

SC-9/16: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes:*

(a) The progress made by the Secretariat in further improving the electronic reporting system;

(b) The actions taken by the Secretariat in accordance with the revised strategy to increase the rate of submission of national reports by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

(c) The information provided in the report prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention, based on the reports submitted by Parties under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;

2. *Welcomes* with appreciation the work of the small intersessional working group pertaining to the manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;

3. *Takes note* of the draft manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;

4. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to submit their fourth national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention as soon as possible;

5. *Decides* that, in accordance with Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, each Party shall submit its fifth national report to the Secretariat by 31 August 2022, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To update the electronic reporting system to include the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention pursuant to decisions SC-9/11 and SC-9/12, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

(b) To further improve the electronic reporting system and make the revised template available by the end of 2021 at the latest for it to be used for the submission of the fifth reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, taking into account experiences and feedback provided by Parties, the results of the survey on the difficulties faced by Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, the revised framework and indicators contained therein for the effectiveness evaluation pursuant to Article 16 of the Convention, as well as the results of other evaluations under the Convention, that is, the evaluations of polychlorinated biphenyls and of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To update, where appropriate, the user manual in order to reflect the changes made in the electronic reporting system and make it available together with the revised template;

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

(c) 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 of the Stockholm Convention, in cooperation with the Stockholm Convention regional centres or other partners.