**Basel Convention**

**Small intersessional working group (SIWG) on POPs wastes**

**Informal summary of the consultation held on October 6, 2023**

1. The SIWG met online on October 6, 2023, 13.00-14.15 CEST.
2. The provisional agenda for the consultation was:

1. Introductions

2. Discussion on the draft workplan

3. Any other matters

1. After welcoming the participants, the Secretariat recalled the mandate of the SIWG as set out in decision BC-16/3. Regarding the provisional agenda, under item 3, one member proposed to discuss the way forward on work related to low POP content values, which was agreed by the group.
2. Under item 2, the Secretariat introduced the draft workplan that had been shared with the group prior to the consultation. The feasibility of preparing first drafts of the technical guidelines (TGs) by mid-December, given the perceived complexity of the new TG on UV328, was discussed. The Secretariat indicated that all efforts were being made to hire consultants so the drafts could be prepared by mid-December and that the priority was to provide first drafts that would form the basis for further inputs and discussions by the SIWG. The consultants will be introduced to the SIWG once recruitment is completed.
3. Regarding updating of the general TGs, members exchanged views on the scope of revisions. It was recognized that the updated guidelines having been recently adopted by the COP at its 16th meeting, revisions of agreed text should not be needed so soon. Further, within the broad mandate given by decision BC-16/3, targeted revisions could be made to provide up-to-date information to users.
4. The Secretariat sought views on the timing of the first meeting of the SIWG, proposed for March 2024, and to be held back-to-back with the meetings of groups working on other TGs such as waste tyres and batteries. She indicated that she would consult the workplans of other groups and the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings taking place around March to find an optimal period.
5. Under item 3, with the view of advancing the discussion on low POP content values, a member proposed that the SIWG prepare a compilation of available information related the elements recognized in the determination of low POP content as set in paragraph 40 of the general TGs.[[1]](#footnote-1) The compilation would provide a structured way of presenting such information and facilitate its understanding and could be presented to the COP as an information (INF) document. In the ensuing exchange, it was discussed that while the lack of information may not be the main obstacle to agreement on low POP content values, a structured compilation could help clarify what was available. According to a member, further explanations on how limit values are used in the management of POPs wastes may also be helpful to help clarify the specific use of low POP content values and provide benchmarks to Parties that do not yet have such limit values in their national legislations; examples of limits used in national legislations are mentioned in annex II to the general TGs but are not very detailed. A member indicated that low POP values should account for the varying situations of countries. One member highlighted challenges posed by the lack of information on POPs concentrations in products and wastes and the quantities of waste impacted by the presence of POPs.
6. It was agreed to take a gradual and step-wise approach to the proposed compilation on low POP content. The member who had tabled the proposal would first provide to the SIWG a draft structure of the compilation for its consideration within the next few weeks. Subsequently, the SIWG could consider possible next steps to be taken within its mandate, including possible discussions on the topic at first meeting in March 2024 and OEWG14 in June 2024.

1. UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.1/Rev.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)