



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

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Geneva, 8 July 2015

Subject: Information requests in follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its seventh meeting

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that at its seventh meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland from 4 to 15 May 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention agreed on the decisions contained in annex I to the meeting report (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36). The report will be made available on the Stockholm Convention website: www.pops.int. Some of the decisions include invitations to parties and others to provide information.

This letter is to solicit information sought in the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its seventh meeting. To facilitate responses, 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.

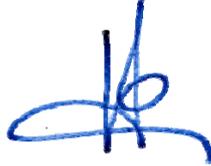
The present letter and requests contained therein are made available in the section "[Call for information and follow-up to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention](#)" of the Convention website. Relevant forms for the purpose of communicating information to the Secretariat will also be made available on the Convention website at the link provided.

Similar letters have also been prepared to solicit information sought in all of the decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions at their last meetings. These letters are available in the "Call for Information" sections on the respective conventions websites: www.basel.int and www.pic.int.

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,



Rolph Payet
Executive Secretary

Enc.: Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its seventh meeting

To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Stockholm Convention National Focal Points
Observers admitted to meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Cc: Representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its seventh meeting

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1. Request for information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention

Decision: SC-7/4: Revised format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention, as set out in the annex to decision SC-7/4, and decided to use it for the evaluation and review at its eighth meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter, in accordance with the process set out in decision SC-6/3.

Request:

Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties submit information on brominated diphenyl ethers, in line with the process for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers set out in decision SC-6/3.	Parties	An online format will be made available on the Convention website to enable responses to this request.	31 December 2015 , in accordance with the schedule set out in the process for the evaluation and review.

Contact point:

Mr. Mario Yarto (Email: mario.yarto@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8831, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

2. Request for registration of specific exemptions

Decisions: SC-7/1: Specific exemptions

SC-7/4: Revised format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention

SC-7/5: Evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention

Background:

In accordance with Article 4 of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, parties may register for one or more types of specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention. Specific exemptions are available only for those parties that have registered through a notification in writing to the Secretariat.

Annexes A and B to the Convention also make provisions for parties to:

- Register for acceptable purposes; and
- Notify the articles in use and closed-system site-limited intermediates.

Registrations of specific exemptions and acceptable purposes, as well as notifications of articles in use and closed-system site-limited intermediates are made available on the Convention website at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/Overview/tabid/789/Default.aspx>

Request:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties wishing to register for specific exemptions and acceptable purposes, articles in use and closed-system site-limited intermediates are requested to notify the Secretariat.	Parties	Please use the notification forms available on the Convention website.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit information as soon as possible.

Contact point:

Mr. Gamini Manuweera (Email: gamini.manuweera@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8604, Fax: +41 22 917 8098);

Ms. Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti (Email: yvonne.ewang@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8112, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

3. Request for information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention

Decision: Decision SC-7/5: Evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention

Background:

Paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Convention reads: “Unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by a party, or an extension is granted pursuant to paragraph 7, all registrations of specific exemptions shall expire five years after the date of entry into force of this Convention with respect to a particular chemical.”

Article 4, in particular the above paragraph, was discussed at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties with respect to the expiry of specific exemptions. Information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 is requested from parties to assist future consideration by the Conference of the Parties of expiry of specific exemptions.

Request:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties are invited to transmit to the Secretariat information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention.	Parties	A form will be made available on the Convention website to facilitate responses to this request.	No later than 8 months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, i.e. 23 August 2016.

Contact point:

Ms. Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti (Email: yvonne.ewang@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8112, Fax: +41 22 917 8098);

Mr. Gamini Manuweera (Email: gamini.manuweera@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8604, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

4. Request for comments on the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

Decision: SC-7/7: Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties encouraged parties to use the Toolkit, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Toolkit experts¹, 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:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties are invited to provide comments to the Secretariat on their experience in using the Toolkit for developing source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention.	Parties	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit comments by 30 September 2016 for them to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the eighth 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 8098).

¹ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/12, annex.

5. Request on guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

Decision: SC-7/8: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the workplan for the ongoing review and update of the guidelines on best available techniques (BAT) and provisional guidance on best environmental practices (BEP)², and invited parties, States not party to the Convention, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and industry to submit relevant information to the Secretariat for consideration by the experts on BAT and BEP in the review and update process. Recognizing that listing of new substances in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention will trigger the need to further update existing guidance and/or develop new guidance, the Conference of the Parties also invited parties and others to nominate experts with specific expertise in BAT and BEP relevant to the chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015 to the joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster.

