

OEWG-III/8: Preparation of technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling Conference of the Parties decision VI/23 and its own decisions OEWG-I/4 and OEWG-II/10,

Recalling also that the Conference of the Parties in decision VI/23, among other things, requested the Open-ended Working Group to consider any measures necessary to finalize the preparation of the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants,

Noting that disposing of wastes with a high persistent organic pollutant content, including waste stockpiles, in an environmentally sound manner, is a priority,

1. *Agrees* that the following provisional definitions for low persistent organic pollutant content should be further considered by the small inter-sessional working group:

- (a) PCB: [50 mg/kg];
- (b) PCDD/PCDF: [0.1] [1] [10] [50] µg TEQ/kg;
- (c) Other POPs: [5] [50] mg/kg;

2. *Agrees* that the following approach with regard to levels of destruction or irreversible transformation should be further considered by the small inter-sessional working group:

(a) The technologies applied should be capable of achieving a destruction efficiency of 99.9999 per cent when they are operating with waste consisting of or containing persistent organic pollutants with a persistent organic pollutant content above 1 per cent; this does not, however, apply for technologies disposing of waste arising from remediation of contaminated sites;

(b) The technologies should meet the following requirements:

- (i) The following concentrations in solid wastes:
 - a. For PCBs: [1-10 mg/kg];
 - b. For HCB and the eight pesticides: [5] mg/kg;
- (ii) Regarding emissions to air and water: pertinent national legislation and international rules and standards;

(c) The technologies should be operated in accordance with best available techniques established in guidance to be developed under the Stockholm Convention, in pertinent national legislation and international rules and standards;

3. *Notes* that, regarding PCDD/PCDF, a different approach from the one described in paragraphs 2 (a) and (b) might be necessary;

4. *Agrees* that, with regard to destruction or irreversible transformation methods, the following should be further considered by the small inter-sessional working group:

(a) Expanding the chapeau of the relevant chapter of the guidelines taking into account any pertinent national legislation or other relevant information;

(b) That the following technologies are classified as environmentally sound and commercially available:

- (i) Hazardous waste incineration;
- (ii) Cement kiln co-incineration;

- (iii) Gas phase chemical reduction;
- (iv) Base catalyzed decomposition;
- (v) Sodium reduction;
- (vi) Mediated electrochemical oxidation;
- (vii) [Molten salt oxidation];
- (viii) Super critical water oxidation;
- (ix) Plasma arc decomposition;

5. *Agrees* with regard to other disposal methods when destruction or irreversible transformation does not represent the environmentally sound preferable option to revise the relevant chapter of the guidelines taking into account any pertinent national legislation or other relevant information;

6. *Agrees* that, with regard to other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutants content is low, the following should be further considered by the small inter-sessional working group:

(a) To include, in the relevant chapter of the guidelines, guidance on priority issues such as soil and water protection (e.g., sewage sludge, waste soil, sediment, sludge from wastewater treatment), waste wood, waste oil and craft sludge;

(b) To include a selection of information on pertinent national legislation in an appendix of the guidelines;

7. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments, taking into account the report of the contact group in annex VI to the report of the third session of the Open-ended Working Group, to the Secretariat and Canada preferably by 15 June 2004 with respect to the general guidelines and the PCB/PCT/PBB guidelines in particular on:

(a) Issues referred to in paragraphs 1–6 above;

(b) Other issues in the draft text of these guidelines;

The basis for these comments would be draft texts available on the Basel Convention web site by 15 May 2004 in which the changes discussed by the Open-ended Working Group at its third session would be shown;

8. *Requests* Canada, in consultation with the small inter-sessional working group, to prepare revised *draft* general guidelines and PCB/PCT/PBB guidelines for consideration by the small inter-sessional working group, taking into account the comments made before, during and after the third session of the Open-ended Working Group.

9. *Mandates* the small inter-sessional working group to finalize the preparation of these technical *guidelines* at a meeting immediately before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to present the outcome of the work of the small inter-sessional working group to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting for its consideration and adoption;

11. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate further participants for the small inter-sessional working group;

12. *Invites* Parties to serve as lead countries for the two technical guidelines with regard to HCB and for the eight pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, HCB, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene, and to inform the Secretariat accordingly.