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Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Third meeting
Dakar, 30 April–4 May 2007

Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its third meeting

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was held at the Méridien President Hotel, Dakar, Senegal, from 30 April to 4 May 2007.
2. The meeting commenced at 10.45 a.m. on Monday, 30 April 2007, with welcoming comments by Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, whose entry to the conference hall was marked by a rousing performance of traditional drumming. Mr. Wade introduced Mr. Nicholas Kiddle (New Zealand), outgoing President of the Conference of the Parties, who delivered an opening address and formally declared the meeting open.
3. Additional opening statements were made by Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), speaking on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, and Mr. Wade.
4. In his address, Mr. Kiddle thanked the Government of Senegal for hosting the current meeting, noting that it was especially valuable to hold such gatherings in developing countries because it raised awareness of United Nations environmental and human health goals and the ways that the Stockholm Convention could help meet them. He said that much had been achieved in the past year and drew attention to the work of the Convention's subsidiary bodies and the success of efforts to draft persistent organic pollutants waste guidelines and to enhance coordination among the Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. He praised those Governments that had drafted national implementation plans and needs assessments and called on others to do so in order to build a comprehensive picture of needs requirements. The Global Environment Facility's recent moves to review and revise its strategies on persistent organic pollutants and on cross-cutting chemicals management promised to create a more sustainable financial base for implementation of the Convention.
5. On behalf of Mr. Steiner, Mr. Kante paid tribute to the efforts of the Governments present to implement the Convention since its entry into force. He stressed that the Convention was of key importance because it addressed issues of environmental and human health and cited the example of DDT use to illustrate the threats that persistent organic pollutants posed and the obstacles to ending their use. Saying that the Convention had an important role to play alongside the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, he pledged that UNEP would support the promotion of synergies among the three conventions. The Conference, he suggested, should consider how to emulate the success of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that

Deplete the Ozone Layer, which had been in force for 20 years. There was also a need to address the issue of alternatives to persistent organic pollutants and it was vital to ensure that the industrial and non-governmental sectors contributed to that work.

6. Mr. Wade said that certain chemicals developed in the past to combat disease and increase agricultural productivity now constituted a threat to human health and the environment. DDT, for example, continued to be vital in the fight against malaria, especially in the poorest countries, but was a known threat to health and environment whose use had to be eliminated as soon as effective and affordable alternatives could be identified. There was, therefore, an urgent need for increased international research and the development of alternatives. The capacity of persistent organic pollutants for long-range, transboundary movement made them a global problem that could only be solved through joint efforts.

7. The growing number of Governments that had ratified multilateral environmental agreements in recent years, he said, demonstrated an increased international awareness of the importance of sustainable development and the interplay of economic growth, social progress and protection of human health and the environment. Such agreements were not always implemented, however, and both compliance and enforcement were sometimes lacking. He praised efforts to increase synergies between the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and encouraged intergovernmental organizations to pursue similar cooperation. He concluded by saying that for developing countries in particular the solution to the persistent organic pollutants problem lay not only in identifying resources to implement the Convention but in actually mobilizing them by moving from talk to action.

II. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

8. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, 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.

9. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries as observers: Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

10. The representative of Palestine attended the meeting as an observer.

11. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University, World Bank and World Health Organization.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Basel Convention Regional Centre for Francophone Africa, Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

13. Non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/34).

B. Election of officers

14. The Conference elected Mr. Thierno Lo (Senegal) as President of the Conference to replace Mr. Kiddle, whose term of office ended with the commencement of the current session in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

15. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of rule 22, the following Vice-Presidents elected at the second meeting of the Conference served during the current meeting:

Ms. Anahit Aleksandryna (Armenia)
 Mr. Desiré Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)
 Ms. Katya Stanke Vasileva (Bulgaria)
 Mr. Nicholas Kiddle (New Zealand)
 Mr. Jan-Karel B.H. Kwisthout (Netherlands)
 Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay)

16. Pursuant to rule 22, Mr. Kwisthout also served as Rapporteur.

17. Several vice-presidents elected at the second meeting of the Conference, Mr. Deon Stewart (Bahamas), Mr. Tarek Eid Mohammed Mahmoud El-Ruby (Egypt), Mr. Naresh Dayal (India) and Ms. Navaan-Yunden Oyundari (Mongolia), were unable to attend the current meeting. Accordingly, Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) was elected to serve in place of Mr. Stewart, Mr. R.K. Vaish (India) was elected to serve in place of Mr. Dayal and Mr. Undes Lkhagra (Mongolia) was elected to serve in place of Ms. Oyundari. Also, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 22, which states that the Bureau is to consist of two representatives from each of the five United Nations regions, the African region seat on the Bureau which Mr. El-Ruby had occupied was allocated to Mr. Lo, who occupied it as President of the Conference.

18. The Conference elected the following Vice-Presidents, whose terms of office commenced upon the closure of the third meeting of the Parties and would run until the closure of the fourth meeting of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure:

Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)
 Mr. Yue Ruisheng (China)
 Ms. Katarina Sebkova (Czech Republic)
 Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Islamic Republic of Iran)
 Mr. Atle Berndt Fretheim (Norway)
 Ms. Liudmila Marduhaeva (Republic of Moldova)
 Mr. John Roberts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
 Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay)
 Mr. Edward Zulu (Zambia)

C. Adoption of the agenda

19. The Conference adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.
4. Report on the credentials of representatives to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use:
 - (i) DDT;
 - (ii) Exemptions;
 - (iii) Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3;

- (b) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production:
 - (i) Best available techniques and best environmental practices;
 - (ii) Identification and quantification of releases;
 - (c) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes;
 - (d) Implementation plans;
 - (e) Listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention;
 - (f) Information exchange;
 - (g) Technical assistance;
 - (h) Financial resources;
 - (i) Reporting;
 - (j) Effectiveness evaluation;
 - (k) Non-compliance;
 - (l) Synergies.
- 6. Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget.
 - 7. Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 - 8. Other matters.
 - 9. Adoption of the report.
 - 10. Closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

20. In carrying out its work at the current meeting, the Conference had before it working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the meeting agenda. Those documents, listed according to the agenda items to which they pertain, are set out in annex II to the present report.

21. The Conference agreed to establish a committee of the whole, chaired by Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic), to work on agenda item 5 and to prepare and approve draft decisions for consideration by the Conference. The Conference also agreed to establish a budget group, which was to select its own chair, that would consider matters under agenda item 6, Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget, and would prepare one or more draft decisions for consideration by the Conference. The Conference also agreed to establish such other contact and drafting groups as it considered necessary.

III. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

22. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the issue for consideration by the Conference was whether to adopt the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 of the rules of procedure set out in the annex to decision SC-1/1, relating to the adoption of decisions on substantive matters by consensus or by two-thirds majority vote. The Conference had at its first meeting adopted those rules of procedure in their entirety with the exception of that sentence, which had been enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been adopted. At its second meeting the Conference had considered the same issue and had agreed to defer taking a formal decision at that time.

23. The Conference agreed that it would not take a formal decision on the item at the current meeting, that the square brackets around the second sentence of paragraph 45 would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.

IV. Report on the credentials of representatives to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

24. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau would examine the credentials of the representatives participating in the current meeting and submit a report to the Conference on the results of its examination during the current meeting. He also recalled that at the second meeting of the Conference the Bureau had noted with concern that a number of Parties had failed to submit credentials in the correct form and that it had urged all Parties to follow the correct procedures for submission of credentials in the future and had recommended that the Bureau of the third meeting of the Conference consider a different approach to examination of credentials based on the procedures followed by the governing bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements, pursuant to which Parties who failed to submit proper credentials were permitted to participate as observers only.

25. Under the item, the representative of the Secretariat also provided a brief summary of the status of ratifications of the Convention, noting that 138 Parties had lodged instruments of ratification or accession with the Depositary for the Stockholm Convention prior to the deadline for participation as Parties at the current meeting, which was 30 January 2007. Six other States had lodged their instruments after 30 January 2007 and were therefore entitled to participate as observers.

26. On the morning of Friday, 4 May, the Bureau reported that it had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 95 Parties that had registered for the meeting. Of those, 89 had submitted credentials in proper form. Two Parties, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates, had submitted credentials in the form of letters from their embassy or ministry for foreign affairs signed by officials other than the minister for foreign affairs. Four Parties, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia and the Syrian Arab Republic, did not submit credentials for their representatives. The Conference accordingly agreed that the latter six Parties would be recorded in the present report as having participated in the current meeting as observers. The report of the Bureau on credentials is set out in annex III to the present report.

V. Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties

A. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

1. DDT

27. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat reported that, in accordance with decision SC-3/2, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, had taken steps to review the process for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control and to provide guidance to the Conference at its current meeting. He drew attention to the findings of that review, which were set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/4, and to the report of an expert group meeting on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control, which contained a proposal for the creation of a business plan to enhance global partnerships for the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT. He added that, in consultation with the expert group and the World Health Organization, the Secretariat had prepared a revised version of the questionnaire on DDT production and use that the Conference had adopted with its decision SC-1/25.

28. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives stressed that DDT remained a vital component of disease vector control strategies; some said that they were considering resuming its use and several suggested that climate change could increase reliance on DDT by contributing to the spread of malaria. There was broad agreement, however, that efforts should be made to eliminate DDT use in the long term: among the widespread concerns about the dangers to human health and the environment was the fear that DDT, if used too liberally or for purposes unrelated to disease control, would lead to the resistance of vectors. Reference was made to the commitment of the World Health Organization to promote the reduction of reliance on DDT while strengthening malaria vector control. Some representatives called on Parties to report on DDT use in an accurate and timely fashion and commended the Secretariat on the improved version of the questionnaire. Others called for international collaboration to strengthen the capacity of Parties to meet their reporting obligations. In order to mitigate the negative effects of ending DDT use, there were widespread calls for efforts to identify

locally safe, effective and affordable alternative products, methods and strategies, and many representatives welcomed the proposed business plan for the development and deployment of alternatives. Some representatives also called for capacity-building and technical assistance to provide access to and raise awareness about alternatives and integrated vector management. One representative said that some of the components of the questionnaire for reporting by each Party on production and use of DDT were imprecise, potentially hindering accurate completion of the questionnaire.

29. The Committee of the Whole requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

30. Decision SC-3/2 on DDT, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

2. Exemptions

31. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its second meeting the Conference of the Parties had in decision SC-2/3 agreed to resume consideration of the unresolved issues pertaining to the review process for entries in the register of specific exemptions adopted by the Conference at its first meeting in decision SC-1/24.

32. One representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization and its member States, said that extensions of exemptions should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. He suggested that the Conference of the Parties' guidance to the Global Environment Facility should feature incentives intended to encourage GEF-eligible countries to reduce specific persistent organic pollutants instead of pursuing exemptions. Some representatives said that the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee possessed the technical expertise to become usefully involved in the review process for entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions. Others said that the Committee was already fully occupied with other important responsibilities.

33. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

34. At the time the Committee approved the draft decision for consideration by the Conference, the representative of Australia announced that his country intended formally to withdraw its exemption under paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the Convention for the use of mirex as a bait control for the giant termite in Northern Australia.

35. Decision SC-3/3 on the revised process for the review of entries in the register of specific exemptions, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted as orally amended by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

3. Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3

36. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that by paragraph 7 of Article 19 of the Convention, the Conference, at its third meeting, was required to evaluate the continued need for the procedure contained in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention, including consideration of its effectiveness. He said that, to date, the Secretariat had received no certification from any importer to an exporting Party specifying the intended use of chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention, as required under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3. He noted too that the Secretariat had received some national reports submitted under Article 15, which required Parties to provide information on exports of chemicals listed in Annexes A and B and, to the extent practicable, a list of States to which exports had taken place. The Secretariat, however, had not had time to analyse those reports prior to the current meeting.

37. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

38. Decision SC-3/4 on evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

B. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

1. Best available techniques and best environmental practices

39. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that in response to decision SC-1/19 two meetings of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices had been held, in 2005 and 2006. The Expert Group had produced a revised draft of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices. The co-chairs of the Expert Group, Mr. Bo Wahlstrom (Sweden) and Mr. Yu Gang (China), presented reports on the process by which the revised draft had been developed.

40. All representatives who spoke commended the work of the Expert Group and the Secretariat in producing the revised draft. The guidelines were welcomed and most representatives supported their immediate adoption and implementation, though one representative cautioned that some Parties might have difficulty with immediate implementation. Most representatives agreed that the revised draft had succeeded in accommodating the views and needs of a wide spectrum of stakeholders, though further financing, technical assistance, training and awareness raising would be required to enable effective implementation of the guidelines in developing countries or countries with economies in transition. One representative suggested urging the Global Environment Facility to consider implementation of the guidelines as a funding priority. As regards the regional and subregional awareness-raising workshops planned for the period 2007–2008, one representative said that priority should be given to those regions where they were most needed. Some representatives spoke of the need to ensure that the implementation of the guidelines took due account of local social, environmental, cultural and technological considerations.

41. During the discussion of the sub-item, one representative indicated that with respect to the section of the guidelines on production of pulp using elemental chlorine or chemicals generating elemental chlorine, which concluded that the “elemental chlorine-free” bleaching process offered various advantages over the “totally chlorine-free” process, her country was of the view that the alternatives to the method of wood pulp production using elemental chlorine should be evaluated case by case, giving due consideration to the specific circumstances of the industrial concern that anticipated using that method, including its location.

42. A general view emerged from the discussion that information gathered on experiences gained during implementation and field-testing of the guidelines during the intersessional period could be used by the Secretariat to compile a report for presentation to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, where a decision might be made on the best means of updating the guidelines on the basis of the knowledge gained. Several representatives stressed that the guidelines were a living document and that the process of revision should be continuing and proactive.

43. The Committee of the Whole requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

44. Decision SC-3/5 on guidelines on best available techniques and draft guidance on best environmental practices, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

2. Identification and quantification of releases

45. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the documentation on the sub-item and recalled that in its decision SC-2/5, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to initiate an open, transparent process to develop further and improve the usefulness of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases.

46. Many representatives praised the Toolkit as an important resource. A number outlined its contribution to the development of national implementation plans or their countries' involvement in projects that increased awareness of the Toolkit, supported training in its use or had otherwise featured it in efforts to identify, quantify and reduce releases from unintentional production of persistent organic pollutants.

47. There was nevertheless broad agreement that the Toolkit could be further enhanced. There was general support for the proposed process for reviewing and updating the Toolkit and many representatives also highlighted issues that they believed required additional attention. Those included

improving emission factors, particularly in developing countries; filling in emission factors for hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB); improving the usefulness, clarity and user friendliness of the Toolkit; increasing awareness of and training on the Toolkit; developing methodologies for addressing uncertainty; giving more attention to regional, subregional and local variations in climatic, technological, economic, and social conditions; facilitating exchange of experiences in using the Toolkit; ensuring the cost-effectiveness of the review, particularly considering other budget priorities; and increasing financial and technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to take full advantage of the Toolkit and otherwise identify, quantify, inventory and reduce releases from unintentional production of persistent organic pollutants.

48. The representative of the World Health Organization drew attention to the fact that the organization had in 2005 updated its toxic equivalency factors for dioxins and related compounds.

49. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

50. Decision SC-3/6 on guidelines on the standardized toolkit for identification and quantification of releases, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

51. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat noted that, pursuant to a request of the Conference of Parties at its second meeting, it had prepared a report on the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes that the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had subsequently adopted by its decision VIII/16. He added that in order to help developing country Parties and those with economies in transition to understand and implement the guidelines, the Secretariat was, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, proposing training activities.

52. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed their support for the Basel Convention guidelines. There was disagreement, however, on the role that the guidelines should play in the context of the Stockholm Convention. Noting the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention and the efforts currently under way to promote synergies between the chemicals and wastes conventions, several representatives, including that of a regional economic integration organization and its member States, suggested that the Conference should establish levels of destruction or irreversible transformation of persistent organic pollutants, determine methods of environmentally sound disposal and establish low persistent organic pollutant content levels. Others argued, however, that doing so could lead to a duplication of work done under the Basel Convention and could lead to the emergence of conflicting rules under the two conventions as the guidelines continued to evolve. Adopting the rules, they said, would actually diminish the synergies between the instruments. Several representatives also stressed the need for capacity-building to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to use the guidelines.

53. Following the debate and informal consultations, the Committee approved a draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

54. Following approval of the draft decision by the Committee of the Whole, one representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization and its member States, welcomed the draft decision and said that when the definitions for destruction or irreversible transformation of persistent organic pollutants and low persistent organic pollutant content levels determined under the Basel Convention were no longer provisional the Parties upon whose behalf he spoke might wish at some point to reconsider the decision in the context of the Stockholm Convention and that they would work with others to improve the technical guidelines over time. One representative supported those remarks and also joined another representative in stating that there was a need to take great care in adapting standards elaborated under the Basel Convention to use under the Stockholm Convention given that the essential aim of the former was to control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes whereas the aim of the latter was to eliminate persistent organic pollutants.

55. Decision SC-3/7 on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

D. Implementation plans

56. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to the relevant documentation, outlined action taken to date in accordance with decisions SC-1/12 and SC-2/7 and presented a list of Parties that had to date transmitted their implementation plans to the Secretariat.

57. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives reported on the development, status or projected delivery of their country's national implementation plans. They expressed gratitude for the financial assistance that their Governments had received from GEF and the technical support provided by, among others, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral donors, which had been key to developing the plans. Several reported that their countries had used the guidance on national implementation plan development that had been adopted by the Conference at its first session, but some suggested that the complexity of the guidance had deterred many other countries from doing so. Many emphasized that as the focus shifted from developing the plans to implementing them, it would be crucial to mobilize increased levels of financial and technical assistance, including capacity-building activities, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention. Some representatives called for consideration of how to ease the burden of co-financing activities for developing countries. The representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States called on Parties to identify their implementation priorities and called for the Secretariat to compile a report summarizing them in order to clarify countries' technical assistance needs.

58. General support was expressed for the draft guidance on socio-economic assessment and several representatives offered specific suggestions for its improvement, including increasing consideration for the costs associated with controlling additional persistent organic pollutants, enhancing the focus on core obligations under the Convention and making it simpler, more practical and more user friendly. Some representatives stressed that the complexity of the new guidelines necessitated that training be provided to countries on their use. Several representatives suggested that the Secretariat consult broadly, including in particular with GEF and experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, when completing any further work on the draft guidance called for in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12.

59. Following the debate, the Committee approved a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

60. Decision SC-3/8 on national implementation plans, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

E. Listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention

61. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat reviewed the activities undertaken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the second meeting of which had been held in November 2006, including consideration of chemicals for listing in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention; development of a code of practice for the treatment of confidential information; and the treatment of isomers. She also asked the Committee of the Whole to consider a list of 14 new members of the Review Committee who would replace those whose two-year terms of office would expire in May 2008. Mr. Reiner Arndt (Germany), Chair of the Review Committee, delivered a report on the work of the Committee, urging Parties to contribute to the intersessional work on the draft risk profiles and risk management evaluations for the chemicals currently under consideration.

62. There was general approval, in the ensuing debate, of the work carried out by the Review Committee and broad support for the possible action proposed. Some representatives urged that, in evaluating new substances, the Review Committee give due consideration to the full range of screening criteria listed in Annex D of the Convention, including the three criteria relating to bio-accumulation, in order to ensure that the Convention retained its focus on chemicals about which there was broad global concern. One representative urged the Review Committee and the Conference of the Parties to reinforce the need for Parties to provide a comparison of toxicity data as specified in Annex D of the Convention, including that relating to bioaccumulation, in order to ensure that the Convention retained its focus on chemicals of global concern.

63. Several representatives drew attention to the need for further capacity-building and technical support in developing countries to enable them to provide information on chemicals being evaluated. Some representatives stated that further consideration also needed to be given to how such substances as perfluorooctane sulfonate and its precursors, commercial mixtures and isomers should be dealt with under the Convention.

64. On the issue of confidentiality, several representatives said that transparent sharing of information was essential to the decision-making process. One representative drew a distinction between categories of business information that might qualify as confidential and information of importance for health and safety to humans and the environment, which should not be regarded as confidential. One representative emphasized his Government's view that no reason existed to treat as confidential information on production and use of a nominated chemical, information submitted pursuant to the processes under Annexes E and F of the Convention, information otherwise publicly available or information not considered confidential under relevant domestic legislation in the relevant country. To list very low-volume chemicals, or chemicals in cases where all relevant information on production volumes was confidential, was similarly unreasonable.

65. Responding to the points raised, Mr. Arndt said that the issue of fulfilling the bioaccumulation criteria under Annex D would be considered at the next meeting of the Review Committee. He said that perfluorooctane sulfonate had been identified as a persistent organic pollutant and that discussion was continuing on how to treat its precursors. Regarding the provision of information on socio-economic considerations under Annex F, Parties had an opportunity to supply that for the chemicals being evaluated. He suggested that a clear confidentiality regime might encourage the voluntary provision of information but agreed that transparency should be maintained.

66. Regarding the membership of the Review Committee, the Committee of the Whole endorsed the appointment, as Norway's representative, of Ms. Liselott Säll in place of Ms. Janneche Utne Skåre.

67. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

68. Decision SC-3/9 on listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

69. In accordance with decision SC-3/9, the following experts were nominated as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, with terms to commence on 5 May 2008, by the Parties listed in the annex to decision SC-3/9:

From the African group:	Mr. Abderaman Mahamat Abderaman (Chad), Mr. John Pwamang (Ghana) Mr. Mohammad Aslam Yadallee (Mauritius); Mr. Sanda Komla (Togo)
From the Central and Eastern Europe group:	Mr. Ivan Panayotov Dombalov (Bulgaria)
From the Latin America and Caribbean group:	Mr. Ricardo Barra (Chile); Ms Mirtha Ferrary (Honduras)
From the Western Europe and others group:	Mr. Silvain Bintein (France); Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland); Ms Conceição Alvim (Portugal)

70. The Asia and the Pacific region agreed during the current meeting that Cambodia, India, Republic of Korea and Syria would nominate experts to serve on the Committee. The names of those experts, however, were not available by the time of the close of the meeting.

F. Information exchange

71. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the documentation on the sub-item and recalled that in its decision SC-2/17 the Conference of the Parties had approved pilot-phase information-exchange activities and requested the Secretariat to prepare, taking into account comments received, a revised draft of the strategic plan for the clearing-house mechanism for consideration by the Conference at its third meeting.

72. During the ensuing discussion, representatives agreed on the importance of information exchange and the clearing-house mechanism to facilitating the implementation of the Convention. A representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States proposed extending the pilot phase and considering the issue at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in order to consider experiences with clearinghouse mechanisms under other conventions and explore potential synergies with other chemicals-related Conventions and international institutions. Other parties favoured the immediate implementation of the strategic plan.

73. The representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States emphasized that information exchange, including the clearing-house mechanism, was an area in which synergies could yield important benefits and suggested that no decision taken at the current meeting should limit future action that might result from positive developments arising from the joint ad hoc working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

74. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

75. Decision SC-3/10 on information exchange, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

G. Technical assistance

76. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the documentation on the sub-item and recalled that in its decision SC-2/9 the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on progress in the application of the guidance on technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technology and to develop draft terms of reference for selecting regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology in accordance with guidelines provided in the decision.

77. There was broad agreement regarding the importance of effective technical assistance and capacity-building and the role that regional and subregional centres could play in providing it. Many representatives supported the use of existing institutions, with a number expressing specific support for utilizing centres established under the Basel Convention in order to promote synergies, reduce costs, increase effectiveness and accelerate the provision of technical assistance. Others supported utilizing other types of institutions in addition to existing Basel Convention regional centres. Some favored long-term designations while others supported periodic evaluations or assigning projects and resources on a project basis in order to maximize resources and flexibility.

78. Many developing country representatives stated that the existing quantity, quality, timeliness, modalities and target areas of technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building were inadequate to meet the urgent needs of developing countries with respect to their implementation of the Convention. Others said that there were significant and expanding resources for technical assistance and capacity-building activities, particularly through the Global Environment Facility, and argued that the issue was how to spend that money as effectively as possible.

79. The Committee of the Whole agreed to establish a contact group, to be chaired by Mr. Jozef Buys (Belgium) and Ms. Angelina Madete (United Republic of Tanzania) to consider the issues raised during the discussion and prepare one or more draft decisions for the consideration of the Committee.

80. Following its deliberations, the contact group produced a draft decision for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole on technical assistance. The Committee approved the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties. The contact group also produced a draft decision on the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer which, owing to the shortness of time, was submitted directly to the Conference of the Parties in plenary session for its consideration and possible adoption.

81. Decision SC-3/11 on technical assistance, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and decision SC-3/12 on terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention, submitted by the contact group on technical assistance and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are contained in annex I to the present report.

H. Financial resources

82. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the various reports that it had prepared. He drew attention in particular to three issues that could require action by the Conference: the draft terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism, which the Secretariat had produced in accordance with decision SC-2/10; the preliminary assessment of funding needs for developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, prepared pursuant to decision SC-2/12; and the report of the GEF Council on its activities related to the Stockholm Convention, provided in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties.

83. Following that introduction, the representative of GEF provided a summary of the GEF Council's report. He highlighted that under the fourth replenishment of GEF, funding for the persistent organic pollutants focal area had amounted to \$300 million and that the new Chief Executive Officer of GEF, Ms. Monique Barbut, had emphasized making access to GEF funding much simpler and quicker. He also acknowledged the important role of the implementing agencies in assisting countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.

84. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed their appreciation for the work that had been undertaken by the Secretariat and GEF pursuant to the memorandum of understanding and lauded the amount of resources available under the fourth replenishment. Some representatives expressed their appreciation for the financial assistance that GEF had already afforded them. Others stressed that it was important for the Conference of the Parties to provide guidance to GEF on Party activities under the Convention and how best to use available resources.

85. While affirming that GEF should be the primary financial mechanism of the Convention, several representatives said that other sources of funding should be explored, including national, regional and private sources. One representative said that the financial mechanism should adapt to the changing needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and that the regions should assess those needs prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several representatives stressed the need to mobilize funds that were already available, which, they said, were not always easy to access. They also noted the importance of training, in particular for the Convention's national focal points, on the procedures for submitting GEF funding requests. Several representatives reiterated the need to include the persistent organic pollutants issue in national development plans and poverty reduction strategies in order to ensure that projects benefited from the fullest range of funding opportunities.

86. With regard to the needs assessment, many representatives expressed concern about the lack of an adequate and explicit methodology for analysing the available information to ensure the comparability of the findings. They stressed too that in order to justify spending allocations, it was vital that the needs assessment focus on determining funding priorities and that national implementation plans clearly indicate those priorities and implementation costs rather than provide only general descriptions. Many representatives questioned the need for a further preliminary assessment and expressed doubt over the usefulness of the plan to assess Parties' needs in the period 2006–2010, suggesting that when the Conference next met in 2009 it would have limited information about future needs upon which to base decisions and arguing that it would be more practical for the assessment to cover the years 2009–2013. Several representatives also said that the Secretariat might lack the expertise needed to assess the funding needs of Parties that were developing countries or countries with economies in transition and suggested that the task should be conferred on a small group of experts.

87. The Committee agreed that the contact group established to discuss technical assistance would consider the issues raised during the discussion and prepare one or more draft decisions for its consideration. Following its deliberations the contact group produced several draft decisions for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. It also produced a draft decision on the second review of the financial mechanism for the Committee's consideration.

88. Decision SC-3/13 on implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, decision SC--3/14 on resource mobilization, decision SC-3/15 on the needs assessment, decision SC-3/16 on additional guidance to the financial mechanism and decision SC-3/17 on the second review of the financial mechanism, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are contained in annex I to the present report.

I. Reporting

89. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew the attention of the Conference to the relevant documentation, outlined action taken to date in accordance with decisions SC-1/12 and SC-2/18 and presented a list of Parties that had submitted national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention.

90. Many representative provided updates on their progress in submitting reports. A number outlined difficulties that their Governments had encountered using the electronic system for reporting. Suggestions were made to improve the system, including correcting technical obstacles to submitting the reports; simplifying and making the questionnaire and overall process more user friendly; increasing the flexibility of the system to allow Parties to submit additional or different types of information; using all six official United Nations languages; providing training and capacity-building on the use of the system; addressing the situation of Parties that did not have reliable internet access; and collecting user experiences.

91. Responding to the issues raised, the representative of the Secretariat reported that the electronic system would be available in all six official languages in the very near future. A training session, which would include demonstrating the new language interfaces, would be held during the current meeting. He said that technical issues were addressed on an ongoing basis and should be brought to the attention of the Secretariat. Parties having difficulties using the electronic system could alternatively report using paper forms. As for the current reporting formats, they were based on the decisions taken by the Parties at their first and second meeting, but the Secretariat would be happy to work with Parties to improve them.

92. The Committee requested the Secretariat to consult those Parties that offered amendments and prepare a draft decision on reporting, taking into account the discussion during plenary. The Committee then approved the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

93. Decision SC-3/18 on reporting, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

J. Effectiveness evaluation

94. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat gave a detailed summary of the action taken by the Secretariat in response to decision SC-2/13, including the establishment of a provisional ad hoc technical working on the global monitoring plan. The Chair of the technical working group, Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic), presented a progress report on the work of the group, which included a number of key issues for consideration by the Conference.

95. Most representatives who spoke praised the work of the technical working group and expressed broad support for the institutional and procedural arrangements proposed by the group. Several stressed that the effectiveness evaluation should be cost-effective, practical, and achievable within the proposed timeframe. There was general agreement that the five United Nations regions should be used for purposes of the first monitoring report. Some representatives also favoured the suggestion that Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands be grouped together. Some representatives questioned whether the global coordination group was to complement or to succeed the technical working group and what its role would be in relation to the regional coordination groups.

96. Several representatives spoke of the relationship between the effectiveness evaluation and the availability of adequate resources, capacity-building and technical assistance to carry out the work. One stressed that in order to be fully effective the global monitoring plan required full stakeholder involvement, including civil society. Another representative said that data used for evaluation should be endorsed at the State level, as data produced by some institutions might be unreliable.

97. The Committee agreed to form a contact group to consider the matter further and prepare a draft decision for its consideration.

98. Following its deliberations, the contact group produced a draft decision for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole. The Committee then approved the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

99. Decision SC-3/19 on effectiveness evaluation, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties as orally amended, is contained in annex I to the present report.

