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UNEP/POPS/COP.4/38

Distr.: General
8 May 2009**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

Original: English

**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Fourth meeting
Geneva, 4–8 May 2009****Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its fourth meeting****I. Opening of the meeting**

1. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was held at the Geneva International Conference Centre, Geneva, from 4 to 8 May 2009.
2. The meeting began at 10.15 a.m. on Monday, 4 May 2009, with opening statements by Mr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who read a statement by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla (Senegal), who replaced Mr. Djibo Leïty Kâ, as outgoing President of the Conference, who had replaced the President elected at the third meeting of the Conference, Mr. Thierno Lo (Senegal).
3. In his statement the Executive Secretary paid tribute to Governments' efforts to implement the Convention since its entry into force and urged countries that had not yet ratified the Convention to consider doing so. The current meeting marked a new chapter in the Convention's history as the Conference of the Parties would for the first time consider whether to list new chemicals in the Convention's annexes, demonstrating that Parties were actively using the Convention and understood its value both globally and at home. He said that partnerships with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors were the key to the Convention's success and he highlighted the growing cooperation between the Convention and UNEP, as well as between the Convention and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. The secretariat, he said, would be ready to implement quickly any decision on synergies made at the current meeting. Turning to the proposed 2010–2011 programme of work, he said that while it was ambitious he was confident that it could be achieved given that the necessary funds had been raised for the entire programme of work to date under the voluntary trust fund, that UNEP had assured the Secretariat of its support in mobilizing resources and that discussions were under way with a number of key donors.
4. On behalf of Mr. Steiner Mr. Kante stressed the importance of the Conference's ambitious agenda, saying that the Parties' deliberations, including on the possible addition of nine new chemicals to the annexes of the Convention, would be critical to attaining the Convention's long-term objectives and to achieving the sound management of chemicals, which had a significant contribution to make in

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attaining the Millennium Development Goals. He noted that persistent organic pollutants knew no boundaries, meaning that the dangers posed by hazardous chemicals, including the impacts of endocrine disruptors, would increase if Parties failed to use fully the opportunities that the Convention presented. UNEP was committed to helping in the effort to raise the resources needed for the proposed programme of work to be funded through the voluntary Special Trust Fund and was confident that that effort would be successful through the combined efforts of UNEP and the Convention Secretariat. In considering those and other activities, it was important to continue to work to raise awareness of chemicals-related issues and the challenge of achieving a future free from persistent organic pollutants. Regarding synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, he said that they were a shining example of cooperation and collaboration moving from strength to strength.

5. Mr. Sylla, recalling the important decisions taken at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, expressed the conviction that the same constructive spirit seen at that meeting would facilitate further work by the Conference to ensure the implementation of the Convention. Numerous issues were before the Conference for its consideration, including the need for technical and financial assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer and making the regional and subregional centres operational. It was crucial, he said, for the Secretariat to cooperate with other convention secretariats and with all countries concerned for the benefit of the international community. He stressed that the Convention should encompass more than the 12 substances already listed in its annexes and that the Conference of the Parties should continue to evaluate new substances as scientific knowledge improved. The Conference could make a significant contribution to enhancing the implementation of the Convention, he said, and he expressed the hope that significant progress would be made at the current meeting, including with regard to the budget, which should provide sufficient funding for all areas of the programme of work.

II. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, European Community, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

7. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries as observers: Albania, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

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

9. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations University, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, World Trade Organization.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Basel Convention Regional Centre Senegal, Centro de Investigación e Información de Medicamentos y Tóxicos (Centre for Research and Information on Medicines and Toxic Substances), Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, League of Arab States, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production.
11. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/34/Rev.1).

B. Election of officers

12. The Conference elected Mr. Alireza Moaiyeri (Islamic Republic of Iran) as President of the Conference in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.
13. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of rule 22, the following vice-presidents elected at the third meeting of the Conference served during the current meeting:
- Ms. Katerina Šebková (Czech Republic)
 - 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)
14. Two vice-presidents elected at the third meeting of the Conference, Mr. Yue Ruisheng (China) and Mr. Edward Zulu (Zambia), were unable to complete their terms. Accordingly, Mr. Xia Yingxian (China) was elected to serve in place of Mr. Yue and Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) was elected to serve in place of Mr. Zulu. Another vice-president elected at the third meeting, Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda), was unable to attend the current meeting. Accordingly, Mr. Jeffrey Headley (Barbados) was elected to serve in place of Mr. Christian. Mr. Sylla was elected to serve as vice-president until the close of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
15. Pursuant to rule 22, Mr. Kapindula also served as rapporteur.
16. The Conference elected the following vice-presidents, whose terms of office commenced upon the closure of the fourth meeting of the Parties and would run until the closure of the fifth meeting of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure:
- Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic)
 - Ms. Liudmila Mardhuaeva (Republic of Moldova)
 - Ms. Caroline Njoki Wamai (Kenya)
 - Mr. Hubert Binga (Gabon)
 - Mr. Rajiv Gauba (India)
 - Mr. Jeffrey Headley (Barbados)
 - Mr. Carlos Villón (Ecuador)
 - Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland)
 - Mr. François Lengrand (France)

C. Adoption of the agenda

17. The Conference adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1:
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 fourth 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;
 - (iv) Polychlorinated biphenyls;
 - (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. High-level segment.
8. Venue and date of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

18. Following adoption of the agenda the representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the States Party to the Convention from Latin America and the Caribbean, made a statement, asking that it be reflected in the present report, regarding the region's hopes for the current meeting and its priorities. The latter, he said, were financial and technical assistance to developing countries, technology transfer, local and regional capacity-building, training and awareness raising. Saying that the region supported the inclusion of new chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, he praised the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and called for financial assistance to enable developing country Parties to participate as observers in the work of the Committee. He also called for assistance to enable Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Convention and said that such assistance should whenever possible be channeled directly to Parties; when intermediaries such as consultants were indispensable they should be from the regions where they were to work and should be fluent in the languages of the countries involved. The monitoring of persistent organic pollutant levels posed a particular challenge for the region and required a coordinated and coherent strategy, a high level of interaction among the Governments of the region and financial assistance and human resources to enable the Parties to build capacities in respect of monitoring and collected data. He called on the Parties to adopt the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and urged the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure its speedy implementation once adopted. In closing he expressed confidence that the current

meeting would result in continued progress toward the Convention's goal of protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of persistent organic pollutants.

D. Organization of work

19. 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.

20. The Conference agreed to work in plenary, with a high-level segment to be held on Thursday, 7 May, and Friday, 8 May, and to establish contact and drafting groups as it considered necessary.

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

21. 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 and third meetings the Conference had considered the same issue and had agreed to defer taking formal decisions at those meetings.

22. 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 fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

23. 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.

24. Under the item, the representative of the Secretariat also provided a brief summary of the status of ratification of the Convention, noting that 162 Parties had lodged instruments of ratification or accession with the Depositary for the Convention prior to the deadline for participation as Parties at the current meeting. One country, Malawi, had lodged its instrument less than three months prior to the meeting and was therefore entitled to participate only as an observer.

25. On the morning of Friday, 8 May, the Bureau reported that it had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 142 Parties that had registered for the meeting. Of those, 125 had submitted credentials in proper form. Credentials submitted by 17 Parties were not in order. The Conference accordingly agreed that those 17 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

26. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the Conference had to consider three matters arising from decision SC-3/2: a report from the second meeting of the DDT expert group; a request for the preparation of a business plan to promote a global partnership for developing and deploying alternatives to DDT for disease vector control; and a request for a report on the global status of the implementation of integrated vector management.

27. The Conference welcomed the work of the DDT expert group and the preparation of the business plan by the Secretariat and there was general agreement that the Secretariat should play a primary facilitating role in implementing the introduction of a global alliance on developing alternatives to DDT. There was agreement on the need to phase out the use of DDT, although several representatives described how their countries were continuing to use it for disease vector control owing to the lack of available and affordable alternatives. Several representatives said that the search for alternatives should be intensified, notably in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), with due regard to cost and efficacy. One representative said that without practical alternatives to DDT, the political will of the Conference of the Parties to phase out its use would be meaningless. Pointing out that some countries' authorized continued use of DDT could have an impact on neighbouring countries that had banned it, for example through illicit trade, one representative called for establishment of a deadline by which DDT use would be banned in all countries of the world.

28. Several representatives called for technical assistance in the areas, in particular, of data collection, research and monitoring. One representative, saying that his country had developed alternatives to DDT for vector control, called for funding for field testing. Another called for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors to provide resources to fund the global alliance.

29. Several representatives from malaria-free countries acknowledged that there was a need for malaria-endemic countries to continue using DDT in the absence of alternatives and expressed agreement regarding the need to continue the work to develop alternatives. The representative of a donor country said that his country placed its primary focus on initiatives that did not feature DDT.

30. One representative said that any mention of DDT use for malaria vector control should also mention visceral leishmaniasis; controlling the vectors for the disease, which was endemic in certain parts of his country, also required DDT.

31. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the action to be taken by the Conference with regard to the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and for the implementation of the Global Alliance, for consideration by the Conference.

32. Decision SC-4/2 on DDT, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Exemptions

33. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat observed that five Parties had obtained exemptions covering three of the nine chemicals listed in Annex A of the Convention. No Party had requested an extension of its exemption and two had notified the Secretariat of their intention to cancel their exemptions. Thus Annex A would no longer contain exemptions for any chemical. With regard to Annex B, India had requested an extension of its exemption for DDT as an intermediate in the production of dicofol in an open system. It had also notified the Secretariat, however, of its production and use of DDT as an intermediate in the closed-system, site-limited production of dicofol.

34. At the request of the President, the representative of India stated that in accordance with paragraph 3 of Annex B it was authorized to use DDT as an intermediate in the closed-system, site-limited production of dicofol until 2014 and that its request for a specific exemption was no longer needed and had been withdrawn.

35. The President observed that the procedure for requesting an exemption was itself expiring and suggested that it might be prudent to extend it until 2015, when the Conference of the Parties could examine the issue at its seventh meeting before any addition of new chemicals to the annexes to the Convention went into effect.

36. One representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization and its member States, welcomed the fact that no Party was requesting an extension. He expressed the hope that any requests for exemptions for chemicals newly added to the annexes to the Convention would be limited to critical-use exemptions.

37. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision reflecting the fact that no Party had submitted a request to extend its exemptions.

38. Decision SC-4/3 on exemptions, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

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

39. 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 had been required to evaluate the continued need for the procedure set forth in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention, including consideration of its effectiveness. The Conference had, however, concluded that it had insufficient experience in using the export procedure and thus lacked sufficient information on which to base an evaluation of the continued need for the procedure. In accordance with decision SC-3/4, the Secretariat had produced 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, which had demonstrated that Party reports currently provided an inadequate basis for a sound evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention.

40. One representative said that it was necessary to bear in mind synergies and the desire to avoid duplication of efforts. Following that comment, the Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on an evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 for consideration by the Conference.

41. Decision SC-4/4 on evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

4. Polychlorinated biphenyls

42. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documentation, noting that the Secretariat was proposing the creation of what it termed the "PCBs Elimination Club", which would involve all sectors concerned with a view to improving coordination and collaboration on the environmentally sound management of PCBs to promote and encourage environmentally sound management and disposal as a means of reaching the Convention's 2025 and 2028 goals.

43. The representative of Norway announced that his country would support the Club financially and also provide experts to participate therein.

44. Many representatives cited problems afflicting their countries with regard to PCBs, stressing the need for additional financial support and assistance to rid their countries of the substances. There was therefore broad support for the establishment of the Club, with representatives noting that it would be beneficial in terms of providing technical assistance, training, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and information exchange, among other things. One representative suggested that the budget allocation for the Club was insufficient and called upon developed countries to make greater contributions. Another proposed that the Club's work should not be limited solely to PCBs but should encompass all hazardous wastes. Several representatives stressed that the Club should provide additional assistance in terms of analytical capacity, while one representative said that environmental education was crucial.

45. A number of representatives did, however, express reservations, raising questions as to the Club's membership, possible new burdens on Parties to the Convention, the impact on the Convention's budget, possible duplication of efforts by other conventions, thus defeating the purpose of synergies, and the name of the group itself, suggesting that the term "club" implied a restricted, clique-like membership. One representative called for more time to discuss the matter at the multilateral level.

46. In response to the concerns expressed, the representative of the Secretariat said that there would be no immediate effect on the Convention's general trust fund, as the funds to establish the Club would come from the voluntary trust fund, assuming that the donor community made such moneys available. He stressed that the Club was a partnership that would involve sectors outside the Convention and that no new obligations would be placed upon Parties, given that Parties were not required to become members. The Club would, he stressed, be built upon the clearing-house mechanism with the overall goal of enhancing information exchange. He noted that with regard to the request for training espoused by one representative GEF would continue to bear responsibility for providing financial support to Parties for technical assistance and said that the Club was not intended to replace or duplicate that funding mechanism.

47. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on PCBs for consideration by the Conference, taking due account of the observations by certain Parties.

48. Decision SC-4/5 on PCBs, as adopted by the Conference, is set out 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

49. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that by decision SC-3/5 the Conference of the Parties had invited Parties and others to provide comments on their experiences in implementing the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices that had been adopted by that same decision and had invited the Basel Convention to consider the waste-related contents of the guidelines and guidance. She then outlined Secretariat activities in response to decision SC-3/5 and said that the Conference might wish to consider whether the guidelines and guidance should be further revised. In response to a request for clarification she confirmed that Parties and others could continue to submit their comments, which would be reflected in any update of the guidelines and guidance that the Conference wished the Secretariat to undertake.

50. Several representatives endorsed the guidelines and guidance and said that they should be regularly updated taking into account the expertise of Parties and technological advances, suggesting that the updating process could be achieved through targeted exchanges on particular topics with experts, in a manner similar to the procedure for updating the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases. He also said that experts in waste-related issues should be involved in the guidance and guidelines produced by the Stockholm Convention, that training in the use of the guidelines and guidance was crucial and that national expertise on waste-related issues needed to be improved. Another representative praised the guidelines and guidance but said that they could be improved, including by presenting them as a preventive instrument, improving the profile of preventive measures and alternative processes and approaches.

51. In response to a request for clarification from one representative as to why one language version of the guidelines and guidance was not yet available, the Secretariat assured the Conference that all efforts would be made to secure funds to undertake the translation as soon as possible.

52. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with the preparation of a draft decision on guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices for consideration by the Conference.

53. Decision SC-4/6 on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Identification and quantification of releases

54. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that by decision SC-3/6 the Conference, among other things, had adopted the process for the ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases set forth in the annex to that decision and had requested the Secretariat to implement the process within available resources and report to the Conference at its fourth meeting on progress made. She outlined the work undertaken by the Secretariat in that regard and explained that the Toolkit experts, at their most recent meeting, had concluded that the process was adequate and should be continued.

55. In the ensuing discussion the representative of a regional economic integration organization welcomed the process and requested Parties with economies in transition to be included in the process in addition to developing country Parties. He urged all stakeholders to generate the data required pursuant to the Convention to assist in the Toolkit process.

56. Many representatives supported the proposed action by the Conference and noted that, according to the Secretariat's compilation of elements for effectiveness evaluation, Africa was the highest source of emissions from open burning of waste and biomass. Therefore, they said, funding should be made available to improve the emissions factors for open burning, which were currently considered to be very high. It was further requested that guidance to identify sources of dioxins and furans, including those not specifically mentioned in the Toolkit, should be improved. He also called for training in the use of the Toolkit.

57. In response to the comments made, the representative of the Secretariat explained that there were currently two projects exploring the issue of uncontrolled burning of wastes and biomass. The matter would be discussed in further detail at the next meeting of Toolkit experts, scheduled for December 2009, when it would be decided whether the current emissions factors would be maintained or revised.

58. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on identification and quantification of releases for consideration by the Conference.

59. Decision SC-4/7 on the Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

C. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

60. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documentation and outlined the work undertaken by the Secretariat since the third meeting of the Conference.

61. Several Parties, including the representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States, welcomed the enhanced cooperation between the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes. They also praised the Secretariat's effort to develop training tools and convene workshops on the updated technical guidelines adopted by the Basel Convention 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.

62. Many representatives expressed strong concern regarding the definition of low persistent organic pollutant content. The limit, they said, remained too high, allowing for persistent organic pollutant wastes to be dumped in Africa. Several representatives emphasized that many developing country Parties had identified persistent organic pollutant wastes but that funding necessary to implement projects to manage or destroy them in an environmentally sound manner was not available and should be provided. One representative, whose Government had discovered 900 tons of dangerous persistent organic pollutant wastes but had received no funds to eliminate them, expressed the view that the failure to provide such funding represented an act of non-compliance by developed country Parties with regard to Article 13 of the Convention.

63. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on measures to be taken by the Conference with regard to measures to reduce or eliminate releases from waste for consideration by the Conference.

64. Decision SC-4/8 on wastes, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Implementation plans

65. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documentation, outlined action taken to date in accordance with decisions SC-1/12, SC-2/7 and SC-3/8 and presented a list of Parties that had to date transmitted their implementation plans to the Secretariat.

66. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that their countries had in fact submitted their plans but were not listed among those having done so. Others said that various difficulties had impeded the timely completion of their plans but that they would be submitted within the next few weeks.
67. Some representatives expressed appreciation for resources provided to prepare their plans. Others asked whether funds would be made available for updating plans if up to nine new chemicals were added to the annexes to the Convention. Hope was also expressed that resources would be forthcoming for the plans' actual execution. In some cases, representatives said, without additional funds planned activities would grind to a halt.
68. One representative expressed appreciation for resources provided to his country for reviewing and refining its plan and offered to share his country's experience with that exercise. Several stressed the importance of technical assistance in putting national implementation plans into practice, over and above financial help to facilitate their preparation. One representative observed that many developed country representatives had spoken of providing technical support for national implementation plans but that such assistance had not yet been received. He called upon all Parties to do whatever they could to help countries to prepare and execute their plans.
69. The President suggested that any country-specific difficulties in preparing plans should be taken up with the Secretariat directly. The representative of the Secretariat stressed that the Secretariat considered the national implementation plans to be extremely important but could only accept those plans that were transmitted through official channels, namely, official contact points or ministries of foreign affairs.
70. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on measures to be taken by the Conference with regard to Parties' national implementation plans for consideration by the Conference.
71. Decision SC-4/9 on national implementation plans, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

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

72. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the activities undertaken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, which had held its third and fourth meetings in November 2007 and October 2008 respectively. She drew attention to an error in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/18, saying that paragraph 1 (c) should refer to chlordecone rather than chlordan. Noting that the terms of office of 17 members of the Committee would expire in May 2010, between the fourth and fifth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, she invited the regional groups to nominate members to succeed them.
73. Mr. Reiner Arndt (Germany), Chair of the Committee, delivered a report on the Committee's work, highlighting the review of nine chemicals undertaken and the various stages involved in the process, in particular the difference between the screening stage and the risk profile stage. He noted that although the Committee always strived to reach decisions by consensus it had been necessary to proceed by vote in deciding whether the chemical endosulfan had satisfied the screening criteria set out in Annex D to the Convention.
74. The representative of one Party said that decision-making by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee should be governed by rule 45 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and that its decisions on substantive matters should be taken by consensus in accordance with paragraph 1 of that rule. That Party was of the view that when the Committee had voted on certain issues at its meetings held since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties it had violated that rule and that procedural flaws such as that in the work of the Committee could compromise its integrity. The representatives of a number of Parties disagreed with that statement, saying that paragraph 6 (c) of Article 19 of the Convention governed the decision-making processes of the Committee, including its decisions taken at various stages of the processes required for making its recommendations. They insisted that the Committee had acted in accordance with the Convention, and with the rules of procedure as applied to the Committee, and upheld the integrity of its work.
75. Following those comments, the Conference agreed to proceed with its consideration of the sub-item in two parts, first discussing the nine chemicals proposed for inclusion in the Convention and then taking up matters related to the operation of the Committee.

1. Inclusion of new chemicals

76. Several representatives made general statements on the inclusion of new chemicals in the Convention. It was noted that such inclusions would highlight the dynamic nature of the Convention and draw attention to its objective to protect human health and the environment. While appreciation was expressed for the work of the Committee, attention was also drawn to the need to ensure that it worked independently and used rigorous science to examine the facts presented for its consideration. One representative said that the work of the Committee should be given more visibility. One representative, supported by others, indicated that although chemicals were considered individually a global vision was needed in relation to technical and financial assistance needed by Parties to meet the additional obligations imposed by the addition of new chemicals to the annexes to the Convention.

77. During the discussions under each chemical, some representatives noted the implications for developing countries and countries with economies in transition of listing new chemicals in the Convention. Observing that some of those countries were currently facing difficulties implementing the Convention, they pointed out that the addition of nine chemicals raised further financial and technical challenges. One representative said that while some technical and financial assistance had been provided it was insufficient to ensure the requisite capacity-building to meet the obligations of the Convention: the addition of new chemicals would only increase an already heavy burden. Another representative argued that financial and technical assistance should be comprehensive, adequate and foreseeable so as to help developing countries in their efforts to manage stocks and wastes and to process and treat contaminated areas.

78. Observing that some of the chemicals proposed for inclusion remained in use or were produced in developing countries, some representatives pointed out that alternatives to those chemicals were not always available to or cost-effective for those countries. One representative spoke in favour of a graduated approach, suggesting that focus should be placed first on those chemicals currently listed in the Convention and that new chemicals should be added only where alternatives were available and cost-effective. Another representative sought clarification on what to do in the absence of alternatives and urged that one persistent organic pollutant should not be replaced by another. He also requested clarification as to why certain isomers of a substance had been reviewed for inclusion and others not.

(a) Chlordecone

79. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the inclusion of chlordecone in the Convention for consideration by the Conference.

80. Decision SC-4/12 on listing chlordecone in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(b) Hexabromobiphenyl

81. A few representatives sought additional clarification on the implications of including hexabromobiphenyl in the Convention, notably whether any environmentally friendly alternatives were available.

82. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the inclusion of hexabromobiphenyl in the Convention, in consultation with interested Parties, for consideration by the Conference.

83. Decision SC-4/13 on listing hexabromobiphenyl in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(c) Pentachlorobenzene

84. A few representatives sought additional clarification on the implications of including pentachlorobenzene in the Convention, questioning whether it should be included in Annex A or Annex C and whether the activities implemented for dioxins and furans in Annex C already covered most of the requirements for pentachlorobenzene as an unintentionally produced chemical. Clarification was also sought of various technical issues related to emissions. One representative said that there might be technical difficulties associated with producing reliable inventories of pentachlorobenzene under Article 5 of the Convention.

85. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the inclusion of pentachlorobenzene in the Convention, in consultation with interested Parties, for the consideration of the Conference.

86. Decision SC-4/16 on listing pentachlorobenzene in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(d) Lindane

87. Several representatives voiced their concern regarding the public health implications of listing lindane in the Convention. Acknowledging the continued use of lindane for the control of body lice and scabies, some representatives said that there should be specific exemptions for medical use. One representative cautioned that an exemption should not be used as a means of making lindane freely available. Another suggested that an exemption might be sought for seed dressing. Two representatives supported the inclusion of lindane without exemptions, one noting that alternatives did exist and that the World Health Organization should be consulted in that regard. The representative of a non-governmental organization said that the production of lindane resulted in toxic by-products and recalled that lindane was mostly used on small children, thus constituting a hazard to vulnerable populations.

88. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the inclusion of lindane in the Convention, in consultation with interested Parties, for consideration by the Conference.

89. Decision SC-4/15 on listing lindane in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(e) Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane

90. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the inclusion of alpha hexachlorocyclohexane in the Convention for consideration by the Conference.

91. Decision SC-4/10 on listing alpha hexachlorocyclohexane in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(f) Beta hexachlorocyclohexane

92. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the inclusion of beta hexachlorocyclohexane in the Convention for consideration by the Conference.

