

SC-6/4: Process for the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the process set out in the annex to the present decision to enable the Conference of the Parties to undertake the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention;

2. *Notes* that the format¹ adopted in decision SC-6/21 on national reporting includes in part D a section for reporting by parties that use or produce perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride on the progress made in eliminating those chemicals in accordance with paragraph 3 of part III of Annex B to the Convention;

3. *Requests* the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to prepare a report on the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride to assist the Conference of the Parties in undertaking at its seventh meeting the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions contained in annex B to the Convention. The report is to be developed on the basis of information on the availability, suitability and implementation of such alternatives and any other relevant information and to take into account decision SC-6/7 on the work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To carry out the activities of data collection and data analysis for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

(b) To assess the gaps in the information provided in the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

(c) To support parties, within available resources, in undertaking activities to collect and submit information required for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

(d) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on the activities undertaken pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (c) above, including recommendations for any modifications to the process and/or format for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Reminds* any party that has a need for any of the specific exemptions and/or acceptable purposes for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride listed in Annex B to the Stockholm Convention to register by means of a notification in writing to the Secretariat.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/26/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

Annex to decision SC-6/4

Process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

I. Purpose of the evaluation

1. Paragraph 5 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants provides that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions listed in Annex B on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including:

- (a) Information provided by parties that use and/or produce PFOS, its salts and PFOSF on progress made to eliminate these chemicals, in accordance with paragraph 3 of part III of Annex B to the Convention;
- (b) Information on the production and use of these chemicals;
- (c) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives to these chemicals;
- (d) Information on progress in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on such alternatives.

II. Information collection and compilation

2. Each party that is listed in the registers of acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF is requested to report on its continued need for those chemicals for acceptable purposes and specific exemptions and provide information on that review to the Secretariat, in accordance with the schedule set out in paragraph 9 below.

3. In accordance with paragraph 3 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, each party that uses and/or produces PFOS, its salts and PFOSF is to report on the progress made to eliminate those chemicals and submit information on such progress to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to and in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention. Parties should make use of the format developed for that purpose pursuant to decision SC-6/21. Parties are requested to use this format also to provide the Secretariat with information on the production and use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, as specified in paragraph 5 (b) of part III of Annex B to the Convention.

4. Parties are further requested to provide to the Secretariat the following information:

- (a) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, as specified in paragraph 5(c) of part III of Annex B to the Convention;
- (b) Information on the progress made in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, as specified in paragraph 5 (d) of part III of Annex B to the Convention.

5. The information described in paragraphs 3 and 4 above should be submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with the schedule set out in paragraph 9 below. The Secretariat shall compile the information and make it available to the Conference of the Parties.

6. The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, will analyse the information specified in paragraph 5 of part III of Annex B to the Convention submitted by parties and any other pertinent and credible information available. Based on this analysis, the Secretariat will prepare a preliminary report for use by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in undertaking the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in accordance with paragraph 7 below. The Secretariat, with advice from relevant experts, such as the members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, will also prepare a report for consideration

by the Conference of the Parties to assist it in undertaking the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE. The Secretariat may engage a consultant to assist it in undertaking these activities.

III. Evaluation

7. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee shall undertake an assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE on the basis of the information specified in paragraph 5 (c) of part III of Annex B to the Convention submitted by parties and any other relevant information. Based on the assessment, the Committee shall prepare a report to assist the Conference of the Parties in undertaking the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE at its seventh meeting.

8. In accordance with paragraph 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties will undertake an evaluation of the continued need for PFOS, its salts and PFOSE for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions in 2015 at the latest and every four years thereafter in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. Schedule of the evaluation

9. In order to provide the Conference of the Parties with the information on which to base its evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE at its seventh meeting, the following schedule is proposed. The schedule, however, shall be revised, as necessary, in 2015 and every four years thereafter:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timing</i>
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee develops terms of reference for the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE on the basis of information specified in paragraph 5(c) of part III of Annex B.	October 2013
The Secretariat invites parties to submit information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE.	November 2013
Deadline for submission of information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE	March 2014
The Secretariat prepares a preliminary report on the assessment of information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE.	June 2014
Parties submit information on PFOS in the process of reporting under Article 15 and other information specified in paragraph 5 (d) of part III of Annex B.	August 2014 (in accordance with decision SC-5/16)
The Secretariat prepares a draft report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE.	September 2014
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee completes the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and provides comments on the draft report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE.	October 2014
The Secretariat finalizes the report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.	October 2014
Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties	April 2015