



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Report

Sub-regional Workshop on
Updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and on
National Reporting under the Stockholm Convention

Organized by:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the

Basel Convention Coordinating Centre (BCCC),

Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) for Latin America and the Caribbean

Region

At

After Hotel Montevideo

Uruguay

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1. Summary

The “Sub-regional Workshop on Updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and National Reporting under the Stockholm Convention has been organized by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention together with the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention Coordinating Centre based in Uruguay. The workshop was attended by twenty seven attendants from different Uruguayan institutions and the representatives of the Latin America and the Caribbean (see Annex I: Signed Registry, and Annex II: List of Attendants). The objective of this four-day workshop was to increase the attendants' understanding of the extent of the obligation to update and revise NIPs under Article 7 of the Convention considering the new persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that have been added in the annexes of the agreement, and to strengthen the capacities of the Parties to develop effective strategies and action plans towards the elimination of these POPs. Attendants were

also trained to enable them to submit due reports. Annex III of this report shows the schedule of the workshop.

2. Introduction

Including new chemicals in the Convention's Annexes A, B or C determines that most Parties need to revise and update their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in accordance with Decision SC-1/12. In 2009 nine chemicals were added to the Annexes of the Convention, while in 2011 endosulfan and in 2013 hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) were added to Annex A of the Convention.

The process of revising and updating National Implementation Plans may pose a challenge to Parties that do not have enough resources and technical capability. Member countries have declared the need for assistance in this respect and, particularly, in dealing with the recently added persistent organic pollutants which are widely used for industrial purposes and are part of products and articles. In accordance with Decision SC-4/9, which requested the Secretariat to identify any activity necessary for helping the Parties out with their development and their implementation of the Convention, a set of guideline documents have been prepared to support the Parties with the revision and updating of their NIPs providing information related to the newly added persistent organic pollutants. These guidelines shall help the Parties develop strategies to restrict and eliminate the newly added persistent organic pollutants granting providing guidance for establishing inventories, controlling imports of new POPs, monitoring the presence of products and articles bearing new POPs, selecting the best available techniques and the best environmental practices to manage new POPs.

Simultaneously to updating NIPs for addressing new POPs, the effectiveness of action plans and strategies in the original NIP shall be assessed. Revising the adopted strategies and measures to reduce or eliminate releases of POPs in Annex C, will also

require the preparation of updated emission inventories, in order to evaluate whether unintentional releases have indeed been cut down. The harmonized framework for establishing emission inventories in accordance with Article 5 is defined by the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases. A set of revisions and updates on the Toolkit including emission factors was presented at the CoP-5 and adopted in Decision SC-5/13. The revision of the emission factors published in the 2005 Toolkit has determined the need to also revise the initial inventories that had been based on this edition, in order to come out with tendencies that are consistent in time.

Parties under the Stockholm Convention must submit reports every four years to the Convention's Secretariat; the third submission deadline has expired on August 31st, 2014. The reports contain qualitative information on measures adopted to comply with the Convention and on their effectiveness. Additionally, the Parties are bound to report quantitative information with statistical data on production, imports and exports of chemicals included in Annexes A and B, among others. In view of such obligations, the Secretariat has developed electronic notification systems for each agreement, where the Parties may report directly on line.

The training session focused on government representatives from Spanish speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean who are in charge of their local NIPs. In addition, the representatives from Regional Centres in the area were invited to join the meeting.

3. Workshop Objectives

The main objective was to support the Parties with their NIP updating processes in reference to the following specific targets:

1. To promote the Parties understanding of the extent of the obligations to update and revise their National Implementation Plans in compliance with Article 7 of the Convention, considering the new persistent organic pollutants.
2. To increase the capabilities of the attendants to effectively make use of the guideline documents and other training instruments for updating their National Implementation Plans, in the light of the newly included POPs.
3. To strengthen the capability of the Parties to develop effective strategies and action plans for eliminating the newly added persistent organic pollutants as well as for meeting their obligation to submit updated NIPs to the CoP in accordance with the Convention.
4. To increase the Members' awareness of the newly available and revised information in the Toolkit, and to train the parties in the use of new tools and in the preparation of POP sources and releases inventories in Annex C, updates and revisions.
5. Knowledge transfer on guiding documents about NIP updating at Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, which would mean an increase in the capabilities for sustained support at regional level, thus increasing the technical assistance for revising, updating and implementing NIPs.
6. In reference to information obligations:
 - To improve understanding of the information commitments of the Parties under the Stockholm Convention.
 - To inform the attendants about the use of electronic information systems of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, including similarities between both electronic notification systems, commonalities and differences in data collection processes, in relation to reporting obligations and to common problems between inventories of chemicals and hazardous wastes.
 - To grant a platform for exchanging information and experiences between invited Parties.

4. Workshop Progress

Day 1

The workshop opened by the Director of the National Directorate of Environment (Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente, DINAMA), Mr. Jorge Rucks, by the Director and the Co-Director of the Basel Convention, Ms. Gabriela Medina and Ms. Alejandra Torres respectively, and by the Representative of the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, Ms. Jacqueline Álvarez, who welcomed the participants.

First, there was an introduction on the objectives of the Workshop. Then local and foreign participants introduced themselves, which was then followed by the presentation on Submitting Information on PFOS.

Photo 1: Workshop attendants during opening ceremony



Day 2

Visit to "Planta de Cementos Artigas" in Minas (Lavalleja). This cement plant is currently working on recovery of diverse waste types. Attendants: 12.

Industry staff provided a brief overview of the plant's operation and the different ongoing recovery projects.

All questions made by participants were answered and there was sharing of relevant

experiences in different countries.

A visit to the premises closed the activity.

