

## **IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the establishment of the new IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Information on the new Co-ordinating Group has not yet been formally included on the IOMC Homepage. This is a precautionary step to allow for any remaining issues to be resolved by this meeting of the IOMC/IOCC. Outstanding issues relate principally to which organization will provide the Secretariat to the Group (see IOMC/IOCC/02.06 Paragraph 17).
2. The decision to establish a new IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on POPS was made at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IOMC/IOCC following the IOMC meeting on National Implementation Plans for POPS ( 28-29 January 2002, Glion,-sur- Monteux, Switzerland) and a meeting to develop proposed terms of reference for the Group (14 May 2002, Washington D.C).
3. A detailed report of the informal meeting is provided in Attachment 1. The report of the meeting contains the terms of reference of the new Group. The report was finalised by the participants at the informal meeting in June 2002 and subsequently confirmed by the IOMC/IOCC by written procedure.
4. The key objective for the new co-ordinating group will be to promote coherence among Participating Organizations and government to address POPS and their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.
5. Participation in the new Technical Co-ordinating Group will be sought from Participating Organizations of the IOMC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the secretariat for the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism to the Stockholm Convention, i.e. the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It is proposed that the Chair of the Co-ordinating Group will rotate among the members of the Group and that the Secretariat be provided by the IOMC Secretariat.
6. It is proposed that UNITAR will chair the first meeting of the new Technical Working Group.

### **Action required**

**That IOMC/IOCC consider any issues associated with the establishment of the new Technical Co-ordinating Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants and that nominations be sought for membership of the Group.**

**REPORT OF A PLANNING MEETING  
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW IOMC TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP FOR  
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)**

1. An informal half-day meeting was held at World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C. on 14 May 2002 to develop a proposal for a new IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The Chair of the meeting was Bill Murray (Food and Agriculture Organization). The list of participants at the meeting is given in [Annex 1](#).
2. The approved agenda for the meeting is given in [Annex 2](#).

**Agenda Item 3. Report of expanded IOMC meeting on National Implementation Plans for Persistent Organic Pollutants**

3. Mr Jim Willis presented an overview of the IOMC meeting on National Implementation Plans for Persistent Organic Pollutants, held on 28-29 January 2002 at Glion-sur-Montreux, Switzerland. The report of this meeting was circulated as [Document 1](#). At Glion-sur-Montreux, it was agreed that measures were needed to ensure that National Implementation Plans (NIPs) met the needs of Parties in implementing the Stockholm Convention. It was highlighted that issues of consistency of design, approach and content in developing NIPs needed to be addressed and a common understanding reached on the inclusion of elements in NIPs that are not required by the Stockholm Convention.
4. It was also agreed that guidance was needed to support the development of NIPs. In developing new guidance, any gaps and weaknesses in any relevant existing guidance on NIPs or related matters needed to be identified together with ways of working to exploit synergies between intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). This would help to achieve a consistent approach to the development of guidance for NIPs.
5. The meeting at Glion-sur-Montreux identified co-operation and collaboration among IGOs as an issue for further consideration and recognized that a number of types of co-operation were possible. The key need appeared to be how to build on the unique or specific role of the individual agencies while avoiding unnecessary duplication. It was suggested that this might best be served by one agency acting as the lead in those areas where they are already working e.g. UNITAR leading on work relating to national profiles, FAO on obsolete pesticides, and WHO on DDT etc. A further point highlighted for consideration when developing NIPs was, that once a contract was awarded to one of the implementing agencies, how the work might be divided among those best able to deliver. In this regard, a thorough characterization was needed of the NIPs-related activities of each organization.

**Agenda Item 4. Progress on the development of detailed guidance for National Implementation Plans**

6. Mr Willis briefly described the contents of a Secretariat Note (UNEP/POP/INC.6/20) which had been developed for the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs INC-6) and progress made with the development of detailed guidance for National Implementation Plans. A small technical drafting group had met earlier in the week to review draft guidance produced by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank. The drafting group agreed to restructure the document and progress in its development had been good. The Executive Summary (Part A) would be made available at the POPs INC-6 while the new Part B would be subject to further editing to ensure internal consistency as well as consistency with Part A. The full document was expected to be available within 2 weeks or so.

**Agenda item 5. Progress towards INC- 6 for POPS**

7. Mr Willis reported on preparations for INC-6 for POPs, to be held in Geneva on 17-21 June 2001. 151 countries had already signed the treaty and 11 had ratified it. The Convention will come into force 90 days after the receipt of the 50th instrument of ratification.

