UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

SC

20 August 2013

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Information on activities under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants related to the activities under the POPs Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and proposals to enhance cooperation

Note by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention

I. Introduction

1. Cooperation between the various subsidiary bodies under the UN ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and the UNEP Stockholm Convention has already a long tradition. Several experts from the UN ECE Region, which are involved in activities relevant to persistent organic pollutants (POPs), are involved also in similar activities implemented on global level under the Stockholm Convention. Information and experience is channelled efficiently via these experts, and their involvement in activities under both treaties provides opportunity for cooperation, as well as transfer of knowledge and capacity strengthening on the global level.

2. With regards to the activities under the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollution in Europe (EMEP) the following activities under the Stockholm Convention are relevant:

(a) Inventories of unintentional releases of POPs

(b) Best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT&BEP)

(c) Global monitoring plan for POPs

(d) Effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention

(e) Process for listing of chemicals according to Article 8 of the Stockholm Convention

II. Information on relevant activities

Inventories of unintentional releases of POPs

3. The revision of the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention has been finalized in cooperation with UNEP Chemicals by the Toolkit expert group. New information was integrated into the revised Toolkit, in particular new or improved dioxin emission factors for sources that are relevant in developing regions and emission factors for other unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants. Additional guidance was also developed on the collection of activity data, classification of sources, updating and revision of inventories, quality assurance and quality control.

4. The revised Toolkit is available in an electronic form, with information structured according to its relevance to the inventory process, and is available at http://toolkit.pops.int. The Conference of the

Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its 6th meeting held in May 2013 welcomed the revised Toolkit and encouraged parties to use it when developing source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention, and reporting estimated releases under Article 15 according to the source categories identified in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention.

Best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT&BEP)

5. Two sets of draft guidance documents on best available techniques and best environmental practices, with information relating to the newly listed persistent organic pollutants have been developed and presented at the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in May 2013. The first guidance document relates to best available techniques and best environmental practices for recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). The second guidance document focuses on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention. Further information on the guidance documents can be found in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/15 on implementation plans under Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention.

6. The expert group on BAT&BEP will appraise the draft guidance and collect and evaluate new information from parties and others and revise/supplement the guidance as appropriate.

Global monitoring plan for POPs

7. The global coordination group and regional organization groups for the global monitoring plan for POPs (GMP) finalized updating the guidance document and the arrangements for the implementation of the second phase of the plan at the regional level. The updated global monitoring plan guidance document is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/31 and the global monitoring plan for POPs and the implementation plan are set out in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/31/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/31/Add.2 respectively.

8. Jointly with the World Health Organization, UNEP finalized the first phase of a global survey to generate data on human milk concentrations of the persistent organic pollutants listed in the Stockholm Convention. The compilation of the results of the global survey is provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/33. The second phase of the survey has been initiated in July 2013 to provide further information on the recent trends in POPs concentrations in human milk.

9. To enable harmonized data handling during the second phase of the GMP and ensure that support is given to the collection, processing, storing and presentation of monitoring data in regions with limited capacity, a POPs data warehouse is being developed. It will support the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in data collection and in producing the regional and global monitoring reports, to be used in the effectiveness evaluation process. In regions (such as UNECE) where well-established, public data repositories and reporting schemes are in place, these will be used for the purpose of the GMP, and the POPs data warehouse will strive to be interlinked with them. The global monitoring plan data warehouse will constitute a publicly available repository of valuable information and can serve as a useful resource for policy makers and researchers worldwide, including providing/transferring readily additional information and data to other well established programmes to enable modelling of long range transport of POPs and avoid duplication of efforts for such modelling exercises. The GMP data warehouse will be made available on the Convention's website as the clearinghouse for monitoring information on POPs.

Effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention

10. At its 6th meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the framework for effectiveness evaluation set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1. The Conference further recalled the need for parties to step up their efforts to ensure the timely submission of national reports under Article 15 of the Convention, so that adequate data are available to perform effectiveness evaluation in May 2017.

Process for listing of chemicals according to Article 8 of the Stockholm Convention

11. The POPs Review Committee is mandated to review proposals for listing a chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention, including the information specified in Annex D to the Convention, and to develop a draft risk profile and draft risk management evaluation of the chemical in accordance with Annex E and F to the Convention respectively. The basis for the review of chemicals are, among others, monitoring data and/or model results showing evidence for bioaccumulation and long-range environmental transport; production, release and exposure data;

toxicity and ecotoxicity data; as well as data on possible risk management options. Efficient information exchange on these aspects is likewise enabled by the involvement of experts in activities under both treaties.

III. Proposals to enhance cooperation

12. Parties from the UN ECE Region are invited:

(a) To nominate experts with specific expertise in best available techniques and best environmental practices, in particular those relevant to the chemicals that were listed in the Annexes to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2009 and 2011, to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/8) and to actively engage in the implementation of the adopted workplan referred to in decision SC-6/10 ;

(b) To use the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants when developing source inventories and release estimates of POPs and for reporting estimated releases under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention considering Table III.5.2 in Annex 5 of the Toolkit on transposition of source categorization according to Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, SNAP and NFR;

(c) To engage actively in the implementation of the global monitoring plan, in particular to continue to monitor the core media of air and human breast milk or human blood and initiate monitoring of perfluorooctane sulfonate in surface water in support of future evaluations, to support the further development and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan and to participate in the second-phase milk survey to enable the harmonized detection of global and regional trends in human exposure to persistent organic pollutants.

13. Considering the paragraphs 16(f) and 16(j) of the long term strategy for the implementation of LRTAP Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add1 (2010)) which are identifying the joint work with the Stockholm Convention, the following lines of cooperation and synergy between the two treaties could be further enhanced:

(a) Cooperation with EBAS/NILU in the compilation, storage and analysis of monitoring data of POPs in air;

(b) Cooperation with EMEP on air monitoring and POPs inventories and with MSCE on long-range transport modelling of POPs;

(c) Cooperation with the Working Group on Effects in relation with data of POPs in other than core media (e.g. ICP waters, ICP vegetation and ICP Integrated Monitoring) and possible passive sampler co-location;

(d) Cooperation with the TF Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, where compiling measurements and organizing atmospheric long-range transport modelling of POPs is part of the work plan. Modelling work under HTAP could be very useful for effectiveness evaluation, assessment of changes in POPs levels over time and assessing regional and long-range transport.