

SUMMARY RECORD
3RD MEETING OF THE IOMC TECHNICAL COORDINATING GROUP
ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)

3 JUNE, 2005
WASHINGTON, DC

1. The third meeting of the IOMC Coordinating Group on POPs was held in Washington, DC, at the World Bank Headquarters on 3 June 2005. The meeting was chaired by UNITAR (Craig Boljkovac). The following organizations were represented: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and the World Bank.
2. Meeting discussions concentrated on the following subject areas:
 - Briefing on SC COP-1 and follow-up;
 - Relationship to the IOMC Coordinating Group on Obsolete Stocks (which held an informal meeting at COP-1)
 - Reporting by POs on POPs-related project work (including, but not limited to, GEF projects)
 - Future plans of POs related to POPs, and opportunities for coordination/cooperation, and
 - Discussion of challenges related to GEF projects.

Briefing on COP-1 of the Stockholm Convention, and related follow-up:

3. John Whitelaw (UNEP) briefed the group on major outcomes from COP-1, which had been held the previous month in Punta del Este, Uruguay. These included decisions on:
 - technical assistance;
 - guidance to the financial mechanism;
 - criteria for the regional and sub-regional delivery of assistance;
 - implementation plans;
 - continuation of the BAT-BEP process; and
 - secretariat location (Geneva);
 - commissioning of a study to estimate the costs of convention implementation; and
 - sharing an Executive Secretary that would serve both the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP aspects), and the Stockholm Convention.

John Whitelaw also provided an overview of anticipated intersessional work, including a BAT-BEP meeting in November 2005, a first meeting of the POPs Review Committee, also scheduled for November 2005.

Recent IOCC consideration of the Future of Coordinating Groups

4. Craig Boljkovac distributed a letter (IOMC_CG_POPs/3.04) from Niek van der Graff, Chair, IOCC, indicating that, after consideration of the IOCC of the future of the IOMC Coordinating Groups, including the distribution of a questionnaire to each group and analysis of its results, it was decided that the POPs CG can continue to exist as an IOMC CG. Craig thanked the POs for their inputs into the response of this group to the questionnaire.

Relationship to the IOMC Coordinating Group on Obsolete Stocks

5. Craig Boljkovac distributed the minutes of an ad-hoc meeting of the IOMC Coordinating Group on Obsolete Stocks (IOMC_CG_POPs/3.05), which took place during COP-1 in Uruguay. He had attended the meeting. Prior to the meeting of that group, and as a result of the IOCC internal review of Coordinating Groups, the question of whether to merge the Obsolete Stocks CG with the POPs CG had been raised. The Obsolete Stocks CG considered that the TOR of their group were sufficiently different from those of this group (for example, their group is not limited to POPs) (IOMC_CG_POPs/3.06) that they proposed to continue to exist independently. After a short discussion, this group concurred with that decision.

Reporting by POs on POPs project and related work

6. All POs reported on various project work they were undertaking including, but not limited to, GEF projects. Highlights of projects by POs included:
 - **FAO:** Africa Stockpiles Programme (to commence in the near future; cofinancing is confirmed); cooperation with UNEP on a GEF project (in late approval stages) for pesticides use reduction in west Africa/Niger River; and another GEF project on termite control.
 - **WHO:** Working with Sweden to strengthen health sector participation in National Implementation Plans for the Convention; and research on breast milk monitoring; DDT projects (in cooperation with UNEP).
 - **UNIDO:** NIPs assistance is continuing; for UNIDO projects cofinancing is a challenge; involved in BAT-BEP, possible projects to test guidance; non-combustion project continuing; PCB elimination projects; the IPEN project; and a regional (Africa) project to develop appropriate strategies for identifying sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Stockholm Convention.
 - **UNEP:** DDT projects (in cooperation with WHO); 12-country NIP project continues; support for UNIDO IPEN project; cooperation with UNITAR on NIPs; a second global consultation meeting on PCBs (with an industry focus) the week of 14 November 2005 in Mexico City (open to all); BAT-BEP experts meeting (in cooperation with the Convention secretariat, last week of November 2005 in Geneva (open to observers); POPs Review Committee – week of 14th November 2005 in Geneva (also open to observers).

