UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

SC

UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/INF/1/Rev.1

Distr.: General
4 November 2020

Original: English

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
Sixteenth meeting
Geneva (online), 11–16 January 2021
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: organization of work

Scenario note for the sixteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

Note by the Secretariat

A scenario note developed by the interim Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, Mr. Peter Dawson (New Zealand), to assist participants in preparing for the sixteenth meeting of the Committee is set out in the annex to the present note.

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/1.

K2002414 021220

Annex

Scenario note for the sixteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist participants in preparing for the sixteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

2. The documents for the meeting have been posted on the website of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants ([HYPERLINK "http://www.pops.int/poprc16"]) and made available to the Committee.

A. Objectives and possible outcomes of the meeting

3. The first objective of the meeting is to ensure that the Committee undertakes the work assigned to it under the Convention. To that end, the Committee will:

(a) For each of the draft risk profiles developed by the intersessional working groups established by the Committee (Dechlorane Plus and its syn-isomer and anti-isomer; methoxychlor):

(i) Adopt, with any amendments, the risk profile;

(ii) Decide, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 8 of the Convention and on the basis of the risk profile, whether the chemical is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted and that the proposal should proceed;

(iii) Agree, depending on the decision taken under (ii) above:

a. To invite all Parties and observers to provide information, pursuant to Annex F to the Convention, to establish an intersessional working group to develop a draft risk management evaluation and to agree on a workplan for completing the draft for consideration by the Committee at its seventeenth meeting; or

b. To make the risk profile available to all Parties and observers and set it aside.

(b) For the proposal to list UV-328 in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention:

(i) Examine the proposal, apply the screening criteria specified in Annex D to the Convention in a flexible and transparent way, and complete an evaluation as to whether the proposal has fulfilled those criteria;

(ii) If it is satisfied that the screening criteria have been fulfilled, establish an intersessional working group to develop a draft risk profile and agree on a workplan for completing the draft for consideration by the Committee at its seventeenth meeting.

4. Participants should note that any new information on chemicals under review that they may wish to bring to the attention of the Committee may be considered during the meeting only if the full documents providing such information, including their references, are provided to all Committee members.

5. The second objective of the meeting is to complete the tasks assigned to the Committee by the Conference of the Parties and to consider issues related to the effective operation of the Committee. To meet that objective, the Committee will:

(a) Review and complete the reports on the information related to the continued need for specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins;

(b) Review and provide comments on the draft report for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention prepared by the Secretariat;

(c) Review the information submitted by Parties and others on the identification of substances covered by the listing of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related

ED_005729A_00000097-00002

compounds and provide comments on the establishment of an indicative list of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds;

(d) Discuss activities for the effective participation of Parties in the work of the Committee.

B. Meeting agenda

6. The provisional agenda for the meeting (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/1) lists the items before the Committee. The Committee members are invited to notify the Secretariat before the meeting of any other matters that should be included. The annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/1/Add.1) identify the issues for discussion under each agenda item and the documents that correspond to that item.

C. Organization of work

7. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, on an exceptional basis, the entire meeting, including plenary sessions and contact or drafting group sessions, will be conducted online.

8. The online sessions of the meeting will take place from Monday, 11 January to Saturday, 16 January 2021.

9. Further information on the practical and technical aspects of the online sessions of the meeting will be made available on the Convention website. Members will receive additional information on the arrangements relating to the review of issues pertaining to conflicts of interest.

1. Pre-meetings

10. Pre-meetings will be held from 1 to 3 December 2020, in English only, from 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Geneva time (UTC+1)) daily. This will provide an early opportunity to introduce and discuss the technical work (item 4 of the provisional agenda) with the aim of facilitating the Committee's work at its sixteenth meeting, and thereby contributing to the efficient use of the time available during the online meeting. Participants are therefore encouraged to actively participate in the pre-meetings so as to ensure a full and rich exchange of views in relation to the technical work to be completed.

11. Further information on the practical and technical aspects of the pre-meetings will be made available on the Convention website.

2. Sixteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: online meeting

12. A tentative schedule for the meeting, including working hours, covering both the plenary sessions and the contact or drafting group sessions, is provided in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/INF/2/Rev.1.

13. With regard to those items with a bearing on subsequent meetings, it is proposed that the Committee's work at its sixteenth meeting be organized to prioritize the items to be completed and forwarded to:

(a) The Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, in July 2021, in the first instance;

(b) The Committee at its seventeenth meeting, in September 2021, thereafter.

14. The online meeting will begin at 12 noon (Geneva time (UTC+1)) on Monday, 11 January 2021, with opening formalities in plenary (item 1 of the provisional agenda). The Committee will then adopt the agenda for the meeting (item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda), amended as appropriate, and agree on the organization of work (item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda).

15. The Committee will then consider the rotation of the membership of the Committee (item 3 of the provisional agenda). A representative of the Secretariat will provide information on the newly appointed members and the rotation of the membership in May 2022.

16. The Committee will then take up the technical work (item 4 of the provisional agenda) as follows:

(a) The Committee will consider the proposal to list UV-328 in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention (item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda). Under this item:

(i) The Committee will discuss whether the proposal fulfils the screening criteria;

ED_005729A_00000097-00003

(ii) The Committee may find it necessary to establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 3 (b) above for possible adoption by the Committee during the meeting.

(b) The Committee will next consider the work on the review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda);

(c) The Committee will then consider the draft risk profiles on Dechlorane Plus and its syn-isomer and anti-isomer, and on methoxychlor (item 4 (a) (i) and (ii) of the provisional agenda). Under these items and in accordance with the usual practice for physical meetings:

(i) The chair of the intersessional working group that developed the draft risk profile will present it to the Committee;

(ii) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the draft;

(iii) The Committee will discuss the draft risk profile and whether the chemical is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted;

(iv) The Committee may find it necessary to establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 3 (a) (ii) above for possible adoption by the Committee at the meeting.

(d) Thereafter, the Committee will consider the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention (item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda);

(e) The Committee will then consider an indicative list of substances covered by the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds (item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda).

17. The Committee will consider a report on activities to support effective participation in the work of the Committee (item 5 of the provisional agenda).

18. The Committee will then consider a workplan for the intersessional period between its sixteenth and seventeenth meetings (item 6 of the provisional agenda). Under this item, the workplan for the preparation of draft risk profiles and draft risk management evaluations will be adopted.

19. The Committee will then agree on the venue and date of its seventeenth meeting (item 7 of the provisional agenda) and discuss any other matters (item 8 of the provisional agenda).

20. The report of the meeting is expected to be adopted on Saturday, 16 January 2021 (item 9 of the provisional agenda). The Committee will approve the report of the meeting as at the end of the plenary session of Thursday, 14 January, with any amendments that it may consider necessary. Consistent with past practice, the Committee may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the plenary sessions held on Saturday, 16 January, will be prepared by the Vice-Chair, serving as rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated into the final meeting report under the authority of the interim Chair.

21. Upon the conclusion of the matters before the Committee, the interim Chair will close the meeting (item 10 of the provisional agenda).

ED_005729A_00000097-00004