93. Decision SC-4/11 on listing beta hexachlorocyclohexane in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(g) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether (commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether)

94. One representative sought further clarification, prior to agreement on the inclusion of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in the annexes to the Convention, as some countries still had questions relating to disposal and recycling of the substances. Another representative voiced concern as to how mixtures of chemicals were being discussed in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. Another representative said that the chemical remained a vital component in fire-fighting foam.

95. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. John Roberts (United Kingdom), to discuss tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether and to prepare a draft decision on the inclusion of those substances in the Convention for consideration by the Conference.

96. Decision SC-4/18 on listing tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(h) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether (commercial octabromodiphenyl ether)

97. A few representatives sought further clarification regarding the inclusion of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether in the Convention.

98. The Conference agreed that the contact group established under subsection (g) above would also discuss hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and prepare a draft decision on the inclusion of those substances in the Convention for consideration by the Conference.

99. Decision SC-4/14 on listing hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(i) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS)

100. During discussions on the substance it was mentioned that for some uses of the chemical no environmentally safe alternatives were available and that exemptions with specific time frames would therefore be necessary. The chemical also played a critical role in semi-conductors and fire-fighting foams. One representative indicated that his country would have problems with the listing of the chemical in the annexes to the Convention. One representative expressed concern about chemically driven oil production.

101. The Conference agreed that the contact group established under subsection (g) above would also discuss perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and prepare a draft decision on the inclusion of those substances in the Convention for consideration by the Conference.

102. Decision SC-4/17 on listing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in the annexes of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Addressing obligations in respect of PFOS and other chemicals newly listed in the annexes of the Convention

103. In the light of the discussion above on the inclusion of new chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, in particular in respect of the challenges that developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition would face in implementing their obligations under the Convention with regard to such chemicals, the Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision for consideration by the Conference on a programme of work aimed at helping Parties to meet those obligations.

104. Decision SC-4/19 on indicative elements of a work programme to facilitate the elimination of listed brominated diphenyl ethers and the restriction or elimination of other chemicals listed in Annexes A and/or B of the Convention at the current meeting, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

3. Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee**(a) Terms of reference and procedures of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee**

105. Introducing discussion on the issue the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 34 of decision SC-1/7, the Committee at its fourth meeting had decided to recommend that the Conference of the Parties consider revising the Committee's terms of reference. The proposed revisions were contained in annex II to the note by the Secretariat on the Committee and relevant developments for action by the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16).

106. In the context of whether decisions of the Committee had to be made by consensus or, if all efforts to reach consensus had been exhausted, could be made on the basis of a vote, there was considerable discussion of the relative standings of the rules of procedure of the Convention on the one hand and the text of the Convention itself on the other.

107. As one representative had expressed particularly strong views on that topic, the President suggested that when the Secretariat drew up a draft decision on various aspects of the work of the Committee it should consult with the representative to address his concerns. The UNEP Senior Legal Officer, acting as the legal advisor to the Conference of the Parties, and a "friend of the President" yet to be nominated were also to be involved.

(b) Conflicts of interest

108. Introducing discussion on the issue, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in paragraph 15 of decision SC-1/7 on the procedures of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Conference of the Parties had decided to review after five years the form for the declaration of members' conflicts of interest. It had been noted that all members of the Committee had completed and submitted the form, in some cases with minor errors that might have been due to a lack of clarity in the instructions. The form had been slightly revised, the new version being set out in annex IV to document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16. The Conference approved the revisions to the form.

(c) Membership

109. Introducing discussion on the issue, the President noted that, consistent with paragraphs 7–9 of the Committee's terms of reference, the terms of office of 17 of its members were ending and that it would be necessary for the Conference to select the Parties that would nominate their successors.

110. The Conference of the Parties endorsed the remaining members of the Committee, whose terms of office commenced in May 2008.

111. In accordance with decision SC-4/20 (see subsection (e) below) the following experts were nominated as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, with terms to commence on 5 May 2010, by the Parties listed in annex III to decision SC-4/20:

From the African group: Mr. Mohammed Ismail el Sehamy (Egypt); Ms. Stella Mojekwu (Nigeria); Mr. Samuel Banda (Zambia)

From the Asian and Pacific group: Mr. Jianxin Hu (China); Mr. Masaru Kitano (Japan); Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan); Mr. Jarupong Boon-Long (Thailand)

From the Central and Eastern European group: Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic); Ms. Svitlana Sukhorebra (Ukraine)

From the Latin American and Caribbean group: Ms. Norma Sbarbati Nudelman (Argentina); Mr. José Álvaro Rodríguez (Colombia); Ms. Floria Roa Gutiérrez (Costa Rica)

From the Western European and others group: Mr. Robert Chénier (Canada); Mr. Timo Seppälä (Finland); Mr. Reiner Arndt (Germany); Mr. Peter Alistair Dawson (New Zealand)

The Conference agreed that Mr. Arndt would continue to serve as Chair of the Committee. The African group agreed that the United Republic of Tanzania would nominate an expert to serve on the Committee. The name of that expert, however, was not available by the close of the current meeting.

(d) Support for effective participation in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

112. Several representatives from developing countries expressed appreciation for assistance that they had received from developed country Parties to participate in the work of the Committee and called for additional support in enhancing their capacity to contribute to the work of the Committee and developing their information exchange capacity. Noting the important contribution that developing countries could make to the Committee's work, representatives suggested that funding should be provided to enable developing country representatives to attend Committee meetings as observers.

113. The Conference of the Parties expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Committee, encouraging it to pursue its work in its habitual constructive and effective manner.

(e) Decision on the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

114. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on the issues discussed relating to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

115. Decision SC-4/20 on operating procedures of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

F. Information exchange

116. Introducing the item the representative of the Secretariat outlined the Secretariat's activities on information exchange, particularly with regard to establishing a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants.

117. During the ensuing discussion, general support was expressed for the work undertaken to date on the clearing-house mechanism, given the importance of information exchange for implementation of the Convention and for capacity-building, particularly among developing countries. One representative expressed the view that the workplan for implementing the mechanism prepared by the Secretariat should be revised, in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, and that clearing-house mechanisms for the three conventions should be discussed at the planned simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to ensure maximum synergies.

118. Several representatives sought clarification of the linkages between the proposed “PCB Elimination Club” and the clearing-house mechanism. One suggested that guidelines on establishing regional clearing-house nodes should be drafted after the simultaneous extraordinary meetings referred to above for submission to the Conference at its fifth meeting. Many representatives welcomed the proposed involvement in the clearing-house mechanism and stressed the need for any activities on a clearing-house mechanism to be undertaken within available resources and in accordance with country priorities. Many representatives pointed out that pollutant release and transfer registers offered a valuable information exchange tool and several representatives also highlighted the value of the UNEP Chemical Information Exchange Network and the role that it could play within the clearing-house mechanism. Many representatives drew attention to the need for compatibility between the clearing-house mechanism and national initiatives and tools.

119. The President appealed to the Conference for additional resources to be made available for work on information exchange, which was funded entirely by voluntary contributions.

120. In response to the issues raised, the representative of the Secretariat explained that the proposed “PCB Elimination Club” was one of numerous entities expected to benefit from the establishment of a clearing-house mechanism. He said that if the Conference so decided the Secretariat could revise the workplan and prepare a joint workplan, in cooperation with the secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, for consideration at the planned simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the three conferences of the Parties. He also said that in its work on the clearing-house mechanism the Secretariat would consult interested Parties to ensure that national initiatives were taken into account.

121. Another representative of the Secretariat suggested that, in the interests of efficiency, the Secretariat could begin drafting guidelines on establishing regional clearing-house nodes before the proposed simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the three conferences of the Parties for their consideration, incorporating any feedback received and submitting the guidelines to the Conference at its fifth meeting for final approval.

122. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on information exchange for the consideration of the Conference, taking into account the discussion on the sub-item.

123. Decision SC-4/21 on information exchange, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

G. Technical assistance

124. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documentation, which covered two main themes: guidance on technical assistance; and regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Convention. With regard to guidance, she noted that by decision SC-3/11 the Conference of the Parties had invited Parties to submit information on their experiences in implementing the guidance on technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies set out in the annex to decision SC-1/15. The Secretariat had received insufficient information, however, to enable it to prepare the report to the Conference on those experiences requested in decision SC-3/11. With regard to Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres she noted that, in the light of the terms of reference for the selection of such centres set out in decision SC-3/12, 12 institutions had been nominated through the regional representatives in the Bureau and had all submitted the relevant reports explaining the status and components set forth in decision SC-2/9 and the annex to that decision, in a format provided by the Secretariat.

125. The representative of the Secretariat also noted that the Secretariat had received expressions of interest from four other institutions wishing to serve as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres. In the light of decision SC-3/12, however, they had all been invited to resubmit their expressions of interest through their regional representatives on the Bureau.

126. The Conference agreed to discuss guidance and regional centres separately.

1. Guidance

127. In the discussion following the Secretariat’s presentation, representatives highlighted the importance of technology transfer, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, expressed appreciation for the information provided on capacity-building workshops held in 2009 and requested similar information for the forthcoming biennium. One representative said that

there was a lack of information received from countries, which had hindered the Secretariat's assessment of technical assistance and the provision of guidance that could be used to improve those activities. Many representatives commended the Secretariat on its efforts in the area of capacity-building and technical assistance. Several said that there was a need for enhanced and effective collaboration between developed and developing countries, particularly if new chemicals were soon to be listed in the annexes to the Convention.

128. The representative of Norway pledged additional financial support for capacity-building, in addition to the more than \$400,000 that his country had already donated.

129. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on technical assistance for consideration by the Conference.

130. Decision SC-4/22 on technical assistance, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology

131. There was general support for the key role of Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres in promoting the implementation of the Convention, in particular with regard to capacity-building and technology transfer. Many representatives favoured the selection of centres with links to other chemicals-related institutions, such as existing Basel Convention regional centres, but one questioned whether it would be useful to have a Basel Convention regional centre also operating as a Stockholm Convention regional centre. The representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States, echoed by others, said that the overall number of centres globally should be considered, as should the status of potential host countries with regard to the Convention. Many representatives said that country and Secretariat support for regional centres was important. In that regard, one representative asked that the Secretariat support centres in assisting countries to prepare their national implementation plans. One representative, echoed by another, said that there was a need for intensified cooperation with existing centres. Another said that the ability of different centres to respond to the needs of different countries should be borne in mind.

132. Several representatives expressed concern at what they perceived as a geographical imbalance between the nominated institutions, with some pointing out that, for example, there were only two centres located in Africa and that they were poorly sited for English-speaking African countries. The President recalled that, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, the regions had nominated the centres through their regional representatives on the bureau and had the right to change existing centres or to nominate new ones.

133. A number of representatives also expressed concern that the process of verifying whether the centres met the established criteria was complex and time-consuming and that some of the centres had failed to submit workplans by the agreed deadlines. One representative, endorsed by another, said that the centres should, within six months, submit definitions of their functions and synergistic workplans to the Secretariat with a view to establishing thematic specializations.

134. A number of representatives called for further funds to be made available to finance the centres' work, given their importance in providing capacity-building and technical assistance, among other things.

135. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Jozef Buys (Belgium) and Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan), to discuss the confirmation of the endorsement of the nominated Stockholm Convention centres.

136. Decision SC-4/23 on regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

H. Financial resources

137. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the relevant documentation, noting that it covered four issues related to Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention: the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of Parties and the Council of GEF; the GEF report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting; the second review of the financial mechanism defined under paragraph 6 of Article 13; mobilization of resources; and the assessment of funding needs of Parties that were developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2010–2014.

138. The representative of GEF outlined the Facility's report contained in document UNEP/POPC/COP.4/25, which detailed, among other matters, activities undertaken by GEF between 29 January 2007 and October 2008; the emerging shift from funding the preparation of national implementation plans to funding implementation projects; issues relevant to discussions on the fifth replenishment of GEF; and extant figures for projects supported, resources expended and co-financing raised. The leader of the expert team that had prepared the report on needs assessment outlined that report (UNEP/POPC/COP.4/27), highlighting the methodologies used by the team, issues relevant to the data set examined in the study, initial results of the study and potential observations and recommendations relevant to future studies.

139. Following the presentations the Conference discussed the four issues outlined in the documentation separately.

1. Effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council and the report by GEF to the Conference of the Parties

140. Many representatives welcomed the progress made by GEF, including the improved working relationship between its secretariat and that of the Stockholm Convention, the simplification of the GEF project cycle, efforts to limit documentation requirements, the shift toward funding implementation projects, the number of projects funded, the total amount of funds distributed and increasing levels of co-financing. Several suggested that all guidance to GEF from the Conference at the current meeting should be consolidated in a single decision. Several representatives suggested that it would be useful to combine all relevant guidance to GEF in a single document that could be updated as necessary at future meetings of the Conference.

141. Several representatives expressed gratitude to GEF for funds that their countries or regions had received for the preparation of national implementation plans or implementation projects. Some expressed the view, however, that some GEF procedures remained lengthy, cumbersome and inflexible, in particular the co-financing requirements, saying that such inflexibility impeded the timely provision of assistance to developing countries. Several representatives said that their countries were awaiting resources or responses from GEF and that the delays thus caused had slowed project planning and implementation. One representative expressed concern about an apparent disparity in investment projects in parts of the Asian and Pacific region. Another said that the financial mechanism had been a success to date but resources currently available were insufficient to implement all the activities under the Convention; Parties therefore needed to increase the pool of available resources.

2. Second review of the financial mechanism defined under paragraph 6 of Article 13; mobilization of resources

142. Many representatives welcomed what they viewed as a largely positive report on the second review of the financial mechanism, including the increasing shift to financing project implementation; efforts to simplify and speed up project approvals and other operations; and increasing interactions with the Convention Secretariat and stakeholders. There was general support for a third review of the financial mechanism at the sixth meeting of the Conference but it was also argued that such a review should include input from a larger number of recipient countries and other stakeholders. Many representatives supported proposals for the Conference at its current meeting to provide more detailed, targeted, strategic and timely guidance to GEF on a number of issues.

143. Many representatives supported the idea that GEF should continue as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the final mechanism and one said that it should be the Convention's sole financial mechanism. Many also supported the GEF-related recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and efforts by GEF to build capacity for better chemicals management across issue areas.

144. Many representatives called upon the Parties to mobilize increased funding for persistent organic pollutant projects as part of the fifth replenishment of GEF. Some urged GEF to seek other sources of co-financing. Recalling Article 13 of the Convention, several representatives noted that the apparent gap between the resources available for financial and technical assistance and the need for such resources threatened the ability of some developing countries to comply with the Convention. Funding levels were a priority concern for many delegations and GEF was urged to provide more information on areas in which shortfalls existed. Co-financing also posed difficulties for some developing countries: GEF was requested to examine that issue and to reach out to particular countries and regions to ensure that their projects received appropriate and timely funding. One representative said that in the effort to

improve financial assistance available under the Convention lessons should be learned from the positive experience of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

3. Mobilization of resources

145. Regarding further work on the mobilization of resources, the representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States suggested that it would be cost-effective for the Secretariat to assemble relevant information from existing or proposed studies such as those conducted under the Rotterdam Convention and in the context of the fifth GEF replenishment. In their view the proposal to develop a joint resource mobilization service and strategy as part of enhanced cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided a constructive approach to the issue. They supported a draft decision that would request Parties, funding institutions and other bodies to submit information on how they could best support the Convention.

4. Assessment of funding needs of Parties that were developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2010–2014

146. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the work of the expert group that had assessed the funding needs of Parties that were developing countries or countries with economies in transition. Many also noted that data limitations had affected the accuracy and applicability of the assessment. They suggested that those limitations should be clearly pointed out to GEF or other entities that might consider the report. Observations in the report indicating that there was a need to obtain more complete, consistent and comparable data for future reports, along with other issues, should be carefully and positively considered should the Parties decide to develop terms of reference for future assessments. Other concerns expressed were that the assessment failed to cover funding available for the period 2010–2014, as requested in decision SC-3/15, that it focused on immediate needs rather than long-term costs, that it lacked prioritization and that it did not adequately examine co-financing.

147. Many representatives urged GEF to increase the funding available for implementation projects. Many noted too that decisions to add substances to Annexes A, B or C of the Convention or to implement other activities would require more GEF funds to support associated implementation plans and projects. One representative maintained that the next replenishment should focus on enabling activities with regard to new chemicals. Capacity constraints should also be taken into account when considering some of the data shortages in the report, such constraints demonstrating the need for additional funds. One representative expressed concern at the needs revealed by the report and the statements by some countries that they had not yet received project funding.

5. Decisions on financial matters

148. The Conference agreed that the contact group established to discuss issues related to technical assistance and regional and subregional centres, chaired by Mr. Buys and Mr. Khashashneh, would also discuss issues under the item on financial resources, taking into account the relevant documentation and the discussion in plenary, and prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference.

149. Decisions SC-4/25 on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council, SC-4/26 on review of the financial mechanism, SC-4/27 on guidance to the financial mechanism, SC-4/28 on additional guidance to the financial mechanism and SC-4/24 on needs assessment, as adopted by the Conference, are set out in annex I to the present report.

I. Reporting

150. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined action taken to date in accordance with decisions SC-1/12 and SC-2/18, pointing out that the Secretariat had analysed the 44 national reports that it had received through official channels. He stressed that the national reports submitted pursuant to Article 15 were to be used in evaluating the Convention's effectiveness and that, in accordance with decision SC-1/22, Parties were to submit reports every four years after the due date for the first report, which had been 31 December 2006. Accordingly, the deadline for the submission of Parties' second reports was 31 October 2010.

151. One representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization, expressed concern at Parties' low reporting rate and urged the Secretariat to improve the electronic reporting system to render it more user-friendly and efficient, to develop further a user's manual for the system and to work with Parties to ensure that they were able to fulfil their reporting obligations. He suggested that a standardized reporting format, capable of providing consistent and comparable evaluations, would be of benefit to everyone.

152. In response, the representative of the Secretariat said that a training manual would be made available to increase the user-friendliness of the system and that training would be conducted to assist Parties in completing the reporting form. In addition, a contact point would be nominated within the Secretariat to field reporting queries. He stressed that reporting was a priority for the Secretariat and that the Secretariat was committed to facilitating the process for all concerned.

153. The Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on reporting for consideration by the Conference.

154. Decision SC-4/30 on reporting, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

J. Effectiveness evaluation

155. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that under Article 16 of the Convention the Conference was to begin evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention four years after its entry into force and periodically thereafter. In accordance with Article 16 the Conference had in decision SC-2/13 agreed to complete the first effectiveness evaluation at the current meeting and had requested the Secretariat to prepare the elements for that evaluation for consideration by the Conference. She outlined the sources of information on which the evaluation was to be based, pointing out certain gaps in such information, the process for gathering information through national reports and measures, such as the global monitoring plan that was being carried out in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 16, and the means by which the evaluation had so far been undertaken.

156. Noting that the purpose of the first effectiveness evaluation was to establish a baseline on which to base future evaluations, she said that the information available, although limited, had been sufficient for the preparation of such a baseline for the current meeting. Difficulties included the fact that only 44 national reports had been submitted under Article 15 of the Convention and that the data in those reports were not always complete, comparable or collected in a way that facilitated analysis. In addition, some monitoring data had become available too late to be reflected in the global monitoring report.

157. The Conference also heard from Mr. Ramon Guardans (Spain), co-chair of the coordinating group for the global monitoring plan, who, on behalf of himself and his co-chair, Mr. Vincent Madadi (Kenya), reported on the group's work and its recommendations.

158. The representative of Mexico, speaking as the regional coordinator for the first global monitoring plan, reported that data for her region had been collected through global monitoring programmes because no regional or national monitoring programme was in place.

159. In the ensuing discussion there was general agreement that evaluation of the Convention's effectiveness offered the most important means of proving the Convention's usefulness. There was also general approval of the work undertaken to date, including the general approach and the sources of information and parameters used, including indicators. The global monitoring report was recognized as a good basis for future evaluations. Several representatives noted the importance of national reports as a valuable source of information but a number expressed concern that few Parties had submitted reports and at the lack of full data sets in those reports. One representative said that Party participation in the monitoring process was extremely important and that a lack of capacity sometimes precluded the preparation of national reports. That lack of capacity and of funding affected the representativeness and universality of the effectiveness evaluation process.

160. One representative said that monitoring should remain restricted to the core matrices of air and human milk and that it should be expanded to include all regions rather than to take in additional matrices. The challenge, he said, was to obtain a sufficient number of national reports of comparable quality with data on the chosen indicators.

161. Another representative encouraged Parties to participate in the monitoring process to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness, urging GEF and developed countries to provide additional funds. He said that evaluation should be undertaken on the basis of scientific environmental and technical

information, including reports from other sources such as non-compliance reports if they became available.

162. One representative noted that according to the documentation prepared by the Secretariat Africa accounted for 75 per cent of global dioxin releases. The region was concerned about the level of those releases, which might be attributable to open burning. Suggesting that developing countries needed to verify their emission factors, she requested additional training on the use of the Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxins and Furans and the provision of funds for such training.

163. One representative observed that data from developing countries were limited. Another said that the global monitoring plan revealed gaps in monitoring capacity in the African region, notably with regard to dioxins and furans. Several representatives acknowledged the assistance that developing countries had received but said that more was needed, in the form of financial support, capacity-building, technology transfer and information exchange, especially taking into account that their countries, owing to a lack of awareness, were the ones most susceptible to illegal trade and improper use of chemicals.

164. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Guardans and Ms. Victoria Mupwaya (Zambia), to prepare draft decisions on the effectiveness evaluation and on the global monitoring plan, taking into account the relevant documents and the discussions in plenary.

165. Decision SC-4/31 on the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation, as adopted by the Conference, and decision SC-4/32 on effectiveness evaluation, as adopted by the Conference as revised during adoption, are set out in annex I to the present report.

K. Non-compliance

166. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties had considered a draft text on non-compliance procedures that had earlier been prepared by an ad hoc working group. A contact group chaired by Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada) had been established at the third meeting to try to reach consensus on outstanding issues. Considerable progress had been made but certain issues remained unresolved. The draft text prepared by the contact group, along with a proposal from the chair of the group, was set out in the annex to decision 3/20.

167. One representative said that any failure of developing countries to comply with their obligations under the Convention was attributable to a lack of assistance as required under articles 13 and 14 of the Convention. He therefore called for GEF to provide such assistance, in particular to least developed countries and small island developing States, to enable them to prepare their national implementation plans, to update those plans to encompass chemicals newly listed in the annexes to the Convention and to meet all their obligations under the Convention.

168. Following the discussion on the item the Conference agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Ms. Daniel, to discuss the issues under the item and to prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference.

169. Decision SC-4/33 on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

L. Synergies

170. The representative of the Secretariat, introducing the item, drew attention to the relevant documentation, in particular the draft decision contained in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/32, by which the Conference would adopt the recommendation on enhancing synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions put forward by the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. An almost identical decision had already been adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions at their ninth and fourth meetings, respectively, with the addition of three paragraphs in the preamble, as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/32. It was suggested that the Conference should consider adopting the draft decision with the addition of the same paragraphs, *mutatis mutandis*.

171. Ms. Stendahl and Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), two of the three co-chairs of the Working Group, outlined the group's work and the content of its recommendation.

172. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation for what they said was the Working Group's pioneering work and for its co-chairs, including Mr. Yue, who was unable to attend the current meeting. They voiced strong support for adopting the draft decision on the Working Group's recommendation, with the inclusion of the three additional paragraphs suggested. Representatives emphasized the importance of synergies in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of all three conventions and strengthening their implementation at the national, regional and global levels. Several noted, however, that the pursuit of synergies should not compromise the individual conventions' specific needs. Several representatives also underscored the need to ensure that synergies had only positive effects, particularly in terms of the assistance available to developing countries. While most representatives supported the holding of simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the three conferences of the parties, one representative said that each conference of the Parties should remain the highest decision-making body for its respective convention and that implementing synergies at the national and regional levels should be voluntary. Several representatives provided information about activities being undertaken in their countries to achieve greater synergies.

173. The representative of Switzerland, as the host country of the secretariats of the three conventions, pledged additional financial support for enhancing coordination and cooperation among them.

