



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Ninth meeting**

Geneva, 29 April–10 May 2019

Item 5 (a) (iii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: measures to reduce or eliminate
releases from intentional production and use:
polychlorinated biphenyls**

Polychlorinated biphenyls

Addendum

Recommendations on the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls

Note by the Secretariat

As is mentioned in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6, the annex to the present note sets out recommendations on the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) prepared by the small intersessional working group on PCB on the basis of its report on progress towards the elimination of PCB set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/10.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1.

Annex

Recommendations on the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls

The small intersessional working group on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), having prepared the report on progress towards the elimination of PCB (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/10), recommends that the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants:

General

- (a) Approve, in accordance with Article 17 of the Convention, procedures and institutional mechanisms on compliance as soon as practicable;
- (b) Remind Parties, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention and within its capabilities, to promote and facilitate the provision of public information, and the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on persistent organic pollutants, including PCB, as well as on their health and environmental effects and on their alternatives;

National reports pursuant to Article 15

- (c) Urge Parties to report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures they have taken to implement subparagraphs (a) and (e) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, including quantitative information on PCB (PCB inventories), in their national reports pursuant to Article 15;
- (d) Urge Parties to develop national inventories of PCB and request the Secretariat to provide guidance, in consultation with experts, on a standardized approach to developing such inventories and analysis for the identification and quantification of PCB;
- (e) Re-establish a small intersessional working group on PCB to assist the Conference of the Parties to undertake its review relating to PCB at its eleventh meeting;
- (f) Invite experts on PCB to participate in the implementation of the strategy to increase the rate of submission of national reports by Parties pursuant to Article 15 (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/37); revise and simplify the questions posed in the national reports, in particular those relevant to PCB; and request the Secretariat to continue to improve the reporting format;

Elimination of the use of PCB in equipment by 2025

- (g) Urge Parties to take legal and administrative measures to ensure that, by 2025, Parties identify and remove from use, equipment containing greater than 0.005 per cent PCB and volumes greater than 0.05 litres;
- (h) Encourage Parties, consistent with the priorities listed in subparagraph (a) of part II of Annex A, to take measures to phase out the use of PCB and to reduce exposure to and risk from PCB as provided in subparagraph (b) of part II of Annex A, taking due account of the differing capabilities and conditions among the Parties, so that the 2025 goal is met;
- (i) Encourage Parties, as appropriate, to improve their regulatory frameworks for PCB as soon as possible, in particular in developing countries;
- (j) Encourage Parties, as appropriate, to include in their regulatory frameworks provisions to ensure the environmentally sound management of PCB, e.g., interim storage, avoiding cross-contamination, decontamination and elimination;
- (k) Encourage Parties, as appropriate, to include in their regulatory frameworks provisions to ensure record-keeping and reporting by management facilities;

Environmentally sound management of PCB waste by 2028

- (l) Urge Parties to take legal and administrative measures to ensure that, as soon as possible but no later than 2028, Parties make determined efforts designed to lead to the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6;
- (m) Enhance synergies at the national level with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to manage PCB waste in an environmentally sound manner;

PCB in open applications

- (n) Remind Parties, in accordance with subparagraph (f) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, to endeavour to identify articles containing more than 0.005 per cent PCB in open applications such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects, and manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6;
 - (o) Encourage Parties to raise awareness on PCB in open applications as well as other persistent organic pollutants with similar open applications as PCB, such as polychlorinated naphthalenes and short-chain chlorinated paraffins, and build capacities to identify and manage them;
 - (p) Invite Parties to develop, in collaboration with PCB experts, guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) for PCB in open applications.
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