

SC-8/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to polychlorinated biphenyls,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated assessment of efforts to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls¹ developed by the Chemicals and Waste Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the Secretariat and in consultation with the advisory committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network, and the report on the activities of the Network² prepared by the Chemicals and Waste Branch;
2. *Invites* the Chemicals and Waste Branch to provide information on the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
3. *Encourages* Parties to step up their efforts, inter alia by developing and implementing rigorous plans for the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls throughout their life cycles, including their elimination and destruction, to meet the goals of the Stockholm Convention to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and to achieve the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent no later than 2028;
4. *Encourages* Parties to endeavour to identify, as soon as possible, open applications such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects containing more than 0.005 per cent polychlorinated biphenyls and to manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to consolidate the existing guidance on this issue;
5. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to meet their outstanding needs to manage polychlorinated biphenyls, including in open applications, in an environmentally sound manner;
6. *Decides* to undertake, at its ninth meeting, a review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Convention;
7. *Encourages* Parties to provide information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls in their fourth national reports submitted pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention by 31 August 2018, in accordance with paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, as decided in decision SC-8/17 on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;
8. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of funding, through a face-to-face meeting, to prepare a report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting and requests the Secretariat to support the group;
9. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country in the preparation of the report referred to in paragraph 8 above and to inform the Secretariat accordingly by 30 June 2017;
10. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group established in paragraph 8 above and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 June 2017;
11. *Invites* the lead country, or, if there is no lead country, requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group and subject to the availability of resources,

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/10.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/11.

to prepare the report referred to in paragraph 8 above on the basis of the fourth national reports that are required to be submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 and any other pertinent information, including the consolidated assessment referred to in paragraph 1 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to assist it in the review to be conducted in accordance with paragraph (h) of Part II of Annex A;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to participate in the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network and to assist Parties in their efforts in respect of the plans referred to in paragraph 3 above, including by developing guidance and a road map for the implementation of such plans;

13. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial support for the work of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network;

14. *Highlights* the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer to manage polychlorinated biphenyls in an environmentally sound manner.