

## SC-8/17: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to Article 15 on reporting,

1. *Takes note* of the progress made by the Secretariat in further improving the electronic reporting system;
2. *Encourages* Parties to use the electronic reporting system when submitting their fourth national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention, which, in accordance with decision SC-7/23, are to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 August 2018 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
3. *Also encourages* Parties to step up their efforts to collect quantitative data on chemicals listed in the annexes to the Convention, to make use of the existing guidance documents on preparing inventories of chemicals listed in the Convention and to report the data collected in their fourth national reports;
4. *Urges* Parties to submit national reports, complete and on time, in order to facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention pursuant to Article 16 and other processes that rely on national reporting data;
5. *Takes note* of the users' manual for the electronic reporting system available on the Convention website;<sup>1</sup>
6. *Takes note* of the revised strategy<sup>2</sup> to increase the rate of submission of national reports by Parties pursuant to Article 15 and invites Parties and requests the Secretariat to implement, where appropriate, the recommendations contained therein;
7. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means, to develop a manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15, aimed at clarifying what is sought in each question and table of the format;
8. *Invites* Parties to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 July 2017;
9. *Also invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country for the development of the manual referred to in paragraph 7 above and to inform the Secretariat of their willingness to do so by 31 July 2017;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to support the work of the small intersessional working group;
11. *Requests* the lead country or, if no lead country is identified, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, and subject to the availability of resources, to develop the manual referred to in paragraph 7 above;
12. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To update the electronic reporting system to include chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
  - (b) To further improve the electronic reporting system in time for it to be used for the submission of the fourth report pursuant to Article 15;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/Reporting/Guidance/tabid/3670/Default.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/37.

(c) To provide feedback to Parties regarding the submission of their national reports, with a view to improving the quality of the reported data and information;

(d) To continue to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties, in particular developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in submitting their national reports pursuant to Article 15, in cooperation with the Stockholm Convention regional centres or other partners.