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Geneva, 6 September 2013

Subject: Second letter related to information requests in follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting

Dear Sir/Madam,

As indicated in a first letter dated 12 June 2013, the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting are contained in annex I to the meeting report, set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/33. The report is available on the Stockholm Convention website: www.pops.int.

Many of the decisions agreed upon include invitations to parties and others to provide information. As you may recall, a first letter was sent on 12 June 2013 to solicit information sought in decisions that had early deadlines. That letter is enclosed for your ease of reference.

I am now pleased to send you a second letter, containing all relevant invitations to parties and others to provide information sought in the above-mentioned decisions, including the three requests set forth in the first letter.

To facilitate your response, attached are the individual requests organized according to the decision references. Information regarding each decision can be submitted separately, particularly since the deadlines for submission vary.

The letters and requests contained therein are made available in the section [“Call for information and follow-up to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties”](#) of the Convention’s website. Relevant forms for the purpose of communicating information to the Secretariat will also be made available on the Convention’s website at the link provided.

Similar letters have also been prepared to solicit information sought in all of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eleventh meeting and by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its sixth meeting. These letters will be made available in the “Call for Information” sections on the respective conventions’ websites.

In addition to requests for submitting information, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention has reminded parties of a number of obligations under the Convention, including the following:

- Parties to submit to the Secretariat their third national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention by 31 August 2014; (the online electronic reporting system for third national reports will be made available on the Convention’s website early 2014)
- Parties that may wish to register for specific exemptions and/or acceptable purposes available under the Convention to notify the Secretariat in writing; (Relevant forms available [here](#))

- Parties that may export chemicals listed in Annex A or B to the Convention to any States not party to the Convention to use the template for the certification of non-party imports, in accordance with paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3; (Relevant certificate available [here](#))
- Parties to take into consideration the guidelines and guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties when applying best available techniques and best environmental practices; (Relevant guidance and guidelines available [here](#))
- Parties for whom the deadlines for transmitting their implementation plans have passed to transmit their plans as soon as possible, if they have not already done so.
(Status of submission of implementation plans available [here](#))

Should you have any queries, please contact Ms. Marylene Beau, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (Email: marylene.beau@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 83 87; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Willis
Executive Secretary

Enc.: Second follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting

First follow-up letter to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting

To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points

**Cc: Stockholm Convention National Focal Points
Representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

Second follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting¹

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(1) Request for information for the revision of the draft format supporting the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers (as contained in the first letter)	SC-6/3: Process for the evaluation of progress parties have made towards eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and the review of the continued need for specific exemptions for those chemicals	4
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¹ This letter compiles all relevant information requests contained in the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting. It includes those requests already contained in the first letter sent by the Secretariat on 12 June 2013.

(1) Request for information for the revision of the draft format supporting the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers
(as contained in the first letter)

Decision: SC-6/3: Process for the evaluation of progress parties have made towards eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and the review of the continued need for specific exemptions for those chemicals

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the process to enable it to evaluate at its eighth meeting the progress that parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention and to review the continued need for the specific exemption for those chemicals in accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of that Annex, as set out in annex I to decision SC-6/3. The Conference of the Parties decided, *inter alia*, to establish a small intersessional working group (SIWG), operating by electronic means, to review and revise the draft format for the submission of information for this evaluation and review, set out in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/6.

Requests:

- Parties are invited to nominate experts to participate in the SIWG and inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 June 2013; (request a)
- Parties are invited to consider serving as lead country for the SIWG and inform the Secretariat accordingly by 30 June 2013; (request b)
- Parties are invited to submit suggestions on revising the draft format to the Secretariat by 30 November 2013. (request c)

Respondents:

- Parties.

Method of submission:

- Please submit suggestions on revising the draft format by including them in track changes mode, when applicable, to the contact point provided below. The draft format is available on the Convention's website at: <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ConferenceoftheParties%28COP%29/Meetings/COP6/FollowuptoCOP6/tabid/3254/Default.aspx>.

