation, including monitoring of levels of persistent organic pollutants.

Updating the guidance

11. Recognizing that needs and circumstances will change over time at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, Parties are invited, when developing and implementing their national implementation plans as called for in Article 7 of the Convention, to identify areas and issues not covered in paragraph 10 above for which they may require technical assistance, and to transmit that information to the Secretariat.

12. The Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the present guidance on a regular basis and update and prioritize it as appropriate.