Photo 2: Introduction to "Cementos Artigas S.A."



Photos 3 & 4: Visit to premises of the cement plant.





Photo 5: Group photo at the cement plant.



Photo 6: View of the quarry.



Day 3

Presentation of Reports on non-intentional POP releases, conforming to Article 15 and group exercise on PCDD/PCDF data submission.

Day 4

The new Stockholm Convention electronic system was presented and a group exercise was carried out.

Evaluation of the Workshop was then followed with the closing by Ms. Silvia Aguinaga (Manager of DINAMA Control and Environmental Performance Area), the Director of the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Ms. Gabriela Medina and the Representative of the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, Ms. Jacqueline Álvarez.

Photo 7: Presentation of Workshop results.



Photo 8: Group photo at lunchtime at the end of the Workshop.



5. Conclusions

The Workshop worked out well in its logistics -- transport, lunch, technical visits, lodging, materials, etc.

Feedback from attendants emphasized the following:

- The importance of practical exercises directly applicable to the Convention.
- That several technical aspects were clarified in reference to the preparation of inventories of dioxins and furans.
- The importance of exchanging experience with other countries in the region, essential for planning future local actions.
- Interpretation details on the Convention were clarified.
- Data and tools provided in the Workshop allowed to dispel doubts about NIP updating and new POP inventories.
- Visiting the cement plant helped understand the role of clinker furnaces in the search of hazardous waste disposal and treatment mechanisms within the Convention's guidelines.

6. Recommendations

Recommendations are based on the feedback received from the participants. For example:

- The legal framework of the Convention needs to be more thoroughly dealt with. Suggestions are made for Regional Centres to offer training in relation to the Convention's legal aspects.
- Need for more practical exercises and more opportunities to share studies on specific cases.
- Increase technical support and organize more training and experience exchange opportunities.
- Financial support that makes it possible to have more training activities on how to make inventories on the new POPs.

Annex II: List of Attendants

	Name	Surname	Contact	Institution
1	Ana	Arévalo	any.coni@gmail.com	Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de Guatemala
2	José	Rodríguez	JoaRodriguez@minambiente.gov.co	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible Colombia
3	Flor de María	Perla	fdmpa2005@yahoo.com	CRCB-CAM El Salvador
4		Garrido	agarrido@outlook.com	Ministerio de Salud Panamá
5	Yelba	López	yelba25@hotmail.com	Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales de Nicaragua
6	Gresmer	Laya	glaya@minamb.gob.ve	Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente de Venezuela
7	Kenia	Feliz	Kenia.Feliz@ambiente.gob.do	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de República Dominicana
8	Mario	Abo	mabo@citma.cu	Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente de Cuba
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20	Silvana	Martinez		DINAMA
21	Federico	Souteras		DINAMA
22	Elina	Ordoqui	eordoqui@latu.org.uy	LATU
23	Alejandra	Torre	atorre@latu.org.uy	LATU
24	Florencia	Gonzalez		MTSS
25	Andrea	Bouret		MTSS
26	Adriana	Sosa	asosa@msp.gub.uy	MSP
27	Jorge	Rucks	jorge.rucks@mvotma.gub.uy	DINAMA

Annex III: Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, August 5th, 2014 Understanding POPs listed in 2009 and 2011 PBDEs		
08:30 - 09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00 - 09:30	Workshop opening a. Welcoming statement b. Workshop introduction and objectives c. Participants' introduction	BCRC/SCRC Uruguay (Gabriela Medina and Alejandra Torre) BRS Secretariat (Jacqueline Álvarez) National Director of Environment (DINAMA), Uruguay (Mr. Jorge Rucks) Uruguay Government
09:30 - 10:15	Group exercise	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break	
10:20 - 13:00	Understanding POPs listed in 2009, 2011 and 2013 (Interactive)	Plenary discussion
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 - 15:30	PBDEs: Inventory of polybrominated diphenyl ether and isomers under the Stockholm Convention Exercise I – Participants will be asked to split into two or three groups and work in practical exercises. Presentation of the results of working and discussion groups	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 - 16:30	Continuation of previous exercise	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
16:30 - 17:00	General discussion and summary for the day	Plenary discussion

Wednesday, August 6th, 2014		
Field visit		
09:00 – 17:30	Visit to Cementos Artigas in the city of Minas	BCRC/SCRC Uruguay
Thursday, August 7th, 2014		
PFOS PCCD/PCDF		
08:00 – 13:00	<p>About PFOS</p> <p>a. Guidance for the Inventory of Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acids (PFOS) and Related Chemicals Listed Under the Stockholm Convention on POPs</p> <p>b. PFOS analytical methods: PFOS analysis conforming to the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP)</p> <p>Exercise II – Participants will be asked to split into two or three groups and work in practical exercises.</p> <p>Presentation of the results of working and discussion groups</p> <p>NOTE: There will be a coffee break.</p>	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-15:30	PCCD/PCDF inventories	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
15:30-15:40	Coffee break	
15:40-17:30	<p>Exercise III - Participants will be asked to split into two or three groups and work in practical exercises.</p> <p>Presentation of the results of working and discussion groups</p>	Working groups
17:30 – 18:00	General discussion and summary for the day	Plenary discussion

Friday, August 8th, 2014 How to report under Article 15		
09:00 – 10:30	Electronic Reporting System	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:50-13:00	PCCD/PCDF reporting Group exercise	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00-15:30	PFOS reporting Exercise V – Participants will work in pairs on the electronic reporting system. Presentation of the results of working and discussion groups	Jacqueline Álvarez BRS Secretariat
15:30-15:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:50 - 16:30	Workshop evaluation and closing	BCRC/SCRC Uruguay