

Consultative Meeting on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, 20-21 April 2017 & 4th Meeting of the UN Environment Advisory Group on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, 21 April 2017 (afternoon)

Geneva, Switzerland

Concept Note

1. Background and Context

To address issues and concerns related to EDCs expressed by Governments and other stakeholders in different fora, including regional and global meetings, UN Environment established an Advisory Group on environmental exposure and impact of EDCs. The Advisory Group was established to provide strategic and policy advice on approaches related to the implementation of UN Environment activities. The group has met three times face to-face and had additional online discussions on several issues. The last face-to-face meeting took place in September 2015, before the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. During the last online discussion that took place on 29th November 2017, it was agreed by the members to have a face-to-face consultation to finalize work, provide advice on activities and reports, and plan for next activities.

Furthermore, different Strategic Approach stakeholders have shown interest in EDC work being undertaken by UN Environment and have expressed their willingness to participate in activities, provide inputs and share views. To advance this work, UN Environment will organize two meetings back to back to the meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties. They include a Consultative Meeting on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, 20-21 April 2017, followed by the Fourth Meeting of the UN Environment Advisory Group on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, 21 April 2017 in the afternoon.

2. Overall Goal and Objectives

The consultative meeting on EDC is an important milestone in the discussions and work under preparation.

Specific objectives of the meeting include:

- Finalize three UN Environment reports under development:
 - Worldwide initiatives to identify Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) and potential EDCs
 - Review of existing national, regional and global regulatory frameworks that address EDCs
 - Overview of the current knowledge on chemicals identified as EDCs and selected potential EDCs

- Share information and perspectives about recent advances in science and implications.
- Share and receive feedback on the EDC component of the planned Strategic Approach GEF project under development.

The main objectives of the 4th meeting of the UN Environment Advisory Group on Endocrine Disrupting chemicals is to reflect, discuss and engage in activities being undertaken, including the consultative meeting and provide advice UN Environment on key activities. The Advisory Group also will need to revise its terms of reference.

The outcomes and recommendations will be gathered in the report of the Advisory Group meeting and will feed into the reports under preparation and work being undertaken by UN Environment.

3. Participants

The consultative meeting will bring together members of the Advisory Group members as well as other interested stakeholders, including those who participated during online discussions in November 2016 Group. The 4th meeting of the Advisory Group will be attended by the nominated Members of the group.

The tentative list of participants is attached to the note as Annex III.

4. Programme and Methods

The two meetings will have short introduction of the agenda items and plenary interactive sessions after. The provisional agenda for both meetings, as agreed by the online meeting of the Advisory Group, is attached to this note. A preparatory online meeting discussion is to take place on 29 March 2017.

The agenda for the consultative meeting is attached to this note as Annex I and the agenda for the fourth meeting of the Advisory Group is attached as Annex II.

5. Partners

This meetings are organized with financial support provided by the Governments of Denmark and Norway.

6. Evaluation

At the end of meeting, UN Environment in its Secretariat role, will promote discussion on effectiveness of the meeting to assess the extent to which it has achieved its objectives, to identify next steps and to obtain feedback that will help outline future meetings of the Group.