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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



**UN Environment Advisory Group (AG) on
Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)
Online meeting**

29 November 2016, 2-4 pm Geneva time

UNEP/AG/EDC/3/2016 online 1.3

**Overview of the work on overview reports on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and
proposed approach**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Following the ICCM 3 and ICCM 4 resolutions that had called for international cooperative actions to provide up-to-date information and scientific expert advice to relevant stakeholders, raise awareness and facilitate science-based information exchange, the UN Environment commissioned the International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP) to develop a series of five reports.
2. The draft of the first report was placed on UN Environment website for comments on 21 July 2016 with a deadline for stakeholders to submit comments by September 2016. Given interest in the topic and taking into account suggestions received from stakeholders, a revised version of this report is under preparation.
3. After analysing the comments received and aiming at increasing and improving intergovernmental and intersectoral understanding, coordination and cooperation as well as awareness on EDCs, it is proposed that the scope and objective of the reports are adjusted and outlined in a different manner.
4. During this online meeting, the UN Environment AG on EDC and other interested stakeholders may wish to review the document attached to this note prepared by UN Environment and provide advice on proposed approach.

Overview of the work on overview reports on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and proposed approach

I. Introduction and background

1. Within the framework of UN Environment Programme of Work and in response to the resolution III/2 F on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) of the third meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3), UN Environment developed a project to implement certain action points in paragraph 6 of that resolution.
2. In August 2015, a UN Environment project entitled “Provision of Information on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)” was approved under the Chemicals and Waste subprogramme, and in September 2015 the project was presented to the UN Environment AG on EDC and to the fourth session of ICCM held in Geneva between, 28 September–2 October 2015. The project contributes to the UN Environment’s Expected Accomplishment where countries develop the necessary institutional capacities and policy instruments to manage chemicals in an environmentally sound manner. The main project outcome in 2015-17 is increased and improved intergovernmental and intersectoral understanding, coordination and cooperation as well as awareness in developing and transition countries in addressing EDCs.
3. In January 2016, UN Environment commissioned the International Panel on Chemicals Pollution (IPCP) to compile overview reports that focus on a review of existing initiatives and lists and related existing scientific knowledge of environmental exposure and impact, legislation, measures and gaps regarding known and selected potential EDCs (including information from developing and transition countries). The reports aim at contributing to the fulfilment of UN Environment’s commitment to the ICCM 3 Resolution 6 (a)¹, which is also in line with the requests made by the regional resolutions adopted by Africa, Latin America and Asia Pacific regions in 2013 and 2014 to develop such reports. This activity also responded to the call of ICCM 4 to address the needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, by generating and disseminating information on EDCs.
4. The overview reports included the following: (1) compilation of lists of chemicals that have been recognised as EDCs based on the WHO/IPCS 2002 definition or have been suggested as potential EDCs by various stakeholders taking into account scientific considerations; (2) compilation of the current understanding on the life-cycle of EDCs and selected potential EDCs; (3) compilation of levels and trends of environmental exposure to EDCs and selected potential EDCs in different regions; (4) compilation of identified adverse impacts of EDCs and selected potential EDCs on wildlife; and (5) compilation of existing regulatory frameworks on EDCs.
5. The draft of the first report was placed on the UN Environment website for comments on 21 July 2016 with an initial deadline for stakeholders to submit comments by 19 August 2016. Given interest in the topic and taking into account

¹ SAICM/ICCM.3/24

suggestions received from stakeholders, the deadline for providing comments was extended until 20 September 2016.

6. Based on the diversified comments received, there is a need and opportunity for a strong and balanced first report to provide a factual and neutral approach to promote the understanding and facilitate knowledge sharing to address EDC work being undertaken at global, national and regional levels. Based on the comments received, a revised version of this report is under preparation in line with the approach proposed below.
7. The comments received provided an opportunity to assess and outline the scope and objectives of the overview reports. The overall objective of the reports will remain as planned, namely increasing and improving intergovernmental and intersectoral understanding, coordination and cooperation as well as awareness on EDCs.

II. Approach

A. First report

8. The first draft report prepared by IPCP and circulated for comments aimed at providing an overview of the efforts around the world on identifying EDCs and potential EDCs, and highlighting chemicals that have received the most consensus or where enough scientific evidence is available.
9. It was originally thought to contain an overview of existing initiatives and lists (“a *compilation* of lists”) of chemicals that have been recognized as EDCs based on the WHO/IPCS 2002 definition or have been suggested as potential EDCs by various stakeholders (governments, industry, civil society and academia). The report does not aim at providing a single list of globally endorsed EDCs.
10. Substantial efforts have been made by many governments and organizations, mostly in developed countries, and different approaches to identifying EDCs have been used. The selection criteria used to list chemicals differ considerably among the existing initiatives. Furthermore, there is no previous overview of which chemicals are listed by whom and for which reasons.
11. In addition to scientific studies on EDCs, governments and other stakeholders, especially those in developed countries, have taken either risk- or hazard-based approaches to dealing with EDCs.
12. Knowledge in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is scarce; only those that have been closely the development of the international agenda in addressing EDCs might have an understanding of these facts.
13. Provision of up-to-date scientific and policy information is considered essential, and with this in mind the approach suggested for revising the first draft report is the following:

- I. A new title to reflect the content of the report is suggested: “Worldwide initiatives to identify Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) and potential EDCs”.
It is expected that this title reflects more the content of the report.
 - II. The report will provide factual, balanced and robust available information on initiatives being undertaken to identify EDCs, including efforts made to identify and classify EDCs.
 - III. The revised report does not intend to create new criteria or to assess individual chemicals, but rather to provide a critical overview of existing efforts and gaps and highlight those cases where there is enough scientific information and rigorous scientific assessments have been applied.
 - IV. Those chemicals that have already been identified and classified as EDCs following robust evidence and procedures will be indicated (i.e. established adversity and causality). This selection of chemicals will form the basis for the subsequent overview report on the environmental exposure and effects.
 - V. Other ongoing discussions highlighted by the comments received will be captured.
 - VI. A qualitative evaluation and comparison of the initiatives, including selection criteria and process details, will also be included.
14. The revised draft report will be circulated among the UN Environment AG on EDCs and posted on UN Environment’s website for a final round of comments. A communication to SAICM stakeholders will be circulated when the report is online.

B. Subsequent reports

15. Originally four subsequent overview reports were planned. These reports were planned to be interlinked but separate, brief and concise, and easy to update whenever needed.
16. As a result of the comments received, it is suggested that instead of four, two other overview reports are prepared. The issue of gathering information and understanding potential impacts on the environment has been a key comment received. Adding knowledge related to EDCs has also been highlighted as essential to address the EDC issue in the best informed way.
17. It is therefore proposed that the second report would outline existing national, regional and global regulatory frameworks that address EDCs by summarizing and comparing their characteristics including scope, criteria utilized, data needs and relevant processes. The report will build on existing available online information, and key stakeholders will be consulted and requested to provide comments.
18. The third report would compile and provide an overview of the current knowledge on those chemicals already identified as EDCs and selected potential EDCs where there is enough scientific information and rigorous scientific assessments have been applied (as per the first overview report), including tables with data on production, uses, emission sources, fate and transport, possible exposure pathways, levels and trends of environmental exposure, and adverse impacts on wildlife.
19. Initial drafts of both reports will be circulated among the UN Environment AG on EDCs and to the Strategic Approach stakeholders to provide input and comments, and

a revised version will be prepared based on the comments received. It is expected to have an initial draft by early 2017.