

SC-2/13: Effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Agrees* to complete the first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting, in 2009;
2. *Decides* to implement the elements for a global monitoring plan as proposed in the annex to the present decision and urges implementation. The field test requested by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, necessary to this implementation, should be carried out according to the elements of the annex to the present decision, subject to the availability of funds;
3. *Also decides* to establish a provisional ad hoc technical working group of 15 representatives of Parties of the five United Nations regions to coordinate and oversee implementation of the global monitoring plan as provided in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Requests* the provisional ad hoc technical working group to report on progress in the implementation of the global monitoring plan to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;
5. *Decides* to review the progress of the provisional ad hoc technical working group at its third meeting and to decide whether or not the group should continue;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the elements for the first effectiveness evaluation, including the global monitoring report, national reports and non-compliance information from any procedure that might be put in place by the Conference of the Parties, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting for its consideration;
7. *Decides* to review at its fourth meeting the arrangements, including the global monitoring plan, used for providing the Conference of the Parties with the information for effectiveness evaluation as implemented for the first report and to decide on future arrangements, including the intervals of subsequent effectiveness evaluations;
8. *Invites* Parties in a position to do so to contribute necessary resources to facilitate global coverage, generation of core data and capacity-building to support the global monitoring programme for the first effectiveness evaluation, including through existing monitoring programmes when appropriate;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify monitoring programmes that may update the information in the note by the Secretariat on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes,¹ including other programmes that can contribute to the global monitoring plan, and to prepare a report for the technical working group;
10. *Agrees* that immediate actions for long-term funding arrangements, including capacity-building to implement the global monitoring plan, should be started, taking into account gaps in information between regions and their capabilities to implement monitoring activities to enable long-term evaluation of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of its Article 13 on the financial mechanism;
11. *Invites* Parties that are in a position to do so to support the setting up and the long-term implementation of the global monitoring programme.

Annex to decision SC-2/13

Elements for establishing and implementing a global monitoring plan

1. The plan:
 - (a) Should outline a strategic and cost-effective approach and build on, but not be limited to, existing and scientifically sound human health and environmental monitoring programmes to the extent possible, with the aim of providing appropriate and sufficient comparable data for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention;
 - (b) Should be practical, feasible and sustainable;
 - (c) Should be inclusive, achieve global coverage and contain at least core representative data from all regions;

- (d) Should be designed to go beyond the first monitoring report and address long-term needs for attaining appropriate representative data in all regions;
- (e) Should provide for supplementing data, where necessary taking into account the differences between regions and their capabilities to implement monitoring activities. Such progressive enhancement should be planned at the outset;
- (f) Should enable phased enhancement of the ability of Parties to participate in regional arrangements for producing comparable data.

Minimum requirements for the first evaluation

- 2. The first monitoring report will provide baselines for further evaluations.
- 3. Air monitoring and human exposure through breast milk or blood serum would be used as core data.
- 4. Such comparable and representative core data should be obtained from all five regions.
- 5. Guidance should be provided on standardization.
- 6. Establish strategic arrangements and build partnerships, including with the health sector.

Monitoring for future evaluations

- 7. The plan for future evaluations:
 - (a) Should ensure regional representativeness in scope and geographic coverage;
 - (b) Should enhance the core comparable representative dataset from all five regions;
 - (c) Should endeavour to supplement the core data with data from other media such as biota, water, soil and sediments, as appropriate, including community-based participatory research data;
 - (d) Should provide for the establishment of baselines relevant to the enhancements referred to above.

Needs and opportunities for capacity-building to increase participation in the global monitoring plan through financial and technical assistance²

- 8. A comprehensive regional inventory of capacities should be developed and maintained and a corresponding needs assessment conducted by the Secretariat with contributions from national Stockholm Convention focal points.
- 9. Capacity-building for the purpose of implementing Article 16 should be guided by a plan for step-by-step capacity enhancement for Parties on a regional basis.
- 10. Relevant regional centres could play a role in coordination efforts.
- 11. A network of databases containing monitoring information should be developed and maintained.

Organizational arrangements

- 12. A provisional ad hoc technical working group of representatives of Parties of the five United Nations regions will coordinate and oversee implementation of the global monitoring plan.

² This section should be taken into account during the implementation of decision SC-2/9 on technical assistance.

13. Tasks for the technical working group include:
- (a) To develop criteria for evaluating programmes;
 - (b) To identify monitoring programmes that fulfil the criteria for contributing to the baseline data production, taking into account the updating of the information contained in the note by the Secretariat on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/10);
 - (c) To prepare a report on such programmes and others that may make useful contributions, subject to enhancement of their capacities;
 - (d) To outline the global monitoring plan along the lines of the principles and requirements contained in the present annex;
 - (e) To develop guidance for data comparability, taking into account the available guidance document produced by UNEP Chemicals;
 - (f) To develop an implementation plan to fulfil the minimum requirements for the first evaluation, including the following measures:
 - (i) Using data from regional monitoring programmes and data provided by Parties;
 - (ii) Ensuring that data are comparable, namely, by applying quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) standards;
 - (iii) Summarizing and presenting the data on a regional basis, to be used as a baseline;
 - (g) To coordinate and oversee implementation of the plan in accordance with the elements described;
 - (h) To report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.