K. Non-compliance

100. Introducing the sub-item, Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada), Chair of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-compliance, said that the group had held its second meeting during the previous week and had made significant progress on the draft text on proposed non-compliance procedures, though certain issues remained unresolved. She noted that for many countries the issues of technical assistance and compliance were closely linked.

101. It was agreed that a contact group, chaired by Ms. Daniel, would attempt to reach consensus on the outstanding issues. Following its deliberations, the contact group produced the revised text on the procedures and mechanisms under Article 17 of the Convention and a draft decision thereon for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole. In reporting on the group's work, Ms. Daniel stressed that, while some provisions of the procedures and mechanisms contained in the annex to the draft decision remained in square brackets to indicate that the group had not reached final agreement on them, the group had nevertheless made substantial progress: it had reached agreement on much previously bracketed text and had agreed, as provided in the draft decision, that the procedures and mechanisms as they then stood should be the basis for further negotiations at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

102. The Committee approved the draft decision prepared by the contact group for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

103. Decision SC-3/20 on non-compliance, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

104. Following adoption of the decision, the representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States emphasized that the organization and its member States attached great importance to the earliest possible finalization of the procedures and mechanisms as it would enable them to facilitate the provision of necessary assistance to Parties.

L. Synergies

105. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled the background leading to the convening of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, noting that it was the first time a joint meeting of the three conventions had been held. Considerable progress had been made under the able guidance of the three co-chairs, Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), Mr. Yue Ruisheng (China) and Ms. Kerstin Stendahl-Rechartt (Finland), and the cooperation and coordination already taking place among the conventions was welcomed.

106. Ms. Stendahl-Rechartt, speaking on behalf of the other co-chairs, said that the supplementary report prepared by Mr. Kiddle had been commended by the participants at the joint working group meeting. The ad hoc joint working group had noted current joint activities among the three conventions and encouraged that work to continue. It had also prepared a non-exhaustive list of principles and objectives to guide its work, a list of national needs that could be better addressed through achieving synergies and a matrix of possible areas for enhancing cooperation and coordination and had agreed that the issue of oversight and joint decision-making would be discussed later in the process. She noted that the co-chairs would prepare and circulate a consolidated document on those issues.

107. Adding to Ms. Stendahl-Rechartt's remarks, Mr. Yue paid tribute to the progress that had been made by the joint working group and said that implementation of its decisions would necessitate a great deal more work in the future. He called on all Parties to follow developments closely and provide input to the process in a timely fashion.

108. Many representatives commended the substantial progress that had been made at the first meeting of the ad hoc joint working group and encouraged timely intersessional work to prepare for the group's next meeting. Some representatives reiterated that the conferences of the Parties of the three conventions should remain the forums in which decisions on synergies should be taken. Many representatives urged countries to ensure that synergies at the international level were accompanied by similar cooperation at the regional, subregional and national levels. Several representatives suggested that the Basel Convention regional centres could be used to undertake activities on synergies, noting, however, that that would not preclude the establishment of regional centres for the Stockholm Convention.

109. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for its consideration, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item. The Committee then approved the draft decision, as orally amended, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

110. Decision SC-3/21 on synergies, submitted by the Committee of the Whole and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

VI. Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget

111. During the opening session of the meeting, the representative of the Secretariat introduced the item, drawing attention to the relevant documentation and outlining work done by the Secretariat in the period since the second meeting of the Conference. At the same session, as noted above in chapter II, section D, the Conference established a budget group to consider the issues under the item and prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference.

112. At the final session of the meeting, the chair of the budget group, Mr. John Roberts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), reported on the work of the group and presented a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference.

113. Decision SC-3/1 on financing and budget for the biennium 2008–2009, submitted by the budget group and adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

114. Following adoption of the decision, many representatives emphasized the great importance of the prompt filling of open staff positions at the Secretariat, with due consideration to equitable geographical and linguistic distribution of posts at all levels. One representative argued for using a scale of assessments that took better account of Parties' economic and development situations.

VII. Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

115. The Conference agreed that its fourth meeting would take place from 4 to 8 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

116. Some representatives noted that the regular practice of holding the meetings of the Conference of Parties during the first week of May presented hardships for their Governments, as their countries observed important national holidays during that period.

VIII. Other matters

A. Official communications with Parties and observers

117. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the relevant documentation and noting that it was important for each Party and observer to the Convention to nominate an official contact point, who would send and receive formal communications and perform administrative functions under the Convention, as well as a national focal point for the exchange of more technical information on persistent organic pollutants under Article 9 of the Convention.

118. The Conference requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision that would urge Parties to nominate official contact points and national focal points or, for those that had already done so, to confirm their nominations.

119. Decision SC-3/22 on official communication with Parties and observers, submitted by the Secretariat and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is contained in annex I to the present report.

IX. Adoption of the report

120. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/POPS.COP.3/L.1 and Add.1, as amended during adoption.

X. Closure of the meeting

121. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 8.55 p.m. on Friday, 4 May 2007.

Annex I

Decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting

- SC-3/1: Financing and budget for the biennium 2008–2009
- SC-3/2: DDT
- SC-3/3: Revised process for the review of entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions
- SC-3/4: Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3
- SC-3/5: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices
- SC-3/6: Ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
- SC-3/7: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes
- SC-3/8: National implementation plans
- SC-3/9: Listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention
- SC-3/10: Information exchange
- SC-3/11: Technical assistance
- SC-3/12: Terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention
- SC-3/13: Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility
- SC-3/14: Resource mobilization
- SC-3/15: Needs assessment
- SC-3/16: Additional guidance to the financial mechanism
- SC-3/17: Second review of the financial mechanism
- SC-3/18: Reporting
- SC-3/19: Effectiveness evaluation
- SC-3/20: Non-compliance
- SC-3/21: Synergies
- SC-3/22: Official communication with Parties and observers

SC-3/1: Financing and budget for the biennium 2008–2009

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat adopted by its decision SC-1/3,

Recalling also decision SC-1/4 on financing and budget for the biennium 2006 and 2007, in particular its paragraphs 20 and 23, and decision SC-2/1 on amending the financing and budget for the biennium 2006–2007,

Stressing the need to ensure that the Secretariat is made fully operational as soon as possible,

1. *Approves* the operational budgets for the biennium 2008–2009 of 5,424,545 dollars for 2008 and 5,446,792 dollars for 2009 for the purposes set out in tables A and 1B of the present decision;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to expedite the recruitment process for all approved staff posts in the Secretariat that are currently vacant;

3. *Welcomes* the annual contribution of 2 million Swiss francs, including the assessed contribution, pledged by the host Government of the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures;

4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for the apportionment of expenses for 2008–2009 as contained in table 4 of the present decision and authorizes the head of the Secretariat, consistent with the financial rules, to adjust the scales for 2008 and 2009 to include, respectively, all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2008 and before 1 January 2009;

5. *Decides* to keep the working capital reserve at the level of 8.3 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budget;

6. *Approves* the staffing of the Secretariat for 2008–2009 as contained in table 2 of the present decision, which includes provision for co-financing with the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade the position of joint head of the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions at the D-1 level;

7. *Notes* with concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the operational budgets for 2006 and/or 2007, which were expected on 1 January 2006 and 1 January 2007, respectively, in accordance with paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;

8. *Invites* the President of the Conference of the Parties and the head of the Secretariat to write to Parties who have not timely paid their contributions, impressing upon them the importance of paying their respective arrears up to 2006 and of timely payment for 2007;

9. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to report on the results of the Secretariat's consultation with Parties on timely payments and to provide information to the Conference of the Parties on the experiences of other environmental conventions with respect to arrears;

10. *Invites* Parties to note that contributions to the operational budget for a given calendar year are expected on 1 January of that year and urges them to pay their contributions promptly and in full;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amount of their contributions for a given year by 15 October of the previous year;

12. *Welcomes* the work done by the Secretariat in keeping up to date the list on the Convention website of assessed contributions that have been received;

13. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to publish and regularly update information on the status of Parties' contributions to the Convention's trust funds;

14. *Authorizes* the head of the Convention Secretariat to make transfers of up to 20 per cent of one main appropriation line of the approved budgets to other main appropriation lines;

15. *Also authorizes* the head of the Convention Secretariat to make commitments up to the level of the approved operational budgets, drawing on available cash resources;

16. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for activities under the voluntary Special Trust Fund included in table 3 to the present decision and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and other entities to contribute to that fund;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the two trust funds of the Convention until 31 December 2009, subject to the approval of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

18. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to prepare the operational budget for the biennium 2010–2011 using a programmatic structure and to reflect the expenditures for the biennium 2008–2009 in the same format, for comparative purposes, in the budget document;

19. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority setting by providing the Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of different options and, to that end, requests the head of the Secretariat to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2010–2011 three alternative funding scenarios based on:

(a) His or her assessment of the required rate of growth of the operational budget to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budget implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2008–2009 level in nominal terms;

(c) Increasing the operational budget from the 2008–2009 level by [10] per cent in nominal terms;

20. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to produce the 2010–2011 budget in the current format but in addition to seek, as far as possible, a harmonized budget format with those used by the secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and to make it easy for the Parties to have an overview of Secretariat activities, to identify priorities and to evaluate the work of the Secretariat;

21. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat, in parallel with the action proposed in paragraph 20 above, to examine United Nations best practices on results-based budgeting and strategic indicators;

22. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat, in the light of decision RC-3/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting on any decision taken by the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the use of currencies other than the United States dollar for the budget and accounts of that Convention.

Annex to decision SC-3/1

Table 1 A
Operational budget under the General Trust Fund (SC TF) for 2008–
2009, by activity
(in US dollars)

		2008	2009
		in US\$	in US\$
A. Ensure effective functioning of the COP and its subsidiary bodies	<i>COP4</i>		
	Conference services	0	650,000
	Subtotal	0	650,000
	<i>Bureau meetings</i>		
	Bureau members travel	28,000	0
	Subtotal	28,000	0
	<i>POPs Review Committee</i>		
	Conference services	360,000	360,000
	Consultants POPRC work between sessions	25,000	25,000
	Consultants for guidance	30,000	0
	Participant travel	90,500	90,500
	Subcontracts POPRC analysis in countries	50,000	0
	Subtotal	555,500	475,500
	Working group on synergies (conference services)	60,000	
	Working group on synergies (participant travel)	40,000	0
	Subtotal	100,000	0
	B. Outreach and assistance to Parties in the implementation of the Convention		
Financial mechanism review (consultants)		60,000	30,000
Needs assessment (consultants)		90,000	0
Subtotal	150,000	30,000	
C. Effectiveness evaluation activities			
	Consultant guidance for data comparability	80,000	30,000
	Conference services	50,000	50,000
	Subcontracts effectiveness evaluation existing data	80,000	80,000
	Subcontracts for eff. eval. For ROGs' new data	160,000	120,000
	Subtotal	370,000	280,000

D. DDT activities			
	Consultants (information collection and systems)	95,000	0
	Conference services (Expert groups)	40,000	0
	Participant travel	0	0
	Subtotal	135,000	0
E. Other secretariat functions as specified by the Convention and determined by the COP			
	Subcontracts regional centres for technical assistance projects	80,000	80,000
	Subtotal	80,000	80,000
F. Clearing-house activities			
	Clearing-house mechanism (consultants)	60,000	60,000
	Subcontracts clearing-house	40,000	40,000
	Subtotal	100,000	100,000
G. Core secretariat costs			
	Professional personnel	1,759,175	1,811,950
	Consultants (for guidance; training material; core activities)	180,000	115,000
	Administrative support	659,000	671,820
	Official travel of staff on mission	200,000	175,000
	Equipment and premises	109,000	150,000
	Miscellaneous (including printing, publications, dispatch, communications, information, etc.)	340,900	280,900
	Subtotal	3,248,075	3,204,670
Total activities		4,766,575	4,820,170
Programme support cost (13%)		619,655	626,622
Operational budget		5,386,230	5,446,792
Working capital reserve (8,3%)*		449,570	
Existing working capital reserve		411,255	
Portion of working capital reserve to be covered by Parties		38,315	
GRAND TOTAL		5,424,545	5,446,792
Calculation of assessed contributions			
Host country contribution **		1,510,593	1,510,192
Total to be covered by assessed contributions		3,913,952	3,936,600

* WCR is 8.3 % of the annual average of the biennial budget.

** Swiss Contribution of 2 Mil. CHF (\$1,580,000) at a 1,21 exchange rate against USD as at May 2007 as follows:

Host country contribution:	1,510,593	1,510,192
Assessed contribution:	69407	69808
Grand total:	1,580,000	1,580,000

Table 1 B

**Operational budget under the General Trust Fund (SC TF) for 2008–2009, by budget line
(in United States dollars)**

			General TF		
			SC	SC	
			2008	2009	
			in US\$	in US \$	
10	Project personnel component				
	1100	Professional staff			
		1101 Executive Secretary (D-1)	0.75	177,075	182,387
		1102 Coordinator (P-5)	1	207,800	214,034
		1103 Senior Scientific Officer (P-5)	1	207,800	214,034
		1104 Policy Officer (P-4)	1	179,800	185,194
		1105 Programme Officer (P-4)	1	179,800	185,194
		1106 Programme Officer (P-4)	1	179,800	185,194
		1107 Information Manager (CHM) (P-4)	1	179,800	185,194
		1108 Programme Officer (P-3)	1	149,100	153,573
		1109 Programme Officer (P-3)	1	149,100	153,573
		1110 Budget Officer (P-3) (OTL funded)	0.75	0	0
		1111 Legal Officer (P-3)	1	149,100	153,573
		1199 Total Professional staff	10.50	1,759,175	1,811,950
	1200	Consultants			
		1201 Consultants unspecified		100,000	100,000
		1202 Consultant on guidance/training material		80,000	15,000
		1203 Consultants on effectiveness evaluation		80,000	30,000
		1204 Consultants on POPRC research		25,000	25,000
		1205 Consultants POPRC Guidance		30,000	0
		1206 DDT Consultants (information collection and systems)		40,000	0
		1207 Consultants on DDT information systems		55,000	0
		1208 Consultant-clearing house		60,000	60,000
		1209 Consultant financial mechanism evaluation		60,000	30,000
		1210 Consultant for needs assessment		90,000	0
		1299 Total consultants		620,000	260,000
	1300	General Service staff			
		1301 Conference Assistant (G-5)	1	99,000	101,970
		1302 Secretary to Executive Secretary (G-5)	1	99,000	101,970
		1303 Programme Assistant (G-5)	1	99,000	101,970
		1304 Programme Assistant (G-5)	1	99,000	101,970
		1305 Webmaster/IT Assistant (G-4/5)	1	99,000	101,970
		1306 Administrative assistant (G-5/6) (OTL)	1	0	0
		1307 Data entry clerk (G-4)	1	99,000	101,970
		1320 Temporary assistance (effectiveness evaluation)		40,000	40,000
		1321 Temporary assistance (CHM)	0	25,000	20,000
		<i>General Service staff subtotal</i>	7	659,000	671,820
		Conference servicing			
		1330 Conference of the Parties		0	650,000
		1331 POPs Review Committee		360,000	360,000
		1332 Effectiveness evaluation		50,000	50,000
		1333 Adhoc JWG on synergies		60,000	0