174. The Conference approved the text of the draft decision, as orally amended, for formal adoption during the ministerial segment of the meeting.

175. Decision SC-4/34 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

VI. Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget

176. During the opening session of the meeting representatives of the Secretariat introduced the item, drawing attention to the relevant documentation and outlining the work undertaken by the Secretariat since the third meeting of the Conference.

177. The Parties expressed general appreciation for the new format in which the budget had been presented, which was aligned with the format used by the Basel and Rotterdam convention secretariats. In line with recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, several Parties said that further synergies with the Basel and Rotterdam conventions should be sought to ensure maximum efficiency. While many representatives highlighted the need for all activities identified in the budget to receive full funding, particularly with regard to capacity-building and technology transfer, others said that the current global economic climate would have inevitable budgetary consequences. A number of Parties expressed concern that some Parties had not yet paid their contributions to the General Trust Fund.

178. One representative reported that payment of his country's assessed contribution, which had been delayed by administrative problems, would be effected before the end of the current meeting.

179. Following the discussion of the item the Conference established a budget group, co-chaired by Ms. Jacqueline Álvarez (Uruguay) and Ms. Stendahl, to discuss the issues under the item and to prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference.

180. Reporting on the budget group's work Ms. Stendahl said that there had been concern among its members about whether the three budget scenarios presented by the Secretariat in the documents prepared for the item (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/37 and Add.1) were realistic and whether they were in harmony with those used by the Basel and Rotterdam conventions. In the light of those concerns the group proposed that the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions, at their simultaneous extraordinary meetings, consider as part of their budget discussions whether it would be advisable to harmonize the budget formats and scenarios used by the three conventions with an eye to facilitating decision-making on joint activities.

181. Decision SC-4/1 on financing and budget for the biennium 2010–2011, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

VII. High-level segment

A. Opening of the segment

182. The high-level segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention was held on Thursday and Friday, 7 and 8 May 2009. The segment was opened at 10.05 a.m. on Thursday, 7 May, with a performance by a traditional Swiss choir. Opening statements were made by Mr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Convention; Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla (Senegal), who spoke on behalf of Mr. Djibo Leïty Kâ, outgoing President of the Conference; Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP, who read a statement by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Public Health and Environment Department, WHO; Mr. Robert Dixon, Team Leader, Climate and Chemicals, GEF; and Mr. Alireza Moaiyeri (Islamic Republic of Iran), President of the Conference.

183. In his statement the Executive Secretary, recalling that the Convention's aim was to protect human health and the environment by restricting and eliminating dangerous chemicals, explained the challenges of a future free of persistent organic pollutants. He noted that the Convention had moved from the preparatory to the implementation phase, where activities necessary to protect human health and the environment were being put into place. With the proposed listing of nine new chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, a new chapter in its history had been opened, looking to greater cooperation with the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, together with such partners as UNEP, WHO and GEF. He also referred to the new relationship fostered with the World Bank with a view to linking chemicals to climate change and further leveraging resources to facilitate capacity-building, technical assistance and implementation activities. Those methods of cooperative implementation would maximize Parties' returns. In closing, he warned that unless the aforementioned challenges were met the global effort to minimize the impact of chemicals on human health and the environment would fail and that, without a green economy, the planet's future would be precarious indeed. He urged Parties to propose solutions that could assist in meeting the challenges and thanked the Government of Switzerland for its commitment to the Convention's programme of work.

184. In his statement Mr. Sylla spoke of the four main challenges facing the international community with regard to persistent organic pollutants. First, there was a need to stop their production and seek safe substitutes, also eliminating unintentional releases. Second, regional centres should be supported and those centres that had failed to meet the requirements should be assisted to do so. Third, developing countries and countries with economies in transition needed to receive the resources necessary to meet their obligations under the Convention; additional efforts were required to complement those of GEF and bilateral partners. Fourth, the Convention had to attain its goal of protecting human health and the environment, given that persistent organic pollutants did not respect national borders. He called for a more responsible approach to environmental management and for action to be taken to protect the most vulnerable, given the serious problem posed by persistent organic pollutants and the need to implement the Convention successfully.

185. Mr. Kante, on behalf of the Executive Director, noted that the safe management, use and trade in chemicals was swiftly moving up the international agenda, as demonstrated by the discussion of chemicals at the recent Group of Eight environment ministers' meeting in Italy, where participants had discussed the impact of chemicals on children, particularly with regard to endocrine disruptors. He cited the dangers posed by chemicals to biodiversity and the climate and called for economies of scale and cost-benefit analyses to take the environment into account. In that regard, he stressed the importance of synergies, noting that partnerships would be crucial in bringing about a truly sustainable global economy in the twenty-first century, an idea at the heart of the UNEP green economy initiative. He urged Parties to give guidance to GEF and to study the programme of work, arguing that it was not over-ambitious as UNEP stood behind the Convention to support resource mobilization efforts and that the Convention had never failed in the past to raise the necessary resources to fund its activities. On the proposed listing of nine new chemicals, he called upon Parties to keep their decision-making fundamentally scientific and to show flexibility, highlighting the need to move at the pace of the majority rather than be held back by a few.

186. Ms. Neira stressed that, with reasonable and sensitive environmental interventions, it would be possible to reduce the global burden of disease by 13 million deaths per year. She drew attention to the dangers posed by chemicals and, in particular, persistent organic pollutants, pointing out that the health sector was at the front line of efforts to detect and combat chemicals-related diseases. On DDT, she welcomed the rejuvenated initiative announced by UNEP, WHO and GEF to combat malaria while

incrementally reducing reliance on DDT. She welcomed the news that the Group of Eight was discussing the importance of protecting children's health and informed Parties that persistent organic pollutants would be discussed at the third WHO international conference on children's health and the environment, which would take place in Pusan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 10 June 2009. She urged Parties to keep human health foremost in their thoughts when taking decisions and to work to reduce the time required to take such decisions, thereby reducing exposure to risks.

187. In his statement Mr. Dixon explained that GEF had made available, through its own funds in the amount of \$365 million and leveraged co-financing, \$800 million in support of the implementation of the Convention and had worked with over 135 countries in the preparation of their national implementation plans. GEF had also provided support in the shift from preparation to implementation, with assistance being made available to build infrastructure and capacity in such fields as PCB management, disposal of obsolete pesticide stockpiles and cost-effective alternatives to DDT for vector control. GEF had taken steps to improve its effectiveness, revising its framework for persistent organic pollutants and drastically reducing the time required for projects to receive funding. He explained that the fifth replenishment of GEF was under way, with a series of institutional governance and policy reforms scheduled for discussion. Also under consideration was a chemicals area of engagement that would consolidate persistent organic pollutants and ozone-depleting substances, with possible expansion to include mercury and broader chemicals management initiatives. He stressed that greater emphasis would be laid on synergies to maximize the environmental and human health benefits from GEF interventions and sought the support of Parties to enable GEF to continue serving effectively as the financial mechanism of the Convention.

188. Mr. Moaiyer said that, in the light of the many challenges facing humanity, an international partnership of cooperation and unity was crucial. Eliminating the threat of persistent organic pollutants hinged upon collaborative and specific actions derived from the common but differentiated responsibilities of the international community, he said. Noting that such pollutants knew no borders, he called for adequate resources to be mobilized at the multilateral level to produce effective results in reducing the risks that they posed. He went on to outline some of the major items on the Conference's agenda, such as the proposed listing of nine new persistent organic pollutants and synergies, urging further cooperation and flexibility to bring the current meeting to a successful conclusion.

B. Statements by ministers and other heads of delegation

189. Following the opening addresses statements were made by ministers for the environment, health or foreign affairs or their representatives from the following countries and regional economic integration organizations, listed in the order in which they spoke: Islamic Republic of Iran, Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), European Commission, Armenia, Gambia, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mauritius, Samoa, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Angola, India, Switzerland, Mozambique, Togo, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Tunisia, Gabon, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa, Sudan, China, Republic of Korea, Germany, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Philippines, United States of America, Rwanda, Uruguay, Nepal, Myanmar, Cameroon, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, France, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Zambia, Japan.

190. Statements were also made by representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, listed in the order in which they spoke: United Nations Development Programme, International POPs Elimination Network, International Council of Chemical Associations, African Insect Science for Food and Health, Kenya, Indigenous Peoples' Caucus for COP4.

C. Round-table discussions

191. During the high-level segment, ministers and other high-level meeting participants engaged in round-table discussions on the theme: "Meeting the challenges of a POPs-free future". The theme was broken down into four challenges: to move away from the production of persistent organic pollutants toward safer alternatives and to eliminate unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants; to identify additional chemicals that should be subjected to the provisions of the Convention; to ensure the provision of financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement their obligations under the Convention; and to ensure that the Convention met its goal of protecting human health and the environment. The discussions took place in

six groups, organized according to the languages spoken by the ministers, and were intended to elicit a free exchange of ideas among the participants.

192. At the plenary session held the following morning, Friday, 8 May 2009, Mr. Kante summarized the outcomes of the round-table discussions. A summary of the round-table discussions can be found in annex IV to the present report.

D. Additional remarks by the Executive Director

193. On the last day of the meeting the Executive Director of UNEP made a statement to the Conference. He observed that, while everyone agreed upon the nature of the problem and how to fix it, agreement became elusive when it came to finding the money needed to fund the solution. That pattern, he said, was unacceptable. He urged the Parties to break it at the current meeting by recognizing what was at stake, by seeing sound chemicals management not in isolation but rather as a vital element of a much larger goal of promoting sustainable development, human health and the environment through action at many levels. There was another pattern too: all too often the decisions taken by the parties to multilateral environmental agreements were not reflected in the positions that Governments took at GEF meetings. He therefore urged donor country Parties to commit themselves to ensuring that the decisions taken at the current meeting were taken into account during the negotiations over the fifth replenishment of GEF and that GEF became the source of significant funding for achieving the international chemicals management agenda. As GEF was only one funding mechanism, however, he announced a proposal: that a consultative meeting of Governments and other stakeholders be held prior to and in preparation for the eleventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the planned simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The purpose of the meeting would be to analyse the current state of affairs and to devise strategic, synergistic proposals on financing chemicals management. He also announced his intention to implement swiftly the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, which the Conference had approved, and to form a special group within UNEP dedicated to doing so.

194. Mr. Alvarez, as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group and speaking on behalf of his co-chair Ms. Stendahl, welcomed the Executive Director's intention to implement swiftly the recommendation of the Working Group and to form a special group on the subject within UNEP. He recalled, however, that the Working Group had had its genesis in direct action by the Parties to the three conventions and he urged the Executive Director to work to ensure the continued involvement of Parties in the work to come.

VIII. Venue and date of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

195. The representative of Argentina conveyed an offer from his Government to host the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in the capital city of Buenos Aires, indicating that his Government would defray any incremental costs resulting from holding the meeting there. The Conference accepted the offer with thanks and accordingly agreed that its fifth meeting would take place in May 2011 in Buenos Aires, subject to the conclusion of a host country agreement between the host Government and the Secretariat.

IX. Other matters

A. Official communications with Parties and observers

196. The representative of the secretariat introduced the item, recalling that under the Convention each Party was to name an official contact point, responsible for formal communications with the Secretariat and the performance of official functions pertaining to the Convention, and a national contact point, responsible for the exchange of information on persistent organic pollutants under Article 9 of the Convention. He reported that a number of Parties had not yet named official contact points or national contact points.

197. He also reported that a number of non-governmental organizations that were qualified in matters covered by the Convention but had never before participated in meetings of the Conference had registered to participate in the current meeting. Under the rules of procedure such organizations were allowed to participate in meetings of the Conference unless at least one-third of the Parties objected. In accordance with Secretariat practice once they had attended one meeting such organizations were added to the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat and were sent invitations to meetings of the Conference.

198. Following the Secretariat's presentation the Conference agreed to entrust the Secretariat with preparation of a draft decision on official communications and participation by non-governmental organizations based on the possible action by the Conference set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/39.

199. Decision SC-4/35 on official communications with Parties and observers, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

B. Interpretation for meetings under the Stockholm Convention

200. Owing to the extent of the agenda for the current meeting the Conference met in night plenary sessions on Thursday, 7 May, and Friday, 8 May. Those sessions were held in addition to the two regular sessions on each of those days. Interpretation was provided for the entire Thursday night session, which ran from 8 to 11 p.m., but the Secretariat was unable to secure the services of interpreters for the entirety of the Friday night session, which ran, with breaks, from 5 p.m. on Friday to 4.40 a.m. on Saturday.

201. A number of representatives objected strongly to the lack of interpretation for part of the Friday night–Saturday morning session. They asked that their objections be noted in the present report and emphasized that while they would agree, for the sake of achieving the goals of the Convention, to proceed in English only at the current meeting their doing so should not be seen as in any way setting a precedent or condoning the practice of conducting meetings in English only.

X. Adoption of the report

202. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/POPS.COP.4/L.1 and Add.1, as amended during adoption.

XI. Closure of the meeting

203. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 4.40 a.m. on Saturday, 9 May 2009.

Annex I**Decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting**

SC-4/1	Financing and budget for the biennium 2010–2011
SC-4/2	DDT
SC-4/3	Exemptions
SC-4/4	Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2(b) of Article 3
SC-4/5	Polychlorinated biphenyls
SC-4/6	Best available techniques/best environmental practices
SC-4/7	Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
SC-4/8	Wastes
SC-4/9	National implementation plans
SC-4/10	Listing of alpha hexachlorocyclohexane
SC-4/11	Listing of beta hexachlorocyclohexane
SC-4/12	Listing of chlordecone
SC-4/13	Listing of hexabromobiphenyl
SC-4/14	Listing of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether
SC-4/15	Listing of lindane
SC-4/16	Listing of pentachlorobenzene
SC-4/17	Listing of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride
SC-4/18	Listing of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether
SC-4/19	Establishing indicative elements of a work programme to facilitate the elimination of listed brominated diphenyl ethers and the restriction or elimination of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and other chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
SC-4/20	Operating procedures of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
SC-4/21	Information exchange
SC-4/22	Guidance on technical assistance
SC-4/23	Regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology
SC-4/24	Needs assessment
SC-4/25	Effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility
SC-4/26	Review of the financial mechanism
SC-4/27	Guidance to the financial mechanism
SC-4/28	Additional guidance to the financial mechanism
SC-4/29	Facilitating work with regard to financial resources and mechanisms
SC-4/30	Reporting
SC-4/31	Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
SC-4/32	Effectiveness evaluation
SC-4/33	Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Stockholm Convention
SC-4/34	Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
SC-4/35	Official communications

SC-4/1: Financing and budget for the biennium 2010–2011

The Conference of the Parties,

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

Recalling also decision SC-1/4 on financing and budget for the biennium 2006–2007, in particular paragraphs 20 and 23, decision SC-2/1 on amending the financing and budget for the biennium 2006–2007 and decision SC-3/1 on financing and budget for the biennium 2008–2009,

Taking into account its decision SC-4/34 and decisions IX/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and RC-4/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade on enhancing coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

1. *Approves* the programme activities and the operational budget for the biennium 2010–2011 of 5,839,267 dollars for 2010 and 5,873,643 dollars for 2011 for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision, which are presented by budget code line in table 2;
2. *Authorizes* the head of the Convention Secretariat to make commitments up to the level of the approved operational budget, drawing on available cash resources;
3. *Authorizes* the head of the Convention Secretariat to make transfers of up to 20 per cent of one main appropriation line of the approved budget to other main appropriation lines;
4. *Welcomes* the annual contribution of 2 million Swiss francs, including the assessed contribution, pledged by the Government of Switzerland to offset planned expenditures;
5. *Approves* the use of \$300,000 from the unspent balances or contributions (carry-over) from previous financial periods to cover part of the 2010–2011 budget;
6. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for the apportionment of expenses for 2010–2011 set out in table 4 of the present decision and authorizes the head of the Convention Secretariat, consistent with the financial rules of the Convention, to adjust the scale to include, respectively, all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2010 for 2010 and before 1 January 2011 for 2011;
7. *Decides* to keep the working capital reserve at the level of 8.3 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budget;
8. *Approves* the staffing of the Secretariat for 2010–2011 as indicated in table 5 of the present decision;
9. *Welcomes* the establishment of three posts for chemicals and waste cluster officials funded by the United Nations Environment Programme, noting that these posts are initially funded for one year and that they will serve the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
10. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider funding an officer to manage joint support services for the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions;
11. *Notes* with concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the operational budgets for 2008 and prior years, which were expected on 1 January of each of the relevant years, in accordance with paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;
12. *Requests* the head of the Convention Secretariat to write to Parties that have not paid their contributions on time, impressing upon them the importance of paying their respective arrears for prior periods, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next session on his or her consultations with such Parties;
13. *Requests* the head of the Convention Secretariat to report on the experiences of other environmental conventions in respect of arrears;

14. *Authorizes* the head of the Convention Secretariat to agree with any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years on a payment schedule to permit such Party to clear all outstanding arrears within six years, depending on the financial circumstances of the Party, and to pay future contributions by their due dates and requests the head of the Secretariat to report to the Bureau and to the Conference of the Parties at their next meetings on progress under any such schedule;

15. *Decides* that with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2010 onward Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States and whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years will be subject to effective measures to be decided by the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting;

16. *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;

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

18. *Welcomes* the work done by the Secretariat in keeping up-to-date information on the status of Parties' contributions to the Convention's trust funds on the Convention website;

19. *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 and where possible increase their contributions to the Special Trust Fund;

20. *Reaffirms* the importance of full and effective participation of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition and requests the Secretariat to remind Parties of the need for contributions to the Special Trust Fund at least six months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, reflecting on the financial need, and urges Parties in a position to do so to ensure that any contributions are paid at least three months before the Conference of the Parties meets;

21. *Endorses* the procedure set out in the annex to the present decision for the allocation of funding from the Special Trust Fund for facilitating the participation of Parties in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and requests the head of the Secretariat to enter into consultations with the executive secretaries of the Rio conventions on their experience in facilitating party participation;

22. *Decides* that the trust funds for the Convention shall be further continued until 31 December 2011 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the two trust funds of the Convention for the biennium 2010–2011, subject to the approval of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

23. *Requests* the head of the Convention Secretariat, bearing in mind decision SC-4/34, further to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in accordance with the priorities set by the Conference of the Parties and to report on the outcome of his or her efforts in that regard;

24. *Welcomes* the new programmatic format of the budget and requests the head of the Secretariat to continue to prepare the operational budget on the basis of that format;

25. *Requests* the head of the Convention Secretariat to prepare a budget for the biennium 2012–2013 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which the budget is based and, in accordance with the preceding paragraph, presenting expenditures for the 2012–2013 period in the new programmatic format while also presenting such expenditures by budget code lines;

26. *Notes* that there is a 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 Convention Secretariat to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2012–2013 three alternative funding scenarios based on:

- (a) His or her assessment of the required 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 2010–2011 level in nominal terms;
- (c) Increasing the operational budget from the 2010–2011 level by 10 per cent in nominal terms;

27. *Requests* the Convention Secretariat at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions prior to the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Also requests* the Convention Secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting a draft decision amending decision SC-1/3 based on the provisions of the preceding paragraph;

29. *Requests* the head of the Convention Secretariat to arrange for the conduct of regular audits by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and to request, when appropriate, reports from the United Nations Board of Auditors and to submit any such reports to the Conference of the Parties, together with the Secretariat's responses;

30. *Welcomes* the fact that the joint auditing of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is on the agenda of the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions and urges the Parties to those conventions to decide during the simultaneous meetings on arrangements to give effect to rule 6 of the Stockholm Convention financial rules.

Annex to decision SC-4/1 on financing and budget for the biennium 2010–2011

Table 1

Programme budget for 2010–2011 (in United States dollars)

Preparation and delivery of Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies

(A. Ensure effective functioning of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies)

Mandate

The Secretariat's functions as mandated by Article 20, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the rules of procedures and subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Objectives

To ensure effective preparation, delivery and follow-up of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

Indicators of achievement

1. Adequate meeting facilities and services are provided
2. Meeting documents are made available to Parties in all UN languages within established timelines
3. Efficient and effective logistical and substantive support is provided to meetings
4. Adequate participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is ensured at meetings (subject to availability of funding)

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
1	<i>Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-5): preparation and dispatch of invitations; organization of travel of sponsored delegates; preparation, translation and publication of all meeting documents; provision of support to the President before and during the meeting; registration of participants and observers; provision of logistical support including meeting rooms, interpretation, security; provision of support to the Conference and its working groups during and between meetings. Duration: five days.</i>	A successfully organized meeting of the Conference of the Parties; Documentation for the meeting in the six official United Nations languages.	Internal; funds for salaries/travel of conference staff, translation, logistics (\$650 000) and participation of sponsored delegates at COP-5 (\$750 000).	206 932	90 000	296 932	296 932	0	536 884	1 310 000	1 846 884	1 096 884	750 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
2	<i>Meetings of the Bureau:</i> organize venue, travel of bureau members, logistics and documentation for each meeting. An additional bureau meeting is foreseen back-to-back with COP-5 in 2011; one meeting in 2010 (Geneva).	Successfully organized meetings of the Bureau; Documentation for meetings in English only.	Internal; funds for travel of the Bureau (US\$ 28 000).	68 977	28 000	96 977	96 977	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	<i>Fifth and sixth meetings of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC):</i> organization of logistical arrangements; preparation and dispatch of invitations; work with Bureau for preliminary review and priority setting for candidate chemicals, provision of support to intersessional task groups and drafting groups; preparation and publication of all related documents; travel of sponsored experts, registration of participants and observers; provision of support to the Chair before and during the meeting; nomination/designation of new members for POPRC-6. Duration: 5 days each for POPRC-5 and POPRC-6 in Geneva.	Successfully organized meetings of POPRC; Effective operation of intersessional task groups and drafting groups as appropriate.	Internal; funds for salaries/travel of conference staff, translation, logistics (US\$ 720 000) and participation of sponsored delegates and experts at POPRC-5 and POPRC-6 (US\$ 301 000).	344 887	510 500	855 387	795 387	60 000	351 999	510 500	862 499	802 499	60 000
4	<i>Organization and provision of support for the Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties, jointly with Basel and Rotterdam Conventions (February 2010):</i> organization of travel of sponsored delegates; preparation, translation and publication of all related documents; provision of support to the President before and during the meeting; registration of participants and observers; shared provision of logistical support including interpretation and security.	A successfully organized extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties; Documentation for the meeting in the six official United Nations languages	Internal; funds for staff travel (US\$ 10 000). External (funded via separate trust fund); translation, logistics and participation of sponsored delegates at extraordinary COP in February 2010.	48 284	10 000	58 284	58 284	0	0	0	0	0	0
5N	<i>Compliance activities:</i> preparation and dispatch of invitations; preparation and publication of all meeting documents. Duration: 2 days.	A successfully organized meeting of the Compliance Committee	Internal; funds for conference services for the Committee (US\$ 13 200)	34 489	6 600	41 089	41 089	0	35 792	6 600	42 392	421 392	0
Subtotal				703 570	645 100	1 348 670	1 288 670	60 000	924 675	1 827 100	2 751 775	1 941 775	810 000

**Programme and cross-cutting support
(B. Outreach and assistance to Parties in the implementation of the Convention)**

I. Legal Support

Mandate

Secretariat's functions as mandated by Article 20, paragraph 2, of the Convention

Objectives

1. To facilitate the operation of the Stockholm Convention, its Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Convention
2. To facilitate assistance to Parties on request in implementation of the Convention
3. To enhance compliance with the obligations of the Convention by Parties
4. To ensure compatibility of decisions and actions with United Nations regulations

Indicator of achievement

Legal guidance in implementing the Convention and legal advice are promptly and appropriately provided to individual Parties, the Secretariat, the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
6N	<i>Provide general and legal policy advice: respond to Parties' queries relating to the implementation of and compliance with the Convention(s), manage the POPRC rosters list [</i>	Advice on general legal and/or policy questions provided to Parties and the Secretariat as needed.	Internal; funds for staff travel (US\$5 000)	111 054	2 500	113 554	113 554	0	100 218	2 500	102 718	102 718	0
Subtotal				111 054	2 500	113 554	113 554	0	100 218	2 500	102 718	102 718	0

II. Support for Convention implementation activities

Mandate

The Secretariat functions as mandated by Article 20, paragraph 2, and decisions of the Conference of Parties regarding regional and national delivery of technical assistance.