- **UNDP:** medical waste project; implementing agency for a GEF project on PCB elimination in Ghana (UNITAR is co-executing with Ghana); working with UNIDO on the non-combustion project in the Slovak Republic and the Philippines; 2 GEF projects on action plan development with UNITAR; PCBs work in Argentina; and a GEF project in Macedonia.
- **World Bank:** Working with Brazil to support the development of a mechanism (with some similarities to the US Superfund programme) to remediate contaminated sites; projects on byproducts are under development; China PCBs and termites projects, and the Africa Stockpiles Programme.
- **UNITAR:** Numerous Action Plan skills-building projects in some 50 countries (Swiss, GEF and UNDP); Ghana PCB project; NIP assistance in 5 countries, including precedent-setting cooperation with UNIDO in China; cooperation with UNEP on National Profile development; investigation of possible PRTR and GHS-related POPs projects (due to country requests); support for IPEN GEF project; and National Profile support for India (with Canadian funding – request to link to POPs).

7. **Discussion:** The CG participants also discussed future plans of POs related to POPs, opportunities for coordination/cooperation, and challenges related to current and future work. Highlights of the discussion included:

- A request for UNEP to re-circulate its NIP contact list;
- A request for UNITAR to consider to build in health-sector-related awareness-raising into its action plan training, in the context of further developing stakeholder-related guidance;
- A proposal for a joint meeting with GEFSEC to discuss challenges related to GEF projects, including, *inter alia*: business arrangements, fee structures; the system to comment on projects; and cost recovery for project development;
- That the group consider developing a joint IOMC brochure that outlines how we cooperate on POPs-related issues (chair will investigate status of current IOMC brochure) and possible joint side-event and/or booth at COP-2;
- That IGOs can put information items into COP discussions – such as guidance being developed etc.

Other business/institutional arrangements/next meeting

8. The POs came to a clear understanding that if an organization refers to agreement in this CG that in other work (e.g. project proposals), they will notify in writing the other POs in advance of submission. This understanding came as the result of an incident where CG agreement was used as a rationale for support for a project without the knowledge of the CG.
9. Craig Boljkovac of UNITAR was confirmed as Chair of the CG; UNEP will provide secretariat. CG POs will investigate possible financial support from IOMC for this arrangement.

10. It is proposed that this CG attempt to meet every 6 months, in line with GEF Council meetings where possible. It was also proposed that this CG meet jointly with the GEF POPs Task Force at least once per year. The CG chair will propose this to the chair of the Task Force.
11. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11 November 2005, in Washington D.C. The CG will request that this be a joint meeting with the GEF POPs Task Force.

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Annex 1

3rd Meeting of the IOMC Coordinating Group on POPs

World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C.

**8:30 - 1 pm, Friday, 3 June 2005
Room MC5-500**

(Coffee and pastries at 8:15; coffee break at 11:00)

- 1) Approval of draft Agenda** (all) (document: IOMC_CG_POPs/3.01, and IOMC-CG-POPp/3.02)
- 2) Review of minutes of last IOMC CG meeting** (all) (document: IOMC_CG_POPs/3.03)
- 3) Briefing on SC COP-1** (SSC representative), and Discussion on Follow-up (all)
- 4) Recent IOCC consideration of the Future of Coordinating Groups** (Chair) (document: IOMC_CG_POPs/3.04)
- 5) Relationship to the IOMC Coordinating Group on Obsolete Stocks (which held an informal meeting at COP-1)** (Chair) (documents IOMC_CG_POPs/3.05 - Obsolete Stocks CG Minutes; and IOMC_CG_POPs/3.06 – POPs CG TOR)
- 6) Reporting by POs on POPs-related project work (including, but not limited to, GEF projects)** (all)
- 7) Future plans of POs related to POPs, and opportunities for coordination/cooperation** (all)
- 8) Other business//institutional arrangements/next meeting**

Annex 2
List of Participants
3rd Meeting of the IOMC Coordinating Group on POPs
World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C.
Friday, 3 June 2005
Room MC5-500

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