	1334	DDT experts group	40,000	0
		<i>Conference servicing subtotal</i>	510,000	1,060,000
	1399	Total General Service staff	1,169,000	1,731,820
	1600	Travel on official business		
	1601	Staff travel	200,000	175,000
	1699	Total travel on official business	200,000	175,000
1999		Component total: project personnel	3,748,175	3,978,770
20		Subcontract component		
	2100	Subcontracts		
	2101	Subcontracts CHM tools development	40,000	40,000
	2102	Subcontracts regional centres for technical assistance projects	80,000	80,000
	2103	Subcontracts effectiveness evaluation existing data	80,000	80,000
	2104	Subcontracts for Eff. Eval. for ROGs new data	160,000	120,000
	2105	Subcontracts POPRC analysis in countries	50,000	0
	2199	Total subcontracts	410,000	320,000
2999		Component total: Subcontracts	410,000	320,000
30		Training component		
	3300	Meetings: participant travel and DSA		
	3301	Conference of the Parties	0	0
	3302	POPs Review Committee	90,500	90,500
	3303	Participants travel JWG synergies	40,000	0
	3304	Bureau travel	28,000	0
	3399	Total meetings: participant travel and DSA	158,500	90,500
3999		Component total: training	158,500	90,500
40		Equipment and premises component		
	4100	Expendable equipment		
	4101	Office equipment: paper, toner, diskettes, CD-ROMs	10,000	10,000
	4199	Total expendable equipment	10,000	10,000
	4200	Non-expendable equipment		
	4201	Office equipment: hardware and software	30,000	30,000
	4202	Hardware and software for CHM	15,000	15,000
	4203	DDT information system	0	5,000
	4204	Clearing-house	0	36,000
	4299	Total non-expendable equipment	45,000	86,000
	4300	Premises		
	4301	Office space, maintenance, utilities	54,000	54,000
	4399	Total premises	54,000	54,000
4999		Component total: equipment and premises	109,000	150,000
50		Miscellaneous component		
	5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment		
	5101	Maintenance of office equipment	58,000	58,000
	5199	Total operation and maintenance of equipment	58,000	58,000
	5200	Reporting cost		
	5201	Web publishing	1,500	1,500
	5202	Other electronic media publishing	3,000	3,000
	5203	Printing costs	5,000	5,000
	5204	Document translations	62,500	62,500
	5205	Report on effectiveness evaluation	30,000	10,000
	5206	Translation and publishing (clearing-house)	10,000	10,000
	5207	Translation and publishing (effectiveness evaluation)	90,000	20,000
	5208	Translation and publishing (POPRC reports)	0	30,000
	5209	Translation and publishing of guidance materials	25,000	25,000

	5210	Translations of publication of DDT report	16,900	16,900
	5299	Total reporting cost	243,900	183,900
5300		Sundry		
	5301	Communications: mailing/dispatching	10,000	10,000
	5302	Communications: Internet connection	18,000	18,000
	5303	Office supplies	1,000	1,000
	5399	Total sundry	29,000	29,000
5400		Hospitality		
	5401	Hospitality for technical meetings	10,000	10,000
	5499	Total hospitality and entertainment	10,000	10,000
5999	Component total: miscellaneous		340,900	280,900
99	TOTAL DIRECT COST		4,766,575	4,820,170
PROGRAMME SUPPORT COSTS (13%)			619,655	626,622
TOTAL			5,386,230	5,446,792
EXISTING WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE (8.3%) *			411,255	
WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE (8.3%) *			449,570	
PORTION OF WCR TO BE COVERED BY PARTIES			38,315	
GRAND TOTAL			5,424,545	5,446,792
HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION**			1,510,593	1,510,192
Total budget (to be covered by scale of assessment contributions)			3,913,952	3,936,600

* WCR is 8.3 % of the biennium operational budget's total

** Swiss Contribution of 2 Mil. CHF (\$1,580,000) at a 1,21 exchange rate against USD as at May 2007 as follows:

	2008	2009
Host country contribution	1,510,593	1,510,192
Assessed contribution	69,407	69,808
Grand total	1,580,000	1,580,000

Table 2**Standard salary costs for Geneva 2008–2009 (in United States dollars)**

Geneva		
	2008 ^{1/}	2009 ^{2/}
A Professional category		
D-2 level	248,200	255,646
D-1 level	236,100	243,183
P-5 level	207,800	214,034
P-4 level	179,800	185,194
P-3 level	149,100	153,573
P-2 level	119,600	123,188
B General Service category		
GS	99,000	101,970

^{1/} United Nations standard salary costs for Geneva, for the year 2007 (version 2 used as basis) as per Rotterdam Convention COP-3 approved staffing table

^{2/} 2008 costs plus 3 per cent

Staffing table of the Convention Secretariat

	2008	2009
A Professional category		
D-1 level	0.75	0.75
P-5 level	2	2
P-4 level	4	4
P-3 level	3.75	3.75
P-2 level	-	-
Sub-total	10.5	10.5
B General Service category		
GS	7	7
TOTAL A+B	17.5	17.5

Table 3
Estimates for activities under the Special Trust Fund (SV TF) for the biennium 2008–2009
(in United States Dollars)

		2008	2009
10	Project personnel component		
	1200 Consultants		
	1204 Consultants Toolkit	10,000	10,000
	1206 Consultant reporting (Article 15)	20,000	0
	1208 POPs waste consultants	65,000	0
	1209 NIP consultants	10,000	0
	1299 Total Consultants	105,000	10,000
	1330 Conference services		
	1331 NIP conference services	60,000	10,000
	1399 Total consultants	60,000	10,000
16	Travel on official business		
	1601 POPs waste travel	35,000	15,000
	1602 NIPS staff travel	48,000	10,000
	1699 Total reporting cost	83,000	25,000
1699	Component total: Project personnel	248,000	45,000
20	Subcontract component		
	2201 POPRC country activities	0	50,000
	2202 NIPS subcontracts	60,000	15,000
	2203 Toolkit emission factors	300,000	0
	2204 Toolkit revision of toolkit	30,000	0
	2205 POPs monitoring data	300,000	200,000
	2206 POPs capacity enhancement in regions	400,000	150,000
	2299 Total reporting cost	1,090,000	415,000
2999	Component total: Subcontracts	1,090,000	415,000
30	Training Component		
	3300 Meetings: participant travel and DSA		
	3301 Conference of the Parties	0	500,000
	3302 POPs Review Committee	60,000	60,000
	3303 Toolkit participant travel	45,000	45,000
	3304 Reporting training (Article 15)	60,000	60,000
	3305 BAT/BEP training participant travel	100,000	10,000
	3306 POPs waste participant travel	100,000	50,000
	3307 NIPS training	380,000	50,000
	3308 POPs training participant travel	200,000	0
	3309 Effectiveness evaluation participant travel	100,000	100,000
	3399 Total meetings: participant travel and DSA	1,045,000	875,000
3999	Component total: Training	1,045,000	875,000
50	Miscellaneous component		
	5200 Reporting cost		
	5201 Reports on effectiveness evaluation	30,000	30,000
	5202 Reporting users' manual translation in 3 languages (Article 15)	15,000	15,000
	5299 Total Reporting cost	45,000	45,000
5999	Component total: Miscellaneous	45,000	45,000
99	TOTAL DIRECT COST	2,428,000	1,380,000
	PROGRAMME SUPPORT COSTS (13%)	315,640	179,400
	GRAND TOTAL	2,743,640	1,559,400

Table 4

**Assessed Contributions to the General Trust Fund for the 2008–2009 biennium
(in United States dollars)**

Operational Budget 2008: 3,913,952

Operational Budget 2009: 3,936,600

		United Nations Scale of assessment 2006	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0,01% base	Assessed contributions per Party	Assessed contributions per Party
<i>Member State</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	2008	2009
1	Albania	0.006	0.010	391	394
2	Algeria	0.085	0.124	4,852	4,880
3	Angola	0.003	0.010	391	394
4	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.010	391	394
5	Argentina	0.325	0.474	18,550	18,658
6	Armenia	0.002	0.010	391	394
7	Australia	1.787	2.606	101,998	102,588
8	Austria	0.887	1.294	50,628	50,921
9	Azerbaijan	0.005	0.010	391	394
10	Bahamas	0.016	0.023	913	919
11	Bahrain	0.033	0.048	1,884	1,894
12	Bangladesh	0.010	0.015	571	574
13	Barbados	0.009	0.010	391	394
14	Belarus	0.020	0.029	1,142	1,148
15	Belgium	1.102	1.607	62,900	63,264
16	Benin	0.001	0.010	391	394
17	Bolivia	0.006	0.010	391	394
18	Botswana	0.014	0.020	799	804
19	Brazil	0.876	1.277	50,000	50,290
20	Bulgaria	0.020	0.029	1,142	1,148
21	Burkina Faso	0.002	0.010	391	394
22	Burundi	0.001	0.010	391	394
23	Cambodia	0.001	0.010	391	394
24	Canada	2.977	4.341	169,921	170,904
25	Cape Verde	0.001	0.010	391	394
26	Chad	0.001	0.010	391	394
27	Chile	0.161	0.235	9,190	9,243
28	China	2.667	3.889	152,227	153,107
29	Comoros	0.001	0.010	391	394
30	Congo	0.001	0.010	391	394
31	Cook Islands	0.001	0.010	391	394
32	Costa Rica	0.032	0.047	1,826	1,837
33	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.010	391	394
34	Croatia	0.050	0.073	2,854	2,870
35	Cyprus	0.044	0.064	2,511	2,526
36	Czech Republic	0.281	0.410	16,039	16,132
37	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.007	0.010	391	394

38	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.010	391	394
39	Denmark	0.739	1.078	42,181	42,425
40	Djibouti	0.001	0.010	391	394
41	Dominica	0.001	0.010	391	394
42	Ecuador	0.021	0.031	1,199	1,206
43	Egypt	0.088	0.128	5,023	5,052
44	Eritrea	0.001	0.010	391	394
45	Ethiopia	0.003	0.010	391	394
46	European Community	2.500	2.500	97,849	98,415
47	Fiji	0.003	0.010	391	394
48	Finland	0.564	0.822	32,192	32,378
49	France	6.301	9.189	359,647	361,729
50	Gambia	0.001	0.010	391	394
51	Georgia	0.003	0.010	391	394
52	Germany	8.577	12.508	489,557	492,389
53	Greece	0.596	0.869	34,018	34,215
54	Ghana	0.004	0.010	391	394
55	Honduras	0.005	0.010	391	394
56	Iceland	0.037	0.054	2,112	2,124
57	India	0.450	0.656	25,685	25,834
58	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.180	0.262	10,274	10,333
59	Japan	16.624	22.000	861,069	866,052
60	Jordan	0.012	0.017	685	689
61	Kenya	0.010	0.015	571	574
62	Kiribati	0.001	0.010	391	394
63	Kuwait	0.182	0.265	10,388	10,448
64	Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.010	391	394
65	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.010	391	394
66	Latvia	0.018	0.026	1,027	1,033
67	Lebanon	0.034	0.050	1,941	1,952
68	Lesotho	0.001	0.010	391	394
69	Liberia	0.001	0.010	391	394
70	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.062	0.090	3,539	3,559
71	Liechtenstein	0.010	0.015	571	574
72	Lithuania	0.031	0.045	1,769	1,780
73	Luxembourg	0.085	0.124	4,852	4,880
74	Madagascar	0.002	0.010	391	394
75	Maldives	0.001	0.010	391	394
76	Mali	0.001	0.010	391	394
77	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010	391	394
78	Mauritania	0.001	0.010	391	394
79	Mauritius	0.011	0.016	628	631
80	Mexico	2.257	3.291	128,825	129,570
81	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.010	391	394
82	Monaco	0.003	0.010	391	394
83	Mongolia	0.001	0.010	391	394
84	Morocco	0.042	0.061	2,397	2,411

85	Mozambique	0.001	0.010	391	394
86	Myanmar	0.005	0.010	391	394
87	Namibia	0.006	0.010	391	394
88	Nauru	0.001	0.010	391	394
89	Nepal	0.003	0.010	391	394
90	Netherlands	1.873	2.731	106,907	107,525
91	New Zealand	0.256	0.373	14,612	14,696
92	Nicaragua	0.002	0.010	391	394
93	Niger	0.001	0.010	391	394
94	Nigeria	0.048	0.070	2,740	2,756
95	Niue	0.001	0.010	391	394
96	Norway	0.782	1.140	44,635	44,893
97	Oman	0.073	0.106	4,167	4,191
98	Panama	0.023	0.034	1,313	1,320
99	Papua New Guinea	0.002	0.010	391	394
100	Paraguay	0.005	0.010	391	394
101	Peru	0.078	0.114	4,452	4,478
102	Philippines	0.078	0.114	4,452	4,478
103	Portugal	0.527	0.769	30,080	30,254
104	Qatar	0.085	0.124	4,852	4,880
105	Republic of Korea	2.173	3.169	124,030	124,748
106	Republic of Moldova	0.001	0.010	391	394
107	Romania	0.070	0.102	3,995	4,019
108	Rwanda	0.001	0.010	391	394
109	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.010	391	394
110	Saint Lucia	0.001	0.010	391	394
111	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.010	391	394
112	Samoa	0.001	0.010	391	394
113	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.010	391	394
114	Senegal	0.004	0.010	391	394
115	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.010	391	394
116	Singapore	0.347	0.506	19,806	19,921
117	Slovakia	0.063	0.092	3,596	3,617
118	Slovenia	0.096	0.140	5,479	5,511
119	Solomon Islands	0.001	0.010	391	394
120	South Africa	0.290	0.423	16,553	16,648
121	Spain	2.968	4.328	169,407	170,387
122	Sri Lanka	0.016	0.023	913	919
123	Sudan	0.010	0.015	571	574
124	Swaziland	0.002	0.010	391	394
125	Sweden	1.071	1.562	61,130	61,484
126	Switzerland	1.216	1.773	69,407	69,808
127	Syrian Arab Republic	0.016	0.023	913	919
128	Tajikistan	0.001	0.010	391	394
129	Thailand	0.186	0.271	10,616	10,678
130	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.005	0.010	391	394
131	Togo	0.001	0.010	391	394

132	Trinidad and Tobago	0.027	0.039	1,541	1,550
133	Tunisia	0.031	0.045	1,769	1,780
134	Tuvalu	0.001	0.010	391	394
135	Uganda	0.003	0.010	391	394
136	United Arab Emirates	0.302	0.440	17,238	17,337
137	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.642	9.686	379,111	381,305
138	United Republic of Tanzania	0.006	0.010	391	394
139	Uruguay	0.027	0.039	1,541	1,550
140	Vanuatu	0.001	0.010	391	394
141	Venezuela	0.200	0.292	11,416	11,482
142	Viet Nam	0.024	0.035	1,370	1,378
143	Yemen	0.007	0.010	391	394
144	Zambia	0.001	0.010	391	394
		71	100	3,913,952	3,936,600

SC-3/2: DDT

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes* the report of the expert group on the assessment of the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control including the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;
2. *Concludes* that countries that are currently using DDT for disease vector control may need to continue such use until locally appropriate and cost-effective alternatives are available for sustainable transition away from DDT;
3. *Adopts* the revised process for DDT reporting, assessment and evaluation contained in annex I to the present decision;
4. *Also adopts* the revised format and questionnaire for Parties to report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control that is contained in annex II to the present decision and requests the Secretariat to undertake the translation of the electronic format of the questionnaire into the six official United Nations languages;
5. *Reminds* Parties using and/or producing DDT that have not notified and reported on such use or production to do so;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with the World Health Organization to carry out the activities of data collection, data analysis and assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control established in the process for reporting on and evaluation of DDT and provide guidance for the Conference of the Parties to make an evaluation at its fourth meeting and encourages non-Party States to participate in the data-gathering activities;
7. *Emphasizes* the need to address explicitly the DDT issue in national implementation plans of countries using or planning to use DDT;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to continue the activities being undertaken to strengthen the capacity of countries to report on the production and use of DDT for disease vector control;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting on the status of the implementation of integrated vector management;
10. *Also requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and interested parties, to develop a business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control.