Objectives

1. To ensure that Parties' technical and financial assistance needs for implementing the Convention are addressed
2. To ensure that Parties receive or have access to technical information and guidance needed to implement the Convention.
3. To determine whether the Convention is meeting its objective (Article 2)

Indicators of achievement

1. Parties' technical and financial needs are identified and Parties have access to technical and financial resources to address them.
2. Global monitoring plan, national reports and other information collected through the effectiveness evaluation process of the Convention provides information on levels of POPs in the environment and the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce them.
3. Parties have access to the technical information and guidance they need to implement the Convention.

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)		Source of funding	Amount (US\$)		Source of funding				
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs		Total costs	Staff costs		Non-staff costs	Total costs		
A. Financial assistance													
7 (10) H,L	Continuing identification of financial needs: through regular communication with Stockholm Convention official contact points and national focal points in Parties and other means, the Secretariat will continue to identify and assess the financial needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to undertake activities and build the capacity required to meet their obligations under the convention.	Identification of priorities for financial assistance of Parties and among Parties within regions and subregions. These needs will be communicated to the COP, to the financial mechanism and to other potential donors of financial assistance.	Internal: funds for consultants (US\$ 20 000)	18 969	10 000	28 969	28 969	0	25 055	10 000	35 055	35 055	0

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
8 (12) M	<i>Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other potential donors:</i> facilitate the delivery of financial assistance to meet priority needs for financial assistance identified by the Conference of the Parties based on inputs from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.	GEF and other potential donors are better informed about priorities for financial assistance and target available resources to meet those priorities. These institutions may also obtain a better understanding of the level of financial resources needed to ensure implementation of the Convention.	Internal.	19 140	0	19 140	19 140	0	25 055	0	25 055	25 055	0
9N H,L	<i>Financial assistance facilitation:</i> develop and implement a programme to facilitate improved access to financial and other resources to assist Parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention.	Support to countries in meeting their obligations under the Stockholm Convention is provided.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 80 000)	20 003	60 000	80 003	20 003	60 000	25 055	20 000	45 055	25 055	20 000
Subtotal				58 112	70 000	128 112	68 112	60 000	75 164	30 000	105 164	85 164	20 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
B. Technical assistance, including regional centres													
	<i>1. Facilitation of technical assistance programmes</i>												
10 (7) H,L	<i>Continuing assessment of technical assistance needs:</i> through regular communication with Stockholm Convention official contact points and national focal points in Parties and other means, the Secretariat will continue to identify and assess the technical assistance needs of Parties to build the capacity they require to meet their obligations under the convention.	Identification of priorities for technical assistance of Parties and among Parties within regions and subregions. These priorities will be used in the promotion of efforts to ensure delivery of such assistance and be communicated to potential providers of technical assistance.	Internal; funds for subcontracts (US\$ 50 000)	25 867	30 000	55 867	55 867	0	34 003	20 000	54 003	54 003	0
11 M	<i>Overall coordination of the delivery of technical assistance programmes:</i> plan and coordinate secretariat activities aimed at the provision of technical assistance to Parties and seek the involvement of appropriate partners and stakeholders in the delivery of such assistance.	More effective delivery of technical assistance programmes and leveraging of resources of partners in these activities to the mutual benefit of those involved.	Internal	25 867	0	25 867	25 867	0	34 003	0	34 003	34 003	0
12 (8) H	<i>Facilitating development and updating of NIPs including Article 5 action plans.(process)</i>	Support to Parties in development and updating of NIPs provided.	Internal; funds for subcontracts (US\$ 140 000) and participant travel (US\$ 31 000)	25 867	134 000	159 867	75 867	84 000	34 003	47 000	81 003	64 003	17 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
	<i>3. Regional centres</i>												
13 H	<i>Ensuring effective operation of the regional centres including participation in the clearing-house mechanism and other support: Promote effective cooperation with and between centres and ensure reporting on the work of the centres to the Conference of Parties.</i>	Regional centres effectively provide technical assistance and transfer environmentally sound technologies to Parties in the regions according to the criteria for evaluating their performance (decision SC 2/9, annex II).	Internal; funds for subcontracts (US\$ 120 000)	241 421	80 000	321 421	321 421	0	146 291	80 000	226 291	226 291	0
	<i>4. Capacity-building programmes</i>												
14 H	<i>Capacity-building programmes: develop and deliver training programme based on needs identified at regional and national levels on BAT/BEP; POPs wastes; collection of information under Article 15; effective participation in the work of POPRC; electronic information and reporting mechanism under the Convention; effective legal basis for the implementation of the Convention.</i>	Parties are trained to meet their obligations under the Convention.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 50 000), subcontracts (US\$ 241 000) and participant travel (US\$ 81 000)	163 842	1 331 000	1 494 842	273 822	1 221 000	157 351	1 038 000	1 195 351	237 351	958 000
Subtotal				482 863	1 575 000	2 057 863	752 843	1 305 000	405 650	1 185 000	1 590 650	615 650	975 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)		Total costs	Source of funding		Amount (US\$)		Total costs	Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs		SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs		SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
C. Effectiveness evaluation activities													
	<i>1. Global Monitoring Plan</i>												
15	<i>Update the harmonized framework for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan, including through guidance material to strengthen Parties' capacity.</i>	Strengthened Party capacity through up-to-date guidance material.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 85 000), participant travel (US\$ 190 000) and reporting (US\$ 10 000)	44 801	175 000	219 801	79 801	140 000	46 172	110 000	156 172	46 172	110 000
16	<i>POPs Global Monitoring Plan: support Parties to strengthen their capacity to participate in global POPs monitoring.</i>	Strengthened Party capacity for participation in global POPs monitoring	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 200 000) and subcontracts (US\$ 720 000)	44 321	600 000	644 321	44 321	600 000	45 814	320 000	365 814	45 814	320 000
17	<i>Support procedures for effectiveness evaluation, as enhanced by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.</i>	Support to Parties in meeting their obligations under the Stockholm Convention provided.	Internal; funds for subcontracts (US\$ 120 000)	44 593	120 000	164 593	164 593	0	45 814	0	45 814	45 814	0
Subtotal				133 715	895 000	1 028 715	288 715	740 000	137 800	430 000	567 800	137 800	430 000
D. Existing POPs													
18 H	<i>Pesticides, including DDT alternatives: Implement the business plan on developing alternatives to DDT; organize the DDT Expert Group meeting to assess the continued need for DDT; support GEF regional projects to demonstrate locally appropriate alternatives to DDT; increase Parties' capacity to report on the production and use of DDT.</i>	Parties that produce and use DDT are better equipped to introduce alternatives to DDT.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 50 000), conference services (US\$ 45 000), subcontracts (US\$ 310 000), participant travel (US\$ 250 000) and reporting (US\$ 70 000)	103 466	460 000	563 466	278 466	285 000	107 377	265 000	372 377	177 377	195 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)		Total costs	Source of funding		Amount (US\$)		Total costs	Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs		SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs		SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
19N H	<i>Implement activities to achieve 2025 and 2028 goals for PCB elimination:</i> Develop, organize and establish the PCB Elimination Network as a tool; promote the Club to relevant stakeholders; undertake regional and global meetings to kick-start the work of the Club to ensure the environmentally sound management of PCBs oils and equipment containing PCBs.	Information exchange and linkages to relevant technologies are enhanced for Parties that have PCB equipment.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 110 000), subcontracts (US\$ 200 000), participants travel (US\$ 150 000) and reporting (US\$ 30 000)	103 466	250 000	353 466	138 466	215 000	107 377	240 000	347 377	142 377	205 000
20 (14) L	<i>Unintentional</i> POPs: Develop, update and disseminate guidance on BAT/BEP and the Toolkit.	Parties have available guidance to elaborate source inventories and release estimates of unintentionally produced POPs and necessary guidance for measures to reduce or eliminate such releases.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 50 000), subcontracts (US\$ 130 000), participant travel (US\$ 90 000) and reporting (US\$ 40 000)	77 600	170 000	247 600	77 600	170 000	78 743	140 000	218 743	78 743	140 000
21 M	<i>Exemptions:</i> Promote reporting on exemptions required for new POPs and on the need for extensions of exemptions already obtained; maintain the register of exemptions including the DDT register.	Parties that produce or use POPs have established exemptions as allowed under the Stockholm Convention.	Internal.	34 489	-	34 489	34 489	-	35 792	-	35 792	35 792	-
Subtotal				319 021	880 000	1 199 021	529 021	670 000	329 289	645 000	974 289	434 289	540 000
E. New POPs													
22N	Provide Parties with guidance and basic approaches to managing or replacing industrial POPs at the national level. The programme should complement the facilities available nationally for the management of agricultural chemicals and should include the legal, administrative and financial components required.	Guidance document and capacity to manage industrial POPs increased.	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 120 000), subcontracts (US\$ 75 000), participant travel (US\$ 285 000) and reporting (US\$ 10 000)	80 704	310 000	390 704	130 704	260 000	82 322	180 000	262 322	107 322	155 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
23N	<i>Follow-up on decision on listing new POPs</i>	Infrastructure to report and register new POPs	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 60 000), subcontracts (US\$ 75 000) and reporting (US\$ 60 000)	80 359	50 000	130 359	95 359	35 000	82 322	60 000	142 322	97 322	45 000
24N	<i>Implementation of annex to decision SC-4/19.</i>	Information and knowledge available to Parties on new POPs contained in products and articles and related recycling.	Internal; funds for consultant (US\$ 150 000) and reporting (US\$ 100 000)	80 359	200 000	280 359	230 359	50 000	82 322	50 000	132 322	82 322	50 000
Subtotal				241 421	560 000	801 421	456 421	345 000	246 967	290 000	536 967	286 967	250 000

Knowledge and Information management and outreach

(F. Clearing-house activities)

Management and circulation of information submitted by Parties in accordance with their obligations under the Convention

Mandate

Articles 9 and 20 of the Convention; relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Objectives

1. To ensure that Parties and relevant stakeholders have ready and reliable access to information on all chemicals subject to the Convention
2. To develop, maintain and distribute comprehensive information on the Stockholm Convention targeted at a broad range of end-users, including the general public, designated national authorities and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention

Indicators of achievement

1. Parties have reliable access to information on chemicals subject to the Convention contained in the POPs database
2. Improved accessibility of data and information on the operation of the Convention through the Convention website
3. Quantified and qualified overall client satisfaction through feedback to the Secretariat regarding Convention publications

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
25 H	<i>Stockholm Convention website</i> : maintenance and continuing development of the Convention website, dissemination of meeting documents, official reference materials, comprehensive information on all Stockholm Convention Secretariat programmes and activities, updated technical data and access to guidance documents and publications.	A constantly improving website that meets the requirements of the Parties and provides useful information to other audiences.	Internal	49 319	0	49 319	49 319	0	50 109	0	50 109	50 109	0

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
26 (18) H	<i>Further develop the clearing-house mechanism to enable on-line access to information and facilities that would assist Parties to implement the Convention. To be done in cooperation with the Basel and Rotterdam conventions.</i>	Increased access to electronic information and reporting mechanism	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 95 000), subcontracts (US\$ 50 000) and equipment (US\$ 30 000)	49 319	120 000	169 319	169 319	0	50 109	55 000	105 109	105 109	0
27 (18) H	Further develop the electronic reporting system for Article 15	Enhanced electronic system provided	Internal; funds for consultants (US\$ 30 000) and reporting (US\$ 10 000)	49 319	20 000	69 319	54 319	15 000	50 109	20 000	70 109	55 109	15 000
28N (all prgr act) L	<i>Develop and implement communication strategy: promote public awareness and information about the Convention, its activities and meetings; produce press releases, manage press relations for major Stockholm Convention Secretariat meetings, monitor media coverage for increased visibility among media community.</i>	Integration of the communication strategy into work done by the Secretariat and Parties, greater awareness of the Stockholm Convention among all target audiences achieved through production and dissemination of posters, exhibitions, leaflets, brochures, photo archive and Stockholm Convention Bulletin. Information provided to media, press briefings and releases.	Internal (implementation through various programmes)	49 319	0	49 319	49 319	0	50 109	0	50 109	50 109	0
29 H	<i>Reprinting of key technical publications: maintain sufficient number of publications for dissemination at meetings and other events.</i>	Availability of electronic and printed versions of general publications, e.g., text of the Convention.	Internal; funds for reprinting and reproduction of publications (US\$ 46 000)	48 974	23 000	71 974	71 974	0	50 109	23 000	73 109	73 109	0
Subtotal				246 250	163 000	409 250	394 250	15 000	250 546	98 000	348 546	333 546	15 000

**Executive direction, management, strategic planning and cooperation
(G. Core Secretariat costs)**

Mandate

Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties as they pertain to the functions of the Secretariat

Objectives

1. To ensure an efficient, effective and timely delivery of the programme of work for 2010–2011
2. To get increased positive feedback from Parties and others on the substantive and organizational support provided by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
3. To ensure the provision of sufficient resources in the voluntary trust fund of the Stockholm Convention to support the technical assistance programme adopted by the Conference of the Parties and the travel of eligible participants to meetings of the Conference

Indicator of achievement

1. Procedures and resources are in place to ensure the implementation of the Secretariat's programme of work in a cost efficient and timely manner
2. Financial resources are sufficient to carry out the programme of work approved by the Conference of Parties at its fourth meeting
3. Improved capacity of Parties and Stockholm Convention Secretariat to mobilize required financial resources

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
30	<i>Provide overall management of the Secretariat: oversee the implementation of the programme of work and budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties; organize and convene Secretariat meetings every quarter and staff exchanges as needed, undertake work planning and supervision of staff.</i>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs set out in the programme of work for 2010–2011.	Internal: funds for staff travel (US\$ 360 000), consultants (US\$ 150 000) and document translations (US\$ 125 000)	111 744	347 500	459 244	379 244	80 000	114 535	287 500	402 035	377 035	25 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
31	<i>Financial management and administration of the Secretariat:</i> monitoring and follow-up on budget income and expenditures including contributions from Parties and donors; development of letters of agreement and memorandums of understanding; travel arrangements for Secretariat; filing of correspondence; hiring of new staff	Effective and efficient delivery of the financial and administrative functions of the Secretariat	Internal; funds for staff travel (US\$ 5 000)	76 565	2 500	79 065	79 065	0	78 743	2 500	81 243	81 243	0
32	<i>Cooperation and coordination with partners including other MEAs and intergovernmental organizations,</i> such as the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, Green Customs Initiative; World Customs Organization; Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, etc., as needed on issues of common concern	Effective and collaborative relationships are established with partner institutions to ensure the coordinated and complementary development and delivery of technical assistance to Parties on common issues.	Internal; funds for staff travel (US\$ 30 000)	34 489	15 000	49 489	49 489	0	35 792	15 000	50 792	50 792	0
33	<i>Follow-up to recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Joint Working Group on Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (AHJWG):</i> specific activities resulting from COP-4 review and endorsement of the recommendations of the AHJWG	Decisions of COP-4 on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions requiring actions from the Secretariat are implemented.	Internal	34 489	0	34 489	34 489	0	35 792	0	35 792	35 792	0
34	<i>Contribute to related activities on chemicals in UNEP:</i> including those on United Nations system-wide coherence, Bali Strategic Plan, etc, participate where appropriate at meetings of relevant bodies such as COPs of related MEAs and the Governing Council of UNEP.	Increased integration of the work of the Stockholm Convention with relevant activities on chemicals and pesticides within UNEP	Internal; funds for staff travel (US\$ 30 000)	34 489	15 000	49 489	49 489	0	35 792	15 000	50 792	50 792	0

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
35N	<i>Raise funds for activities under the voluntary trust fund (SV): including technical assistance activities, participant travel to meetings of the Conference of the Parties.</i>	Increase in secured funding for planned programmes within the biennium	Internal; funds for staff travel (US\$ 40 000) and hospitality (US\$ 20 000)	76 565	30 000	106 565	106 565	0	78 743	30 000	108 743	108 743	0
36N	<i>Working with regional liaison offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia in collaboration with key partners: Coordinate the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes at the regional and national levels to ensure the optimal use of resources to benefit the Parties and a synergistic approach to chemicals management at the national level. The programme will be undertaken in conjunction with UNEP and the Basel and Rotterdam conventions and DTIE/SAICM and will be coordinated through Chemicals Cluster Managers to be placed in the regional offices of UNEP.</i>	Delivery of technical assistance at the regional and national levels is coordinated.	External; funded via UNEP	28 281	0	28 281	28 281	0	28 634	0	28 634	28 634	0

Subtotal 396 621 410 000 806 621 726 621 80 000 408 032 350 000 758 032 733 032 25 000

Office equipment, supplies and services
(E. Core Secretariat costs)

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (US\$)			Source of funding		Amount (US\$)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	SC Trust Fund	SV Trust Fund
37	<i>Procurement of expendable equipment; office supplies, toner and stationery</i>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2010–2011.	Internal; funds for expendable equipment (US\$ 50 000)	76 565	25 000	101 565	101 565	0	78 743	25 000	103 743	103 743	0
38	<i>Procurement of non-expendable office equipment including computer software and hardware, required licenses and furniture</i>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2010–2011.	Internal; funds for non-expendable equipment (US\$ 60 000)	76 565	30 000	106 565	106 565	0	78 743	30 000	108 743	108 743	0
39	<i>Rental and maintenance of equipment communication, internet connection, mail/dispatching and postage</i>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2010–2011.	Internal; funds for rental and maintenance, communications internet and mail/dispatching (US\$ 194 000)	76 565	97 000	173 565	173 565	0	78 743	97 000	175 743	175 743	0
40	<i>Rental of office space, electricity and cleaning</i>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2010–2011.	Internal; funds for rental (US\$ 120 000)	76 565	60 000	136 565	136 565	0	78 743	60 000	138 743	138 743	0
Subtotal				306 260	212 000	518 260	518 260	0	314 972	212 000	526 972	526 972	0
Grand total				2 998 886	5 412 600	8 411 486	5 136 466	3 275 000	3 193 314	5 069 600	8 262 914	5 197 914	3 065 000

Table 2

Programme of work for 2010–2011 funded through the General Trust fund (SC)

Summary table of total costs per budget code level

(in United States dollars)				SC Budget 2008	SC Budget 2009	Total biennium 2008–2009	SC Budget 2010	SC Budget 2011	Total biennium 2010–2011
10 PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT									
1100	Professional staff								
1101	Executive Secretary D-1	0.75		177 075	182 387	359 462	184 002	191 362	375 364
1102	Coordinator P-5	1		207 800	214 034	421 834	217 152	225 838	442 990
1103	Senior Scientific Officer P-5	1		207 800	214 034	421 834	217 152	225 838	442 990
1104	Policy Officer P-4	1		179 800	185 194	364 994	187 616	195 121	382 737
1105	Programme Officer P-4	1		179 800	185 194	364 994	187 616	195 121	382 737
1106	Programme Officer P-4	1		179 800	185 194	364 994	187 616	195 121	382 737
1107	Senior Information/Conference Service Manager (CHM) P-4 upgraded to P-5**	1		179 800	185 194	364 994	217 152	225 838	442 990
1108	Programme Officer P-3	1		149 100	153 573	302 673	157 872	164 187	322 059
1109	Programme Officer P-3	1		149 100	153 573	302 673	157 872	164 187	322 059
1110	Budget Officer (to be covered by UNEP OTL) P-3	0.75		-	-	-	-	-	-
1111	Legal Officer P-3	1		149 100	153 573	302 673	157 872	164 187	322 059
New	Programme Officer P-3 (Capacity Assistance)*	1		-	-	-	78 936	164 187	243 123
New	Programme Officer P-3 (New POPs)*	1		-	-	-	157 872	164 187	322 059
UNEP	Network Administrator P-3 (existing L-3 in UNEP)	0.50		-	-	-	78 936	82 093	161 029
1199	Total	13.00		1 759 175	1 811 950	3 571 125	2 187 666	2 357 266	4 544 932
1200	Consultants								
1201	Consultants unspecified			100 000	100 000	200 000	75 000	75 000	150 000
1202	Consultants on guidance/training material			80 000	15 000	95 000	50 000	20 000	70 000
1203	Consultants on effectiveness evaluation			80 000	30 000	110 000	15 000	-	15 000
1204	Consultants on POPRC research			25 000	25 000	50 000	50 000	30 000	80 000
1205	Consultants on POPRC guidance			30 000	-	30 000	-	-	-
1206	DDT consultants (information collection and systems)			40 000	-	40 000	-	-	-
1207	Consultants on DDT information systems			55 000	-	55 000	-	-	-
1208	Consultants on clearing-house			60 000	60 000	120 000	60 000	-	60 000
1209	Consultants on financial mechanism evaluation			60 000	30 000	90 000	-	-	-
1210	Consultants on needs assessment			90 000	-	90 000	10 000	10 000	20 000
1211	Consultants on knowledge and information systems			-	-	-	-	-	-
1212	Monitoring information warehouse (under GMP)			-	-	-	20 000	15 000	35 000
1213	Consultants on PCB elimination network			-	-	-	10 000	10 000	20 000
1214	Consultants on new POPs in products			-	-	-	150 000	-	150 000
1299	Total			620 000	260 000	880 000	440 000	160 000	600 000
13	Administrative support								
1300	General Service staff								
1301	Conference Assistant	1		99 000	101 970	200 970	106 600	110 864	217 464
1302	Secretary to Executive Secretary	1		99 000	101 970	200 970	106 600	110 864	217 464
1303	Programme Assistant	1		99 000	101 970	200 970	106 600	110 864	217 464
1304	Programme Assistant	1		99 000	101 970	200 970	106 600	110 864	217 464
1305	Webmaster/IT Assistant	1		99 000	101 970	200 970	106 600	110 864	217 464

(in United States dollars)				SC Budget 2008	SC Budget 2009	Total biennium 2008-2009	SC Budget 2010	SC Budget 2011	Total biennium 2010-2011
1306	Administrative Assistant HR (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1307	Data entry clerk	1	99 000	101 970	200 970	106 600	110 864	217 464	
1320	Temporary assistance (effectiveness evaluation)	-	40 000	40 000	80 000	40 000	40 000	80 000	
1321	Temporary assistance (CHM)	-	25 000	20 000	45 000	25 000	20 000	45 000	
OTL	Finance & Budget Assistant (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
OTL	IT/Database Assistant (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
OTL	Publication Clerk (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
New	Research Assistant/Clerk*	1.00	-	-	-	106 600	110 864	217 464	
	<i>General Service staff subtotal</i>	8.00	659 000	671 820	1 330 820	811 200	836 048	1 647 248	
1330	Conference services								
1330	Conference of the Parties		-	650 000	650 000	90 000	560 000	650 000	
1331	POPs Review Committee		360 000	360 000	720 000	360 000	360 000	720 000	
1332	Effectiveness evaluation		50 000	50 000	100 000	-	-	-	
1333	Ad Hoc JWG on synergies		60 000	-	60 000	-	-	-	
1334	DDT experts group		40 000	-	40 000	45 000	-	45 000	
1335	Compliance		-	-	-	6 600	6 600	13 200	
	<i>Conference servicing subtotal</i>		510 000	1 060 000	1 570 000	501 600	926 600	1 428 200	
1399	Total		1 169 000	1 731 820	2 900 820	1 312 800	1 762 648	3 075 448	
1600	Travel on official business								
1601	Travel on official business		200 000	175 000	375 000	195 000	180 000	375 000	
1699	Total		200 000	175 000	375 000	195 000	180 000	375 000	
1999	Component total		3 748 175	3 978 770	7 726 945	4 135 466	4 459 914	8 595 380	
20	SUBCONTRACT COMPONENT								
2100	Subcontracts								
2101	Subcontracts CHM tools development		40 000	40 000	80 000	25 000	25 000	50 000	
2102	Subcontracts regional centre projects		80 000	80 000	160 000	80 000	80 000	160 000	
2103	Subcontracts effectiveness evaluation existing data		80 000	80 000	160 000	-	-	-	
2104	Subcontracts for effectiveness evaluation for ROGs new data		160 000	120 000	280 000	120 000	-	120 000	
2105	Subcontracts POPRC analysis in countries		50 000	-	50 000	-	-	-	
2106	Subcontracts technical assistance projects		-	-	-	70 000	50 000	120 000	
2107	Subcontracts DDT and PCBs projects		-	-	-	80 000	80 000	160 000	
2108	Subcontracts New POPs		-	-	-	50 000	25 000	75 000	
2199	Total		410 000	320 000	730 000	425 000	260 000	685 000	
2999	Component total		410 000	320 000	730 000	425 000	260 000	685 000	
30	TRAINING COMPONENT								
3300	Meetings: participant travel and DSA								
3301	Conference of the Parties		-	-	-	-	-	-	
3302	POPs Review Committee		90 500	90 500	181 000	90 500	90 500	181 000	
3303	Participant travel AHJWG synergies		40 000	-	40 000	-	-	-	
3304	Bureau travel		28 000	-	28 000	28 000	-	28 000	
3305	DDT and PCBs		-	-	-	50 000	-	50 000	
3399	Total		158 500	90 500	249 000	168 500	90 500	259 000	
3999	Component total		158 500	90 500	249 000	168 500	90 500	259 000	

(in United States dollars)		SC Budget 2008	SC Budget 2009	Total biennium 2008–2009	SC Budget 2010	SC Budget 2011	Total biennium 2010–2011
40 EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT							
4100	Expendable equipment						
4101	Office equipment: paper, toner, diskettes, CD-ROMS	10 000	10 000	20 000	15 000	15 000	30 000
4199	Total	10 000	10 000	20 000	15 000	15 000	30 000
4200	Non-expendable equipment						
4201	Office equipment: hardware and software	30 000	30 000	60 000	30 000	30 000	60 000
4202	Hardware and software for CHM	15 000	15 000	30 000	15 000	15 000	30 000
4203	DDT information system	-	5 000	5 000	-	-	-
4204	Clearing-house	-	36 000	36 000	-	-	-
4299	Total	45 000	86 000	131 000	45 000	45 000	90 000
4300	Premises						
4301	Office space, maintenance, utilities	54 000	54 000	108 000	60 000	60 000	120 000
4399	Total	54 000	54 000	108 000	60 000	60 000	120 000
4999	Component Total	109 000	150 000	259 000	120 000	120 000	240 000
50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT							
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment						
5101	Maintenance of office equipment	58 000	58 000	116 000	60 000	60 000	120 000
5199	Total	58 000	58 000	116 000	60 000	60 000	120 000
5200	Reporting costs						
5201	Web publishing	1 500	1 500	3 000	-	-	-
5202	Other electronic media publishing	3 000	3 000	6 000	3 000	3 000	6 000
5203	Printing costs	5 000	5 000	10 000	5 000	5 000	10 000
5204	Document translation	62 500	62 500	125 000	62 500	62 500	125 000
5205	Report of effectiveness evaluation	30 000	10 000	40 000	-	-	-
5206	Translation and publishing (clearing-house)	10 000	10 000	20 000	10 000	10 000	20 000
5207	Translation and publishing (effectiveness evaluation)	90 000	20 000	110 000	-	-	-
5208	Translation and publishing (POPRC reports)	-	30 000	30 000	25 000	15 000	40 000
5209	Translation and publishing (guidance materials)	25 000	25 000	50 000	40 000	40 000	80 000
5210	Translation and publishing (DDT report)	16 900	16 900	33 800	25 000	15 000	40 000
5299	Total	243 900	183 900	427 800	170 500	150 500	321 000
5300	Sundry						
5301	Communications: mailing/dispatching	10 000	10 000	20 000	15 000	15 000	30 000
5302	Communications: internet connection	18 000	18 000	36 000	22 000	22 000	44 000
5303	Office supplies	1 000	1 000	2 000	10 000	10 000	20 000
5399	Total	29 000	29 000	58 000	47 000	47 000	94 000
5400	Hospitality						
5401	Hospitality	10 000	10 000	20 000	10 000	10 000	20 000
5499	Total	10 000	10 000	20 000	10 000	10 000	20 000
5999	Component total	340 900	280 900	621 800	287 500	267 500	555 000

(in United States dollars)	SC Budget 2008	SC Budget 2009	Total biennium 2008–2009	SC Budget 2010	SC Budget 2011	Total biennium 2010–2011
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4 766 575	4 820 170	9 586 745	5 136 466	5 197 914	10 334 380
UNEP programme support costs 13%	619 655	626 622	1 246 277	667 741	675 729	1 343 469
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET	5 386 230	5 446 792	10 833 022	5 804 207	5 873 643	11 677 850
Increment to the working capital reserve (8.3 per cent average annual)	38 315	-	38 315	35 061	-	35 061
GRAND TOTAL	5 424 545	5 446 792	10 871 338	5 839 267	5 873 643	11 712 910

Percentage increase from year to year	-3.3%	0.4%	-0.9%	3.9%	3.9%	7.7%
Deduction from the reserve and fund balance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Host country contribution***	1 510 593	1 510 192	3 020 785	1 691 096	1 690 488	3 381 584
				150 000	150 000	300 000
COVERED BY PARTIES	3 913 952	3 936 600	7 850 553	3 998 171	4 033 155	8 031 326
Percentage increase from year to year				1.6%	0.9%	2.3%

* Post justifications for new staff positions are provided in annex 5 to document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/37/Add.1.

** Post justification for upgrade post is provided in annex 5 to document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/37/Add.1.

*** Swiss contribution of CHF 2,000,000 equal to US\$ 1 580 000 for 2007–2008 at UN rate of 1.21 on May 2007 and US\$ 1 760 563 at UN rate of 1.136 on 1 May 2009.

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Host country contribution	1 510 593	1 510 192	1 691 096	1 690 488
Assessed contribution	69 407	69 808	69 467	70 075
Grand total	1 580 000	1 580 000	1 760 563	1 760 563

Table 3

Estimate for activities for 2010–2011 funded through the voluntary Special Trust Fund (SV)
Voluntary budget for 2010–2011 in view of the increasing of the operational budget from the 2008–2009 level by 10 per cent in nominal terms

Summary table of total costs per budget code level

(in United States dollars)		SV Budget 2008	SV Budget 2009	Total biennium 2008–2009	SV Budget 2010	SV Budget 2011	Total biennium 2010–2011
10 PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT							
1200	Consultants						
1204	Consultants Toolkit	10 000	10 000	20 000	25 000	25 000	50 000
1206	Consultants reporting (Article 15)	20 000	-	20 000	-	-	-
1208	Consultants POPs waste	65 000	-	65 000	40 000	20 000	60 000
1209	Consultants NIPs	10 000	-	10 000	-	-	-
1210	Consultant POPRC/effective participation	-	-	-	-	-	-
1211	Consultants financial assistance	-	-	-	60 000	20 000	80 000
1212	Consultants technical assistance	-	-	-	45 000	45 000	90 000
1213	Consultants effectiveness evaluation (monitoring)	-	-	-	30 000	30 000	60 000
1214	Consultants DDT and PCBs	-	-	-	80 000	60 000	140 000
1215	Consultants knowledge and information systems	-	-	-	15 000	15 000	30 000
1216	Consultants new POPs	-	-	-	85 000	95 000	180 000
1217	Consultants global monitoring plan (GMP)	-	-	-	100 000	100 000	200 000
1299	Total	105 000	10 000	115 000	480 000	410 000	890 000
1330 Conference services							
1331	NIP conference services	60 000	10 000	70 000	-	-	-
1399	Total	60 000	10 000	70 000	-	-	-
1600 Travel on official business							
1601	POPs waste travel	35 000	15 000	50 000	-	-	-
1602	NIPs staff travel	48 000	10 000	58 000	-	-	-
1603	Travel on official business	-	-	-	80 000	25 000	105 000
1699	Total	83 000	25 000	108 000	80 000	25 000	105 000
1999	Component total	248 000	45 000	293 000	560 000	435 000	995 000
20 SUBCONTRACT COMPONENT							
2200	Subcontracts						
2201	POPRC country activities	-	50 000	50 000	150 000	90 000	240 000
2202	NIPS subcontracts	60 000	15 000	75 000	60 000	10 000	70 000
2203	Toolkit emission factors	300 000	-	300 000	-	-	-
2204	Toolkit revision of toolkit	30 000	-	30 000	80 000	50 000	130 000
2205	POPs monitoring data	300 000	200 000	500 000	500 000	220 000	720 000
2206	POPs capacity enhancement & technical assistance in regions	400 000	150 000	550 000	500 000	385 000	885 000
2207	DDT and PCBs	-	-	-	220 000	130 000	350 000
2299	Total	1 090 000	415 000	1 505 000	1 510 000	885 000	2 395 000
2999	Component total	1 090 000	415 000	1 505 000	1 510 000	885 000	2 395 000

(in United States dollars)		SV Budget 2008	SV Budget 2009	Total biennium 2008–2009	SV Budget 2010	SV Budget 2011	Total biennium 2010–2011
30 TRAINING COMPONENT							
3300	Meetings: participants travel and DSA						
3301	Conference of the Parties	-	500 000	500 000	-	750 000	750 000
3302	POPs Review Committee	60 000	60 000	120 000	60 000	60 000	120 000
3303	Toolkit participant travel	45 000	45 000	90 000	45 000	45 000	90 000
3304	Reporting training (Article 15)	60 000	60 000	120 000	-	-	-
3305	BAT/BEP training participant travel	100 000	10 000	110 000	-	-	-
3306	POPs waste participant travel	100 000	50 000	150 000	130 000	120 000	250 000
3307	NIPS training	380 000	50 000	430 000	200 000	155 000	355 000
3308	POPs training participant travel	200 000	-	200 000	-	-	-
3309	Effectiveness evaluation participant travel	100 000	100 000	200 000	110 000	80 000	190 000
3310	POPRC effective participation	-	-	-	150 000	120 000	270 000
3311	DDT and PCBs	-	-	-	170 000	180 000	350 000
3312	New POPs	-	-	-	200 000	85 000	285 000
3399	Total	1 045 000	875 000	1 920 000	1 065 000	1 595 000	2 660 000
3999	Component total	1 045 000	875 000	1 920 000	1 065 000	1 595 000	2 660 000
50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT							
5200	Reporting costs						
5201	Reports on effectiveness evaluation	30 000	30 000	60 000	-	-	-
5202	Reporting user's manual translation in 3 languages (Article 15)	15 000	15 000	30 000	-	-	-
5203	Reports on existing chemicals	-	-	-	110 000	110 000	220 000
5204	Reporting on new chemicals	-	-	-	30 000	40 000	70 000
5299	Total	45 000	45 000	90 000	140 000	150 000	290 000
5999	Component total	45 000	45 000	90 000	140 000	150 000	290 000
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET		2 428 000	1 380 000	3 808 000	3 275 000	3 065 000	6 340 000
UNEP programme support costs 13%		315 640	179 400	495 040	425 750	398 450	824 200
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET		2 743 640	1 559 400	4 303 040	3 700 750	3 463 450	7 164 200
GRAND TOTAL		2 743 640	1 559 400	4 303 040	3 700 750	3 463 450	7 164 200

Percentage increase from year to year	27.4%	-43.2%	15.8%	34.3%	32.1%	66.5%
Deduction from the reserve and fund balance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Host country contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
COVERED BY PARTIES	2 743 640	1 559 400	4 303 040	3 700 750	3 463 450	7 164 200

Table 4

2010–2011 indicative scale of assessments for the General Trust Fund for the operational budget (SC) (in United States dollars)

Portion of operational budget covered by assessed contributions	2010	3 998 171
	2011	4 033 155

				2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessments 2009**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions by Party	Assessed contributions by Party
	Member State	Percentage	Percentage	US Dollars	US Dollars
	Pledged contribution				
1	Albania	0.006	0.010	400	403
2	Algeria	0.085	0.121	4 856	4 898
3	Angola	0.003	0.010	400	403
4	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.010	400	403
5	Argentina	0.325	0.464	18 566	18 729
6	Armenia	0.002	0.010	400	403
7	Australia	1.787	2.553	102 087	102 980
8	Austria	0.887	1.267	50 672	51 116
9	Azerbaijan	0.005	0.010	400	403
10	Bahamas	0.016	0.023	914	922
11	Bahrain	0.033	0.047	1 885	1 902
12	Bangladesh	0.010	0.014	571	576
13	Barbados	0.009	0.010	400	403
14	Belarus	0.020	0.029	1 143	1 153
15	Belgium	1.102	1.575	62 955	63 506
16	Benin	0.001	0.010	400	403
17	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.006	0.010	400	403
18	Botswana	0.014	0.020	800	807
19	Brazil	0.876	1.252	50 044	50 482
20	Bulgaria	0.020	0.029	1 143	1 153
21	Burkina Faso	0.002	0.010	400	403
22	Burundi	0.001	0.010	400	403
23	Cambodia	0.001	0.010	400	403
24	Canada	2.977	4.254	170 069	171 557
25	Cape Verde	0.001	0.010	400	403

				2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessments 2009**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions by Party	Assessed contributions by Party
	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>
26	Central African Republic*	0.001	0.010	400	403
27	Chad	0.001	0.010	400	403
28	Chile	0.161	0.230	9 198	9 278
29	China	2.667	3.811	152 359	153 693
30	Colombia*	0.105	0.150	5 998	6 051
31	Comoros	0.001	0.010	400	403
32	Congo	0.001	0.010	400	403
33	Cook Islands	0.001	0.010	400	403
34	Costa Rica	0.032	0.046	1 828	1 844
35	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.010	400	403
36	Croatia	0.050	0.071	2 856	2 881
37	Cuba*	0.043	0.061	2 456	2 478
38	Cyprus	0.044	0.063	2 514	2 536
39	Czech Republic	0.281	0.402	16 053	16 193
40	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.007	0.010	400	403
41	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.010	400	403
42	Denmark	0.739	1.056	42 217	42 587
43	Djibouti	0.001	0.010	400	403
44	Dominica	0.001	0.010	400	403
45	Dominican Republic*	0.035	0.050	1 999	2 017
46	Ecuador	0.021	0.030	1 200	1 210
47	Egypt	0.088	0.126	5 027	5 071
48	El Salvador*	0.020	0.029	1 143	1 153
49	Eritrea	0.001	0.010	400	403
50	Estonia*	0.016	0.023	914	922
51	Ethiopia	0.003	0.010	400	403
52	European Community	2.500	2.500	99 954	100 829
53	Fiji	0.003	0.010	400	403
54	Finland	0.564	0.806	32 220	32 502
55	France	6.301	9.003	359 961	363 111
56	Gabon*	0.009	0.010	400	403

				2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessments 2009**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions by Party	Assessed contributions by Party
	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>
57	Gambia	0.001	0.010	400	403
58	Georgia	0.003	0.010	400	403
59	Germany	8.577	12.255	489 984	494 271
60	Greece	0.596	0.852	34 048	34 346
61	Ghana	0.004	0.010	400	403
62	Guatemala*	0.030	0.043	1 714	1 729
63	Guinea*	0.001	0.010	400	403
64	Guinea-Bissau*	0.001	0.010	400	403
65	Guyana*	0.001	0.010	400	403
66	Honduras	0.005	0.010	400	403
67	Hungary*	0.126	0.180	7 198	7 261
68	Iceland	0.037	0.053	2 114	2 132
69	India	0.450	0.643	25 707	25 932
70	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.180	0.257	10 283	10 373
71	Japan	16.624	22.000	879 598	887 294
72	Jamaica*	0.008	0.010	400	403
73	Jordan	0.012	0.017	686	692
74	Kazakhstan*	0.025	0.036	1 428	1 441
75	Kenya	0.010	0.014	571	576
76	Kiribati	0.001	0.010	400	403
77	Kuwait	0.182	0.260	10 397	10 488
78	Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.010	400	403
79	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.010	400	403
80	Latvia	0.018	0.026	1 028	1 037
81	Lebanon	0.034	0.049	1 942	1 959
82	Lesotho	0.001	0.010	400	403
83	Liberia	0.001	0.010	400	403
84	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.062	0.089	3 542	3 573
85	Liechtenstein	0.010	0.014	571	576
86	Lithuania	0.031	0.044	1 771	1 786
87	Luxembourg	0.085	0.121	4 856	4 898

				2010	2011
	<i>Member State</i>	United Nations Scale of assessments 2009**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions by Party	Assessed contributions by Party
		<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>
88	Madagascar	0.002	0.010	400	403
89	Maldives	0.001	0.010	400	403
90	Mali	0.001	0.010	400	403
91	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010	400	403
92	Mauritania	0.001	0.010	400	403
93	Mauritius	0.011	0.016	628	634
94	Mexico	2.257	3.225	128 937	130 065
95	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.010	400	403
96	Monaco	0.003	0.010	400	403
97	Mongolia	0.001	0.010	400	403
98	Morocco	0.042	0.060	2 399	2 420
99	Mozambique	0.001	0.010	400	403
100	Myanmar	0.005	0.010	400	403
101	Namibia	0.006	0.010	400	403
102	Nauru	0.001	0.010	400	403
103	Nepal	0.003	0.010	400	403
104	Netherlands	1.873	2.676	107 000	107 936
105	New Zealand	0.256	0.366	14 625	14 753
106	Nicaragua	0.002	0.010	400	403
107	Niger	0.001	0.010	400	403
108	Nigeria	0.048	0.069	2 742	2 766
109	Niue	0.001	0.010	400	403
110	Norway	0.782	1.117	44 674	45 065
111	Oman	0.073	0.104	4 170	4 207
112	Pakistan*	0.055	0.079	3 142	3 170
113	Panama	0.023	0.033	1 314	1 325
114	Papua New Guinea	0.002	0.010	400	403
115	Paraguay	0.005	0.010	400	403
116	Peru	0.078	0.111	4 456	4 495
117	Philippines	0.078	0.111	4 456	4 495
118	Poland*	0.501	0.716	28 621	28 871
119	Portugal	0.527	0.753	30 106	30 370

				2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessments 2009**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions by Party	Assessed contributions by Party
	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>
120	Qatar	0.085	0.121	4 856	4 898
121	Republic of Korea	2.173	3.105	124 138	125 225
122	Republic of Moldova	0.001	0.010	400	403
123	Romania	0.070	0.100	3 999	4 034
124	Rwanda	0.001	0.010	400	403
125	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.010	400	403
126	Saint Lucia	0.001	0.010	400	403
127	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.010	400	403
128	Samoa	0.001	0.010	400	403
129	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.010	400	403
130	Senegal	0.004	0.010	400	403
131	Seychelles*	0.002	0.010	400	403
132	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.010	400	403
133	Singapore	0.347	0.496	19 823	19 997
134	Slovakia	0.063	0.090	3 599	3 631
135	Slovenia	0.096	0.137	5 484	5 532
136	Solomon Islands	0.001	0.010	400	403
137	South Africa	0.290	0.414	16 567	16 712
138	Spain	2.968	4.241	169 555	171 038
139	Sri Lanka	0.016	0.023	914	922
140	Sudan	0.010	0.014	571	576
141	Swaziland	0.002	0.010	400	403
142	Sweden	1.071	1.530	61 184	61 719
143	Switzerland	1.216	1.737	69 467	70 075
144	Syrian Arab Republic	0.016	0.023	914	922
145	Tajikistan	0.001	0.010	400	403
146	Thailand	0.186	0.266	10 626	10 719
147	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.005	0.010	400	403
148	Togo	0.001	0.010	400	403
149	Trinidad and Tobago	0.027	0.039	1 542	1 556
150	Tunisia	0.031	0.044	1 771	1 786
151	Tuvalu	0.001	0.010	400	403

				2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessments 2009**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions by Party	Assessed contributions by Party
	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>	<i>US Dollars</i>
152	Uganda	0.003	0.010	400	403
153	Ukraine*	0.039	0.056	2 228	2 247
154	United Arab Emirates	0.302	0.432	17 253	17 404
155	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.642	9.490	379 442	382 762
156	United Republic of Tanzania	0.006	0.010	400	403
157	Uruguay	0.027	0.039	1 542	1 556
158	Vanuatu	0.001	0.010	400	403
159	Venezuela	0.200	0.286	11 426	11 526
160	Viet Nam	0.024	0.034	1 371	1 383
161	Yemen	0.007	0.010	400	403
162	Zambia	0.001	0.010	400	403
163	Malawi***	0.001	0.010	400	403
		72	100	3 998 171	4 033 155

* New parties that have ratified the Convention.

** United Nations scale of assessments for 2009 per resolution 61/237 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-first session on 22 December 2006.

*** New parties not included in the proposed budget posted in February 2009

Table 5

Proposed staffing table of the Convention Secretariat for 2010–2011

Staff category and level	Approved	Approved	Remarks
	2008-2009 Staffing	2010-2011 Staffing	
A. Professional category			
D-1	0.75	0.75	
P-5	2.00	3.00	Note 1
P-4	4.00	3.00	Note 2
P-3	3.75	6.25	Note 3
P-2	-	-	
Sub-total	10.50	13.00	
B. General Service category			
GS	7.00	8.00	Note 4
TOTAL (A+B)	17.50	21.00	

Note 1. Includes an upgrade of the Information Manager from P-4 to Senior Information/Conference Services Manager P-5.

Note 2. Includes one reduced Information Manager.

Note 3. Includes two new Programme Officers and 50 per cent of a current existing Network Administrator (funded 50 per cent by UNEP and 50 per cent by Stockholm Convention).

Note 4. Includes one new Research Assistant/Clerk (to provide support to the new POPs area and administrative support staff provided by UNEP for administration, budget, finance, human resources and information technology functions (funded via programme support costs)).

Procedure for the allocation of funding from the voluntary Special Trust Fund (SV) for facilitating the participation of Parties in meetings of the Conference of the Parties

1. The procedure for facilitating the participation of eligible delegates in meetings under the Convention should aim at the full and active participation of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the activities of the Convention to improve the legitimacy of Convention decisions and encourage the implementation of the Convention at the local, national, regional and international levels.
2. The procedure should give priority to least developed countries and small island developing States and thereafter aim at ensuring adequate representation of all eligible country Parties. It should continue to be guided by established United Nations practice.
3. The Secretariat should notify Parties as soon as possible, and preferably six months in advance, of the dates and venues of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Following the dispatch of a notification that a meeting will take place, eligible Parties should be invited to inform the Secretariat, through official channels of communication, as soon as possible and no later than three months before the meeting, whether funding is requested.
5. Based on the availability of financial resources and the number of requests received, the Secretariat shall prepare a list of sponsored delegates. The list shall be established in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above with a view to ensuring adequate geographical representation of eligible regions, with priority given to least developed countries and small island developing States.
6. The Secretariat should, four weeks in advance of the meeting, notify eligible countries that will not be sponsored, inviting them to seek other alternative sources of funding.
7. The head of the Convention Secretariat is invited to liaise with the Executive Director of UNEP with a view to ensuring a waiver of the 13 percent programme support costs on the contributions to the voluntary Special Trust Fund (RV) for the participation of representatives from developing countries, with the understanding that the additional money secured will be used to enhance the representation of eligible parties.

SC-4/2: DDT

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report of the expert group on the assessment of the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control;¹
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. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with the World Health Organization to carry out the activities for the assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control as established in the process for reporting on and evaluating DDT and to provide guidance for the Conference of the Parties to make an evaluation at its fifth meeting;
4. *Endorses* the establishment of a global alliance for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control as described in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on a draft business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control,² and requests the secretariat to lead its implementation;
5. *Urges* Parties to participate actively in the establishment of the global alliance described in the annex to the note by the Secretariat referred to in the preceding paragraph and welcomes the involvement of all other Governments, the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, researchers and philanthropic institutions in the effort to achieve the dual aims of reducing reliance on DDT and reducing transmission of the malaria vector and other disease carriers now controlled by DDT;
6. *Takes note* of the report on the global status of the implementation of integrated vector management prepared by the World Health Organization and encourages developing country Parties that use DDT to work with the World Health Organization to introduce integrated vector management in their vector control programmes.

