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**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

English only

Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 12–16 October 2009

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Other matters

**Comparison between the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review
Committee and the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Annex I to the present note contains a table prepared by the Secretariat comparing the processes followed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention and the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
2. Following earlier discussions at the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, a discussion paper on possible technical and process efficiencies in the review of substances nominated to both the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Stockholm Convention was prepared by Mr. David Stone. The paper has been reproduced in annex II to the present note. It was reviewed at and between the forty-third and forty-fifth sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the matter will be further discussed at the next session of the Executive Body, to be held in December 2009.
3. The annexes have not been formally edited by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/1.

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Annex I

Comparison between the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants

	Stockholm Convention/ POPs Review Committee	Convention on LRTAP-Protocol on POPs/ Task Force on POPs
Conventions		
Parties to the Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially all countries can become Parties to the Convention Currently 164 Parties (as of August 2009) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56 countries in the UN ECE region (European countries, Canada, US, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Israel) 51 of these countries are Parties to the Convention on LRTAP 29 of them are Parties to POPs Protocol
Entry into force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 May 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convention: March 1983 POPs Protocol: 23 October 2003
Terms of reference of the Review Committee/Task Force		
Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidiary body to the Stockholm Convention established under Article 19, paragraph 6 of the Convention Terms of reference: SC-1/7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established by Executive Body decision 2003/10 to address the technical needs of the reviews and reassessments required by the Protocol Executive Body decision 2003/10
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing the functions assigned to that Committee by the Convention (<i>Article 19, paragraph 5</i>) So far: Article 8 par 3 to 9 of the Convention (review of chemicals proposed for listing under the Convention) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out the tasks specified for it in the work-plan adopted annually by the Executive Body and report thereon to the Working Group on Strategies and Review So far: prepare technical reviews of proposals and explore substance management strategies upon request
Reporting line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference of the Parties (COP) which meets every second year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receives instructions from Executive Body which meets annually and fixes work plan for the Task Force Reports to Working Group on Strategies and Review of the Convention which develops strategies for action on substances and proposes actions for adoption by the Executive Body
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 government-designated experts with equitable geographical distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African States: 8 Asian and Pacific States: 8 Central and Eastern European States: 3 Latin American and Caribbean States: 5 Western European and other States: 7 Terms of office: 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts from the Parties to the Convention (each Party to nominate a national focal point) No fixed timeframes for membership
Invited experts to meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee can invite up to 30 experts Roster of experts established which includes designated experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair(s) may invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force to attend a meeting as observers
Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings are open to observers (observers: all participants other than the members) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings are open to observers (individuals designated as authorized representatives of IGOs or accredited NGOs) (<i>decision 1998/2</i>)
Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One chair (currently, Germany) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chairs (currently, Canada and the Netherlands) Lead country/ies assume/s the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of the Task Force, organizing meetings, designating chair(s), communications with participating experts and observers, and for other organizational arrangements
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once a year (or more often, as needed)

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Conflict of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members and invited experts to sign a declaration of interest form Before the start of each meeting, the Committee meets in closed session to discuss any issues related to conflicts of interest of members of the Committee; the Chair, the COP President and the Executive Secretary take a decision on the member's participation in the work of the Committee in respect of a particular chemical (<i>SC-4/20</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When nominating experts to take part in peer review teams, the association of the nominee with the produced dossier has to be indicated (experts that participated in the production of the dossier should not be involved in peer review teams)
Decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee shall make every effort to adopt its recommendations by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no consensus reached, such recommendation shall as a last resort be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting. (<i>Article 19, par 6 (c)</i>) In addition to the procedures in Article 8 and para 6 of Article 19, the Committee shall apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise provided in these terms of reference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force reaches conclusions based upon its technical reviews but it does not provide recommendations Technical reports prepared by the Task Force for the Working Group on Strategies and Review reflect the full range of views expressed during its meetings
Meeting languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) Only major resource documents are translated (<i>SC-4/20</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English only
Review Process		
Procedure (See Flow-chart)	Amendments to Annex A, B and C: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 8 (Review process) Article 22 (Amendment of Annexes) SC-1/7 (Terms of Reference of the Committee) 	Amendments to Annex I, II and III: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 14 (Amendment of Annexes) Executive Body decision 1998/2 (Information to be submitted in proposal and procedure for adding substances) Executive Body decision 2003/10 (Establishment of Task Force) Guidelines for the technical review
Proposal to add new chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party-driven (one Party to submit proposal) Risk profile and risk management evaluation are under the responsibility of the Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party-driven (one Party to submit proposal) Responsibility to provide risk assessment information and risk management strategy remains with proposing Party, other Parties submit comments, reviews and additional information
Information to be provided by submitting Party	Proposal in accordance with information specified in Annex D: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical identity POPs criteria Statement of the reason for concern If possible, additional information to support the proposal 	Risk profile: Should contain information needed for the Executive Body to evaluate it and to decide upon whether to amend the protocol, extensive review of scientific information on human health and environmental risks of substance, including information on: <p>Indicative numerical values for the POPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary report Information on production/uses/emissions, measured environmental levels in areas distant from sources, abiotic and biotic degradation processes and rates, degradation products and bio-availability Information on available alternatives and / or control technologies Information on socio-economic factors related to alternatives