Deadlines for submissions:

- For request a: **30 June 2013** for nominations of experts;
- For request b: **30 June 2013** for indication of a party's willingness to serve as a lead country for the review and revision of the draft format;
- For request c: **30 November 2013** for submission of parties' suggestions on revising the draft format.

Contact point:

Mr. Gamini Manuweera (Email: gamini.manuweera@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 86 04; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

**(2) Request on guidelines on best available techniques
and provisional guidance on best environmental practices
(updated from the first letter)**

Decision: SC-6/10: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the workplan for the review and updating of the guidelines on best available techniques (BAT) and provisional guidance on best environmental practices (BEP), set out in the annex to decision SC-6/10, and invited parties to actively engage in the implementation of the workplan. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Secretariat to invite detailed comments on the draft guidance on BAT and BEP for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)² and the draft guidance on BAT and BEP for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)³ by 30 September 2013. A second round of comments will be invited by 31 October 2014 to facilitate the development of the revised draft guidance for submission to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Requests:

- Parties are invited to actively engage in the implementation of the workplan of the BAT and BEP expert group, by submitting new information for consideration in the update of the guidelines on BAT and BEP relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, in particular new information on areas of concern identified by parties such as brick kilns, charcoal production, artisanal metal production, primary iron and steel production (other than sinter plants), galvanizing, quarantine waste incineration at borders, waste oil disposal and reuse, landfill gas and leachate management;⁴ (request a)
- Parties are invited to provide detailed comments on the draft guidance on BAT and BEP for the use of PFOS and the draft guidance on the BAT and BEP for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing PBDEs; (request b)
- Parties are invited to share their experiences on taking the guidelines and guidance into consideration when applying BAT and BEP pursuant to Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention; (request c)
- Parties are invited to nominate experts with specific expertise in BAT and BEP to the joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster. (request d)

Respondents:

- Parties.

Method of submission:

- All submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadlines for submissions:

- For request b:
 - **30 September 2013** for submission of comments on the draft guidance on BAT and BEP for the use of PFOS and the draft guidance on the BAT and BEP for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing PBDEs;
 - **31 October 2014** for submission of second round comments on revised draft guidance⁵;
- For request a: **31 October 2014** for new information for consideration in the update of the guidelines on BAT and BEP relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Stockholm Convention;
- For request c: **31 October 2014** for the comments on experiences in taking the guidelines and guidance into consideration when applying BAT and BEP pursuant to Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention;
- For request d: The joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster remains open for nominations at all times.

Contact point:

Ms. Ana Priceputu (Email: ana.priceputu@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 85 53; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

² <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/GuidanceonBATBEPfortheuseofPFOS/tabid/3170/Default.aspx>

³ <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/GuidanceonBATBEPfortherecyclingofPBDEs/tabid/3172/Default.aspx>

⁴ This request has been newly added to the second letter.

⁵ This deadline has been newly added to the second letter.

(3) Request on implementation plans **(updated from the first letter)**

Decision: SC-6/12: Implementation plans

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-6/12 in which it encouraged parties to use the revised and updated guidance for developing a national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention, updated in 2012 to include the chemicals listed in 2009 and 2011, and the additional guidance developed by the Secretariat⁶. The Conference of the Parties invited parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, based on their experiences in using them and also requested the Secretariat to facilitate the revision of these draft documents. As a first step, parties are invited to submit detailed comments by 30 September 2013. A revised version of the draft guidance including the comments received by the above-mentioned deadline will be circulated to parties for a second round of comments by 31 October 2014. The revised versions of the draft guidance documents will be then submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Requests:

- Parties are invited to provide detailed comments on the following documents: (request a)
 - Draft guidance on socio-economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the Stockholm Convention (2007);
 - Draft guidance for the inventory for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention (2012);
 - Draft guidance for the inventory polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention (2012);
 - Draft guidance for the control of the import and export of persistent organic pollutants (2012);
 - Document on labelling of products or articles that contain POPs – initial considerations (2012).
- Parties and others are invited to provide comments on the following documents, based on their experience in using them and on how to improve their usefulness: (request b)
 - Guidance for Developing a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (updated in 2012 to include the persistent organic pollutants listed in 2009 and 2011);
 - Guidance on calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs and action plans for specific organic pollutants (updated in 2012 to include the persistent organic pollutants listed in 2009 and 2011).