SC-4/3: Exemptions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes* the cancellation of all specific exemptions that were recorded in the Register of Specific Exemptions for the persistent organic pollutant chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention at the time of its adoption;
2. *Also notes* that, with the exception of polychlorinated biphenyls, all current exemptions listed in Annex A and Annex B of the Convention will be unavailable to Parties after 17 May 2009;
3. *Congratulates* all Parties that have eliminated the need for specific exemptions in Annex A and Annex B of the Convention;
4. *Agrees* to extend the expiration date in paragraph 6 of the review process for entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions³ to 2015;
5. *Encourages* those Parties that may seek a specific exemption for future persistent organic pollutant chemicals to make efforts to introduce alternative measures as soon as possible and requests the Secretariat to establish a revised register as appropriate.

1 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/5.

2 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/6/Rev1.

3 Decision SC-3/3, annex.

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on information to be taken into account in the evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention;⁴
2. *Concludes* that the information currently available on the experience of using the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 is insufficient as a basis for evaluating the continued need for the procedure;
3. *Urges* Parties to include in the reports that they submit pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention information on their imports and exports of chemicals listed in Annex A and Annex B to the Convention, if any, and in so doing to provide as much information as is practicable regarding the destinations of exported chemicals and the purposes for which chemicals are imported;
4. *Reminds* Parties that export chemicals listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention to any State not party to the Convention that subparagraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 of the Convention requires them to submit to the Secretariat the certification from the importing State specified in paragraph 2 (b) (iii);
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report, based on Party reports submitted pursuant to Article 15, certifications from exporting Parties submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 and other relevant information, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
6. *Decides* to evaluate further the continued need for the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 at its fifth meeting.

SC-4/5: Polychlorinated biphenyls

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Endorses* the proposal by the Secretariat for the establishment of a polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network, as described in the annex to the note by the secretariat on the initiation of a cooperative framework to support Parties in their efforts to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls through environmentally sound management and disposal,⁵ and urges Parties to become members of the partnership;
2. *Invites* the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to join the network on an equal footing in the spirit of decisions SC-4/34 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to serve as the preliminary secretary of the network in the implementation of its activities and to report to Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on progress in establishing the network pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention and subject to the possible establishment of a joint secretariat function;
4. *Encourages* developed country Parties to support financially the implementation of the network in addition to meeting their obligations under paragraph 4 of Article 13 of the Convention;
5. *Invites* the donor community, the private sector and other external funding agencies to support the partnership financially with a view to ensuring its successful implementation;
6. *Invites* relevant intergovernmental organizations, donors, holders of polychlorinated biphenyls, non-governmental organizations, experts and the industry and business sectors to seek membership in the network and actively to engage in information exchange towards achieving the goals of the Convention for the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls by 2028.

4 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/8, annex.

5 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/9/Rev.1.

SC-4/6: Best available techniques/best environmental practices

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the comments submitted by Parties and others on the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices;⁶
2. *Reminds Parties*, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, to take into consideration the guidelines and guidance when applying best available techniques and best environmental practices and when implementing action plans and other actions related to the obligations under Article 5 and Annex C of the Convention;
3. *Invites Parties* to provide the Secretariat with their comments on their experience in using the guidelines and guidance;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement awareness-raising and technical assistance activities to promote the guidelines and guidance and the sharing of experience with their use in implementing obligations under Article 5 and Annex C of the Convention;
5. *Also requests* the Secretariat to compile any comments received in response to paragraph 3 of the present decision and to propose to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fifth meeting a procedure for updating the guidelines and guidance taking into consideration paragraph 7 of decision IX/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
6. *Invites Parties* and others in a position to do so to fund activities aimed at enhancing understanding and implementation of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices.

SC-4/7: Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the progress report set out in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on the ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases⁷ and of the reports of the Toolkit expert meetings contained in annexes I and II to the note by the Secretariat on those meetings;⁸
2. *Encourages Parties* to use the Toolkit, including the new information generated to date, when elaborating source inventories and release estimates under Article 5, and for the reporting of those releases under Article 15, taking into consideration the source categories identified in Annex C, and to provide comments on their experience to the Secretariat;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue implementing the process for the ongoing review and updating of the Toolkit, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-3/6, and to report on progress made to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat, when implementing the Toolkit review and updating process, to place adequate emphasis on the key sources for which limited monitoring data are available, including sources of hexachlorobenzene and polychlorinated biphenyls; to support efforts by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to identify their sources, including those not specifically addressed in the Toolkit, and their efforts to verify their emission factors; and to organize training and capacity-building activities on Toolkit use, subject to the availability of funds;
5. *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 to provide it to the Secretariat;
 - (b) To participate actively in the Toolkit review and updating process;

⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/7.

⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/11.

⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/5.

(c) To facilitate transfer of knowledge and capacity strengthening through strategic partnerships and joint activities, including informal support for small-scale screening projects by well-equipped laboratories;

6. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide funding to support the work outlined in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

SC-4/8: Wastes

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes* the development of an interactive electronic training tool by the Secretariat and the work being undertaken regionally to support Parties in implementing environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes and polychlorinated biphenyls;

2. *Recommends* that Parties take steps to inform relevant stakeholders of the interactive electronic training tool and promote its use among relevant ministries;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, to continue activities in other regions to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to manage persistent organic pollutant wastes and polychlorinated biphenyls in an environmentally sound manner;

4. *Encourages* developed countries and funding agencies to support the work of the secretariat financially and to provide technical guidance as required.

SC-4/9: National implementation plans

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the implementation plans transmitted by Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention;⁹

2. *Takes note* of the deadline for transmission of each Party's implementation plan;¹⁰

3. *Encourages* those Parties for which the deadlines for transmitting their implementation plans have passed to transmit their plans as soon as possible if they have not already done so;

4. *Takes note* of the draft additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants;¹¹

5. *Invites* and encourages Parties:

(a) To use the guidance on social and economic assessment in the development and implementation of their national implementation plans;¹²

(b) To use the draft additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs, and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants in the development, review and implementation of their national implementation plans;

(c) To provide the Secretariat with comments on how to improve the usefulness of the social and economic guidance and additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs based on their experience in using those two sets of guidance;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a revised version of the social and economic guidance, taking into account the comments received by the Secretariat¹³ and any further comments provided by Parties in response to paragraph 5 (c) of the present decision, resources permitting, if sufficient information is provided to enable it to do so;

9 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/25/Rev.1, annex.

10 Ibid.

11 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/11.

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

13 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/26.

(b) To prepare a revised version of the additional guidance on the calculation of action plan costs based on comments provided in response to paragraph 5 (c) of the present decision, resources permitting, if sufficient information is provided to enable it to do so;

(c) To identify any additional guidance that might be required to assist Parties in their development and implementation of the Convention, to continue working on the development of the guidance called for in paragraph 5 of decision SC-1/12 and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on progress made;

7. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide the additional funding required for developing the additional guidance.

SC-4/10: Listing of alpha hexachlorocyclohexane

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for alpha hexachlorocyclohexane as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,¹⁴

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list alpha hexachlorocyclohexane in Annex A of the Convention,¹⁵

Decides to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list alpha hexachlorocyclohexane therein by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane* CAS No: 319-84-6	Production	None
	Use	None

SC-4/11: Listing of beta hexachlorocyclohexane

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for beta hexachlorocyclohexane transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,¹⁶

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list beta hexachlorocyclohexane in Annex A of the Convention,¹⁷

Decides to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list beta hexachlorocyclohexane therein by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Beta hexachlorocyclohexane* CAS No: 319-85-7	Production	None
	Use	None

SC-4/12: Listing of chlordecone

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for chlordecone transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,¹⁸

14 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.8 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.3.
 15 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.
 16 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.9 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.4.
 17 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.
 18 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.10 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.2.

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list chlordecone in Annex A of the Convention without specific exemptions,¹⁹

Decides to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list chlordecone therein without specific exemptions by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Chlordecone* CAS No: 143-50-0	Production	None
	Use	None

SC-4/13: Listing of hexabromobiphenyl

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for hexabromobiphenyl transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,²⁰

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list hexabromobiphenyl in Annex A of the Convention without specific exemptions,²¹

Decides to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list hexabromobiphenyl therein without specific exemptions by inserting the row below:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Hexabromobiphenyl* CAS No: 36355-01-8	Production	None
	Use	None

SC-4/14: Listing of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for commercial octabromodiphenyl ether transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,²²

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether in Annex A of the Convention,²³

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list therein hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, as defined in paragraph 2 of the present decision, with a specific exemption for articles containing hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether in accordance with the provisions of part IV of the Annex, as follows:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Hexabromodiphenyl ether* and heptabromodiphenyl ether*	Production	None
	Use	Articles in accordance with provisions of part IV of this Annex

2. *Also decides* to insert a definition for hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether in a new part III of Annex A called "Definitions" as follows:

¹⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

²⁰ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17/Add.3 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.3.

²¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

²² UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.6 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.1.

²³ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

For the purpose of this Annex:

“Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether” means 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-153, CAS No: 68631-49-2), 2,2',4,4',5,6'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-154, CAS No: 207122-15-4), 2,2',3,3',4,5',6 heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-175, CAS No: 446255-22-7), 2,2',3,4,4',5',6-heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-183, CAS No: 207122-16-5) and other hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial octabromodiphenyl ether.

3. *Decides* to insert a new part IV in Annex A as follows:

Part IV

Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

1. A Party may allow recycling of articles that contain or may contain hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, and the use and final disposal of articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain or may contain hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, provided that:

(a) The recycling and final disposal is carried out in an environmentally sound manner and does not lead to recovery of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether for the purpose of their reuse;

(b) The Party takes steps to prevent exports of such articles that contain levels/concentrations of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether exceeding those permitted for the sale, use, import or manufacture of those articles within territory of the Party; and

(c) The Party has notified the Secretariat of its intention to make use of this exemption.

2. At its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the progress that Parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles and review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest in 2030.

4. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention by inserting in note (iv), after the words “polychlorinated biphenyls in articles in use in accordance with the provisions of Part II”, a comma and the words “and the use of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of this Annex”.

SC-4/15: Listing of lindane

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for lindane transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,²⁴

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list lindane in Annex A of the Convention,²⁵

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list lindane therein with a specific exemption for the use of lindane as a human health pharmaceutical for the control of head lice and scabies as second line treatment by inserting the following row:

²⁴ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17/Add.4 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.4.

²⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Lindane* CAS No: 58-89-9	Production	None
	Use	Human health pharmaceutical for control of head lice and scabies as second line treatment

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to cooperate with the World Health Organization in developing reporting and reviewing requirements for the use of lindane as a human health pharmaceutical for the control of head lice and scabies, taking into consideration the concluding statement in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee's risk management evaluation on lindane, and to report on that cooperation to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

SC-4/16: Listing of pentachlorobenzene

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile, addendum to the risk profile and risk management evaluation for pentachlorobenzene transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,²⁶

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list pentachlorobenzene in Annex A of the Convention without specific exemptions and in Annex C of the Convention,²⁷

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list pentachlorobenzene therein without specific exemptions by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Pentachlorobenzene* CAS No: 608-93-5	Production	None
	Use	None

2. *Also decides* to amend part I of Annex C of the Convention to list pentachlorobenzene therein by inserting pentachlorobenzene (PeCB) (CAS No: 608-93-5) in the "Chemical" table after "Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin and dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF)" and by inserting "pentachlorobenzene" into the first paragraph of part II and part III of Annex C after "Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin and dibenzofurans".

SC-4/17: Listing of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile, risk management evaluation and addendum to the risk management evaluation for perfluorooctane sulfonate transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,²⁸

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in Annex A or Annex B of the Convention,²⁹

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex B of the Convention to list perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride therein by inserting the following row, with the acceptable purposes and specific exemptions specified in the row:

²⁶ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.7, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.5 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.2.

²⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

²⁸ UNEP/POPRC.2/17/Add.5, UNEP/POPRC.3/20/Add.5 and UNEP/POPRC.4/15/Add.6.

²⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

Chemical	Activity	Acceptable purpose or specific exemption
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (CAS No: 1763-23-1), its salts ^a and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (CAS No: 307-35-7) ^a For example: potassium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS no. 2795-39-3); lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS no. 29457-72-5); ammonium perfluorooctanesulfonate (CAS no. 29081-56-9); diethanolammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS no. 70225-14-8); tetraethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS no. 56773-42-3); didecyldimethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS no. 251099-16-8)	Production	Acceptable purpose: In accordance with part III of this Annex, production of other chemicals to be used solely for the uses below. Production for uses listed below. Specific exemption: As allowed for Parties listed in the Register.
	Use	Acceptable purpose: In accordance with part III of this Annex for the following acceptable purposes, or as an intermediate in the production of chemicals with the following acceptable purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo-imaging • Photo-resist and anti-reflective coatings for semi-conductors • Etching agent for compound semi-conductors and ceramic filters • Aviation hydraulic fluids • Metal plating (hard metal plating) only in closed-loop systems • Certain medical devices (such as ethylene tetrafluoroethylene copolymer (ETFE) layers and radio-opaque ETFE production, in-vitro diagnostic medical devices, and CCD colour filters) • Fire-fighting foam • Insect baits for control of leaf-cutting ants from <i>Atta spp.</i> and <i>Acromyrmex spp.</i> Specific exemption: For the following specific uses, or as an intermediate in the production of chemicals with the following specific uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo masks in the semiconductor and liquid crystal display (LCD) industries • Metal plating (hard metal plating) • Metal plating (decorative plating) • Electric and electronic parts for some colour printers and colour copy machines • Insecticides for control of red imported fire ants and termites • Chemically driven oil production • Carpets • Leather and apparel • Textiles and upholstery • Paper and packaging • Coatings and coating additives • Rubber and plastics

2. *Also decides* to create a new part III in Annex B called “Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)”, which reads:

Part III

Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

1. The production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) shall be eliminated by all Parties except as provided in part I of this Annex for Parties that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use them for acceptable purposes. A Register of Acceptable Purposes is hereby established and shall be available to the public. The Secretariat shall maintain the Register of Acceptable Purposes. In the event that a Party not listed in the Register determines that it requires the use of PFOS, its salts or PFOSF for the acceptable purposes listed in part I of this Annex it shall notify the Secretariat as soon as possible in order to have its name added forthwith to the Register.
2. Parties that produce and/or use these chemicals shall take into account, as appropriate, guidance such as that given in the relevant parts of the general guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices given in part V of Annex C of the Convention.
3. Every four years, each Party that uses and/or produces these chemicals shall report on progress made to eliminate PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and submit information on such progress to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to and in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention.
4. With the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the production and/or use of these chemicals, the Conference of the Parties shall encourage:
 - (a) Each Party using these chemicals to take action to phase out uses when suitable alternative substances or methods are available;
 - (b) Each Party using and/or producing these chemicals to develop and implement an action plan as part of the implementation plan specified in Article 7 of the Convention;
 - (c) The Parties, within their capabilities, to promote research on and development of safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products and processes, methods and strategies for Parties using these chemicals, relevant to the conditions of those Parties. Factors to be promoted when considering alternatives or combinations of alternatives shall include the human health risks and environmental implications of such alternatives.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the continued need for these chemicals for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including:
 - (a) Information provided in the reports described in paragraph 3;
 - (b) Information on the production and use of these chemicals;
 - (c) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives to these chemicals;
 - (d) Information on progress in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on such alternatives.

6. The evaluation referred to in the preceding paragraph shall take place no later than in 2015 and every four years thereafter, in conjunction with a regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
7. Due to the complexity of the use and the many sectors of society involved in the use of these chemicals, there might be other uses of these chemicals of which countries are not presently aware. Parties which become aware of other uses are encouraged to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.
8. A Party may, at any time, withdraw its name from the Register of acceptable purposes upon written notification to the Secretariat. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date specified in the notification.
9. The provisions of note (iii) of part I of Annex B shall not apply to these chemicals.

SC-4/18: Listing of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and risk management evaluation for commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,³⁰

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in Annex A of the Convention,³¹

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention to list therein tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, as defined in paragraph 2 of the present decision, with a specific exemption for articles containing tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in accordance with the provisions of part IV of the Annex, by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Tetrabromodiphenyl ether* and pentabromodiphenyl ether*	Production	None
	Use	Articles in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of this Annex

2. *Also decides* to insert a definition for tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in a new part III of Annex A called "Definitions" as follows:

For the purpose of this Annex:

"Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether" means 2,2',4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-47, CAS No: 40088-47-9) and 2,2',4,4',5-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-99, CAS No: 32534-81-9) and other tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether.

³⁰ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.1.

³¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

3. *Decides* to insert a new part IV to Annex A as follows:

Part IV

Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

1. A Party may allow recycling of articles that contain or may contain tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, and the use and final disposal of articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain or may contain tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, provided that:
 - (a) The recycling and final disposal is carried out in an environmentally sound manner and does not lead to recovery of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether for the purpose of their reuse;
 - (b) The Party does not allow this exemption to lead to the export of articles containing levels/concentrations of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether that exceed those permitted to be sold within the territory of the Party; and
 - (c) The Party has notified the Secretariat of its intention to make use of this exemption.
2. At its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the progress Parties made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles and review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest in 2030.
4. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A of the Convention by inserting in note (iv), after the words “polychlorinated biphenyls in articles in use in accordance with the provisions of Part II”, a comma and the words “and the use of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of this Annex”.

SC-4/19: Establishing indicative elements of a work programme to facilitate the elimination of listed brominated diphenyl ethers and the restriction or elimination of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and other chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Having amended the Stockholm Convention to list new chemicals in Annexes A or B of the Convention,³²

Taking note of the obligations of Parties, including among others the measures listed in Article 6 of the Convention to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes,

Taking into consideration that these chemicals exist globally in stockpiles and wastes,

Mindful of paragraph 1 of Article 12 of the Convention relating to the rendering of timely and appropriate technical assistance,

1. *Decides* to undertake a work programme to provide guidance to Parties on how best to restrict and eliminate brominated diphenyl ethers, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its salts,

³² See decisions SC-4/10–SC-4/19, *supra*.

perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and other chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention at the current meeting, as laid down in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Invites* Parties to support work on the evaluation of alternatives and other work related to the restriction and elimination of these newly listed persistent organic pollutants.

Annex to decision SC-4/19

Indicative elements of a work programme to facilitate the elimination of listed brominated diphenyl ethers and the restriction or elimination of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and other chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. Parties are requested and observers are invited to provide any information by July 2010 on the chemicals listed in Annexes A and/or B of the Convention at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as follows:

- (a) For brominated diphenyl ethers found in articles, information on:
 - (i) Types and quantities of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers, including concentrations of those substances in the articles, including recycled articles;
 - (ii) Types of articles recycled, the extent of recycling, the types of articles produced from recycling, the options for the environmental management of recycling operations and releases or potential releases resulting from recycling operations;
 - (iii) Cost-effectiveness of different management options;
 - (iv) Options for environmentally sound disposal;
 - (v) Methods for identifying the presence and levels of brominated diphenyl ethers in articles;
 - (vi) Identification of remediation methods for contaminated sites as listed in subparagraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention;
 - (vii) Any other related information;
- (b) For perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF), information on:
 - (i) Types and quantities of articles containing PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including concentrations of those substances in such articles;
 - (ii) Types of processes using PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including concentrations of those substances used in such processes, the options for the environmental management of such processing operations, recycling operations and releases and potential releases resulting from such processing operations; (iii) Types of articles recycled, the extent of recycling, the types of articles produced from recycling, the options for the environmental management of recycling operations and releases or potential releases resulting from recycling operations;
 - (iv) Cost effectiveness of different management options;
 - (v) Methods for sampling and analysis of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in articles;
 - (vi) Identification of remediation methods for contaminated sites as listed in subparagraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention;
 - (vii) Any other related information;
- (c) For other chemicals listed in Annexes A or B of the Convention at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, information on the extent to which such chemicals occur in articles or present a risk of exposure from stockpiles or contaminated sites.

2. The Secretariat is requested:
 - (a) To gather and compile the information referred to in the preceding paragraph and make it available to Parties and observers;
 - (b) To summarize such information to facilitate the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and submit it in advance of its sixth meeting.
3. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its fifth meeting is requested to develop terms of reference for a technical paper with the following objectives:
 - (a) To assess the possible health and environmental impacts of recycling articles and containing brominated diphenyl ethers;
 - (b) To review the long-term environmental desirability of the recycling of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers;
 - (c) To identify the best available technology and best environmental practices for the recycling of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers.
4. The Secretariat is requested to commission a technical paper based upon the terms of reference set out in the preceding paragraph to be submitted to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in advance of its sixth meeting.
5. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee is requested:
 - (a) To review the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 1–4 above;
 - (b) To identify potential gaps in such information and how to fill those gaps;
 - (c) To prepare reports for the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on the information provided and develop recommendations on the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers from the waste stream and on risk reduction for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.

SC-4/20: Operating procedures of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

Welcomes the report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on its third and fourth meetings³³ and the report of the Chair of the Committee;³⁴

1. *Takes note* of the information in those reports on developments in the Committee, including in respect of its procedures;
2. *Also takes note* of the workplans for the preparation of a draft risk profile (2007–2008 and 2008–2009), the workplan for the preparation of a draft risk management evaluation (2007–2008) and the workplan for the intersessional working group on effective participation (2008–2009), which were adopted by the Committee at its third and fourth meetings;
3. *Encourages* Parties that wish to submit proposals for listing chemicals in Annex A, B or C of the Convention to submit such proposals to the Secretariat at least five months before the meeting of the Committee at which they will be discussed;
4. *Adopts* the amendments to the terms of reference of the Committee set out in annex I to the present decision;
5. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat on preventing and dealing with conflicts of interest on the part of members of the Committee;³⁵
6. *Endorses* the decision by the Committee to meet in closed session before the start of each meeting of the Committee to discuss any issues related to conflicts of interest of members of the Committee;

33 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15.

34 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16, annex.

35 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/3 and UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16.

7. *Requests* the Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, should any conflict of interest of a member of the Committee arise, to consult the President of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary with a view to making a decision on the member's participation in the work of the Committee in respect of a particular chemical;

8. *Requests* the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting amendments, as appropriate, to the rules of procedure of the Committee set out in decision SC-1/8 for preventing and dealing with conflicts of interest relating to the activities of the Committee and the terms of reference of the Committee contained in decision SC-1/7 to reflect that procedure and any experience gained with it;

9. *Adopts* the revised form for the declaration of conflicts of interest of members of the Committee set out in annex II to the present decision;

10. *Confirms* the appointment of the new members of the Committee;³⁶

11. *Also confirms* the nomination of Mr. Jope Rinabobo Davetanivalu (Fiji) to replace Ms. Razia Zariff; Ms. Camila Arruda Boechat (Brazil) to replace Ms. Adriana Maximiano; Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan) to replace Mr. Ziad Abu Kaddourah; and Ms. Maria Delvin (Sweden) to replace Mr. Bo Wahlström to serve for the remainder of the terms of office of the members being replaced;

12. *Adopts* the list of Parties to be invited to nominate Committee members for terms of office commencing on 5 May 2010 set out in annex III to the present decision;

13. *Endorses* the handbook for effective participation in the work of the Committee and recommends to Parties that they make use of it;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue activities to assist Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition as listed in decision POPRC-4/8 and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

15. *Urges* Parties and observers in a position to do so to provide financial resources to support activities for the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to develop a resource kit providing information on the Stockholm Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

36 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/INF/18.