	Stockholm Convention/ POPs Review Committee	Convention on LRTAP-Protocol on POPs/ Task Force on POPs
<p>POPs criteria / Indicative Values</p>	<p>Annex D of the Convention:</p> <p>1) <u>Persistence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the half-life of the chemical in water is greater than two months, or that its half-life in soil is greater than six months, or that its half-life in sediment is greater than six months; or • Evidence that the chemical is otherwise sufficiently persistent to justify its • consideration within the scope of this Convention; <p>2) <u>Bio-accumulation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the bio-concentration factor or bio-accumulation factor in aquatic species for the chemical is greater than 5,000 or, in the absence of such data, that the log Kow is greater than 5; • Evidence that a chemical presents other reasons for concern, such as high bio-accumulation in other species, high toxicity or ecotoxicity; or • Monitoring data in biota indicating that the bio-accumulation potential of the chemical is sufficient to justify its consideration within the scope of this Convention; <p>3) <u>Potential for long-range environmental transport:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured levels of the chemical in locations distant from the sources of its release that are of potential concern; • Monitoring data showing that long-range environmental transport of the chemical, with the potential for transfer to a receiving environment, may have occurred via air, water or migratory species; or • Environmental fate properties and/or model results that demonstrate that the chemical has a potential for long-range environmental transport through air, water or migratory species, with the potential for transfer to a receiving environment in locations distant from the sources of its release. For a chemical that migrates significantly through the air, its half-life in air should be greater than two days; <p>4) <u>Adverse effects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of adverse effects to human health or to the environment that justifies consideration of the chemical within the scope of this Convention; or • Toxicity or ecotoxicity data that indicate the potential for damage to human health or to the environment. 	<p>Executive Body decision 1998/2</p> <p>1) <u>Persistence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the substance's half-life in water is greater than two months, or that its half-life in soils is greater than six months, or that its half-life in sediments is greater than six months. Alternatively, evidence that the substance is otherwise sufficiently persistent to be of concern within the scope of the protocol; and <p>2) <u>Bio-accumulation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the BCF or BAF for the substance is greater than 5,000 or the log Kow is greater than 5; or • Alternatively, if the bio-accumulative potential is significantly lower than (i) above, other factors, such as the high toxicity of the substance, that make it of concern within the scope of the protocol. <p>3) <u>Potential for long-range transboundary atmospheric transport:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the substance has a vapour pressure below 1,000 Pa and an atmospheric half-life greater than two days. Alternatively, monitoring data showing that the substance is found in remote regions; <p>4) <u>Toxicity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to adversely affect human health and/or the environment;

