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UNEP/GEF projects “Implementation of the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” in the Asia Region and “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” in the Africa, Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean Regions

## Concept Note

### Stakeholder Consultation on Securing Sustainable Conditions for the Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants under the Stockholm Convention

10-11 December 2019

Brisbane, Australia

#### A) Summary

**Subject:** Stakeholder Consultation on Securing Sustainable Conditions for the Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention

**Dates and time:** 2 days, 10-11 December 2019

**Venue:** Brisbane, Australia

**Hosting institutions:** University of Queensland

**Participants:** Representatives of Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) bureau members, GMP Global Coordination Group members, GEF GMP2 project reference laboratories, GMP2 project country coordinators, BRS Secretariat, regional POPs monitoring networks, donors, IGOs, NGOs, and experts of relevance.

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#### B) Objectives

Taking into consideration the wealth of information and experience generated through capacity building activities on POPs monitoring in developing countries and the existing mechanisms for global monitoring of POPs, the consultation is to engage key stakeholders to:

- Identify the scope and key elements of the road map for further strengthening of technical capacities and capabilities in developing countries to sustainably contribute to POPs monitoring;
- Develop political and financing strategies to generate synergy between monitoring and efforts to eliminate POPs towards enhanced sustainability;
- Identify short-term and mid-term activities and, facilitate effective engagement of key stakeholders towards securing the sustainable conditions.

#### C) Overview

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) requests parties to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention four years after the date of entry into force of the Convention and periodically thereafter, including setting up and maintaining a Global



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Monitoring Plan (GMP) for obtaining comparable monitoring data on the presence of POPs in the environment and in humans.

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch implements projects to contribute to POPs monitoring and implementation of the Stockholm Convention's GMP in developing countries. The activities comprise capacity building for sampling and analysis of POPs in different media in developing countries, and generation of comparable data on the presence of POPs.

Two rounds of projects were undertaken to support the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP1 and GMP2 projects). The GMP1 projects were implemented in 31 countries in Africa, Pacific Islands and Latin America and Caribbean regions from 2009 to 2012, and the GMP2 projects are presently implemented through four GEF-funded follow-up projects in 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Pacific Islands and Latin America and Caribbean regions from 2016 to 2020. The projects generated a wealth of information related to capacity building for POPs monitoring in developing countries, including those of technical, financing, political, administrative as well as social-economic aspects.

While capacity building activities helped countries to acquire the vital elements to participate in global monitoring of POPs under the Stockholm Convention, deficiencies in broader framework of sound management of chemicals at national level in developing countries challenge the countries to be sustainably resourceful to continue to contribute effectively.

Various initiatives are already in place to strengthen national policy frameworks for the sound management of POPs and other chemicals of concerns. For example, supports on the establishment and update of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans assist developing countries to review national policies and identify priority actions. Initiatives such as Special Programme, SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) etc. complement further efforts to enhance policy framework for sound management of chemicals in developing countries. The outcomes and lessons learnt in terms of sustainability from projects such as SAICM QSP should contribute to the deliberations.

Opportunities exist to further strengthen technical, political and financing conditions for enhanced synergy between POPs monitoring and the broader objective of the elimination of POPs. Strengthened capacity for the interpretation of POPs monitoring results to inform policy review and priority setting at national level contributes to the efforts towards achieving the goal of elimination of POPs. This also serves as an intervention for the strengthening of science-policy interface, where the generation of data on POPs contributes to informed decision making. The policies could in-turn provide provisions to strengthen the supporting mechanisms for POPs monitoring. This also contributes to the discussion on sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and the SDG Target 3.13, strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

As part of the the GMP2 project activities, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, in close collaboration with project partners and relevant experts, has initiated an assessment of technical information generated through the projects to identify related facts towards contributing to the road map for sustainable monitoring of POPs.

A focused and inclusive dialogue of key stakeholders representing science, policy and civil-society clusters related to POP monitoring, capacity building and sound management of hazardous chemicals should provide an opportunity to identify the scope and key elements of future capacity assistance activities with enhanced political and financial support.



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Delegates representing the Stockholm Convention bureau, national policy makers, POPs GMP Global Coordination Group, GMP project implementing partners, regional POPs monitoring networks, donor communities, and the civil society are invited to the stakeholder consultation.

The consultation will be held back-to-back with the meeting of the Pacific Region GEF ISLANDS project. A majority of the Pacific Region countries participate in both the GEF GMP2 projects and Pacific Region GEF ISLANDS projects. The deliberations of the GEF ISLANDS project meeting are expected to provide valuable inputs for the stakeholder consultation.

#### **D) Provisional agenda**

1. Introduction of meeting objectives.
2. Presentation on preliminary review of facts.
3. Discussion on strategies to secure sustainable conditions for the monitoring of POPs:
  - a. The scope and key elements of future capacity assistance activities;
  - b. Political and financing strategies to enhance synergy and sustainability.
4. Next steps.
5. Any other business.