**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**اتفاقية استكهولم بشأن الملوثات العضوية الثابتة • 关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约 • Convention de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes • Стокгольмская конвенция о стойких органических загрязнителях

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04 June 2009

Subject: Invitation to submit comments to the POPs Review Committee on the “Draft general guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for POPs” and on the “Draft annotated outline for a guidance document on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS)”

The fourth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee took place on 13-17 October 2008 in Geneva. The report of the meeting is available at the Convention website: <http://www.pops.int/poprc/>.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on substitution and alternatives to POPs with the mandate to develop a text that describes the issues relating to alternatives and indicate the considerations related to persistence, bioaccumulation, long-range transport and toxicity that should be taken into account when dealing with possible alternative chemicals. In accordance with its mandate, the intersessional working group has prepared a draft general guidance text on alternatives to POPs, which is attached to the present letter.

Furthermore, the intersessional working group was also mandated to consider the modalities for producing a document on perfluorooctane sulfonate alternatives. Therefore, the group has drafted an outline for a possible guidance document. The development of the full guidance document is subject to approval by the POPs Review Committee at its fifth Meeting, scheduled to take place from 12 to 16 October 2009. A draft of this outline is also attached to the present letter.

Parties and observers are invited to submit comments on the two documents. Please send your feedback by **26 June 2009** to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention preferably by e-mail (ssc@pops.int), or by regular mail at:

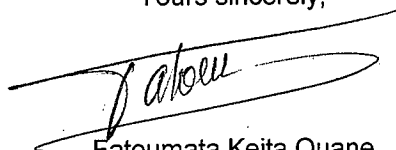
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Att: POPs Review Committee
Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane
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To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Point
Stockholm Convention National Focal Points

cc: Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva

If you have any further questions regarding this invitation or you would like to receive hard copies of the documents from the POPs Review Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kei Ohno (e-mail: kisobe@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8201).

Yours sincerely,



Fatoumata Keita Ouane
Lead, Scientific and technical team
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Attachments: Draft general guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for POPs
Draft annotated outline for a guidance document on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS)