



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

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

Geneva, 28 April–10 May 2013

Item 5 (a) (iv) 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

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

A. Polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network

1. By paragraph 5 of decision SC-5/7, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requested the Secretariat to facilitate a transition of the leadership of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network, in a sustainable manner, from the Secretariat to one or more United Nations agencies whose mandate was better suited to implement the network, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the progress of the transition.

2. By paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with the relevant member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention, to consider taking over the administration and implementation of the network.

B. Evaluation of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A

3. In paragraph 8 of decision SC-5/7, the Conference of the Parties decided to undertake, at its seventh meeting, a review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the third reports to be submitted by parties pursuant to Article 15.

4. By its decision SC-5/16, the Conference of the Parties decided that each party must submit its third national report pursuant to Article 15 to the Secretariat by 31 August 2014, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. The format for reporting on polychlorinated biphenyls, as adopted by decision SC-2/18, is set out in part C of the updated reporting format, as presented in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/26/Add.1.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.6/1.

II. Implementation

5. In response to decision SC-5/7, the Secretariat successfully completed the transition of the network leadership from the Secretariat to the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP Chemicals). In a letter dated 11 May 2012, UNEP Chemicals informed the Secretariat of its willingness to integrate the network into its programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013 and to develop and implement activities in accordance with the work plan developed for the network.
6. To support this transition, and to help ensure its sustainability, the Secretariat provided access to \$54,000 from the voluntary Special Trust Fund of the Stockholm Convention. The Secretariat also approved the gratis transfer of a staff member, Mr. Donald Cooper, to UNEP Chemicals, from 3 April to 25 October 2012, to facilitate the transition and to assume a leadership role in administering the network, among other duties.
7. UNEP Chemicals convened, in collaboration with the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in China, and with the support of the Secretariat, the fourth meeting of the advisory committee of the network, in Beijing, on 7 and 8 September 2012, to review the programme of work and the implementation strategies of the network. A report by UNEP Chemicals on the progress of the implementation of the network is contained in UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/5.
8. The Secretariat continues to support and collaborate with UNEP Chemicals in its effort to implement the activities of the network.

III. Proposed action

9. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalls* decision SC-5/7 by which the Conference of the Parties decided to undertake, at its seventh meeting, a review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Convention;
2. *Encourages* parties to provide information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls in their third national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention by 31 August 2014, in accordance with paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, as decided in paragraph 5 of decision SC-5/16;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls, in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, on the basis of the third national reports to be submitted by parties pursuant to Article 15, and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for evaluation at its seventh meeting;
4. *Welcomes* the decision by the United Nations Environment Programme to accept the leadership of the network and appreciates the collaboration extended for the sustainable transition of the leadership;
5. *Takes note* of the report by the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics¹ on the progress of implementation of the network, and invites the Chemicals Branch to inform the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the activities of the network;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to participate in the activities of the network;
7. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial resources to support the work of network.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/5.