Requests:

	Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and others are invited to participate actively in the review and updating of the guidelines and guidance and submit relevant information to the Secretariat for consideration by the experts on BAT and BEP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • Observers; • Others. 	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	According to the workplan adopted by decision SC-7/8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 September 2015 for submission of information specified in the workplan³; • 30 June 2016 for submission of comments on draft updated guidance to be made available on the Convention website by 29 April 2016.
(b)	Parties and others are invited to nominate experts with specific expertise in BAT and BEP relevant to the chemicals that were listed in the Stockholm Convention in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015 to the joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • Observers; • Others. 	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	The joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster is open for nominations at all times.

² See decision SC-7/8, annex.

³ Including:

- Information on BAT and BEP relevant to the POPs listed in Annexes A or B (namely perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, and hexabromocyclododecane);
- Information on BAT and BEP relevant to the POPs listed in Annex C, including alternative techniques and practices, such as locally developed alternatives, and use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes;
- Information relevant to the remediation of contaminated sites.

	Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(c)	Parties are invited to share their experiences in using the guidelines and guidance, such as in the form of case studies, by means of the Stockholm Convention clearing-house mechanism.	Parties	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit comments by 30 September 2016 for them to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the eighth 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 8098).

6. Request for comments on implementation plans

Decision: SC-7/10: Implementation plans

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-7/10 on implementation plans in which it requested parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat on guidance documents to assist parties in developing, reviewing and updating their national implementation plans. The guidance documents to develop, review and update national implementation plans are available on the Convention website.⁴

Requests:

	Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	<p>Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat based on their experience in using the most up-to date versions of the guidance documents, as listed in part A of the annex to decision SC-7/10, on how to improve their usefulness. These guidance documents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for Developing a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (draft, updated in 2014); • Draft guidance for the inventory of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2015); • Draft guidance for the inventory of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2015). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • Others. 	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit comments by 31 March 2016 .
(b)	<p>Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat on guidance documents listed in part B of the annex to decision SC-7/10. These guidance documents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft guidance on Socio-Economic Assessment for National Implementation Plan Development and Implementation under the Stockholm Convention (2007); • Draft guidance on calculation of action plan costs for specific persistent organic pollutants (2012); • Draft guidance for the control of the import and export of persistent organic pollutants (2012) • Labelling of products or articles that contain persistent organic pollutants – initial considerations (draft, 2012); • Draft guidance on sampling, screening and analysis of persistent organic pollutants in products and articles (2013); • Draft guidance for the identification, inventory and substitution of hexabromocyclododecane (2015). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • Others. 	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	31 March 2016

Contact point:

Ms. Cherryl André de la Porte (Email: Cherryl.AndredelaPorte@brsmeas.org; TA@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8305, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

⁴ <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/tabid/2882/Default.aspx>.

7. Request for information on hexachlorobutadiene

Decision: SC-7/11: Further consideration on hexachlorobutadiene

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-7/11 in which it requested the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to further evaluate hexachlorobutadiene on the basis of the newly available information in relation to its listing in Annex C. In the same decision, the Conference also invited parties and observers to submit any additional information to the Secretariat that would assist the further evaluation by the Committee of the unintentional production of hexachlorobutadiene.

Request:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties and observers to submit any additional information to the Secretariat that would assist the further evaluation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the unintentional production of hexachlorobutadiene.	Parties Observers	Please make submissions to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit information by 8 September 2015 in order for it to be made available to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, at its eleventh meeting.

Contact point:

Mr. Mario Yarto (Email: mario.yarto@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8831, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

8. Request for information on technical assistance

Decision: SC-7/16: Technical assistance

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-7/16 on technical assistance in which it invited parties and others to provide information to the Secretariat on needs and availability of technical assistance and technology transfer as well as their difficulties in implementing the Convention and any other view in that regard.

Requests:

	Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition are invited to provide information to the Secretariat on their needs in terms of technical assistance and technology transfer, according to the provisions of the Convention, their difficulties in implementing the Convention and any other views in this regard.	Developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition.	An online questionnaire will be made available on the Convention website to enable responses to this request.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit information by 31 May 2016 in order for it to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
(b)	Developed-country parties and others with the capacity to do so are invited to continue to provide information to the Secretariat, according to the provisions of the Convention, on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition.	Developed-country parties and others with the capacity to do so.	An online questionnaire will be made available on the Convention website to enable responses to this request.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit information by 31 May 2016 in order for it to be included in the report to be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Contact point:

Ms. Cheryl André de la Porte (Email: Cheryll.AndredelaPorte@brsmeas.org; TA@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8305, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

9. Request for information for the assessment of funding needs

Decision: SC-7/18: Assessment of funding needs

Background:

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision SC-7/18 on the assessment of funding needs which contains two separate requests for information.

In paragraph 5 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties 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 submitted, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a report reviewing the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and the ways and means of mobilizing and channelling such resources in support of the objectives of the Convention.

In paragraph 7 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2018-2022. The work to be carried out under these terms of reference will be facilitated and coordinated by the Secretariat with a view to enabling a team of up to three independent experts to undertake, over a period of up to three months, a full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for this period.