8. Mr Willis informed the meeting that it was intended to have "poster displays" making linkages to activities related to POPs in the margins of the INC. These included the Rotterdam Convention, WHO's Roll Back Malaria Programme and activities of the World Bank relating to toxic chemicals and poverty. Mr Willis indicated that there would be an opportunity for IGOs to make verbal statements at INC-6, if this was requested. He indicated that this would be particularly useful in highlighting existing activities that will contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

5. He also drew attention to the need for the Conference of the Parties to review and update implementation plans. The minutes of the IOMC meeting in Montreux would be provided at POPs INC-6. Mr Willis explained that the objectives for POPs INC-6 included the endorsement of the existing process for developing NIPs and the establishment of a link between them and the reporting requirements of Article 15. A mandate would also be sought to develop a paper on reporting needs pulling together information about what is already done under other instruments. There is also a need to identify standard formats for reporting (e.g. pesticide and PCB inventories) in order to avoid reinventing the wheel. It might also be a task of the Co-ordinating Group to consider how the development of NIPs can support a consistent reporting format.

#### **Agenda item 6. Standard Operating Procedures for IOMC Co-ordinating Groups**

9. The Secretariat introduced Document 2, which provides a description of the Standard Operating Procedures for IOMC Co-ordinating Groups. The Secretariat also distributed some Terms of Reference for existing IOMC Co-ordinating Groups that could serve as examples for the development of terms of reference for the new IOMC Co-ordinating Group on POPs.

#### **Agenda item 7. Proposed Terms of Reference for a new IOMC Co-ordinating Group**

10. Mr Willis tabled draft terms of reference for a new IOMC Coordinating Group on POPs. The draft document was discussed by the planning meeting and was revised according to the agreements of the group. A copy of the agreed proposed Terms of Reference is given in **Annex 3**.

11. It was agreed that the key objective for the POPs Co-ordinating Group would be to promote coherence among participating organizations and governments to address POPs and their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

#### **Agenda item 8. Membership and Secretariat for the new IOMC Co-ordinating Group**

12. It was agreed that consistent with other IOMC Co-ordination Groups, the membership of the proposed Technical Coordinating Group on POPs would be open to all IOMC Participating Organizations. Given their existing activities in this area, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the Secretariat to the Global Environment Fund (as the principal entity for the interim financial mechanism to the Stockholm Convention) would also be invited to nominate members.

13. It was agreed that the Chair of the IOMC Technical Group should rotate, per meeting, among the key members of the Co-ordinating Group. It was proposed that the IOMC Secretariat should provide the Secretariat for the proposed IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group. The IOMC Secretariat noted that in the past the Secretariat for Technical Co-ordinating Groups was normally provided or shared among the participating IOMC organizations.

#### **Agenda item 9. Roles of Agencies in relation to National Implementation Plans**

14. Mr Willis noted that progress in documenting and tracking the activities of relevant agencies had been slower than expected and that this matter should be kept as a standing item on the agenda of the new IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group. The objective of this review would be to share experience in working together on individual projects and NIPS, specifically how to develop partnerships in delivery based on lessons learnt. A first step could be to review the list of countries where NIPs have been approved in order to see where progress or advances in co-operation have been made in their execution.

#### **Agenda item 10. Next Steps - time schedule and reporting**

15. It was agreed that the report of the meeting and proposed Terms of Reference for the new technical IOMC Co-ordinating Group would be provided to the IOMC for review and endorsement, as appropriate. It was agreed to propose to IOMC that UNITAR would chair the first meeting of the new Technical Co-ordinating Group.

**List of Participants**

**Planning meeting to develop a Proposal for an IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

Craig Boljkovac  
Acting Programme Co-ordinator  
Chemicals and Waste Management Programme  
UNITAR  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Suisse

Tel: +41 22 917 8471  
Fax: +41 22 917 8047  
E-mail: [craig.boljkovic@unitar.org](mailto:craig.boljkovic@unitar.org)

Steve Gorman  
World Bank  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington DC 20433  
USA

Tel: +1 202 473 5865  
Fax: +1 202 522 3258  
E-mail: [sgorman@worldbank.org](mailto:sgorman@worldbank.org)

Bill Murray (Chair)  
UN Food and Agriculture Division  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Italie

Tel: 39-06 57056289  
E-mail: [William.Murray@fao.org](mailto:William.Murray@fao.org)