Respondents:

- Parties;
- Others.

Method of submission:

- All submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadlines for submissions:

- For requests a and b:
 - **30 September 2013** for submission of detailed comments and comments on experiences using the revised, updated and additional above-mentioned guidance;
 - **31 October 2014** for submission of a second round of comments on the revised, updated and additional guidance above-mentioned.⁷

Contact point:

Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez (Email: technical.assistance@brsmeas.org / jacqueline.alvarez@brsmeas.org;
Tel.: +41 22 917 83 50; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

⁶ <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/tabid/2882/Default.aspx>

⁷ This deadline has been inserted in the second letter.

(4) Request for information supporting the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions

Decision: 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

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the process to enable it to evaluate at its seventh meeting 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 to the Convention, in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of that Annex.

Requests:

- Parties are invited to provide to the Secretariat information on:
 - The progress made to eliminate PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, in accordance with paragraph 3 of part III of Annex B to the Convention; (request a)
 - The production and use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, as specified in paragraph 5(b) of part III of Annex B to the Convention; (request b)
 - 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; (request c)
 - 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. (request d)

Respondents:

- Parties.

Method of submission:

- For requests a and b: please submit information by completing section D in the process of reporting under Article 15;⁸
- For request c: please submit information using the format that will be developed by the POPs Review Committee, and made available shortly after its ninth meeting on the Convention website;
- All submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadlines for submissions:

- For request c: **31 March 2014** for submission of information on alternatives to PFOS;
- For requests a and b: **31 August 2014** for submission of information on PFOS in the process of reporting under Article 15;
- For request d: **31 August 2014** for submission of information specified in paragraph 5(d) of part III of Annex B (earlier submission by March 2014 will be appreciated).

Contact point:

Ms. Melisa Lim (Email: melisa.lim@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 88 31; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

⁸ The updated online electronic reporting system will be made available early 2014.

(5) Request for information on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid

Decision: SC-6/7: Work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties noted the information provided by parties on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 and the low rate of response from parties, and further invited parties that had not yet done so to submit such information to the Secretariat no later than six months before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The information received, where relevant, shall be taken into consideration in the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties of the progress that parties have made towards eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and the review of the continued need for the specific exemption for those chemicals, as well as for the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions.

The Conference of the Parties also encouraged parties to consider stopping their use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and their related chemicals for the applications where safer alternatives have been identified and are commercially available. It also invited parties that still use PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and their related chemicals for the control of leaf-cutting ants from *Atta spp.* and *Acromyrmex spp.* to undertake studies to obtain peer-reviewed information on the feasibility of using alternatives within an integrated pest management approach.

Requests:

- Parties, that have not yet done so, are invited to submit to the Secretariat information on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, including on any challenges encountered; (request a)
- Parties that still use PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and their related chemicals for the control of leaf-cutting ants from *Atta spp.* and *Acromyrmex spp.* are invited to undertake studies, including pilot projects, to obtain peer-reviewed information on the feasibility of using alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and their related chemicals within an integrated pest management approach and to submit any results to the Secretariat. (request b)

Respondents:

- Parties.

Method of submission:

- All the submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadlines for submissions:

- For request a: **31 October 2014** for submission of information on experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2;
- For request b: None specified in the decision; please submit comments by **31 October 2014** in order for them to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Contact point:

Ms. Melisa Lim (Email: melisa.lim@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 88 31; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

(6) Request for comments on the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

Decision: SC-6/9: Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Toolkit experts and the revised Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans, and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic. The Conference of the Parties also recommended to parties to use the revised Toolkit, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Toolkit experts, when developing source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention and reporting estimated releases under Article 15 according to the source categories identified in Annex C.