Annex I to decision SC-4/20

Amendments to the terms of reference of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

- (a) Paragraph 27 should be amended to read:

“Proposals for listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C shall be distributed at least three months in advance of the meeting at which they are to be discussed. Other documents shall be distributed at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.”
- (b) A new paragraph 27 bis should be added, reading:

“A Party proposing the listing of a chemical in Annex A, B or C of the Convention shall provide to the Secretariat, no later than five months in advance of the meeting at which it is to be discussed, a proposal consisting of a letter from the proposing Party, documents supporting the proposal and a summary in English of the documents supporting the proposal of up to 20 pages in length.”
- (c) Paragraph 31 should be amended to read:

“For practical reasons, only the major resource documents for a meeting will be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed at least six weeks in advance of the meeting. The term “major resource documents” means the summary in English of the documents supporting the proposal for adding a chemical to Annexes A, B or C to the Convention, the risk profile, the risk management evaluation and any report or recommendation for the meeting.”
- (d) A new paragraph 31 bis should be added, reading:

“Proposals for listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C shall be distributed at least three months in advance of the meeting at which they are to be discussed in any official language of the United Nations in which they are submitted to the secretariat. The summary in English of the documents supporting the proposals shall be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.”

Annex II to decision SC-4/20

Revised form for the declaration of conflicts of interest

Name: _____ **Designating Government:** _____

Term of office: [] – []

Have you or your partner any financial or other interest in the subject matter of any meeting or work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in which you will be involved that might be considered as constituting a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest? If yes, please give details in the box below.

Yes: No:

Do you have, or have you had during the past four years, an employment or other professional relationship with any entity directly involved in the production, manufacture, distribution or sale of chemicals or pesticides or directly representing the interests of any such entity? If yes, please give details in the box below.

Yes: No:

1. Type of interest, e.g. patent, shares, employment, association, payment (including details on any compound, work, etc.)	2. Name of commercial entity	3. Belongs to you, partner or unit?	4. Current interest? (or year ceased)

Is there anything else that could affect your objectivity or independence in respect of any meeting or work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in which you will be involved, or the perception by others of your objectivity or independence? If yes, please give details in the box below.

Yes: No:

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the disclosed information is correct and that no other situation of real, potential or apparent conflict of interest is known to me. I undertake to inform you of any change in these circumstances, including if an issue arises during any meeting or the conduct of any work.

I hereby declare that I shall regulate my conduct in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision SC-1/8 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention.

Signature

Date

Annex III to decision SC-4/20

List of Parties identified by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting to nominate Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee members whose terms of office will commence on 5 May 2010

From the African group

1. Egypt
2. Nigeria
3. United Republic of Tanzania
4. Zambia

From the Asian and Pacific group

1. China
2. Japan
3. Jordan
4. Thailand

From the Central and Eastern European group

1. Czech Republic
2. Ukraine

From the Latin American and Caribbean group

1. Argentina
2. Colombia
3. Costa Rica

From the Western European and others group

1. Canada
2. Finland
3. Germany
4. New Zealand

SC-4/21: Information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism and invites Parties and other stakeholders to continue their support for the Secretariat in its development;
2. Invites Parties and other stakeholders that are undertaking information exchange activities and projects pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention to use the strategic plan developed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting with the aim of guaranteeing compatibility between various activities and initiatives;
3. Approves the activities and budget for the biennium 2010–2011 set out in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants,³⁷ subject to the availability of funds;
4. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, in cooperation with the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, a revised workplan for the activities of the clearing-house

37 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/19.

mechanism, covering all three conventions, to be presented for consideration at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in February 2010;

5. Invites Parties and other interested stakeholders to promote and contribute to the clearing-house mechanism and encourage active participation in the clearing-house mechanism network;

6. Endorses the proposal set out by the Secretariat in its note on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels³⁸ and invites Parties, regional centres, national Governments and any other interested stakeholders to build clearing-house mechanism nodes as described in the proposal;

7. Requests the Secretariat to prepare a guidance document to facilitate implementation of the proposal by Parties and other stakeholders, including the Stockholm Convention regional centres, and to present the guidance document for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. Invites Parties, regional centres, Governments and any other interested stakeholders, in developing their clearing-house mechanism nodes, to build upon and link to such existing information exchange initiatives and tools as the Chemical Information Exchange Network of the United Nations Environment Programme and national pollutant release and transfer registers, among others.

SC-4/22: Guidance on technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information contained in the note by the Secretariat on guidance on technical assistance;³⁹

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to implement its technical assistance programme upon request while making full use of regional centres as an integral part of its work to facilitate technical assistance and the promotion of transfer of technology, taking into account the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-1/15, in addition to the priorities and needs identified in the report on the priorities identified by Parties in their implementation plans⁴⁰ and the report on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition;⁴¹

3. *Invites* Parties and relevant international and non-governmental organizations to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences in implementing the guidance;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a report on progress in the application of the guidance, based on the information to be provided pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present decision and any other pertinent information;

5. *Urges* Parties in a position to do so to provide the necessary funds to support the continued implementation of the activities listed in the note referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision.

SC-4/23: Regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report prepared by the Secretariat on how the nominated Stockholm Convention centres meet the criteria contained in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9;⁴²

38 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/20.

39 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/21.

40 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/13.

41 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/27.

42 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/22.

2. *Welcomes* the workplans and reports submitted by the nominated Stockholm Convention centres in accordance with decision SC-2/9;⁴³
3. *Endorses* the nominated Stockholm Convention centres listed in annex I to the present decision as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology for a period of four years;
4. *Invites* those nominated Stockholm Convention centres listed in annex II to the present decision to continue their activities and to seek support to comply with the criteria set out in decision SC-2/9 so as to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
5. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, within their respective regions, to cooperate and coordinate among themselves and present to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, a joint proposal on the specific areas of expertise in which they wish to provide assistance pursuant to decision SC-2/9;
6. *Invites* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology to consider, among their other tasks, undertaking work on monitoring, diagnosis, technical analysis, information gathering and identification of techniques for the elimination and disposal of persistent organic pollutants;
7. *Invites* the nomination by regions, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, through their regional representatives on the Bureau, of institutions wishing to serve as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres, in particular from those regions or subregions that are not covered by existing centres;
8. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology and the nominated Stockholm Convention centres to submit to the Secretariat their work programmes for the biennium 2010–2011 by 30 September 2009;
9. *Also requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology and the nominated Stockholm Convention centres to submit to the Secretariat their activity reports for the period January 2009–December 2010 by 31 December 2010, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
10. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology listed in annex I to the present decision and to reconsider pursuant to decision SC-3/12 their status as regional or subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres and the nominated Stockholm Convention centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, in 2011.

43 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/14.

Annex I to decision SC-4/23

Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology

Region	Institution	Location
Asia and the Pacific	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific	Beijing, China
	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research	Kuwait City, Kuwait
Central and Eastern Europe	Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology (RECETOX)	Brno, Czech Republic
Latin America and the Caribbean	Centro CETESB – Companhia de Tecnologia de Saneamento Ambiental de Brasil	São Paulo, Brazil
	Centro Nacional de Investigación y Capacitación Ambiental (CENICA)	Mexico City, Mexico
	Centro de Investigación e Información de Medicamentos y Tóxicos	Panama City, Panama
	Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centre	Montevideo, Uruguay
Western Europe and others	Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, Mediterranean Action Plan, United Nations Environment Programme	Barcelona, Spain

Annex II to decision SC-4/23

Nominated Stockholm Convention centres

Region	Institution	Location
Africa	National Centre for Cleaner Technologies Production	Algiers, Algeria
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for French African countries	Dakar, Senegal
Asia and the Pacific	Basel Convention Regional Centre	Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Central and Eastern Europe	ANO “Centre for International Projects”	Moscow, Russian Federation

SC-4/24: Needs assessment

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2010–2014;⁴⁴

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to transmit that report to the Global Environment Facility for consideration during the fifth replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility and action as appropriate;

3. *Invites*, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, developed country Parties, other Parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, to provide, by 31 December 2009, information to the Secretariat on ways in which they can support the Convention;

44 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/27, annex.

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report, on the basis of the information to be provided pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present decision, reviewing the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and means of mobilizing and channelling those resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, as requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in its resolution 2, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2015–2019 for consideration and possible adoption at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The terms of reference should be based on the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-3/15, taking into consideration the observations and recommendations in paragraphs 22–26 of the report referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to develop a simple and consistent format that would facilitate Parties' assessment and reporting of the funding used during the period 2010–2014 and their funding needs for 2015–2019 for the implementation of the Convention, based on the recommendations included in the report on needs assessment referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision.

SC-4/25: Effectiveness of the 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 fourth meeting;⁴⁵
2. Also welcomes the continuing cooperation between the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility;
3. Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of 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 fifth meeting.

SC-4/26: Review of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the positive report on the second review of the financial mechanism,⁴⁶ noting in particular the significant contribution of the Global Environment Facility of 360 million dollars for persistent organic pollutant projects since the Convention was adopted in 2001;
2. *Concludes* that the methodological framework used in the review is helpful and clear and should be followed in future reviews, the recommendations of which should be prioritized;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to transmit the report to the Global Environment Facility for its consideration and action as appropriate;
4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to provide a response to the report on the second review in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the second review set out in the annex to decision SC-3/17, draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
6. *Decides* to undertake the third review of the financial mechanism at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place in 2013, in time to submit recommendations to be

45 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/25.

46 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/17.

taken into account during the Global Environment Facility's sixth replenishment, in 2013, and subsequently during the Facility's Fifth Assembly, in 2014.

SC-4/27: Guidance to the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions SC-1/9, SC-2/11 and SC-3/16;
2. *Calls on* developed countries, in the context of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, being aware of the funding needs assessment⁴⁷ and in the light of the current and possible future listing of new persistent organic pollutants, to make all efforts to make adequate financial resources available in accordance with their obligations under Article 13 of the Convention to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Convention;
3. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to ensure that the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Convention Secretariat are appropriately informed and consulted in a timely manner on any further developments with regard to the Resource Allocation Framework that involve the persistent organic pollutant focal area;
4. *Welcomes* the continuing policy reforms within the Global Environment Facility as they relate to the streamlining of the project cycle and urges the Global Environment Facility to continue such efforts.

SC-4/28: Additional guidance to the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, to help them to prepare or update their national implementation plans and to comply with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention;
2. *Requests* the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and invites other donors to provide sufficient financial support for further step-by-step capacity enhancement, including through strategic partnerships, to sustain the new monitoring initiatives which provided data for the global monitoring report prepared in connection with the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention;⁴⁸
3. *Requests* the entity or entities entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism of the Convention, including the Global Environment Facility, when implementing the guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by the Conference in decision SC-1/9, to take into account the priorities identified by Parties in their implementation plans transmitted to the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide, within its mandate, financial support for country-driven activities of the global alliance for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control⁴⁹ and invites developed country Parties, funding agencies and other financial institutions to support the alliance;
5. *Requests* the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, including its principal entity the Global Environment Facility, and invites other relevant international financial institutions and others from the donor community to provide the financial resources, within their mandates, necessary for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition, Stockholm Convention regional centres and other interested stakeholders to carry out projects aimed at improving information exchange at the regional and national levels and to set up clearing-house mechanism nodes as described in the note by the Secretariat on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels.⁵⁰

47 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/27.

48 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/33.

49 See decision SC-4/2.

50 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/20.

SC-4/29: Facilitating work with regard to financial resources and mechanisms

The Conference of the Parties

Requests the Secretariat to seek the views of Parties and explore options for facilitating the work of the Conference of the Parties with regard to financial resources and mechanisms, including the option of a financial mechanism committee, and to prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

SC-4/30: Reporting

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the report based on information received pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention prepared by the Secretariat;⁵¹

2. *Decides* that, in accordance with Article 15, each Party shall submit its second report pursuant to Article 15 to the Secretariat by 31 October 2010 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

3. *Invites* Parties:

(a) To use the training module on the use of the electronic system for reporting and to provide comments on it to the Secretariat to facilitate its improvement;

(b) To provide to the Secretariat by 31 December 2009 comments on their experience in using the electronic system for reporting;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

(b) To continue to provide training to Parties to assist them in using the electronic system for reporting;

(c) To develop the users' manual for the electronic system further and to distribute it widely in order to facilitate the process for reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention;

(d) To develop an enhanced version of the electronic system for reporting in time for the second round of Article 15 Party reporting in 2010, taking into account the suggestions for improvement set out in the note by the Secretariat on effectiveness evaluation⁵² and comments received from Parties.

SC-4/31: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report of the meeting of the coordination group and encourages Parties when implementing activities under the global monitoring plan to consider the recommendations put forward in the report of the co-chairs of the coordination group;⁵³

2. *Welcomes* the regional monitoring reports and the global monitoring report and concludes that there are data on air and human milk or blood available in all five United Nations regions that can be used as a baseline for future evaluations, noting that not all data were available in time to be included in the monitoring reports;

51 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/29.

52 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/30.

53 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex.

3. *Acknowledges* the additional information on human tissue data presented at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and requests the Secretariat in cooperation with the regional organization groups to include those data in annexes to the first regional monitoring reports;
4. *Adopts* the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants that was provisionally adopted at its third meeting⁵⁴ and requests the Secretariat to make non-substantive changes as necessary;
5. *Also adopts* the terms of reference and mandate of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group set forth in the annex to the present decision;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to make non-substantive changes to the implementation plan for the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants for the first effectiveness evaluation that was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting,⁵⁵ so that it can serve future effectiveness evaluations, and include the terms of reference referred to in the preceding paragraph;
7. *Also requests* the Secretariat to support the global coordination group in updating the guidance document for the global monitoring plan⁵⁶ with additional chapters on long-range transport, specimen banking and the impact of listing new chemicals in the Convention;
8. *Further requests* the Secretariat, within available resources, to continue to support training and capacity-enhancement activities to assist countries in implementing the global monitoring plan for subsequent effectiveness evaluations and to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake implementation activities;
9. *Requests* the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and invites other donors to provide sufficient financial support to further step-by-step capacity enhancement, including through strategic partnerships, to sustain the new monitoring initiatives which provided data for the first monitoring report;
10. *Invites* the Parties to engage actively in the implementation of the global monitoring plan and the effectiveness evaluation, in particular:
 - (a) To continue to monitor the core matrices of air and human breast milk or human blood in support of future evaluations;
 - (b) To support the establishment and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan if in a position to do so.

Annex to decision SC-4/31

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

A. Regional organization groups

1. Regional organization groups were established in the five United Nations regions by decision SC-3/19. The main objective of the regional organization groups is to define and implement the strategy for regional information gathering, including facilitating capacity-enhancement activities, and to produce the regional monitoring reports.

1. Membership

2. The terms of membership are as follows:

- (a) Members are appointed for a minimum six-year period beginning after the Conference of Parties has considered the report of an evaluation and ending after the results of the following evaluation are considered by the Conference;
- (b) To maintain continuity, members may renew their terms for subsequent evaluations;

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

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

56 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/14/Rev.1

(c) If a member steps down, Parties from the region in question should nominate a new member according to the procedure outlined in paragraph 4 of decision SC-3/19.

2. Tasks

3. The tasks of each regional organization group will be guided by the recommendations put forward in the report of the co-chairs of the coordination group⁵⁷ and will include, among other things:

- (a) Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the regional monitoring plan, taking into account the work already achieved;
- (b) Identifying where existing suitable monitoring data are and are not available;
- (c) Promoting and updating as necessary the regional strategy for implementation of the global monitoring plan;
- (d) Promoting and helping to maintain regional, subregional and interregional monitoring networks and extending them as necessary to improve geographic coverage;
- (e) Coordinating with Parties involved in sampling and analytical arrangements;
- (f) Ensuring compliance with protocols for quality assurance and quality control, noting the examples described in the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants for sample collection and analytical methodologies, for data archiving and accessibility and for trend analysis methodologies to ensure quality and allow comparability of data;
- (g) Ensuring and improving internal consistency of the methods and comparability of the data within a particular programme over time;
- (h) Maintaining the interaction with other regional organization groups and the Secretariat, as appropriate;
- (i) Identifying further capacity-enhancement needs in its region;
- (j) Assisting, for the purpose of filling gaps, in the preparation of project proposals, including through strategic partnerships;
- (k) Preparing a summary of experiences in implementing the duties assigned in subparagraphs (h) and (j) above for transmission to the coordination group via the Secretariat;
- (l) Preparing regional reports including, where appropriate, information from Antarctica;
- (m) Encouraging transparency of communication and information dissemination within and between regions, noting the need for stakeholder involvement;
- (n) Nominating for each evaluation cycle three of its members to serve in the global coordination group.

B. Global coordination group

4. The main objective of the global coordination group is to assist the Secretariat in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan and to produce the global monitoring report.

5. The global coordination group will comprise three members from each region, nominated by the respective regional organization group, and will meet at least twice during the evaluation period to perform the following tasks:

- (a) Assisting the Secretariat in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan, taking into account the work already undertaken;
- (b) Assessing regional work with the aim of achieving consistency between regions;
- (c) Identifying impediments to the implementation of the global monitoring plan and actions to tackle them;
- (d) Updating the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants as required by the Conference of the Parties, with the assistance of invited experts, as necessary;

⁵⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex.

- (e) Establishing a coordinated cross-regional approach to analysing and assessing data on regional and global environmental transport, considering current international efforts;⁵⁸
- (f) Promoting:
 - (i) Experience-sharing within and between regions;
 - (ii) Capacity-enhancement to fill gaps in coverage for the core media where possible;
 - (iii) Comparability between air monitoring programmes in support of modelling and assessment of the global long-range transport of persistent organic pollutants;
 - (iv) Awareness of the results of the global monitoring plan;
- (g) Reporting on the results of the global monitoring plan, taking into consideration the recommendations put forward in the report of the co-chairs of the coordination group,⁵⁹ including:
 - (i) Compilation of the results from the regional monitoring reports;
 - (ii) Evaluation and assessment of changes in persistent organic pollutant levels over time;
 - (iii) Assessment of long-range transport and the effect of variable climate and meteorology on observed trends for persistent organic pollutants;
- (h) Evaluating the global monitoring plan and developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the end of each evaluation phase and reporting on the following matters:
 - (i) Role, membership and activities of the regional organization groups and the coordination group in support of subsequent effectiveness evaluations;
 - (ii) Media;
 - (iii) Need for further updating of the global monitoring plan, the implementation plan and the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants as the Convention itself evolves;
 - (iv) Need for further capacity enhancement of Parties on a regional basis;
 - (v) Any other issues relevant for the implementation of further evaluations.

SC-4/32: Effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the note by the Secretariat on effectiveness evaluation,⁶⁰

Recognizing that the work required for each effectiveness evaluation is conducted in two stages, the first stage consisting of the independent compilation of information on, first, environmental monitoring provided through the global monitoring plan, second, information from Parties provided through national reports pursuant to Article 15, and, third, information on non-compliance provided through procedures established under Article 17 and the second stage consisting of the evaluation of such information,

1. *Acknowledges* that the first evaluation has been completed as described in the note by the Secretariat referred to above;

2. *Concludes* that the current compilation of information on environmental monitoring and on the limited information derived from national reports submitted by Parties under Article 15 can be used as a baseline for comparative purposes in future evaluations, recognizing that such comparisons will be possible only after the completion of the second evaluation period;

58 For example, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or any other body studying global transport of persistent organic pollutants.

59 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex.

60 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/30.

3. *Acknowledges* that the compilation should be enhanced with additional data from national reports;
4. *Notes* that procedures for the evaluation stage of effectiveness evaluation have not been defined;
5. *Concludes* that the arrangements for gathering information derived from national reports under Article 15 need to be revised to improve comparability and completeness of data;
6. *Establishes*, within available resources, an ad hoc working group with the mandate and terms of reference specified in the annex to the present decision and invites Parties, through their respective Bureau representatives, to nominate members of this group with expertise in programme evaluation by providing the names of nominees to the Secretariat;
7. *Invites* Parties to submit their national reports in a timely manner using the revised format proposed by the ad hoc working group;
8. *Requests* the ad hoc working group to report on its proposals to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting for its consideration and possible decision on procedures and arrangements for future evaluations;
9. *Agrees* that a six-year period is a suitable interval for effectiveness evaluations, while recognizing that it may need to be adjusted according to the decision on arrangements adopted at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the additional information and to support the work described above.

Annex to decision SC-4/32

Terms of reference for the ad hoc working group

1. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention seeks to assess whether the measures adopted by the Convention and implemented by the Parties have had the desired effect.
2. National implementation plans can provide data on the situation of a Party before the Convention's implementation by that Party, which could be used by the Party to report its baseline.
3. The Conference of the Parties established an ad hoc working group to develop cost-effective, streamlined and pragmatic proposals on:
 - (a) How information from national reports under Article 15 of the Convention could be compiled for the purpose of effectiveness evaluation;
 - (b) How information from the global monitoring plan, the non-compliance procedure under Article 17 of the Convention and national reports under Article 15 could be evaluated;
 - (c) Arrangements to prepare for and undertake future effectiveness evaluations.
4. The ad hoc working group will consist of ten experts in programme evaluation nominated by Parties, two from each United Nations region, and invited experts in relevant fields, as required.
5. The ad hoc working group will:
 - (a) Consider both process and outcome indicators;
 - (b) Consider which elements included in reporting under Article 15 are required for cost-effective, streamlined and pragmatic evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention;
 - (c) Consider how best to deal with information obtained from Parties under paragraph 2 of Article 15;
 - (d) Consider ways to ensure that comparable and complete data are provided by Parties;
 - (e) Suggest necessary changes to the reporting format.
6. The ad hoc working group will prepare a report on possible procedures for effectiveness evaluation, including indicators, data requirements and arrangements to prepare for future effectiveness evaluations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

Proposed schedule for the ad hoc working group

	Activities and tasks	Time frame
1	Establishment of the ad hoc working group	
1.1	Parties nominate members through the regional Bureau	June–July 2009
1.2	Ad hoc working group is formed	September 2009
2	Development of evaluation framework	
2.1	Ad hoc working group reviews available information	September–November 2009
2.2	Ad hoc working group meets and considers indicators and recommends changes to the reporting format	November 2009
2.3	Secretariat modifies reporting format	December 2009–March 2010
2.4	Ad hoc working group reviews changes to the reporting format and provides comments as necessary	March 2010
2.5	Ad hoc working group develops a proposal for effectiveness evaluation procedures	June–October 2010
2.6	Ad hoc working group meets and prepares a report outlining a proposal for consideration of the Conference of the Parties	November–December 2010
3	Conference of the Parties considers the proposed effectiveness evaluation procedures and arrangements	May 2011

SC-4/33: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention,

Mindful that the procedures and mechanisms called for under Article 17 will help address issues of non-compliance, including by facilitating assistance and providing advice to Parties facing compliance issues,

1. *Decides* to consider further at its fifth meeting for adoption 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 as contained in the appendix to that annex, shall be the basis for its further work on the procedures and institutional mechanisms at its fifth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-4/33⁶¹

[[Non-compliance][Compliance] procedures under Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention⁶²

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.⁶³
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.]

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] [20] members. Members shall be experts nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, with due consideration to gender balance [and a balance between developed and developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition].
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.

61 As they are to be the subject of further discussion among the Parties and have not been adopted the procedures set out in the annex to decision SC-4/33 have not been formally edited.

62 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’.”

63 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.”

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.

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]⁶⁴ 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;

⁶⁴ 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.

[(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.]

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.]⁶⁵

[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;]⁶⁶

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.⁶⁷

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.]

[23 bis The Committee shall examine Parties' national implementation plans pursuant to article 7 and the national reports pursuant to article 15 and identify questions relating to Parties' compliance. The Committee shall consider such questions in accordance with paragraphs 21 – 23.]

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.

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

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

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

Facilitation by the Committee

26. The Committee shall consider submissions made to it in accordance with paragraph 17 [and questions identified in accordance with paragraph 23 bis] 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 time frame 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;
- (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:

- (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 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.]⁶⁸

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.

⁶⁸ One delegation wished to retain this provision until the outcome of negotiations on paragraph 27.

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 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;
 - (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

Chair's proposal⁶⁹

~~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 ~~fall~~ 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.]

4 bis. The extent to which the developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under this Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under this Convention relating to financial resources, technical assistance and technology transfer.