Annex I to decision SC-3/2

Process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control

I. Evaluation and reporting cycles

1. Parties that use DDT are required by the Convention to submit reports to the Secretariat and the World Health Organization on the amount used, the conditions of its use and its relevance to their disease management strategies every three years (as set out in paragraph 4 of part II of Annex B). A report is due before or on 16 May 2006 and subsequent reports are due before or on 16 May every three years thereafter.
2. As set out in paragraph 6 of part II of Annex B of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties is required to evaluate the continued need for disease vector control at its first meeting and at least every three years thereafter. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies indicates that after the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties ordinary

meetings shall be held every two years. Therefore, the Conference of the Parties shall undertake the evaluation at its third meeting and at each future ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. As a result of the requirements set out in the two preceding paragraphs, at one in three of its meetings, the Conference of the Parties will be required to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control in the absence of new reporting data from Parties that use DDT. On these occasions, the Conference of the Parties may wish to undertake a less detailed evaluation.

II. Format and questionnaire for reporting collation and validation of data

4. The revised format for reporting and the revised questionnaire for additional information on DDT were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

5. Parties that use DDT should use the format for reporting set out in paragraph 4 of part II of Annex B of the Convention and make use of the electronic format developed for this purpose, which is available in the six official United Nations languages.

6. Parties are requested to complete the questionnaire for reporting information relevant to the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control according to the schedule contained in the present document and make use of the electronic format developed for this purpose, which is available in the six official United Nations languages.

III. Analysis of data

7. A joint web-based World Health Organization/United Nations Environment Programme/Secretariat information clearing house on the use of DDT and its alternatives in disease vector control will document lessons learned and best practices on integrated vector management. It will facilitate Parties' timely access to a single point of relevant global information, promote the exchange of experiences by Parties and assist the Conference of the Parties' evaluation processes. Among other things, the information will enable comparisons and assessment of trends.

8. The Secretariat will contract a consultant after seeking the advice of the World Health Organization. The consultant will analyse the information presented by Parties on DDT production and use, the report developed by the World Health Organization and any other pertinent and credible information that is available. The consultant will prepare a preliminary report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for use by the DDT expert group (see below) in its assessment.

9. Prior to the analysis of data for each assessment by the DDT expert group, the World Health Organization will provide a comprehensive report on the status of DDT use and its alternatives to complement the information obtained from the questionnaires completed by Parties when reporting on DDT production and use. The information from the questionnaires and the data from the World Health Organization will be analysed and a preliminary report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives made available to the DDT expert group prior to each of its meetings.

IV. Assessment of data

10. An expert group is established to assess the information that is collected on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control. The DDT expert group comprises eighteen persons, as follows:

(a) Ten experts shall be nominated by Parties, giving due consideration to malaria endemic countries, with two from each of the five United Nations regions, to serve as members of the expert group. Parties selected at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to nominate representatives to the Secretariat should do so not later than 30 June of the year in which they are elected. Members shall serve terms of office of four years with the first set of terms commencing on 1 September 2007. If a member is unable to complete his or her term of office, the Party nominating that member shall nominate another person to complete the term;

(b) Five invited experts shall be selected by the World Health Organization. If any nominee is from a Party to the Convention, endorsement of that nominee shall be obtained from the Party through its Stockholm Convention official contact point;

(c) Three invited experts shall be selected by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in consultation with the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP Chemicals). They will include a consultant who will analyse the information collected and will prepare a preliminary report for the DDT expert group. If any nominee is from a Party to the Convention, endorsement of that nominee shall be obtained from the Party through its Stockholm Convention official contact point.

11. The DDT expert group will meet approximately six months before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. The DDT expert group shall:

(a) Undertake a situational analysis on the production and use of DDT and the conditions for such use, including a review of the responses by countries to the questionnaire;

(b) Evaluate the availability, suitability and implementation of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT;

(c) Evaluate progress in strengthening the capacity of countries to shift in a safe fashion to a reliance on suitable alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT, based on a review of the opportunities and needs in countries for sustainable transition;

(d) Make recommendations on the evaluation and reporting mechanisms set out in paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part II of Annex B of the Convention;

(e) Consider and assess the actions being taken by Parties to accomplish the following:

(i) Development of regulatory and other mechanisms to ensure that DDT use is restricted to disease vector control;

(ii) Implementation of suitable alternative products, methods and strategies, including resistance management strategies to ensure the continuing effectiveness of such alternatives;

(iii) Measures to strengthen health care and to reduce the incidence of the disease being controlled with DDT;

(iv) Promotion of research and development of safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products, methods and strategies for Parties using DDT, relevant to the conditions of those countries and with the goal of decreasing the human and economic burden of disease. Factors to be promoted when considering alternatives or combinations of alternatives shall include the human health risks and environmental implications of such alternatives. Viable alternatives to DDT shall pose less risk to human health and the environment, be suitable for disease control based on conditions in the Parties in question and be supported by monitoring data;

(f) Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and on any actions deemed necessary to reduce the reliance on DDT in the light of the assessments undertaken pursuant to subparagraphs (a) to (e) above.

V. Schedule for evaluation

13. In order to provide the Conference of the Parties with the information on which to base its evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, the following standard schedule is proposed, with “year 1” referring to the first year of a budget biennium and “year 2” referring to the second:

Schedule for completing a cycle for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of DDT for disease vector control.

Event	Timing
*Distribute questionnaire	31 January, year 1
*Parties complete questionnaire	30 June, year 1
Analysis of data complete	31 September, year 1
Expert group meeting	November, year 1
Complete expert group report	31 December, year 1
Translation and distribution of expert group report	February–March, year 2
Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties	May, year 2

* As noted in paragraph 3 above, there will be no mandatory reporting by Parties on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives prior to one out of every three evaluations undertaken by the Conference of the Parties, due to differences between the schedule for Parties to report on the production and use of DDT and the schedule for the Conference of the Parties to undertake evaluations.

Annex II to decision SC-3/2

Revised questionnaire for reporting by each Party on production and use of DDT for disease vector control and for reporting other information relevant to the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control

COUNTRY: 3-year reporting period: -

Name of principal reporting official	
Designation	
Agency name and address	
Fax	
E-mail	
Signature of official Date:

SECTION A: PRODUCTION AND USE OF DDT

A.I. Sources of DDT

In-country production and formulation of DDT

1. Is DDT produced in your country? Yes No
2. If yes, please list the DDT production facilities in the country:

No.	Production facility and location	Total production capacity (kg) (if known)	Net output per year (kg) (if known)			Formulation (type & % of active ingredient (a.i.))	% for in-country use (if known)
			Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3		
i.							
ii.							
iii.							

3. Is DDT repackaged/reformulated in the country? Yes No

4. If yes, please complete the following table:

Origin of active ingredient & repackaging/reformulation facility	Formulation (type and % of active ingredient)	Quantity per year (kg)		
		Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3

5. If DDT is exported from any of the production/reformulation facilities above, please complete the following table:

No.	Facility	Export information				
		Destination country(s)	Quantity per year (kg)			Formulation (type and % active ingredient (a.i.))
			Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	
i.						
ii.						
iii.						

Imports of DDT

6. Has DDT been imported into your country over the reporting period? Yes No

7. If DDT is imported, please complete the following table:

Country from which DDT is imported	Name of manufacturer	Total quantity imported per year (kg)			Formulation (type & % of a.i.)
		Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	

A.II. Stock information

8. Please provide the following information on the usable stocks of DDT in your country:

Location	Total amount in storage (kg)	Formulation (type and % a.i.)	Conditions of storage (e.g. storage capacity; access)

A.III. DDT use

9. Is DDT used in the country for disease vector control? Yes No

10. If not, are there plans to introduce the use of DDT in the future? Yes No

11. Is DDT used for any other purpose besides disease vector control? Yes No

12. What is the total amount (kg) of DDT used annually for disease vector control?

Yr. 1: _____, formulation (type & % a.i.) _____

Yr. 2: _____, formulation (type & % a.i.) _____

Yr. 3: _____, formulation (type & % a.i.) _____

13. Are there non-government agencies (e.g. private agencies, NGOs) involved in using DDT for disease vector control purposes? Yes No

14. Please complete the following table for each disease for which DDT is used:

Disease	Main vector species targeted	% total national population at risk that is covered by DDT use		
		Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3

A.IV. Regulation and control

15. Are there national laws or regulations governing or restricting the purchase or use of DDT?

Yes No

16. If yes, are these laws and regulations fully enforced? Yes No

17. If DDT is produced or imported, is quality control on the product done in your country? Yes No

Resistance monitoring

18. Is there a surveillance mechanism for monitoring DDT resistance? Yes No

19. If yes, what bioassay test procedures are used for detecting DDT resistance? _____

20. Please complete the following table on vector susceptibility to DDT according to the World Health Organization susceptibility test:¹

Vector species	DDT concentration & exposure time (mins.)	% mortality	Year last tested	Geographical areas concerned within country (1 line per area tested)

¹ Mortality after 24-hour holding period of mosquito specimens exposed to diagnostic concentration (4 per cent DDT) for 1 hour.

21. Is there resistance observed for other insecticides used in disease vector control?

Pyrethroids Yes No Organophosphates Yes No

Carbamates Yes No Other_____ Yes No

If yes, please specify the vectors for each chemical group_____

SECTION B: DDT ALTERNATIVES (INSECTICIDES, METHODS AND STRATEGIES)

B.I. Disease management strategies

22. Is an integrated vector management (IVM) strategy endorsed at the national level? Yes No
23. Is an IVM strategy implemented throughout the country? Yes No
24. Is there research into the development or testing of locally appropriate alternative interventions to DDT?
Yes No
25. If yes, please indicate the type of research/testing (tick all that apply):
- Microbial insecticides Residual chemical insecticide(s)
 Chemical larvicides Larvivorous fish
 Other: _____

B.II. Alternatives to DDT

26. Please complete the following table as applicable for DDT alternatives used in your country:

Alternative control interventions	Disease targeted	Product, formulation, % a.i., quantity per year per year applicable	Source (country) (import/local)
Microbial larvicides & biological control			
Indoor residual spraying with insecticides other than DDT			
Insecticide-treated nets			
Others (specify)			

27. If alternative insecticides to DDT are being used, is there a resistance management strategy being implemented?
Yes No

28. Please complete the following table on the alternatives to DDT that have been used in the country but are no longer in use:

Alternative control interventions	Disease targeted	Year of last use & quantity as applicable)	Reason why the use was stopped (import/local)
Microbial larvicides & biological control			
Chemical larvicides			
Indoor residual spraying with insecticides other than DDT			
Insecticide-treated nets			
Environmental management			

SECTION C: GENERAL HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ISSUES

29. Is there a programme to raise awareness among communities and households on safety issues relating to DDT use in disease vector control? Yes No
30. Which agency(ies) is(are) responsible for assessing the risks posed by the use of insecticides to public health?

31. Is there a system in place to monitor exposure to DDT? Yes No

SECTION D: SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING IN DISEASE VECTOR CONTROL

32. Are there training facilities on insecticide use for disease vector control in the country? Yes No
33. Is training being conducted on insecticide use for vector control? Yes No
34. Do formal mechanisms exist for inter-sectoral collaboration in disease vector control? Yes No
35. If these mechanisms exist, is collaboration being implemented? Yes No
36. Is an entomology laboratory being used in the country for vector resistance testing? Yes No
37. If yes, is the laboratory internationally recognized? Yes No

Please provide any other relevant information relevant to your country's situation with regard to the production and use of DDT for disease vector control: _____

Draft decision SC-3/3: Revised process for the review of entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the revised process for the review of entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions contained in the annex to the present decision and agrees to review paragraph 4 of the process at its next meeting;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake the activities in the review process regarding the specific exemptions in the Register that are due for review at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Reminds* each Party that has a specific exemption in the Register and is seeking an extension of that exemption to submit a report to the Secretariat at least twelve months prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2009, justifying its continued need for registration of that exemption and providing the information requested in the review process.

Annex to decision SC-3/3

Revised review process for entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions that was adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties excepting paragraphs 4 and 5

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the review process for entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions will be as follows:

1. A Party may submit a request for an extension of an exemption in the Register by submitting a report to the Secretariat justifying its continuing need for registration of the exemption. The extension request report shall be submitted at least 12 months before the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties that takes place before the expiry date of the exemption.
2. The Secretariat shall circulate the extension request report to all Parties and observers at least 11 months before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties referred to in paragraph 1 and request that they submit other available information relevant to the report, as far as possible in the English language, at least 6 months before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above.
3. The Secretariat shall collect, translate as necessary and submit all available information together with the extension request report to all Parties at least 5 months before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above.
4. The Secretariat shall review all available information, including technological and economic aspects and availability of alternatives and emissions control options relevant for the decision on the request for an extension, and prepare a report to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat shall circulate the report to all Parties and observers not later than three months before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall decide at its meeting on the request for an extension of an entry in the Register prior to the expiry date of the exemption.
6. This review process will expire at the end of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties unless it is reviewed and extended by the Conference by the end of that meeting.

SC-3/4: Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Concludes* that the information that has been gathered to date on the experience of using the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention is insufficient to complete an evaluation of the continued need for the procedure;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide a report, based on Party reports submitted pursuant to Article 15, certifications from exporting Parties pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 and other relevant information, for consideration by the Conference at its fourth meeting;
3. *Decides* to evaluate the procedure further at its fourth meeting.

SC-3/5: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the report of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices on the work of its second meeting;²
2. Adopts the revised draft guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices contained in the note by the Secretariat;³
3. Invites Parties and others to provide to the Secretariat comments on their experience in implementing the revised draft guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices;
4. Requests the Secretariat, within available resources, to compile the information provided under paragraph 3 above and to collect information (e.g., make use of a questionnaire) on experiences gained in using the revised guidelines and guidance through field tests and other means by 31 December 2008 in order to report such information to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;
5. Encourages Parties and observers to exchange information on their experiences in implementing the guidelines and guidance by electronic means such as electronic discussion groups facilitated, as appropriate, through the Secretariat;
6. Invites Parties and others in a position to do so:
 - (a) To fund awareness-raising and training workshops on the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices;
 - (b) To fund awareness-raising and training activities pursuant to decision SC-1/20;
7. Invites the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to consider the waste-related contents of the revised guidelines and guidance and to report any outcome of their doing so to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention;
8. Requests the Secretariat to transmit annex II of the report of the Expert Group on the work of its second meeting to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention through the secretariat of the Basel Convention in response to a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its seventh meeting.