Request:

- Parties are invited to provide comments to the Secretariat on their experience in using the revised Toolkit for developing source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention, and reporting estimated releases under Article 15 according to the source categories identified in Annex C.

Respondents:

- Parties.

Method of submission:

- All submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadline for submissions:

- None specified in the decision; please submit comments by **31 October 2014** in order for them to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Contact point:

Ms. Ana Priceputu (Email: ana.priceputu@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41-22-917-8553; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

(7) Request for information on technical assistance

Decision: SC-6/15: Technical assistance

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-6/15 on technical assistance for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in which it invited parties and others to provide information and experiences to the Secretariat on needs and availability of technical assistance and technology transfer and the barriers as well as obstacles in that regard.

Requests:

- Developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition are invited to continue to provide information to the Secretariat on their needs in terms of technical assistance and technology transfer and the barriers and obstacles in that regard; (request a)
- Developed-country parties and others with the capacity to do so are invited to continue to provide information to the Secretariat on the technical assistance and technologies that they have available to be transferred to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition; (request b)
- Parties and relevant international and non-governmental organizations, including regional centres, are encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences in implementing the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of sound technologies set out in the annex to decision SC-1/15. (request c)

Respondents:

- Parties;
- International and non-governmental organizations;
- Regional centres;
- Others.

Method of submission:

- For requests a and b: online questionnaires will be made available on the Stockholm Convention website to enable responses to these requests;
- For request c: all submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadlines for submissions:

- For requests a and b: please submit information by **31 May 2014** in order for it to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- For request c: **31 May 2014**.

Contact point:

Ms. Cheryl Andre de la Porte (Email: technical.assistance@brsmeas.org / candredelaporte@brsmeas.org;
Tel.: +41 22 917 82 03; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

(8) Request for information on needs assessment

Decision: SC-6/17: Needs assessment

Background:

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-6/17 in which, among other things, it invited developed country parties, other parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, to provide information to the Secretariat on ways in which they can support the Stockholm Convention. On the basis of the information to be provided pursuant to the above decision, the Secretariat has been requested to prepare a report reviewing the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and means of mobilizing and channeling those resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, as requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in resolution 2, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

Request:

- Developed country parties, other parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, are invited to provide comments on ways in which they can support the Stockholm Convention.

Respondents:

- Developed country parties;
- Other parties;
- Other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector.

Method of submission:

- All submissions are to be made to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.

Deadline for submissions:

- **31 December 2014.**

Contact point:

Ms. Cheryl Andre de la Porte (Email: technical.assistance@brsmeas.org / candredelaporte@brsmeas.org;
Tel.: + 41 22 917 82 03; Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).

(9) Request on official contact points and national focal points

Decision: SC-6/26: Official communications

Background:

Parties and non-party States are invited to nominate to the Secretariat an official contact point for the performance of administrative functions and all formal communications under the Convention, pursuant to decision SC-2/16 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Convention, each party shall designate a national focal point for the exchange of information as specified under. Non-party States may also designate such national focal points.

Requests:

- Parties are urged to nominate official contact points and national focal points, if they have not already done so, using the revised form, as well as to confirm and provide the Secretariat with updated contact details for existing official contact points and national focal points; (request a)
- States not party to the Convention are invited to designate official contact points and national focal points, if they have not already done so, using the revised form. (request b)

Respondents:

- Parties;
- States not party to the Convention.

Method of submission:

- Please submit any nominations or updates to the Secretariat using the revised form available on the Stockholm Convention website at: <http://chm.pops.int/Procedures/OfficialContactPoint/tabid/3278/Default.aspx> and <http://chm.pops.int/Procedures/NationalFocalPoint/tabid/3279/Default.aspx>.

Deadline for submissions:

- For requests a and b: None specified in the decision; please transmit designations and/ or updated contact details **as soon as possible** so as to ensure effective transmission of information on matters relating to the Convention.

Contact point:

Ms. Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti (Email: yvonne.ewang@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 81 12;
Fax: +41 22 917 80 98).