

**Stockholm Convention  
on Persistent Organic  
Pollutants**

Distr.: General  
25 November 2022  
Original: English

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**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Eleventh meeting**  
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023  
Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters related to the implementation of the  
Convention: implementation plans**

## **Implementation plans**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, each Party is required to develop and to endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention and to transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force for it.
2. In paragraph 2 of decision SC-10/11, on implementation plans, the Conference of the Parties took note of the revised guidance on developing and updating national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention<sup>1</sup> and the draft guidance prepared by the Secretariat.<sup>2</sup> In paragraphs 3 and 4, respectively, it invited Parties and observers to provide, by 31 October 2022, comments on the draft guidance, and invited the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to review the waste-related aspects of that guidance and to provide comments to the Secretariat by the same date.
3. In paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties took note of the information on progress in the development of the electronic template for the reporting of quantitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention,<sup>3</sup> encouraged Parties to pilot the use of the electronic templates, tools and guidance available in the integrated electronic toolkit and to provide feedback to the Secretariat on the basis of their experience, and invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2022, comments on the electronic templates.
4. Furthermore, in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To continue, in consultation with the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as appropriate, to further revise the guidance referred to in paragraph 2 of decision SC-10/11, taking into account the comments received in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of the decision;

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\* UNEP/POPS/COP.11/1.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx](http://www.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/22, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/23, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/24, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/25 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/55.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/26.

- (b) To identify any need for further guidance and tools to support Parties in developing and updating their national implementation plans, and to undertake capacity-building activities accordingly;
- (c) To continue to support the improvement of the electronic templates for the reporting of quantitative and qualitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, as appropriate, taking into account the comments received from Parties and observers pursuant to paragraph 7 of the decision;
- (d) To develop for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting:
  - (i) Guidance on preparing inventories of the persistent organic pollutants listed in decision SC-10/13;
  - (ii) Guidance on alternatives to the persistent organic pollutants listed in decision SC-10/13;
  - (iii) A global approach to the review and updating of national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention that addresses the barriers identified by Parties in order to ensure sustainability in the development, review and updating of national implementation plans, taking into account the information on progress in the development of the electronic template provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).<sup>4</sup>

## II. Implementation

### A. Transmission of national implementation plans

5. In 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022, the Conference of the Parties adopted amendments to list new chemicals in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention.<sup>5</sup> The following table summarizes the numbers of Parties that have transmitted national implementation plans.

**Number of Parties having transmitted their national implementation plans as at 3 November 2022**

<i>National implementation plans</i>	<i>Number of Parties</i>
Addressing the initial 12 chemicals	175
Addressing the chemicals listed in 2009	109
Addressing the chemicals listed in 2011	97
Addressing the chemicals listed in 2013	64
Addressing the chemicals listed in 2015	43
Addressing the chemicals listed in 2017	24
Addressing the chemicals listed in 2019	7

6. The implementation plans transmitted by Parties are available on the Convention website.<sup>6</sup> The information on the status of transmission of national implementation plans is summarized in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/20.

### B. Guidance on developing and updating national implementation plans

7. Thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union and the Governments of Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden, the Secretariat has revised the guidance documents listed in paragraph 2 of decision SC-10/11, taking into account the comments received,<sup>7</sup> made them available on the Convention website,<sup>8</sup> and prepared the following new draft guidance:

- (a) Draft guidance on preparing inventories of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and

<sup>4</sup> See UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/26.

<sup>5</sup> Decisions SC-4/10–18, SC-5/3, SC-6/13, SC-7/12–14, SC-8/10–12, SC-9/11–12, SC-10/13.

<sup>6</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/253/Default.aspx>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/9355/Default.aspx>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>.

PFOA-related compounds; and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds listed under the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/21);

(b) Draft guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds; and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds listed under the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/22).

8. Furthermore, thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union, the Secretariat has prepared the following guidance documents and made them available on the Convention website:<sup>9</sup>

(a) Guide for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/28);

(b) Introductory manual on the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/29).

9. Information on capacity-building and training activities organized by the Secretariat to assist Parties in reviewing and updating their implementation plans is set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

### **C. Developing electronic templates for the reporting of quantitative and qualitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention**

10. In response to the request in paragraph 7 (c) of decision SC-9/9, an electronic template for the reporting of quantitative and qualitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention has been developed in cooperation with the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP as part of its medium-sized projects of the Global Environment Facility.<sup>10</sup>

11. On 14 October 2022, the Secretariat sent a demonstration version of the electronic template to Parties.<sup>11</sup> The comments received from Parties on the electronic template will be compiled on the website of the Stockholm Convention.<sup>12</sup>

12. As requested in paragraph 9 (c) of decision SC-10/11, the Secretariat has prepared, as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/23, a draft global approach to the review and updating of national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention. This addresses the barriers identified by Parties in order to ensure sustainability in the development, review and updating of national implementation plans, taking into account the information on progress in the development of the electronic template.

### **D. Effectiveness evaluation pertaining to Article 7 on implementation plans**

13. The main findings, conclusions and recommendations pertaining to implementation plans may be found in the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention.<sup>13</sup>

## **III. Proposed action**

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/[--], on the effectiveness evaluation, as they relate to implementation plans,

1. *Welcomes* the implementation plans transmitted by Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

<sup>9</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>.

<sup>10</sup> [www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/national-implementation-1](http://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/national-implementation-1) and [www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/national-implementation-0](http://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/national-implementation-0).

<sup>11</sup> [http://nips.pops.int/login\\_page.html](http://nips.pops.int/login_page.html).

<sup>12</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/9355/Default.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, part III, sect. L.

2. *Urges* those Parties that have not developed or updated their implementation plans to enhance their efforts to do so and transmit their plans as soon as possible;<sup>14</sup>
3. *Takes note* of the draft guidance on inventories and alternatives to the newly listed persistent organic pollutants<sup>15</sup> and other guidance available to support the development and updating of the national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention;<sup>16</sup>
4. *Also takes note* of the guide for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the introductory manual on the Stockholm Convention;<sup>17</sup>
5. *Further takes note* of the document setting out a draft global approach to the review and updating of national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention that addresses the barriers identified by Parties in order to ensure sustainability in the development, review and updating of national implementation plans;<sup>18</sup>
6. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 August 2023, comments on the guidance and the document setting out a draft global approach referred to in paragraphs 3–5 of the present decision;
7. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to review the waste-related aspects of the guidance referred to in paragraph 3 of the present decision and to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 August 2023, comments thereon;
8. *Takes note* of the electronic templates for the reporting of quantitative and qualitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, developed in cooperation with the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme, encourages Parties to pilot test the templates and invites them to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 August 2023, comments on the electronic templates;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To continue to support Parties to develop, review and update national implementation plans;
  - (b) To continue, in consultation with the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as appropriate, to further revise the guidance referred to in paragraph 3 of the present decision, taking into account the comments received pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision;
  - (c) To identify further need for guidance and tools to support Parties in developing and updating their national implementation plans and develop guidance and tools as appropriate;
  - (d) To continue to support the improvement of the electronic templates for the reporting of quantitative and qualitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, as appropriate, taking into account the comments received from Parties pursuant to paragraph 8 of the present decision;
10. *Also requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to develop for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting:
  - (a) Guidance on preparing inventories of the persistent organic pollutants listed in decisions SC-11/[--] and SC-11/[--];
  - (b) Guidance on alternatives to the persistent organic pollutants listed in decisions SC-11/[--] and SC-11/[--].

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<sup>14</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/20.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/21, UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/22.

<sup>16</sup> <http://chw.pops.int/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>.

<sup>17</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/28, UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/29.

<sup>18</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/23.