

The Stockholm Convention is an essential tool which can meet these challenges and that can be used to create and maintain a POPs-free future worldwide.

At the High-level Segment, Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Parties will be invited to express their views on realizing a POPs-free future. There will also be opportunities during informal panel discussions to exchange ideas and experiences on how to promote and raise the profile of Stockholm Convention implementation within national regulatory agendas and development strategies.

#### Useful Information

COP 4 will be held at the Geneva International Conference Centre, 15 Rue de Varembé, Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 4 May 2009. Registration will be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday 3 May and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily during the meeting.

The working languages will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Pre-session documents and other useful information for participants are available at the official Stockholm Convention website: [www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)

**For more information please contact:**

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention  
International Environment House  
11-13, chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-917-8191; Fax: +41-22-917 80 98  
E-mail: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int) Website: [www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)



The Convention is intended to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

# Stockholm Convention



WWW.POPS.INT

#### Measures to reduce or eliminate POPs

- ❖ Eliminate production and use
- ❖ Restrict and control
- ❖ Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production
- ❖ Each Party is to develop strategies that identify stockpiles and wastes containing POPs and manage these in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner.

## The first 12 POPs

Annex	Chemicals
<b>A. Elimination</b>	Pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex, and toxaphene. Industrial chemicals: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and HCB which also has uses in industrial chemicals.
<b>B. Restriction</b>	DDT which can only be used for disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations (on interior walls only).
<b>C. Unintentional Production</b>	Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins ("dioxins") and dibenzofurans ("furans"). Also PCB and HCB are covered as unintentional byproducts.

### About the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the Stockholm Convention's governing body and comprises all Governments which have ratified or acceded to it. As of 1 January 2009, the Convention has 162 Parties. The COP meets every two years to review the operation and implementation of the Convention and also to consider listing additional chemicals. Several subsidiary bodies also operate under the COP's purview.

At its fourth meeting, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 4-8 May 2009, for the first time, the COP will consider adding additional chemicals under the Convention. Nine chemicals have been proposed by Parties and recommended by the POPs Review Committee for listing in Annexes A, B or C.

Among other key issues at its fourth meeting the COP will:

- ❖ Undertake the first evaluation of the Convention's effectiveness, which will take into account information provided through the Global Monitoring Plan and national reports submitted by Parties and agree on procedures for future evaluations
- ❖ Evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and consider endorsing a business plan for promoting alternative to DDT

- ❖ Consider the endorsement of a PCB elimination club to support the efforts to phase out PCB use
- ❖ Decide on the endorsement of nominated Stockholm Convention centres for the provision of technical assistance and transfer of technology
- ❖ Assess the funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the 2010-2014 period and review the financial mechanism's effectiveness for a second time
- ❖ Approve procedures for determining non-compliance within the provisions of the Convention and for treatment of Parties in non-compliance
- ❖ Decide on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as recommended by the three Conventions' ad hoc joint working group
- ❖ Agree on further steps for promoting the use of best available techniques, best available practices and best environmental practices for reducing or eliminating unintentional releases of unintentionally produced POPs
- ❖ Adopt a Secretariat work-plan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium

A High-level Segment will take place on 7 and 8 May 2009 highlighted by the theme - "Meeting the challenges of a POPs-free future". These challenges are:

- ❖ to move away from the production and use of POPs towards safer alternatives and to reach the goal of eventually eliminating the release of unintentionally produced POPs
- ❖ to identify other substances with POPs characteristics that place human health and the environment at risk
- ❖ to ensure that technical and financial resources are available to developing countries and Parties with economies in transition to meet their obligations under the Convention
- ❖ to ensure the Convention meets its goal of protecting human health and the environment from POPs so that the international community is satisfied that the Convention is effective