SC-3/6: Ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the Toolkit Expert Roster⁴ and welcomes the report from the expert meeting to further develop the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases;⁵
2. Adopts the process for the ongoing review and updating of the Toolkit, within available resources, as set forth in the annex to the present decision and requests the Secretariat to implement the process and report on progress made to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

2 UNEP/POPS/EGBATBEP.2/4.

3 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/4.

4 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/24.

5 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/6.

3. *Requests* the Secretariat, when implementing the Toolkit review and updating process, to place adequate emphasis on the key sources for which limited monitoring data is available, including sources of hexachlorobenzene and polychlorinated biphenyls, and to support developing countries in their efforts to further verify their emission factors;

4. *Invites* Parties, States not party to the Convention, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and industry:

(a) To generate relevant data and information on Annex C chemicals, as identified in the Toolkit review and updating process, and provide such data and information to the Secretariat;

(b) To participate actively in the Toolkit review and updating process;

(c) To provide funding to support the work outlined in the present paragraph and in paragraph 1 above, if they are in a position to do so.

Annex to decision SC-3/6

Process for the ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases

Introduction

1. In fulfilling the request of the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-2/5, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat organized jointly with the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP Chemicals) an expert meeting to further develop the Toolkit. The meeting took place from 13 to 15 December 2006. Individuals were selected by the Secretariat from the newly established Toolkit Expert Roster (see document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/24) to take part in the meeting on the basis of the criteria set out in decision SC-2/5 and geographical distribution. Representatives of both environmental and industrial non-governmental organizations were invited as well. In addition, further experts have been identified by UNEP Chemicals to provide supporting specialized expertise in dioxin measurements or determination of emission factors. The main issues to be addressed by the meeting were: (i) possible elements of an open and transparent process of ongoing review and updating of the Toolkit; (ii) summary of two expert meetings held on Category 6 - Open burning of biomass and waste; (iii) determination of emission factors for combustion of biomass and fossil fuels in power plants, boilers, and small installations. The report of the meeting is available as document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/6.

Process for the ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases

2. A proposal for an open, transparent and inclusive process for the ongoing review and updating of the Toolkit, as recommended by the Toolkit meeting participants, is outlined below. It contains the following elements: the *general tasks* to be performed in the Toolkit review and updating process; the *stakeholders* involved in the process; the *activities, procedures and specific tasks* to be performed in the process, together with the roles particular stakeholders play in them; and the *periodicity* in which the particular activities and tasks are to be performed.

General tasks

3. The general tasks to be undertaken in the Toolkit review and updating process have been outlined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of decision SC-2/5 as follows:

(a) Verifying of emission factors;

(b) Filling in the gaps still existing in the Toolkit, in particular:

(i) Improving emission factors for technologies typically used in developing countries;

(ii) Filling in emission factors for hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB);

(c) Improving the overall usefulness and user friendliness of the Toolkit, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(d) Providing training in the use of the Toolkit.

4. The procedures for identifying detailed tasks and activities, to be undertaken as priorities in a certain period of time, are outlined in paragraphs 15 (a) to (h) below.

Stakeholders

5. Following the general principles of participation in the ongoing Toolkit review and updating process, outlined in paragraph 4 of decision SC-2/5, the Secretariat invited Parties and others to nominate experts to be consulted as needed in the Toolkit development process. These experts are included in the Toolkit Expert Roster.

6. All experts nominated by Parties and others, included in the Toolkit Expert Roster (Toolkit experts), will be involved in the Toolkit review and updating process at least by electronic means.

7. The Toolkit Expert Roster should remain open for further nominations.

8. Party representatives selected from this roster (up to 25–30) may be invited by the Secretariat to participate in Toolkit expert meetings. Participants would be selected considering specific topics of meetings and the expertise available with the particular experts, as well as geographic distribution and balance between developed and developing countries.⁶

9. Additional experts (up to 5) may be invited in order to provide specific expertise related to the particular topic to be discussed, if such expertise is not available with the experts included in the Toolkit Expert Roster.

10. Toolkit expert meetings should be open to observers; however, the total number of meeting participants should not exceed 35.

Procedures, activities, and specific tasks

11. The Toolkit review and updating process should be driven by Parties. Expert panels focusing on a specific source category or task (such as developing of data quality criteria) could be established within the Toolkit Expert Roster, lead by volunteering Parties.

12. The Secretariat, in cooperation with UNEP Chemicals, will organize and facilitate this process as outlined in paragraphs 13–18 below.

13. Parties and others will be invited to generate relevant data and information on Annex C chemicals to assist in the ongoing Toolkit review and updating process, and to provide that information to the Secretariat.

14. On regular bases information will be collected, summarized and provided for consideration of the Toolkit experts. The following sources of information could be considered inter alia:

(a) Relevant information submitted by Parties and others;

(b) Results of available recent literature searches;

(c) Results of possible UNEP activities targeted to verification / establishment of new emission factors.

15. The Toolkit experts should perform the following tasks and activities, among others:

(a) Analyse and evaluate the information before them including the current Toolkit edition;

(b) Identify still existing shortcomings and gaps, agree on priorities, and propose activities for improvement;

(c) Identify possible activities for improving the overall usefulness and user friendliness of the Toolkit, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(d) Elaborate a detailed workplan and timetable for the Toolkit revision and updating process for the forthcoming period, based on the above;

⁶ Participation in the Toolkit expert meeting held 13–15 December 2006 in Geneva was recommended by the participants as a suitable model for participation in future meetings.

- (e) Set up the necessary organizational structure (expert panels);
 - (f) Agree on data quality criteria for validation of data/information, in order to ensure that only scientifically sound information is included in the Toolkit;
 - (g) Validate information and data to be included in the Toolkit according to the agreed data quality criteria and prepare revised/new Toolkit texts;
 - (h) Assess training and capacity-building needs for Parties to evaluate current and projected releases and develop release estimates and trends with respect to Article 5 Annex C persistent organic pollutants.
16. Toolkit expert meetings will be organized to facilitate implementation of the activities and tasks outlined in paragraph 15 above.
17. Toolkit chapters, revised/elaborated by the expert panels, will be circulated to all Toolkit experts for review and comments and afterwards made available through the clearing-house mechanism. Parties and others will be invited to peruse them and provide comments and suggestions.
18. The following activities will be further promoted:
- (a) Sharing and exchanging information via the clearing-house mechanism;
 - (b) Local initiatives for data generation and collection;
 - (c) Joint activities and projects between developed and developing countries;
 - (d) Synergies between activities related to Article 5 and Annex C (release inventories and BAT/BEP).

Periodicity

19. The Conference of the Parties recognizes that the Toolkit should be a living document and defines in its decision SC-2/5 the Toolkit review and updating process as “ongoing”.
20. The Toolkit expert meetings should be organized on a yearly basis, at least up to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. However, work should be continued intersessionally by electronic means, organized by the expert panel leaders, and facilitated by the Secretariat.
21. Revised and agreed Toolkit chapters will be shared via the clearing-house mechanism (see paragraph 17 above). The next full revision of the Toolkit will be presented for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.
22. The Conference of the Parties will decide at its fourth meeting whether the Toolkit review and updating process should continue as outlined above, or on any amendments to it.

SC-3/7: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling resolution 5 adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on issues related to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and decision INC-6/5 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants on measures to reduce or eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants from stockpiles and wastes,

Further recalling decisions SC-1/21 on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes and SC-2/6 on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes and paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* with appreciation decision VIII/16 on technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting adopted updated general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and four other technical guidelines on specific persistent organic pollutants;⁷

7 See document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/7.

2. *Takes note* that the above-mentioned updated general technical guidelines:
 - (a) Established provisional definitions for low persistent organic pollutant in section III A;
 - (b) Established a provisional definition for levels of destruction and irreversible transformation in section III B;
 - (c) Determined methods that are considered to constitute environmentally sound disposal in section IV G;
3. *Reminds* Parties, when implementing their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention, to take into account the above-mentioned five technical guidelines;
4. *Encourages* the introduction and demonstration of cost-effective methods, selected from the methods contained in section IV G of the above-mentioned updated general technical guidelines, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
5. *Welcomes* the continuing work of the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention related to reviewing and updating the technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants;⁸
6. *Encourages* Parties to the Stockholm Convention to ensure the participation of experts in the ongoing work under the Basel Convention referred to in paragraph 5 above and invites them to submit comments to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention;
7. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and requests the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to undertake, within available resources, training and other capacity-building activities, including those contained in the note by the Secretariat,⁹ to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the present decision.

SC-3/8: National implementation plans

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the implementation plans of the Parties transmitted pursuant to Article 7 listed in the note by the Secretariat¹⁰ and takes note of the deadlines for transmission of those plans;
2. *Encourages* those Parties for whom the deadlines for transmitting their implementation plans have passed to transmit their plans as soon as possible if they have not already done so;
3. *Takes note* of the national implementation plan analysis contained in the note by the Secretariat¹¹ and encourages Parties that have not finalized their implementation plans to ensure that the guidance for assisting countries in the preparation of national implementation plans, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-1/12, is fully taken into account and thus reflected in their respective action plans and strategies;
4. *Invites* Parties to provide to the Secretariat an indication of their main priorities in implementing their national implementation plans for the period 2007–2015;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, taking into account the information received from Parties in accordance with the preceding paragraph, to prepare a report on the priorities identified by Parties in implementing their national implementation plans, which should, among other things, identify possible areas of technical assistance needs;
6. *Takes note* of the draft guidance on social and economic assessment for the development and implementation of persistent organic pollutant national implementation plans set forth in the note by the Secretariat,¹² and requests the Secretariat to develop the guidelines further, resources permitting, to take into account the particular circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

8 See annex I of document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/7, paragraph 7.

9 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/16.

10 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/29/Add.1.

11 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/11.

12 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8.

7. *Encourages* Parties to use, as appropriate, the draft guidance on social and economic assessment in the development and implementation of their national implementation plans;
8. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, based on their experience in using the guidance on social and economic assessment, on how to improve its usefulness;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to complete the draft of the additional guidance called for in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12, for consideration by the Conference at its fourth meeting, provided that the resources needed to do so are made available;
10. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide the additional funding required for developing the additional guidance.

SC-3/9: Listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its second meeting;¹³
2. *Adopts* the code of practice for the treatment of confidential information by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee set out in decision POPRC-2/12 of the Committee;
3. *Endorses* the recommended approach for considering isomers or groups of isomers of chemicals proposed by Parties for inclusion in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention set out in the annex to decision POPRC-2/11 of the Committee;
4. *Takes note* of the workplan for the preparation of a draft risk profile (2006–2007) and the workplan for the preparation of a draft risk management evaluation (2006–2007), which were adopted by the Committee at its second meeting;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake activities to assist Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition, as listed in paragraph 19 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/12;
6. *Confirms* the nomination of Ms. Liselotte Säll to replace Ms. Janneche Utne Skare as a member of the Committee, to serve for the remainder of the latter's term;
7. *Adopts* the list of Parties to be invited to nominate Committee members for terms of office commencing on 5 May 2008 set out in the annex to the present decision.

Annex to decision SC-3/9

List of Parties identified by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting to nominate Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee members whose terms of office will commence on 5 May 2008

From the Africa group

Chad
Ghana
Mauritius
Togo

13 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17.

From the Asia and Pacific group

Cambodia
 India
 Republic of Korea
 Syria

From the Central and Eastern Europe group

Bulgaria

From the Latin America and Caribbean group

Chile
 Honduras

From the Western Europe and others group

France
 Portugal
 Switzerland

SC-3/10: Information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the progress made in implementing the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism and invites Parties and other stakeholders to continue to support the Secretariat in developing it further;
2. *Takes note also* of the draft strategic plan for establishing procedures for the operation of the clearing-house mechanism;¹⁴
3. *Recommends* that the Secretariat, Parties and other interested stakeholders use the draft strategic plan for the further development of information exchange activities and projects pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention, taking into account the fact that the strategic plan is implemented through projects which are approved separately;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to take full account of the current discussions in the ad-hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention in the further development of the clearing-house mechanism;
5. *Approves* the activities for the first phase of implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, as set out in annex I to the note by the Secretariat,¹⁵ subject to availability of funds;
6. *Invites* Parties and other interested stakeholders to promote and contribute to the clearing-house mechanism and to register as members of the clearing-house mechanism network when the system becomes available on the Convention website;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for discussion by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels, taking into account the terms of reference for regional and subregional centres, relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and the goal of promoting synergies with the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions.

14 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/9.

15 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/13.

SC-3/11: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences in implementing the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of technology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-1/15;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit, at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report based on the information provided pursuant to paragraph 1 above and any other pertinent information on the application of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in order to facilitate periodic reviews of the implementation of the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of technology by the Conference of the Parties.

SC-3/12: Terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* the nomination by regions, through the regional representatives on the bureau, of institutions, including Basel Convention regional centres or other relevant existing institutions, to serve as Stockholm Convention regional centres or subregional centres;
2. *Underlines* the importance of increased cooperation and coordination between conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster in promoting the effective regional delivery of capacity-building and the transfer of technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
3. *Affirms* that such regional or subregional centres should be capable of meeting the technical assistance and technology transfer needs and priorities identified in the annex to decision SC-1/15 and fulfilling the terms of reference for such centres set out in annex I of decision SC-2/9;
4. *Requests* regional representatives on the bureau to submit to the secretariat, as soon as practicable after the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, nominations for institutions to become Stockholm Convention regional centres or subregional centres in accordance with the terms of reference for the selection of such centres set forth in the annex to the present decision;
5. *Decides* that institutions nominated by regions will be formally recognized as “nominated Stockholm Convention centres” until the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting decides whether to confirm their endorsement;
6. *Requests* each nominated Stockholm Convention centre to submit a report which explains the status and components set forth in decision SC-2/9 and the annex to that decision, in a format to be provided by the secretariat by 31 July 2007;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its next meeting;
8. *Underlines* that the performance of regional and subregional centres will be evaluated by the Conference of the Parties according to the criteria set out in annex II of SC-2/9 and that, based on that evaluation, the Conference of the Parties may reconsider the status of the centres as regional and subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention.

Annex to decision SC-3/12

Terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention

Mandate

1. Paragraph 4 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention calls for Parties to establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of the Convention. These arrangements are to include regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article 12, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision SC-2/9, adopted terms of reference for regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology as well as criteria for evaluating the performance of such centres. The terms of reference and criteria are set out in annexes I and II, respectively, to that decision.

3. Paragraph 3 of the terms of reference for the centres as contained in decision SC-2/9 indicates that “[e]ach centre, in accordance with its area of expertise, may be entrusted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention with the implementation of specific tasks related to priorities identified in a particular region or subregion being served by the centre.”

4. Paragraph 31 of the terms of reference states as follows:

“Activities in the area of capacity-building and the promotion of transfer of technology undertaken by regional and subregional centres to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention according to Article 12 of the Convention may be funded as appropriate and mutually agreed through the financial mechanism of the Convention which was established under Article 13 and consequently must be consistent with the guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-1/9 and set forth in the annex to that decision.”