6. The Committee shall consist of 15 members. Members shall be experts nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, with due consideration to 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 and widely held views on having a committee that is a manageable size and representative in the traditional manner. Additional paragraph 4 bis is included to highlight concerns of some developing countries. As well, notwithstanding Article 17, and to emphasize the shared view of the facilitative nature of the procedures, the word "compliance" is used in the title.

12. Ten members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

⁶⁹ The present Chair's proposal is based on the Chair's proposal set out in the appendix to decision SC-3/20, revised to reflect the discussions among the members of the contact group established during the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The proposal is being circulated without formal editing.

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};

23. bis The Committee shall examine Parties' national reports pursuant to article 15 and identify if there are any questions relating to Parties' compliance with the Convention. The Committee shall consider such questions in accordance with paragraphs 21–23.

26. The Committee shall consider submissions made to it in accordance with paragraph 17 and questions identified in accordance with paragraph 23 bis above with a view to establishing the facts and the root causes of the matter of concern, including, with respect to developing countries, 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, and to assisting in its resolution, and may after consultation with the Party whose compliance is in question:

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 {, 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) 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) Considering and undertaking 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 by some developing countries about a secretariat trigger, while this is retained for consideration, a second option of new 23 bis is included, which gives the Committee a role in reviewing article 15 reports 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. 27 on measures. With those subparas removed, there is no need for 28.

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

(d alt 3) Request and use further information from any reliable and relevant source and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate. The Committee shall provide the Party concerned with such information and invite it to present comments in accordance with paragraph 21. The Committee shall take into account any comments provided by the Party concerned and shall reflect them in the report it submits to the Conference of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 33.

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: there was wide support for new (d alt 3) to bridge the impasse over the previous options. Regarding paragraph 35, although one country still did not support the removal of the brackets, this type of cooperation is clearly envisaged in the decision on synergies between chemicals conventions adopted by COP-4.

SC-4/34: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision SC-2/15 adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its second meeting, decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade at its third meeting and decision VIII/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its eighth meeting, by which the conferences of the Parties established the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and mandated it to prepare joint recommendations on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of each of the three conventions,

Recognizing the broad scope of the Stockholm Convention,

Welcoming the ongoing commitment of all Parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the Stockholm Convention,

Looking forward to the follow-up on the development of managerial issues arising through closer cooperation between the three conventions,

Noting United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, the Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities and the 2005 World Summit Outcome calling for reduced fragmentation on environmental issues,

Recognizing that the overarching goal of the three conventions is the protection of human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development and that the objective of enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions is to contribute to the achievement of that goal,

Convinced that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Noting that processes for enhancing cooperation and coordination are driven by Parties, should take into account global concerns and should respond to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Believing that institutional structures should be defined by functions that are identified before such structures are established,

Welcoming the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting and the decision of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting to adopt the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;

2. *Adopts* the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group and thereby:

I. Organizational issues in the field

A. Coordination at the national level

1. *Invites* Parties to establish or strengthen, as necessary, national processes or mechanisms for coordinating:

(a) Activities to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions, in particular activities of the focal points and designated national authorities for the three conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and other relevant policy frameworks, as appropriate;

(b) Preparation for convention meetings;

2. *Invites* Parties to provide, through the joint information service referred to in section II, paragraph 4, below, models of such coordination mechanisms as well as examples of good coordination practices from countries;

3. *Recommends* that Parties, when implementing the three conventions, including through capacity-building and technical assistance, ensure close cooperation and coordination among relevant sectors, ministries or programmes at the national level with respect to, among other things, the following:

(a) Protection of human health and the environment from the harmful impacts or adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes;

(b) Prevention of accidents and emergency response in case of accidents;

(c) Combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;

(d) Information generation and access;

(e) Technology transfer and transfer of know-how;

(f) Preparation of national positions for meetings of the conferences of the Parties and other bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(g) Development cooperation;

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies such as the member organizations of the Intergovernmental Organization for the Sound Management of Chemicals and regional centres, to collaborate on the dissemination of good practices and, if necessary, the elaboration of guidance and training in the areas referred to in the preceding subparagraph;

5. *Invites* United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Industrial Development Organization cleaner production centres to contribute to the national implementation of the three conventions;

B. Programmatic cooperation in the field

6. *Invites* Parties to promote cooperative activities at the national and regional levels as far as possible;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working together with other bodies of the United Nations, in

particular the United Nations Development Programme, multilateral environmental agreements, and other international bodies, to develop programmatic cooperation in the field that would support implementation of the three conventions in areas of common concern such as sustainable development, trade, customs (for example through the Green Customs Initiative), transport, public health, labour, environment, agriculture and industry;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization to include such cooperation in their biennial work programmes;

9. *Recommends* that Parties incorporate in their national development plans and strategies measures to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to ensure coherence in their national priority setting and to facilitate the provision of aid by donors in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and in response to country and regional demand;

10. *Requests* the secretariats of the three conventions, in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and taking into account the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to initiate joint collaboration to promote the effective implementation of the decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their work programmes in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building;

11. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen capacity-building and technical support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for coordinated national implementation;

12. *Encourages* Parties to promote coordination between bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure consistent and non-duplicative assistance to Parties in their implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

13. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to promote programmatic cooperation on cross-cutting issues, including in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building, in the development of their respective work programmes and to report thereon to the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;

C. Coordinated use of regional offices and centres

14. *Acknowledges* the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in supporting Parties;

15. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions and to promote coherent chemicals and waste management, bearing in mind the existing and ongoing work of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions. This work should promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycles and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment;

16. *Recommends* that a limited number of regional “focal centres”, with the responsibility to facilitate coordinated activities in the regions covering both chemicals and waste management, be selected from among the existing regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions. These focal centres will be designated following regional agreement and in accordance with the relevant procedural provisions of the respective conventions. These focal centres should:

(a) Ensure that the regional centres deliver their work in accordance with defined priorities and serve as an entry point for countries needing assistance or guidance on which centre in a region could provide assistance for a specific purpose;

(b) Strengthen regional centres to enable them to exercise a more synergistic approach as delivery mechanisms under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) Play a special role in providing an overview of their activities and results to the conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as examples of lessons learned on enhanced practical implementation of the conventions;

17. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to initiate pilot projects on the coordinated use of regional centres, such projects to be undertaken by the regional centres and build on lessons learned;

18. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the regional centres to exchange information about their capacities and work programmes;

19. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, other relevant international financial institutions and instruments, the regional centre host countries and others from the donor community to provide financial support necessary for the regional centres to carry out projects aimed at cooperation and coordination in support of implementation of the three conventions;

II. Technical issues

A. National reporting

1. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to prepare, for consideration by their respective conferences of the Parties, proposals:

(a) To synchronize the submission of Party reports under the two conventions in those years when the Parties to both conventions are to submit such reports;

(b) To develop joint capacity-building activities to assist Parties in coordinated data and information collection and management at the national level, including quality control, to enable them to fulfil their reporting obligations;

(c) To streamline their respective reporting formats and processes with a view to alleviating the burden of reporting, taking into account relevant activities by other bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme;

B. Compliance/non-compliance mechanisms

2. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, once compliance/non-compliance mechanisms are established under all three conventions, to prepare proposals for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions exploring the possibilities for enhancing coordination among the agreed mechanisms to facilitate compliance by, for example, provision of joint secretariat support for the committees, the attendance of the chairs of the three committees at each others' meetings or encouraging the appointment of members to the committees who have experience with other compliance mechanisms;

3. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to exchange information on progress made on the operation or establishment of the compliance/non-compliance mechanisms established or under negotiation under the three conventions;

C. Cooperation on technical and scientific issues

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to facilitate the exchange of relevant information between the technical and scientific bodies of the three conventions through the sharing of information with one another, with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management and with other relevant intergovernmental bodies concerning the procedures developed and the chemicals being discussed under the three conventions;

5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to maintain or establish cooperation on technical issues that relate to more than one of the three conventions, involving other bodies and institutions beyond the three conventions as appropriate;

III. Information management and public awareness issues

A. Joint outreach and public awareness

1. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop a common approach to awareness-raising and outreach activities among the three conventions;

2. *Also requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to make full use of and build on existing information and outreach mechanisms and tools;

B. Information exchange/clearing-house mechanism on health and environmental impacts

3. *Invites* Parties to consider establishing common websites and documentation centres at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels, containing available information on human health and environmental impacts relevant to the three conventions;

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop systems of information exchange on health and environmental impacts, including a clearing-house mechanism, with the aim of these systems serving all three conventions;

C. Joint input into other processes

5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, whenever feasible, to act jointly in participating in other related processes and in providing information to other related bodies, organizations, institutions and processes;

IV. Administrative issues

1. *Recommends* that possible cost savings gained through these more efficient administrative arrangements be used to support implementation of the three conventions;

A. Joint managerial functions

2. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to establish joint management involving the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for joint services and joint activities through, for example, a system of rotating management or the assignment of individual joint services to a particular convention;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to explore and assess the feasibility and cost implications of establishing joint coordination or a joint head of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for consideration at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

B. Resource mobilization

4. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to establish, on an interim basis, through the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions, a joint resource mobilization service within the secretariats in Geneva. The service should support the implementation of the three conventions beyond that achievable through separate action by:

- (a) Strengthening mobilization of resources through the development of a joint resource mobilization strategy for the short, medium and long term;
- (b) Avoiding competitive and uncoordinated resource demands to donors;
- (c) Prioritizing coordinated efforts to explore new, innovative and adequate sources of funding, including for national implementation;
- (d) Promoting resource mobilization for a life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management;
- (e) Mobilizing financial resources and technical assistance for programmes delivered through regional centres;
- (f) Developing joint strategy options on what countries can do at the national level to generate funds and better to gain access to international and bilateral financing;
- (g) Facilitating the exchange of experiences in mobilizing resources for national implementation;

(h) Building on available methodologies, guidance and case studies that have been developed by other institutions;

5. *Decides* that the final decision regarding the above-named joint service shall be taken at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties;

6. *Encourages* representatives of Parties to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages from the conferences of the Parties of each convention to the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions/instruments on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the implementation of the conventions;

C. Financial management and audit functions

7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to establish, on an interim basis, through the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions, a joint financial and administrative support service, within the secretariats in Geneva, taking into account relevant support services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to prepare a proposal for joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;

D. Joint services

9. *Welcomes* the support provided by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization to the work of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and encourages the continuation of such support;

10. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in addition to the joint resource mobilization service and the joint financial and administrative support service referred to in section IV, paragraphs 4 and 7, above, respectively, to establish through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, within the secretariats in Geneva and with the aim of improving the level and efficiency of delivery of services, on an interim basis:

- (a) A joint legal service;
- (b) A joint information technology service;
- (c) A joint information service;

11. *Decides* that a final decision regarding the joint services referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be taken at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

12. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to provide further information on the costs and organizational implications of establishing the joint services identified in section IV, paragraph 10, above, to be presented prior to the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

V. Decision making

A. Coordinated meetings

1. *Decides* that the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be held in a coordinated manner and requests the executive secretaries of the three conventions to schedule such meetings in a way that facilitates such coordination;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries to schedule joint meetings of the bureaus of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as appropriate;

B. Extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties

3. *Decides* to convene simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to organize the meetings in coordination with the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme. At these simultaneous meetings, which are aimed at giving high-level political support to the process of enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions, the conferences of the Parties would consider:

- (a) Decisions on joint activities;
- (b) Decisions on joint managerial functions;
- (c) Final decisions on joint services established on an interim basis;
- (d) Decisions on synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions;
- (e) Decisions on joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;
- (f) Decisions on a review mechanism and follow up of the work on enhancing coordination and cooperation processes between the three conventions;
- (g) Reports or information received from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the three conventions on any other activity or proposed joint institution resulting from the present decision;

4. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to prepare proposals for the extraordinary meetings referred to in the preceding paragraph on:

- (a) A common arrangement for staffing and financing joint services of the three conventions, including financing shared posts;
- (b) Synchronizing the budget cycles of the three conventions as soon as possible to facilitate coordinated activities and joint services, bearing in mind the implications for the timing of future meetings of the conferences of the Parties of the three conventions and for facilitating auditing;

5. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide financing to support the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above;

6. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to prepare proposals for financing the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above with a view to decisions being taken by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting, by Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting;

C. Review arrangement

7. *Decides* that a mechanism and timetable for reviewing the arrangements adopted pursuant to the present decision shall be determined by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above;

8. *Requests* Parties and secretariats and other bodies, as appropriate and within available resources, to take such actions as are necessary to implement the present decision.

SC-4/35: Official communications

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Urges* Parties that have not already done so to nominate official contact points to perform administrative functions and handle all formal communication under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for Parties;
2. *Invites* Parties and States not party to the Convention that have not already done so to confirm their existing national focal points or nominate new national focal points for information exchange;
3. *Takes note* of the list of non-governmental organizations that have not attended a previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties but have registered to attend the current meeting.⁷⁰

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Annex II

List of pre-session documents organized by agenda item

Item 2: Organizational matters

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|
| (a) | Election of officers | |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/2 | Election of officers of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting |
| (b) | Adoption of the agenda | |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1 | Provisional agenda |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1/Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| (c) | Organization of work | |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/1 | Scenario note for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/32 | 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.4/3 | 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.4/4 | Evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and alternatives to DDT |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/5 | Report of the expert group on assessment of the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/6 | Draft business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/2 | Supporting information for 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 related reference material |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/3 | Status of implementation of integrated vector management |
| | UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/28 | Global status of DDT and its alternatives for use in vector control to prevent disease |

- (ii) **Exemptions**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/7 and Corr.1 Requests for extension of specific exemptions based on entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/4 Information provided by the Government of China on the specific exemptions that it has in accordance with Article 4, Annex A and Annex B of the Stockholm Convention
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/4/Add.1 Information provided by the Government of Australia on the specific exemption that it has in accordance with Article 4, Annex A and Annex B of the Stockholm Convention
- (iii) **Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/8 Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3
- (iv) **Polychlorinated biphenyls**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/9 Initiation of a cooperative framework to support Parties to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls through environmentally sound management and disposal
- (b) **Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production**
- (i) **Best available techniques and best environmental practices**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/10 Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/7 Compilation of submissions by Parties received by the Secretariat on the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/30 Submission by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention
- (ii) **Identification and quantification of releases**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/11 Ongoing review and updating of the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/5 Expert meetings to develop further the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases
- (c) **Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/12 Secretariat report on support to Parties on the guidelines relating to persistent organic pollutant wastes adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/30 Submission by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention
- (d) **Implementation plans**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/13 Report on the priorities identified by Parties in their implementation plans transmitted to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/14 Implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention

UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/10	Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on indications of main priorities in implementing national implementation plans for the period 2007–2015 under the Stockholm Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/11	Draft guidance on calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/25	Implementation plans transmitted to the Conference of the Parties
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/26	Compilation of comments received by the Secretariat on the draft guidance on social and economic assessment for the development of implementation plans
(e)	Listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/16	Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: relevant developments for action by the Conference of the Parties
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17	Recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention to amend Annexes A, B or C of the Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/18	Draft text for amendments to Annexes A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/8	Summary of workshops on effective participation in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/9	Handbook for effective participation in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/12	Submissions by Parties for consideration by the Conference of the Parties regarding the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/24	Guidance on feasible flame-retardant alternatives to commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether
(f)	Information exchange
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/19	Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/20	Proposal by the Secretariat on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels
(g)	Technical assistance
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/21	Guidance on technical assistance
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/22	Selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/23	Report on the activities of nominated Stockholm Convention centres
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/13	List of activities to be organized by the Secretariat to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Parties for the period 2009–2011
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/14	Reports provided by the nominated Stockholm Convention centres

- (h) Financial resources**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/24 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
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/25 Report of the Global Environment Facility to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/26 Mobilization of resources
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/27 Report on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2010–2014
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/28 Second review of the financial mechanism
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/16 Compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat on relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs called for in decision SC-3/15
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/17 Draft report on the second review of the financial mechanism
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/18 Information submitted by Parties and others relevant to the second review of the financial mechanism
- (i) Reporting**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/29 Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/27 Information contained in the reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention
- (j) Effectiveness evaluation**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/30 Effectiveness evaluation
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31 Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/33 Global monitoring report under the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/19 Regional monitoring reports under the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/20 Report of the meeting of the coordinating group for the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/31 Status report on the human milk survey conducted jointly by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the World Health Organization
- (k) Non-compliance**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/34 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
- (l) Synergies**
- UNEP/POPS/COP.4/32 Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/21	Information on the costs and organizational implications of establishing joint services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as reflected in the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/22	Proposal on financing coordinated extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Item 6: Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget

UNEP/POPS/COP.4/15	Financial report and review of the staffing situation in the Secretariat
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/35	Secretariat activities from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/37 and Add.1	Programme of work and proposed budget for the biennium 2010–2011
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/6	Updated information on expenditures, contributions pledged or received and staffing situation

Item 7: High-level segment

UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/29	Information on the high-level segment
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Item 9: Other matters

UNEP/POPS/COP.4/36	Official communications with Parties and observers
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/15	Status of ratification of the Stockholm Convention
UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/23	Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation to meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Annex III

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

The representatives of 143 Parties have been registered to participate in the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and are present at the current meeting.

One hundred twenty-nine Parties submitted credentials of their respective representatives which were issued by the head of State or Government or the minister for foreign affairs and were therefore found to be in order.

The following three Parties communicated the nominations of their representatives by letters that were issued by officials from their embassy or the ministry of foreign affairs but were not signed by a minister for foreign affairs: Dominican Republic, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, the following eleven Parties did not submit credentials for their representatives: Albania, Burundi, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Liberia, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Peru, Rwanda and Yemen. These fourteen Parties are therefore participating as observers in the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will be recorded as such in the report and the list of participants.

Annex IV

Key messages emerging from the ministerial round-table discussions

Introduction

1. On Thursday, 7 May 2009, ministers and vice-ministers met in six round tables to consider the theme “Meeting the challenges of a POPS-free future”. One round table held its discussions in Arabic, one in English, one in French, one in a combination of English and French, one in a combination of English and Russian and one in Spanish.

2. The participants began by sharing experiences from their own countries, identifying the challenges to implementing the Stockholm Convention and exploring possible solutions. Their deliberations are summarized in terms of the main issues raised.

1. Synergies

3. Given that the Conference had approved the decision on enhancing coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, there was significant discussion of the importance of synergies at all levels. While synergies were praised as a means of increasing effectiveness and reducing costs, the need to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts was emphasized. One panel noted that the many synergies already forged at the national level could serve as a useful model for creating synergies in the international arena, where the situation was more fragmented.

4. On national synergies, participants called for good relationships and links to be fostered between government institutions, for example through cross-sectoral policies, agreements or committees that would involve various ministries and officials to ensure that all took ownership of the process. Such links could also involve institutions such as Customs services, which had a significant role in preventing smuggling of and illegal traffic in persistent organic pollutants. In addition, participants noted the need to use national consultants and skills, rather than looking to bring in experts from abroad. In that regard, good relationships with the private sector were important.

5. On regional synergies, panels underlined the importance of South-South cooperation, drawing attention to the potential role of regional banks, treaties, conventions and bodies, such as the Common Market of the South.

6. On synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements, while participants commended the groundbreaking decision on enhanced coordination and cooperation with the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, they argued that the Convention on Biodiversity, the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, among others, should also be included in potential synergies. In addition, chemicals issues should be brought to other high-level forums within Governments and regions, including the African Union.

2. Nominated Stockholm Convention centres

7. There was significant discussion on the role of the regional, and indeed subregional, centres for the Convention, with the centres being widely seen as extremely useful tools to assist in capacity-building, technology transfer, training and the provision of resources, providing that they were equipped with well-trained and qualified staff. The centres should assist the Parties in meeting their needs and the needs of the region as a whole. While there should be numerous centres, it was important for each to carve out its own niche to obviate any competition for funds or staff and to allow for thematic specializations. In that way, a Party could seek assistance from more than one centre, not necessarily in its own region, depending on the strengths and focuses of the specific centre. In the interests of forging synergies, participants stressed the need to work with the Basel Convention regional centres and for the Stockholm Convention Secretariat to provide additional support. Viable centres with strong political support and visible activities could help to build political and public awareness and support for chemicals-related issues.

3. National implementation plans

8. Several participants gave brief presentations on their experiences in producing and updating their national implementation plans. It was noted that the plans were of utmost importance for the implementation of the Convention, but that more work was required so that more plans could be prepared, submitted to the Secretariat and subsequently updated. The plans should, participants noted, be used as the initial blueprint for a coherent chemicals management strategy that operated in coherence with the other conventions.

4. Awareness-raising

9. Participants recognized the importance of awareness-raising for the implementation of the Convention and in general efforts to combat the use and spread of persistent organic pollutants. They recognized that chemicals-related issues were often superseded by what were perceived as more important issues, such as health or climate change, and that action needed to be taken to ensure that such issues received the attention that they merited. In that regard, the media (for example through internet, television, radio and print campaigns) had a significant role to play. Countries could also establish their own persistent organic pollutants website to reach out to the population. Media campaigns could tie chemicals to other areas, for example, the links between some chemicals and breast cancer or the impact of lead on childhood development, so as to raise the issue's profile. They could also employ examples to which people could relate, such as biodiversity or climate change, given that the Convention could be seen as complex and somewhat abstract.

10. One participant cited the example of the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, a groundbreaking report on climate change that had significantly raised public awareness of the issue. It was suggested that a similar report on environmental degradation could have a comparable effect.

11. Emphasis was placed on the need to reach out to people and regions in the languages, symbols and communication methods that they knew best, which required additional funding. Attention was drawn in particular to the fact that many of the communities most in need of information on the dangers of persistent organic pollutants lived in remote areas. In that regard, regional and subregional organizations could assist, as could civil protection networks or specialized institutions such as environmental academies.

5. Problems faced

12. Problems were a key point of discussion, with participants citing lack of funding, mislabelling of chemicals, smuggling of pollutants as a result of porous borders and corruption, top-heavy bureaucracy and lack of technology to destroy stockpiles, among other things. The need to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention was highlighted – if the Parties did not know how well the Convention was working, there was a risk of wasting resources and time. Participants also noted the important economic dimension at play. While some products, such as DDT, were harmful, they continued to be used in some countries and therefore not could be banned outright without posing significant problems to users.

6. Funding

13. In terms of funding, participants made numerous suggestions for sources of funding, such as looking to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund, the Clean Development Mechanism, the World Bank, regional banks and private corporations. There was also stress on national budgets and for local funding agencies within countries or regions, rather than seeking foreign assistance. They welcomed the funding provided by GEF, but underscored that pollutants should be given sufficient consideration during the fifth replenishment. They also argued that the GEF funding procedure was arduous, the time for project approval slow and access to GEF funds was a problem, especially with regard to the concepts of incrementality and additionality.

14. Another major issue mentioned was that of competing priorities. Given the demands on national budget allocations and the donor community by issues such as climate change, it was important to ensure that persistent organic pollutants did not fall by the wayside, given that they too were an issue of considerable concern to human health and the environment. In that regard, it was asked whether it would be possible to open a single chemicals window, covering all chemicals-related matters, so as to avoid competition for funds.

7. General needs

15. Participants called for further capacity-building and training in the management of persistent organic pollutants, laboratory analyses and for Customs officials. Technical assistance was also of crucial importance, together with funding to undertake all such activities. Persistent organic pollutants could be considered within the broader chemicals agenda, in addition to issues of climate change, mercury, lead and cadmium.

16. It was important to find alternatives to persistent organic pollutants, but also to encourage local populations to use such alternatives. Bioalternatives and traditional methods should be promoted and, with a view to reaching out to populations, documentation should be made available in all languages and displayed on the Convention's website. Translation services should be provided at workshops and other capacity-building forums.

8. Conclusion

17. The overriding message of the panels was conveyed by the idea that, by adopting the Stockholm Convention, countries had declared war on persistent organic pollutants: a war that would only be won when the world could enjoy a future free of such pollutants.
