

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## *Technical Co-ordinating Group for : Persistent Organic Pollutants*

### **Background**

1. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. POPs circulate globally and can cause damage wherever they travel.
2. In implementing the Stockholm Convention, Governments need to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Specifically, under Article 7 of the Convention, each Party is to develop and endeavour to carry out an implementation plan for its obligations under the Convention, to transmit this plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date of which the Convention enters into force and to review and update the plan, as appropriate, on a periodic basis.

### **Objectives**

3. The key objective of the IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is to promote coherence among participating organizations and governments to address POPs and their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.
4. The Technical Group will initially focus on activities such as the development of implementation plans as required by Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention.
5. The Co-ordinating Group will work to:
  - Ensure a mutual awareness among participating organizations of relevant activities.
  - Avoid duplication and ensure the best use of the relevant strengths of participating organizations in supporting national implementation efforts.
6. *Inter-alia* the Co-ordinating Group will:
  - Facilitate consistency and comparability of implementation plans that are developed.

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

## **Participation**

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

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

## **Mode of Operation**

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

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

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

## **Chair and Reporting**

The Chair and rapporteur will rotate among the members of the Group. The Co-ordinating Group will make regular reports to IOCC and maintain information on its activities on the IOMC web site.