Requests:

	Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Respondents are invited, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat with further information on the ways in which they can support the Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed country parties; • Other parties; • Other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector. 	An online questionnaire will be made available to enable responses to this request.	31 October 2016
(b)	In accordance with paragraphs 6 and 8 of the terms of reference for the assessment, respondents are invited to provide to the Secretariat relevant information for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2018-2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • Global Environment Facility; • Other international financial institutions that provide bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention; • Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and 	Online and other questionnaires will be made available to enable responses to these requests.	31 August 2016

	Requests	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
		other stakeholders • Secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements.		

Contact point:

Mr. Frank Moser (Email: frank.moser@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8951, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

10. Request for information for the fourth review of the financial mechanism

Decision: SC-7/20: Fourth review of the financial mechanism (paragraph 6 of the terms of reference set out in annex to decision)

Background:

Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, the Conference of the Parties will review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism established under Article 13 in supporting the implementation of the Convention, with a view to taking appropriate action, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by means of recommendations and guidance to ensure adequate and sustainable funding.

The Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, adopted the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism, as set out in the annex to decision SC-7/20. The review will cover the activities of the financial mechanism for the period from August 2012 to July 2016.

Request:

	Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	As set out in paragraphs 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the terms of reference, respondents are encouraged or requested to provide relevant information for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism established under Article 13 in supporting the implementation of the Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • The entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism; • Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility; • Other relevant entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention; • Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. 	Online and other questionnaires will be made available to enable responses to these requests.	As soon as possible and no later than 31 August 2016 .

Contact point:

Mr. Frank Moser (Email: frank.moser@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8951, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

11. Request on effectiveness evaluation

Decision: SC-7/24: Effectiveness evaluation

Background:

Effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention will be performed by the effectiveness evaluation committee during the year 2016, in accordance with the framework adopted in decision SC-6/22⁵. Pursuant to its terms of reference, the committee, through the Secretariat, may, subject to the availability of resources, invite no more than four experts to support it in its work. A roster of experts shall be established for the purpose of providing such support, as required. By decision SC-7/24, the Conference of the Parties invited parties to designate experts for inclusion in the roster of experts.

Request:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties are invited to designate experts for inclusion in the roster of experts to provide support to the effectiveness evaluation committee, noting their area of expertise or specific substance knowledge.	Parties	Please submit nominations to the Secretariat via the contact point provided below.	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit nominations by 30 October 2015 for them to be considered by the committee in due time.

Contact point:

Ms. Katarina Magulova (Email: katarina.magulova@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8170, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

12. Request for comments on the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy

Decision: SC-7/29: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

Background:

At the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in May 2015, the Secretariat submitted for consideration by parties a progress report on the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism and a draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy for the years 2016–2019.

By decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, the conferences of the parties provided further guidance to the Secretariat on priority areas for 2016-2017. Furthermore, parties and others were invited to provide comments on the strategy, in particular on the scope, national and regional priorities and needs, and goals described in section IV of the strategy to the Secretariat by 31 October 2015.

Request:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties and others are invited to provide comments on the strategy, in particular on the scope, national and regional priorities and needs, and goals described in section IV thereon to the Secretariat by 31 October 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties; • Others. 	An online questionnaire will be made available on the Convention website to enable responses to this request.	31 October 2015

NB: This request is included in the follow-up letters under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as it pertains to the joint clearing-house mechanism under the three conventions. Please reply to this request only once under the three conventions.

Contact point:

Mr. Osmany Pereira Gonzalez (Email: osmany.pereira@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8194, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).

13. Request on official contact points and national focal points

Mandate: UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36, paragraph 316, official communications

Background:

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Stockholm Convention and decision SC-2/16 of the Conference of the Parties, parties are required to designate a national focal point for exchange of information and an official contact point. This request builds on previous decisions by the Conference of the Parties, including decision SC-6/26 which adopted a revised form for notifications of contacts to the Secretariat, including modifications or additions as they occur.

The Secretariat maintains and updates a list of contacts previously notified by parties, which is made available on the Convention website at:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/CountryContacts/tabid/304/Default.aspx>

Request:

Request	Respondent(s)	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
Parties are urged to nominate their national focal points and official contact points, as well as to provide updated information to the Secretariat on a timely basis.	Parties	Please use the form for notification of designation of contacts, available on the Convention website at: http://chm.pops.int/Procedures/NationalFocalPoint/tabid/3279/Default.aspx and http://chm.pops.int/Procedures/OfficialContactPoint/tabid/3278/Default.aspx	No deadline specified in the decision; please submit information as soon as possible to facilitate and expedite transmission of information to, from and between parties as well as other stakeholders.

Contact point:

Ms. Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti (Email: yvonne.ewang@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8112, Fax: +41 22 917 8098).