Process

5. With the aim of ensuring that regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology are able to address the needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Stockholm Convention, in particular the priorities set out in their national implementation plans, the process for selecting regional and subregional centres will be undertaken as follows:

(a) Each of the United Nations regions will nominate, as soon as practicable, institutions from within the region which are willing to serve as regional and/or subregional centres to provide technical assistance and promote the transfer of technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Such institutions shall be known as “nominated Stockholm Convention Centres.” The nominations should take into account, inter alia:

- (i) The ability of such institutions to fulfil the technical assistance and technology transfer needs and priorities identified in the annex to decision SC-1/15;
- (ii) Compliance with the terms of reference for the centres set forth in annex I of decision SC-2/9;
- (iii) The promotion of efficiency and effective use of resources;
- (iv) The need for enhanced cooperation and coordination among existing centres in the area of chemicals management;

- (b) The Basel Convention regional centres, as well as other existing institutions within the chemicals and waste cluster, may be encouraged to serve as regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology under the Stockholm Convention;
- (c) The secretariat will verify in consultation with the bureau that the nominated Stockholm Convention centres meet the criteria contained in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9;
- (d) Each nominated Stockholm Convention centre may develop a work plan through a process of regional or subregional consultation;
- (e) Each of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres will, in consultation with stakeholders, develop project proposals for submission to the financial mechanism and other potential sources of assistance. Such project proposals shall include the following elements:
- (i) A full project proposal with objectives, a workplan, a budget, a description of the intended geographical scope and an evaluation plan, which should be consistent with the guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (ii) Relevant endorsement letters from eligible Parties included in the project;
 - (iii) Information concerning any sources for financing of the project and, where relevant, letters pledging such support;
- (f) In accordance with the eligibility criteria in decision SC-1/9, support from the Global Environment Facility for projects proposed by developing countries or countries with economies in transition in collaboration with nominated Stockholm Convention centres located in developed countries would be limited to activities undertaken within developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of building institutional capacity in order to facilitate regional/subregional institutional ownership;
- (g) At its next meeting, the Conference of the Parties will consider the endorsement of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres;
- (h) Without prejudice to future decisions, the process of nominating centres to serve as regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology under the Stockholm Convention may be facilitated by the Secretariat as appropriate and will be done within existing budgetary resources.

SC-3/13: Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its third meeting¹⁶ and takes note of the information contained therein;
2. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

SC-3/14: Resource mobilization

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the information set out in the report on other possible sources of funding or entities to facilitate the adequacy and sustainability of funding for activities relevant to the implementation of the Convention;¹⁷

16 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/3.

17 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/12, annex.

2. *Invites*, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, developed country Parties, other Parties and other possible sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, to provide information to the Secretariat on ways in which they can support the Convention;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat, based on the information provided pursuant to the invitation in paragraph 2 above, to develop further the report on other possible sources of funding and to submit it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

SC-3/15: Needs assessment

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the preliminary assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2006-2010;

2. *Adopts* the revised terms of reference for work on the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2010–2014 set forth in the annex to the present decision;

3. *Invites* Parties and others to provide the relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Annex to decision SC-3/15

Revised terms of reference for work on the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2010–2014

Objectives

1. The objectives of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference are:
 - (a) To enable the Conference of the Parties to provide at regular intervals, to the principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 13 of the Convention, and to other entities should they be so entrusted, assessments of the total funding needed by Parties eligible for assistance from the financial mechanism to facilitate their effective implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) To provide the principal entity with a framework and modalities for the determination in a predictable and identifiable manner of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention by Parties eligible for assistance from the financial mechanism.

Methodology

2. Pursuant to the objectives in paragraph 1 above, the work will be facilitated and coordinated by the Secretariat with a view to enabling a team of up to three independent experts for up to three months to undertake a full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2010–2014, based on, among other things, the methodology, experience and available data gained from the preliminary assessment of funding needs for the period 2006–2010,¹⁸ for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.
3. The assessment will include an estimation of costs and funding needs that are identified for activities in national implementation plans, which:
 - (a) Are direct obligations under the Convention;
 - (b) Are necessary for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) Involve other, indirect costs related to the implementation of the Convention but not covered by (a) or (b).

¹⁸ See the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-2/12.

4. The methodology for assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention will be transparent, reliable and replicable.

Execution

5. The assessment of funding needs will include:

- (a) The compilation and analysis of the needs identified in the national implementation plans submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention;
- (b) The review of reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention to identify information on funding needs in fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention;
- (c) The compilation and analysis of such funding needs identified in any supplementary information provided by the principal entity of the financial mechanism, other international financial institutions, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, including the private sector, and secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements;
- (d) The compilation and analysis of any supplementary information provided by Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition on their funding needs for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention.

Sources of information

6. In developing the assessment of funding needs, the work will draw primarily upon information provided in the national implementation plans submitted pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention.

7. Relevant supplementary information will be drawn from the Secretariat, Parties, entities of the financial mechanism, other international financial institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including the private sector and secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, where available, such as:

- (a) The Global Environment Facility, which, as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism on an interim basis, is invited to provide information gathered through its operations relevant to assistance needs in eligible Parties;
- (b) Other international financial institutions that provide bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention, which are invited to provide information on such assistance, including the levels of such assistance;
- (c) Intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, which are invited to provide information relating to the needs assessment;
- (d) Secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, which are invited to provide information relevant to modalities for conducting similar needs assessments in connection with their agreements;
- (e) Parties, which are invited to provide any other information on their experiences in implementing the Convention.

Scope

8. The assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs with a view to identifying, in full needs assessments, baseline and incremental funding needs in order for all Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

Process

9. The information identified above should be provided to the Secretariat by 31 October 2008. Any future updating of this information will be decided by the Conference of the Parties.

10. Based on the information it receives from the Secretariat the team of experts will prepare a report on the assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2010–2014 by Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition and transmit it to the Secretariat.

11. The Secretariat will present the report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting for its consideration and subsequent action, including informing the replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility.

SC-3/16: Additional guidance to the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions SC-1/9 and SC-2/11;
2. *Welcomes* the successful fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility along with the increased level of the funding for persistent organic pollutants within that replenishment;
3. *Welcomes* the ongoing policy reforms within the Global Environment Facility and also welcomes in particular the streamlining of its project cycle, its review of focal area strategies and priority setting and its increased emphasis on the sound management of chemicals;
4. *Invites* Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and intergovernmental organizations to participate in the development of the business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control and encourages the Global Environment Facility, donors and other funding agencies to provide financial and other resources to support the creation and implementation of the business plan;
5. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to incorporate best available techniques and best environmental practices and demonstration as one of its priorities for providing financial support;
6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to incorporate activities related to the global monitoring plan and capacity-building in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition as priorities for providing financial support;
7. *Decides* that the outcomes of the periodic assessments of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the convention shall be an input of the Conference of the Parties to the negotiations on the replenishment of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility;
8. *Welcomes* the Global Environment Facility's shift in emphasis from support for the preparation of national implementation plans to the implementation of those plans and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue to streamline its project cycle so that persistent organic pollutant projects can be developed and implemented on a priority basis;
9. *Welcomes* the co-financing analysis of the Global Environment Facility in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting and urges the Global Environment Facility to take into full consideration the different characteristics of projects when establishing its co-financing requirements;
10. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in its support for the delivery of technical assistance on a regional basis, to give consideration to the proposals that may be developed by nominated Stockholm Convention centres and to prioritize such support to those centres situated in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with paragraph 31 of the terms of reference for regional and subregional centres contained in the annex to decision SC-2/9 and paragraph 5 (e) of the annex to decision SC-3/12;
11. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism on an interim basis to give special consideration to those activities relevant to the sound management of chemicals identified as priorities in national implementation plans when deciding on the funding of activities under the Convention;
12. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to give special consideration to support for those activities identified as priorities in national implementation plans which promote capacity-building in sound chemicals management, so as to enhance synergies in the implementation of different multilateral environment agreements and further strengthen the links between environment and development objectives;
13. *Also requests* the Global Environment Facility to support, within its project activities, the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to estimate the costs and funding needs of activities in their national implementation plans.

SC-3/17: Second review of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile information relevant to the second review of the financial mechanism and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fourth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-3/17

Terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism

Objective

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties will review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism established under Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention in supporting implementation of the Convention, with a view to taking appropriate action, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by means of recommendations and guidance to ensure adequate and sustainable funding. For that purpose, the review will include an analysis of:
 - (a) The mechanism's ability to address the changing needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
 - (b) The criteria and the guidance referred to in paragraph 7 of Article 13 of the Convention, including the mechanism's ability to incorporate policy guidance from the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) The level and timeliness of funding;
 - (d) The effectiveness of the performance of the Global Environment Facility in its capacity as the principal entity entrusted on an interim basis with the operations of the financial mechanism.

Methodology

2. The review will cover all activities of the financial mechanism for the period from July 2005 to October 2008. The review may also consider relevant activities that have been undertaken before that time period.
3. The review shall analyse how the Global Environment Facility has performed according to the objective in paragraph 1 above, using the performance criteria set out in paragraph 11 of the present terms of reference.
4. The review shall draw on, among others, the following sources of information:
 - (a) Information provided by the Parties on their experiences gained in undertaking activities funded by the financial mechanism, which may include their assessment of the mechanism using the performance criteria set out in paragraph 11 below;
 - (b) Reports submitted to the Conference of the Parties by the Global Environment Facility;
 - (c) Other reports provided by the Global Environmental Facility including, among others, the reports of its Evaluation Office and its overall performance studies;
 - (d) Reports and information provided by other relevant entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention;
 - (e) Reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention;
 - (f) Relevant information provided by intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders.
5. The Global Environment Facility is requested to provide relevant information for this review to the Secretariat in a timely manner.
6. Parties are encouraged to submit to the Secretariat the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) above as soon as possible but not later than 30 September 2008.

7. Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders are requested to provide to the Secretariat information relevant to achieving the objectives of the present review, as soon as possible but no later than 30 September 2008.

8. In keeping with these terms of reference, the Secretariat shall:

- (a) Make adequate arrangements to ensure that the effectiveness review is undertaken in an independent and transparent manner;
- (b) Hire an independent evaluator to prepare a draft report on the review of the financial mechanism;
- (c) Submit the draft report on the review of the financial mechanism to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fourth meeting.

Report

9. The report of the review shall include, among other things, the following elements:

- (a) An overview of elements (a) to (d) of paragraph 1 above;
- (b) An analysis of lessons learned from the activities funded by the financial mechanism during the period covered by the review;
- (c) An assessment of the Global Environment Facility principles of incremental cost and global environmental benefits as they pertain to activities relating to persistent organic pollutants in order to facilitate fulfilment of obligations under the Convention, along with lessons learned from the evaluation reports on the activities of the Global Environment Facility;
- (d) An assessment of the timeliness, accessibility, adequacy, sustainability and predictability of the funding;
- (e) Recommendations and guidance to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in meeting the objectives of the Convention;
- (f) An assessment against the performance criteria listed in paragraph 11 below.

10. The Secretariat shall submit the report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fourth meeting. The report shall be deemed an official document of the Conference of the Parties.

Performance criteria

11. The effectiveness of the financial mechanism shall be assessed taking into account, among other things:

- (a) The responsiveness of the Global Environment Facility to guidance from the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) The responsiveness of the Global Environment Facility, in its capacity on an interim basis as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, to the resolutions adopted on 22 May 2001 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention relating to interim financial arrangements;¹⁹
- (c) The transparency and timeliness of the project approval process;
- (d) The simplicity, flexibility and expeditiousness of the procedures for accessing funds;
- (e) The adequacy and sustainability of the resources;
- (f) Country ownership of activities funded by the financial mechanism;
- (g) The level of stakeholder involvement.

¹⁹ Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (UNEP/POPS/CONF/4), appendix I.

SC-3/18: Reporting

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* Parties that have not yet done so to submit their national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention no later than 31 July 2007;
2. *Invites* Parties to provide comments on their experience in using the electronic system for reporting to the Secretariat by 31 December 2007;
3. *Encourages* Parties that have not used the electronic system for reporting to do so;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To prepare a report pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Convention by 30 July 2008 in time to be used in the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Convention;
 - (b) To develop a users manual for the electronic system for reporting and distribute it widely in order to facilitate the process for reporting pursuant to Article 15;
 - (c) To provide training, upon request and subject to the availability of funds, to enable Parties to use the electronic system for reporting effectively;
 - (d) To make non-substantive modifications to the reporting forms in order to make the electronic system for reporting more user friendly, including by enhancing its flexibility;
 - (e) To develop, resources permitting, an enhanced version of the electronic system for reporting that takes into account such modifications.

SC-3/19: Effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report prepared by the chair of the provisional ad hoc technical working group on the global monitoring plan²⁰ and the reports of the first and second meetings of the group and notes that the group has completed its task;²¹
2. *Adopts* on a provisional basis the amended global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants;²²
3. *Adopts* the amended implementation plan for the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants for the first effectiveness evaluation;²³
4. *Establishes* “regional organization groups” with the mandate and terms of reference specified in the annex to the present decision, invites Parties to nominate members of those groups with expertise in monitoring and data evaluation through their respective Bureau members to the Secretariat and decides that the members of the groups shall include members who serve on the coordination group established in the following paragraph plus up to three additional members, as well as invited experts in relevant fields, as necessary;
5. *Establishes* a “coordination group” with the mandate and terms of reference specified in the annex to the present decision and invites regional organization groups to nominate members of the group through their respective bureau members to the Secretariat;
6. *Agrees* that the amended preliminary version of the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants provides an appropriate basis for the Parties to implement the global monitoring plan and requests the Secretariat to arrange for updating the guidance, taking into consideration any comments received from Parties;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to bring the work undertaken in accordance with the present decision to the attention of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and to request its assistance in the provision of relevant information;

20 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, annex I.

21 UNEP/POPS/GMP/TWG.1/6 and UNEP/POPS/TWG.2/8.

22 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, annex II.

23 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1.

8. *Invites* Parties and others who are members of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting to provide data on persistent organic pollutants in the Antarctic through their respective regional organization groups;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat, within available resources, to support training and capacity-building activities to assist countries in implementing the global monitoring plan for the first effectiveness evaluation;

10. *Also requests* the Secretariat to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake the implementation activities;

11. *Invites* Parties that are in a position to do so to support the establishment and the long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan.

Annex to decision SC-3/19

Terms of reference and mandate of the regional organization groups and the coordination group

Regional groups

1. For the purpose of coordinating global coverage for the first global monitoring report, Parties will report flexibly through the five United Nations regions. For monitoring programmes that cover more than one United Nations region the results will be reported through one of the United Nations regions and the other involved United Nations regions will be informed.²⁴

Duties of the regional organization groups

2. The duties of each regional organization group would include, among other things:

- (a) Establishing its membership;
- (b) Identifying where existing suitable monitoring data are and are not available;
- (c) Developing a regional strategy for implementation of the global monitoring plan;
- (d) Establishing and promoting regional, subregional and interregional monitoring networks wherever possible;
- (e) Coordinating with the Parties involved sampling and analytical arrangements;
- (f) Ensuring compliance with protocols for quality assurance and quality control, noting the examples described in the amended preliminary version of the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants for sample collection and analytical methodologies; for data archiving and accessibility; and trend analysis methodologies to ensure quality and allow comparability of data;
- (g) For maintaining the interaction with other regional organization groups and the Secretariat as appropriate;
- (h) Identifying capacity-building needs in its region;
- (i) Assisting, for the purpose of addressing gaps, in the preparation of project proposals, including through partnerships;
- (j) Preparing a summary of experiences in implementing the duties assigned in subparagraphs (h) and (i) above for transmittal to the coordinating group via the Secretariat;
- (k) Preparing regional reports including, where appropriate, information from Antarctica;
- (l) Encouraging transparency of communication and information dissemination within and between regions, noting the need for stakeholder involvement.