David Piper  
Senior Technical Adviser  
Cleaner Production and Environment Management Branch  
Sectoral Support and Environmental Sustainability Division  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
Vienna International Centre  
PO Box 300  
A-1400 Vienna  
Autriche

Tel: +43 1 26026 3894  
Fax: +43 1 26026 6819  
Email: [dpiper@unido.org](mailto:dpiper@unido.org)

Fatoumata Ouane  
UNEP Chemicals  
11-13 Chemin des Amenones  
1219 Chatelaine  
Suisse

Tel: +41  
Fax: +41 22 797 3460  
Email: [fouane@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:fouane@chemicals.unep.ch)

Jim Willis  
Director  
UNEP Chemicals  
11-13 Chemin des Amenones  
1219 Chatelaine  
Suisse

Tel: +41 22 917 8183  
Fax: +41 22 797 3460  
Email: [jwillis@unep.ch](mailto:jwillis@unep.ch)

**Secretariat (IOMC)**

Lesley Onyon  
International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Suisse

Tel: +41 22 791 3548  
Fax: +4122 791 4848  
Email: [onyonl@who.int](mailto:onyonl@who.int)

**PLANNING MEETING**

**Proposal for a IOMC Co-ordinating Group for National Implementation Plans for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

**World Bank (Main Building)  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington DC**

**Held on 14 May 2002**

**Approved Agenda**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Adoption of draft agenda
3. Meeting Report on Expanded IOMC Meeting on National Implementation Plans (NIPS) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (Glion-sur-Montreux, Switzerland 28-29 January 2002 (document 1)).
4. Progress on the development of detailed guidance for National Implementation Plans (verbal report)
5. Progress towards INC 6 for POPs (verbal report)
6. Standard Operating Procedures for IOMC Co-ordinating Groups (document 2)
7. Proposed terms of Reference for New Co-ordinating Group – ( UNEP Room Document)
8. Membership and Secretariat for new IOMC Co-ordinating Group
9. Roles of Agencies in relation to National Implementation Plans
10. Next Steps – time schedule and reporting
11. Other Business

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE****INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF  
CHEMICALS (IOMC)****Technical Co-ordinating Group for Persistent Organic Pollutants****Background**

1. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. POPs circulate globally and can cause damage wherever they travel.

2. In implementing the Stockholm Convention, Governments need to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Specifically, under Article 7 of the Convention, each Party is to develop and endeavour to carry out an implementation plan for its obligations under the Convention, to transmit this plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date of which the Convention enters into force and to review and update the plan, as appropriate, on a periodic basis.

**Objectives**

3. The key objective of the IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is to promote coherence among participating organizations and governments to address POPs and their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

4. The Technical Group will initially focus on activities such as the development of implementation plans as required by Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention.

5. The Co-ordinating Group will work to:

- Ensure a mutual awareness among participating organizations of relevant activities.
- Avoid duplication and ensure the best use of the relevant strengths of participating organizations in supporting national implementation efforts.

6. *Inter-alia* the Coordinating Group will:

- Facilitate consistency and comparability of implementation plans that are developed.
- Coordinate the efforts of IOMC Participating Organizations in supporting national governmental efforts in developing and executing plans for implementation of the Convention.
- Exchange information and share experiences on POPs-related projects, including enabling activities such as the development of national implementation plans, on monitoring activities and on lessons learnt.
- Identify technical and policy issues requiring further guidance to assist consistent implementation.

**Participation**

7. Nominations to the Co-ordinating Group will be invited from:

- Participating Organizations of the IOMC.

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The World Bank.
- The Secretariat for the principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism to the Stockholm Convention i.e. the Secretariat for the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

### **Mode of Operation**

The Co-ordinating Group will be a subsidiary body of the IOMC.

The Coordinating Group will meet as needed and will take advantage of the meeting opportunities presented by other fora in which the members and designated members plan to participate. Initially it is envisaged that meetings may be needed two times a year. Advantage will be taken of electronic and video-conferencing facilities as much as possible.

The Coordinating Group may establish *ad-hoc* working groups to co-ordinate specific activities.

### **Reporting**

The Co-ordinating Group will make regular reports to IOCC and maintain information on its activities on the IOMC web site.

### **Chair and Secretariat.**

The Chair will rotate among the members of the Group. The Secretariat will be provided by the IOMC Secretariat. The Secretariat will be responsible for maintaining the IOMC web site and reporting to IOCC on the activities of the Co-ordinating Group.