	Stockholm Convention/ POPs Review Committee	Convention on LRTAP-Protocol on POPs/ Task Force on POPs
Documents prepared	Article 8 of the Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Profiles (Information according to Annex E) • Risk Management Evaluations (information according to Annex F) → Documents are prepared by drafter and revised by intersessional working group	Annex III to EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/1: Technical reviews of proposals: critical scientific evaluation of the technical content of the proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track A review: Paragraph 1(a) – (d) of decision 1998/2 • Track B review: Paragraph 1, second part of decision 1998/2 → Main document is the dossier (proposal), peer review teams draft the Track A and B reviews
Roles of members, Parties, and observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information according to Annex E and F • Review draft Risk Profiles and Risk Management Evaluations and comment on them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional information and comments on the dossier (proposal) • Track A and Track B reviews on availability, reliability, completeness and relevance of the information and references of the dossier
Final output of process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the listing of the chemical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical reviews of proposals sent to the Working Group on Strategies and Review
Final decision on listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Body to the LRTAP Convention
Duration	Minimum duration of review (if no additional information requested or discussion deferred): 2.5 years (or 3.5 if COP is not taking place in year following the POPRC recommendation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal has to be made 20 weeks prior to next POPRC meeting (October) • Risk Profile development takes one year (till next POPRC meeting) • Risk Management evaluation development takes one year (till next POPRC meeting) • Recommendation to list to be sent to next COP (6 months in advance) 	Minimum duration of review (if no additional reviews undertaken): 2 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal has to be made at least 90 days prior to Executive Body meeting (usually in December) • Track A review of the dossier in one year (up to next Executive Body meeting) • Track B review starts simultaneously but continues one year afterwards (if, based on the outcomes of the Track A review, the Executive Body concludes that the substance is to be considered as a POP) • Decision taken at next Meeting of Executive Body
Work arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc working groups to work during meetings and intersessionally • Chaired by POPRC member • Members and observers can sign up for working groups • The proposing Party usually becomes the drafter of the Risk Profile and Risk Management Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc peer review teams • Task Force members nominate experts using Nomination forms • Peer review selection team (Task Force co-chairs, members of Working Group on Strategies and Review Bureau, CLRTAP Secretariat) makes recommendation to Task Force on members of peer review teams • Peer review selection teams should not include an expert who participated in the preparation of the proposal (Annex III of EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/1)

Table: Comparison of the chemicals in the Stockholm Convention and the Protocol on POPs

Stockholm Convention	Convention on LRTAP-Protocol on POPs
<p>Annex A (Elimination):</p> <p>Initial POPs: Aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene, polychlorinated biphenyls</p> <p>Newly listed: Chlordecone, hexabromobiphenyl, lindane, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether¹, hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether², pentachlorobenzene</p> <p>Annex B (Restriction):</p> <p>Initial POPs: DDT</p> <p>Newly listed: Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride</p> <p>Annex C (Unintentional production):</p> <p>Initial POPs: Dioxins, furans, hexachlorobenzene, polychlorinated biphenyls</p> <p>Newly listed: Pentachlorobenzene</p> <p>Currently discussed for listing:</p> <p>Risk Profile phase: Short chained chlorinated paraffins, endosulfan</p> <p>New proposal: Hexabromocyclododecane</p>	<p>Bans production and use of: Aldrin, chlordane, chlordecone, dieldrin, endrin, hexabromobiphenyl, mirex, and toxaphene</p> <p>Scheduled for elimination at a later stage: DDT³, heptachlor³, hexachlorobenzene³, PCBs⁴</p> <p>Restricts the use of: DDT³, HCH including lindane³, PCBs⁴</p> <p>Obliges to reduce the emission of: .. Dioxins, furans, PAHs, hexachlorobenzene</p> <p>Currently discussed for listing:</p> <p>Decision by Parties on adoption of amendments in order to list 7 new substances in December 2009: Hexachlorobutadiene, octabromodiphenyl ether, pentachlorobenzene, pentabromodiphenyl ether, perfluorooctane sulfonates⁵, polychlorinated naphthalenes, short-chained chlorinated paraffins</p> <p>Currently under review: Dicofol, endosulfan, hexabromocyclododecane, pentachlorophenol and trifluralin</p>

* The highlighted chemicals are in common for both Conventions.

1 BDE-47, BDE-99 and other tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether.

2 BDE-153, BDE-154, BDE-175, BDE-183 and other hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial octabromodiphenyl ether.

3 Parties to the Protocol on POPs at the Executive Body session in December 2009 will be invited to adopt the amendment proposals to ban production and use of these substances.

4 Parties to the Protocol will be expected to amend the exceptions in December 2009.

5 Perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) and 96 related substances.

Flow-chart: Comparison of the review processes by the POPs Review Committee and the Task Force on POPs