²⁴ For example, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island countries could report through the group of Western European and other countries or the group of Asia and Pacific countries.

Coordination group

3. The coordination group should comprise three members from each region, nominated by the respective regional coordination groups, and is to meet once prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to perform the following tasks:

- (a) Facilitating preparation of the global monitoring report, which is an integration of regional reports;
- (b) Assessing regional work with the aim of achieving consistency between regions;
- (c) Identifying impediments to the implementation of the global monitoring plan;
- (d) Promoting:
 - (i) Experience sharing within and between regions;
 - (ii) Capacity-strengthening to address gaps in coverage for the core media where possible;
- (e) Evaluating the first phase of the global monitoring plan and developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, including:
 - (i) Continued coordination and oversight of the global monitoring plan for subsequent evaluations, taking into account the work already achieved;
 - (ii) Updating the amended preliminary version of the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants, taking into account technical developments and possible supplementation of the core data with data from other media;
 - (iii) Further capacity-enhancement for Parties on a regional basis;
 - (iv) The role, membership and activities of the coordinating group in support of subsequent effectiveness evaluations;
 - (v) Compiling a global synthesis of the regional organization groups' experiences in identifying regional capacity-building needs and preparing proposals to address such needs.

SC-3/20: Non-compliance

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 17 of the Stockholm Convention,

Mindful that procedures and institutional mechanisms are called for under article 17 for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance,

1. *Decides* to negotiate further and to consider for adoption at its fourth meeting the procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance required under article 17 of the Convention;

2. *Decides also* that the draft text contained in the annex to the present decision, bearing in mind the proposal of the Chair of the contact group contained in the appendix to the draft text, shall be the basis for its further work on the procedures and institutional mechanisms at its fourth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-3/20

[[Non-compliance][Compliance] procedures under Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention²⁵

Objective, nature and underlying principles

1. The objective of the procedures and institutional mechanisms (hereinafter referred to as “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 administered in a manner that is simple, effective, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, forward-looking, flexible, transparent, fair, predictable and cooperative.²⁶
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] [20] members. Members shall be experts nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties. In the election of 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.

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.

25 The following text will be inserted into a decision adopting these procedures: “The following procedures and institutional mechanisms have been developed in accordance with Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Convention’.”

26 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.”

Meetings

11. The Committee shall hold meetings as necessary, at least once a year and whenever possible in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties or other Convention bodies.
12. [XX]²⁷ members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
13. Subject to paragraph 22 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 17, 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.

Decision-making

- [15. 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.]
16. 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. When a member finds himself or herself faced with a direct or indirect conflict of interest, or is a citizen of a Party whose compliance is in question, that member shall bring the issue to the attention of the Committee before consideration of the 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*

17. 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 is affected or may be affected by another Party's difficulties in complying with the Convention's obligations. 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 paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention, it becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention on the basis of the second and subsequent reports received pursuant to Article 15, provided that the matter has not been resolved within ninety days by consultation with the Party concerned. 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.

OR

- (c alt) The Committee, if a Party's second or subsequent report to the Conference of the Parties under Article 15 indicates difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention.]

²⁷ 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.

18. The Secretariat shall forward submissions made under subparagraph 17 (a) above, within fifteen days of receipt of such submissions, to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

[19. The Secretariat shall, within fifteen days of receipt of any submission made under subparagraph 17 (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.]²⁸

[20. The Secretariat shall send any submission it makes in accordance with paragraph 17 (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 17 (c) above;]²⁹

21. 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.

22. 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.³⁰

23. 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 17 (b) above, the information shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Party that made the submission.]

24. 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. Any such comments are to be reflected in the report of the Committee.

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

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

Facilitation by the Committee

26. The Committee shall consider submissions made to it in accordance with paragraph 17 above 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 consultation with the Party whose compliance is in question:

- (a) Provide advice;
- (b) Issue non-binding recommendations, including on establishing and strengthening domestic regulatory measures and monitoring, as appropriate, and on steps to remedy the non-compliance situation;
- (c) Following consideration of the need for technical and financial assistance, facilitate 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, and provide information and advice, upon request, in the development of such a plan;
- (e) Provide assistance, upon request, in the review of the implementation of the action plan;

²⁸ This paragraph is in brackets as paragraph 17 (b) is still in brackets.

²⁹ This paragraph is in brackets as paragraph 17 (c) is still in brackets.

³⁰ One representative considered that this paragraph referred to a Party-to-Party trigger, the inclusion of which has not yet been agreed.

(f) Pursuant to subparagraph (d) above, report to the Conference of the Parties on efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance and should maintain the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

27. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 26 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 and the extent to which financial or technical assistance has been previously provided, the Committee considers it necessary to pursue further action to address a Party's compliance problems, 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]:

(a) 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;

[(c) Issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance;]

[(d) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public cases of non-compliance;]

[(e) In case 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 the objectives of the Convention;]]

(f) The Conference of the Parties considers and undertakes any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention under Article 19(5)(d).

[28. In case a developing country is found to be non-compliant because of a lack of technical and financial assistance, sub-paragraphs 27 (c)–(f) shall not be applicable.]³¹

Monitoring

29. The Committee should monitor the consequences of action taken in pursuance of paragraphs 26 and 27 above, including efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance, maintain the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved, and report on it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 33.

Information

Consultation and information

30. 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) Seek the advice of the Conference of the Parties and consult with other bodies of the Convention, including the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;

(c) Exchange information with the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in particular for the purpose of drawing up its recommendations, 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, either with the consent of the Party concerned or 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 whose compliance is in question or as directed by the Conference of the Parties;

(d alt2) Use and request information from all sources it considers relevant;]

(e) Undertake, with the agreement of any Party, information gathering in that Party's territory for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the Committee;

31 One delegation wished to retain this provision until the outcome of negotiations on paragraph 27.

(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) Take into consideration national reports of Parties required by the Convention or submitted pursuant to decisions of the Conference of the Parties with a view to gathering information relevant to non-compliance.

Handling of information

31. 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

32. 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

33. 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

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

Other multilateral environmental agreements

35. 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 those activities to the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the compliance mechanism

36. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation and effectiveness of the procedures.

Relationship with dispute settlement

37. The procedures shall be without prejudice to Article 18 of the Convention.

Rules of procedure

38. 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 the procedures.

39. The Committee may develop any additional rules, including those on languages, that may be required and shall submit them to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and approval.]

Appendix to decision SC-3/20

Chair's proposal

~~Non-compliance~~ **Compliance** procedures under Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention

2. The procedures shall be administered in a manner that is simple, effective, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, forward-looking, flexible, transparent, fair, predictable and cooperative ~~in nature~~.

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.

6. The Committee shall consist of ~~10~~ ~~15~~ ~~19~~ ~~20~~ members. Members shall be experts 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.

Comment: The release of all brackets in the principles section is meant to balance off the very strong views supporting their importance for this document, and the equally strong views on having a committee that is a manageable size and representative in the traditional manner.

~~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. Submissions to the Committee may be made by:
[...]

~~(b)~~ A Party that is affected or may be affected by another Party's difficulties in complying with the Convention's obligations. 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 Article 20 (2) of the Convention, it becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention on the basis of the second and subsequent reports received pursuant to Article 15, provided that the matter has not been resolved within ninety days by consultation with the Party concerned. 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. }

OR

(c alt) The Committee, if a Party's second or subsequent report to the Conference of the Parties under Article 15 indicates difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention.

27. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 26 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, and the extent to which financial or technical assistance has been previously provided, the Committee considers it necessary to pursue further action to address a Party's compliance problems, it may recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider one or more of the following actions ~~to~~, to be taken in accordance with international law, ~~including~~:

- (a) 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;
- (c) Issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance;
- ~~[(d) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public cases of 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.]]~~

(d) The Conference of the Parties considers and undertakes any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention under Article 19 (5) (d).

~~[28. In case a developing country is found to be non-compliant because of a lack of technical and financial assistance, sub-paragraphs 28 (e)–(f) shall not be applicable.]~~

Comment: To balance off concerns about triggers, consensus decision-making is proposed. The current provision on decision-making is deleted, leaving the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to apply, which require consensus. Due to concerns expressed about a secretariat trigger, two versions of this were retained, along with a (c) alt which tries to accomplish the same thing but leaves the secretariat out of the equation. Again, given the importance of these two triggers to most Parties, the concerns of other Parties are also addressed through deletion of subparas. (d) and (e) of para. 28. With those subparas removed, there is no need for 29.

30. In carrying out its functions, the Committee may:

[subparagraph (d) deleted]

(d alt) Request further information from any reliable source and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate, either with the consent of the Party whose compliance is in question or as directed by the Conference of the Parties;

[subparagraph (d alt2) deleted]

35. 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.

Comment: although most delegations favoured retaining this, they indicated they could be flexible for the one delegation who has insisted upon this.

SC-3/21: Synergies

The Conference of the Parties

Takes note of the supplementary report on cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention of the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention prepared by the out-going President of the Conference;

Welcomes the establishment of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and takes note of the report of its first meeting;³²

Notes that the ad hoc joint working group will make joint recommendations to the Conference of the Parties of all three conventions, including the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting.

SC-3/22: Official communication with Parties and observers

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Urges* Parties that have not already done so to nominate, in accordance with decision SC-2/16, official contact points to perform administrative functions and undertake all formal communication under the Convention for Parties;

2. *Invites* Parties and States not party to the Convention to confirm their existing focal points or nominate new national focal points for information exchange.

32 UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/4.

Annex II

List of pre-session documents organized by agenda item

Item 2: Organizational matters		
	(a) Election of officers	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/2	Election of officers of the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting
	(b) Adoption of the agenda	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1	Provisional agenda
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
	(c) Organization of work	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/1	Scenario note for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/31	List of pre-session documents organized by agenda item
Item 3: Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies		
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/3	Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties
Item 5: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties		
	(a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use:	
(i) DDT	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/4	Evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and alternative strategies to replace DDT
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/24	Report of the expert group on the assessment of the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/2	Draft revised DDT questionnaire
(ii) Exemptions	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/5	Review process for entries in the register of specific exemptions
(iii) Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2(b) of Article 3	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/6	Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure contained in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3
	(b) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production	
(i) Best available techniques and best environmental practices	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/7	Report of the co-chairs of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/4	Draft guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 and Annex C

	UNEP/POPS/EGBATBEP.2/4	Report of the second meeting of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices
(ii)	Identification and quantification of releases	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/8	Ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/6	Expert meeting to develop further the Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/24	Experts nominated by Parties to be consulted on the further development of the Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/27	World Health Organization re-evaluation of dioxin toxic equivalency factors
(c)	Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/9	Secretariat report on the guidelines relating to persistent organic pollutant wastes adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/7	Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants wastes adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/28	Submission by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention of technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as wastes
(d)	Implementation plans	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/10	Guidance for implementation plans
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/11	Analysis of implementation plans transmitted to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/29	Implementation plans transmitted to the Conference of the Parties
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8	Draft guidance on socio-economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the Stockholm Convention
(e)	Listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/12	Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: relevant developments for action by the Conference of the Parties
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/20	Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: nominee to replace a member who could not complete her term of office
	UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17 and Add.1–Add.5	Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its second meeting and addenda on risk profile on commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether; Chlordecone; hexabromobiphenyl; lindane; and perfluorooctane sulfonate

(f)	Information exchange	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/13	Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/9	Revised draft of a strategic plan for establishing procedures for the operation of the clearing-house mechanism under the Stockholm Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/10	Information exchange and management requirements under the Stockholm Convention and other information relevant to the development of a draft of a strategic plan for establishing procedures for the operation of the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention
(g)	Technical assistance	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/14	Guidance on technical assistance
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/15	Draft terms of reference for the process of selecting regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/5	Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on the draft terms of reference for selecting regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology under the Stockholm Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/11	Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on the provision of technical assistance and transfer of technology to developing countries to assist implementation of their implementation plans and other obligations under the Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/32	Experiences in the provision of technical assistance and transfer of technology
(h)	Financial resources	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/16	Report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties of the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/17	Mobilization of resources
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/18	Draft terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/19	Report of the preliminary assessment of the funding needs for Parties which are developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2006–2010
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/20	Revised terms of reference for work on modalities on the needs assessment
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/3	Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/12	Other possible sources of funding or entities to facilitate the adequacy and sustainability of funding for activities relevant to the implementation of the Convention
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/21	Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat regarding information needed for the preliminary assessment of the funding needs of Parties which are developing countries or countries with economies in

		transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2006–2010
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/23	Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on views on the further elaboration of the terms of reference for work on assessment of funding needs
(i)	Reporting	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/21	Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention
(j)	Effectiveness evaluation	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22 and Corr.1	Effectiveness evaluation
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23	Draft implementation plan for the global monitoring plan for the first effectiveness evaluation
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/14	Guidance on the global monitoring plan
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/15	Updated information on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes
	UNEP/POPS/GMP/TWG.1/6	Report of the Provisional Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on the work of its first meeting
	UNEP/POPS/GMP/TWG.2/8	Reports of the Provisional Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on the work of its second meeting
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/33*	Global project on assessment of existing capacity and capacity-building needs for the analysis of persistent organic pollutants in developing countries
(k)	Non-compliance	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/26	Non-compliance: 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
	UNEP/POPS/OEWG-NC.2/2	Report of the open-ended ad hoc working on non-compliance on the work of its second meeting
(l)	Synergies	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/28	Enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/13	Supplementary report on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/19 and Add.1	Comments on the supplementary report on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and addendum containing additional comments from the European Union
	UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/4	Report of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of its first meeting
Item 6:	Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget	
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/27	Activities of the Secretariat and budget for 2008 and 2009
	UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/16 and Add.1	Cost analysis of new proposals before the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting and addendum

* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/33 was issued during the meeting.

UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/17	Updated information on expenditures and on contributions pledged or received
UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/18	Concerns about the scale of contributions
UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/25	Alternative operational budget that maintains the operational budget for the 2008–2009 biennium at the 2006–2007 level in nominal terms
UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/29	Logo of the Stockholm Convention

Item 8: Other matters

UNEP/POPS/COP.3/25	Official communication with Parties and observers
UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/22	Status of ratification of the Stockholm Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/26	List of official contact points and national focal points for information exchange
UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/30	Information provided by UNEP Chemicals on strengthening the capacity of Stockholm Convention national focal points for information exchange pursuant to Article 9

Annex III

Report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The representatives of 95 Parties have been registered to participate in the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and are present at the meeting.

Eighty-nine Parties submitted credentials of their respective representatives which were issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs and therefore were found in order.

The following two Parties communicated the nominations of their representatives by letters issued by officials from the embassy or the ministry of foreign affairs, but were not signed by a minister for foreign affairs: Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, the following four Parties did not submit credentials or official notifications for their representatives: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia and Syrian Arab Republic. These six Parties are therefore participating as observers in the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will be recorded as such in the report.
