

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention: report to GEF Council, June 2005:
Talking points

At the previous meeting, I congratulated the Council for its role in enabling and facilitating the rapid start to the Convention

I am pleased to advise that the momentum has been maintained

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants which entered into force on 17 May 2004 has to date [100] Parties with support from the Governments of Uruguay and Switzerland
- The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention was held from 2 to 6 May 2005 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.
- COP 1 adopted a number of decisions of **direct** relevance to the work of GEF in its capacity as principal entity entrusted, on an interim basis, with the operations of the financial mechanism established under the Stockholm Convention, in particular:
 - the guidance to the financial mechanism,
 - the terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism and
 - the MOU between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the GEF;
- Decision SC- 1/9 amongst others,
 - **adopts the guidance to the financial mechanism,**
 - **requests** the entity or entities entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism of the Convention, including **the GEF, to incorporate on an ongoing basis guidance** from the Conference of the Parties **in the further development of their operational programmes** to ensure that the objectives of the Convention are addressed and
 - **requests** the GEF to prepare and submit reports to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties on its operations in support of the Convention, as set out in the MOU between the COP and the Council of the GEF
- Decision SC-1/10 adopts terms of reference for the review of the financial mechanism.
 - The review will cover the activities of the financial mechanism for the period since the Convention was opened for signature (22 May 2001) to July 2005, with special emphasis on those activities which have been concluded during the same period.

- with reference to the GEF, it will draw, inter alia, on the following sources of information:
 - Reports submitted to the COP by the GEF;
 - Other reports provided by the GEF, inter alia, the reports of its independent monitoring and evaluation unit and the Overall Performance Studies;
 - The GEF is requested to provide to the Secretariat the relevant information for the review in a timely manner;
- The Secretariat is requested to hire an independent evaluator to prepare the draft report on the review of the financial mechanism to be submitted for consideration of the COP at its second meeting to be held in May 2006.
- Decision SC-1/11 adopts the MOU between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the GEF and requests the Secretariat to transmit it to the Council of the GEF for its consideration and adoption;
- Other decisions of interest to the work of the GEF which were adopted by COP 1 include:
 - SC-1/12 Implementation Plans by which the COP, inter alia, adopted the guidance document for assisting countries in the preparation of their national implementation plans and requests the financial mechanism of the Convention, recognizing the importance of national implementation plans to a Party's ability to implement its obligations under the Convention, to support the regular review of the NIP in accordance with the above-mentioned guidance;
 - SC-1/15 Technical assistance: adopted guidance on technical assistance and requests the Secretariat to transmit it to donors, relevant intergovernmental organizations and the entity or entities participating in the financial mechanism, for their consideration when developing and implementing their work programme;
 - SC-1/19 encourages Parties to take the draft guidelines on BAT and provisional guidance on BEP into consideration, where practicable and feasible, in the development of action plans and other activities related to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants and establishes an Expert Group to complete further work on the enhancement or strengthening of the guidelines;
 - SC-1/17 invites the Secretariat to develop draft terms of reference for work on modalities on the needs assessment for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provision of the Convention over the period 2006-2010 for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- SC-1/5 accepts the offer of the Government of Switzerland to host the Secretariat. All the key elements of the chemicals and wastes MEA cluster are now co-located in Geneva
- finally, the COP established the POPs Review Committee as part of the process for adding further chemicals to the Convention
- Should be noted that OP 14 is still a draft.
 - decisions on technical assistance, guidance to the FM, and the MOU enable OP14 to be finalised
 - Secretariat welcomes the opportunity to work with the GEF Secretariat on finalizing OP14
 - we can start implementing the MOU in order to operationalise the guidance provided by COP to the GEF.
- the COP did not take decisions that change the interim status of the GEF's role in the Financial Mechanism

Closing Note:

- an effective and responsive Financial Mechanism is essential for the successful implementation of the Convention
- the initiative taken by the GEF family in facilitating and enabling the rapid start-up of the Convention is recognised and appreciated
- recognition also that the replenishment is a complex and uncertain process, but there is confidence in future support for the implementation of the Convention
- the decisions of the COP (especially those on the MOU and the guidance to the Financial Mechanism) provide a basis for a more strategic approach that meets the needs of Parties as set out in their NIPs
- the Secretariat welcomes the opportunity to work with the GEF in making that a reality