

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

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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 (e) of the provisional agenda**

**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to
the Convention**

Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: developments for action by the Conference of the Parties

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Since the report provided to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its tenth meeting, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee has held its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings, in Geneva, from 24 to 28 January 2022, and in Rome, from 26 to 30 September 2022.
2. The reports of those meetings are available in documents UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11.

II. Issues of relevance to the Conference of the Parties

A. Membership and election of the Chair

3. In decision SC-10/12, on the operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Conference of the Parties appointed 17 designated experts to serve as members of the Committee, with terms of office beginning at the closure of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ending on 4 May 2026. The curricula vitae of those members are set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/4/Rev.3.
4. In accordance with paragraph 4 of decision SC-10/12, the Committee identified Peter Dawson (New Zealand) to serve as its interim Chair. The Conference of the Parties is to consider the election of the Chair of the Committee at its eleventh meeting.
5. With regard to the 14 members with terms of office from 5 May 2020 to 4 May 2024, following the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and in accordance with the procedures determined by the regions concerned, pursuant to paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Committee as set out in decision SC-1/7, in September 2022 Argentina designated Irina Talamoni to replace Agustín Harte, and Egypt designated Salah Soliman to replace Elham Refaat Abdel Aziz

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

Sayed Ahmed, for the remainder of their respective terms. The curricula vitae of those experts are set out in annex III to document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/INF/3. Their appointment on an interim basis is subject to confirmation by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

6. The terms of office of 14 members of the Committee will expire on 4 May 2024. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties will need to appoint new members to fill the forthcoming vacancies.

7. Pursuant to the request by the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention,¹ the Secretariat, on behalf of the bureaux, sent a letter dated 19 December 2022 inviting Parties to consider submitting to the Secretariat, by 1 March 2023, the names of candidates for election during the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, along with, where relevant, the required supporting documentation, namely, in the case of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, a curriculum vitae and a completed form for the declaration of interests, as set out in the annex to decision SC-4/20. Parties were also invited to consult with other Parties in their region, in advance of and during the regional preparatory meetings, regarding candidates to be considered for election. Any curricula vitae of candidates for appointment as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee received sufficiently in advance of the 2023 meeting will be set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/6. Further information on the election of officers and Committee members during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties is available in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.11/2 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/4–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/4–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/4.

8. The term of office of the member identified as interim Chair by the Committee will expire on 4 May 2026.

B. Recommendations on amendments to Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention

9. At its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth meetings, the Committee, pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, adopted the risk profiles and risk management evaluations for methoxychlor (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/9/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13/Add.1); Dechlorane Plus (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13/Add.2 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.1); and UV-328 (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13/Add.3 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.2).

10. In accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing those chemicals as follows:

(a) Methoxychlor in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions (see UNEP/POPS/COP.11/12);

(b) Dechlorane Plus in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions (see UNEP/POPS/COP.11/13);

(c) UV-328 in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions (see UNEP/POPS/COP.11/14).

11. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the Convention, on 27 October 2022, more than six months before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat communicated the recommendation to the Parties and signatories to the Convention and, for information, to the depositary. A compilation of submissions by Parties relating to the recommendations will be made available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/24.

C. Chemicals under consideration

12. The following chemicals are under consideration by the Committee: chlorpyrifos; chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C_{14–17} and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight; long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds.

¹ See the report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Bureau/COP11Bureau2022/tabid/9246/Default.aspx>.

13. In decision POPRC-18/3, the Committee deferred its decision on the draft risk profile for chlorpyrifos to its nineteenth meeting.² The Committee noted that, while it agreed that the screening criteria set out in Annex D to the Stockholm Convention had been met, it was unable to agree that chlorpyrifos was likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action was warranted. The Committee established an intersessional working group to review and update the draft risk profile for chlorpyrifos in accordance with Annex E to the Convention and invited Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat additional information relating to adverse effects resulting from long-range transport of chlorpyrifos.

14. With regard to chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight and long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds, in decisions POPRC-18/4 and POPRC-18/5, the Committee adopted the risk profiles for those chemicals³ and decided that those chemicals were likely, as a result of their long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and environmental effects such that global action was warranted. The Committee established intersessional working groups to prepare draft risk management evaluations that would include an analysis of possible control measures for those chemicals and invited Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat the information specified in Annex F to the Convention.

15. The Committee adopted a workplan for the preparation of the draft risk profiles and the draft risk management evaluations during the intersessional period between its eighteenth and nineteenth meetings (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11, annex III).

D. Indicative lists of substances covered by the listing of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds and by the listing of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds

16. At its ninth and tenth meetings, the Conference of the Parties adopted decisions SC-9/12 and SC-10/13, by which it decided to amend Annex A to the Convention to list perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, respectively. At the respective meetings, the Conference of the Parties adopted decisions SC-9/13 and SC-10/14, on actions related to PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds and on actions related to PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.

17. In accordance with paragraph 9 of decision SC-9/13 and paragraph 3 of decision SC-10/14, in consultation with the Committee and taking into account the information and comments received from Parties and others, the Secretariat updated the indicative list of substances covered by the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds and compiled the indicative list of substances covered by the listing of PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds and made those lists available on the Convention website.⁴

E. Other technical work

1. Review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins

18. By decision POPRC-18/6, the Committee, having completed the analysis of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins requested by the Conference of the Parties in decisions SC-8/13 and SC-8/14, decided to submit the reports on the review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether⁵ and short-chain chlorinated paraffins⁶ to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eleventh meeting. Information relevant to the review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins is available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/4.

² UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/INF/27.

³ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.3, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.4.

⁴ <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/2511>.

⁵ UNEP/POPS/POPRC/18/INF/15/Rev.1.

⁶ UNEP/POPS/POPRC/18/INF/16/Rev.1.

2. Process for the 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

19. By decision POPRC-18/7, the Committee decided to submit the recommendations on the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) set out in the annex to that decision and the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF⁷ to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eleventh meeting, and requested the Secretariat to finalize its report on the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF,⁸ on the basis of comments and suggestions provided by the Committee and taking into account the discussions at the eighteenth meeting of the Committee. Information relevant to the evaluation process for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/7.

3. Long-range environmental transport

20. At its sixteenth meeting, during the consideration of the proposal to list UV-328 in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention, the Committee stressed the importance of its continuing to evaluate each chemical on a case-by-case basis and avoiding the setting of a precedent with regard to transport via plastic debris and microplastics.⁹ The Committee established an intersessional working group to prepare a draft document for the Committee on its consideration of long-range environmental transport, to aid members in their future evaluations of proposals for listing chemicals in the context of Article 8 of the Convention.

21. Following the consideration of the draft document on long-range environmental transport,¹⁰ by decision POPRC-18/8, the Committee decided to further develop the draft document and agreed to work in accordance with the workplan.¹¹

F. Support for activities for the effective participation of members and Parties in the work of the Committee and cooperation with other bodies

22. In decision SC-10/12, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue to undertake activities to support Parties, incoming members and newly appointed experts in participating effectively in the process for reviewing and listing new chemicals under the Convention and the work of the Committee.

23. In response, the Secretariat organized an orientation webinar for newly appointed members on 13 September 2022, in advance of the Committee's eighteenth meeting, and a number of online briefings in advance of and in furtherance to the meetings of the Committee, jointly with the provision of information on the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention.¹²

24. Thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union and the Governments of Norway and Sweden, the Secretariat has developed awareness-raising materials on chemicals under review and newly listed chemicals¹³ and organized a subregional workshop to enhance science-policy-industry interaction to support Parties in science-based decision-making for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The workshop was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 17 to 20 October 2022, for the Mediterranean subregion.¹⁴ The participants explored how to improve the accessibility to and availability of scientific and technical information relevant to the conventions and discussed the road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels.¹⁵

⁷ UNEP/POPS/POPRC/18/INF/19/Rev.1.

⁸ UNEP/POPS/POPRC/18/INF/20.

⁹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.16/9, para. 44.

¹⁰ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/INF/21, annex I.

¹¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/INF/21, annex II.

¹² <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/4218>.

¹³ <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/2511>.

¹⁴ <http://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/9348>.

¹⁵ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/35–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/44.

G. Effectiveness evaluation pertaining to Article 8 on the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and C

25. The main findings, conclusions and recommendations pertaining to the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and C may be found in the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention.¹⁶

26. The effectiveness evaluation committee, among other things, encouraged Parties to make use of the information on newly listed chemicals, including those in products and articles, available in existing documents such as risk profiles and risk management evaluations adopted by the Committee,¹⁷ inventory guidance developed by the Secretariat¹⁸ and the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices.¹⁹

III. Proposed action

27. 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 effectiveness evaluation as they relate to the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and/or C,

1. *Welcomes* the reports of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings;²⁰

2. *Confirms* the appointment of Irina Talamoni (Argentina) to replace Agustín Harte and of Salah Soliman (Egypt) to replace Elham Refaat Abdel Aziz Sayed Ahmed for the remainder of their terms, until 4 May 2024;

3. *Appoints* the 14 designated experts listed in the annex to the present decision to serve as members of the Committee with terms of office from 5 May 2024 to 4 May 2028;

4. *Elects* Peter Dawson (New Zealand) as the Chair of the Committee;

5. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat any further information regarding the identification of substances covered by the listing of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds and by the listing of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds so that the information can be considered in further updating the indicative lists of those chemicals pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision SC-9/13 and paragraph 3 of decision SC-10/14, respectively;

6. *Encourages* Parties and observers to submit the information specified in Annexes E and F to the Convention and to review and provide to the Committee in a timely manner, through the Secretariat, technical comments on draft risk profiles and draft risk management evaluations to support the development of sound recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and supporting documents on the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and, in doing so, where relevant, to involve experts working at the national level on activities related to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

7. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider enhancing the involvement of experts working under the Basel Convention in the work of the Committee;

8. *Invites* the Committee to strengthen the involvement of experts working under the Basel Convention in its work to facilitate its receipt of improved information on waste and disposal issues;

¹⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, part III, sect. F.

¹⁷ <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/243>.

¹⁸ <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/7730>.

¹⁹ <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/5121>.

²⁰ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13/Add.2, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.17/13/Add.3, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.2, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.3, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.18/11/Add.4.

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the involvement of experts as referred to in paragraph 7 above;

10. *Encourages* Parties and observers to undertake, within their capabilities, appropriate research, development, monitoring and cooperation pertaining to alternatives to persistent organic pollutants and candidate persistent organic pollutants in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to assist the Committee in collecting information on persistent organic pollutants in products as necessary for its review of chemicals and to provide Parties with guidance on labelling for the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B and to collaborate, as appropriate, with relevant international efforts such as the Chemicals in Products programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to support Parties, incoming members and newly appointed experts in participating effectively in the process for reviewing and listing new chemicals under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the work of the Committee and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-11/[]

Members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee appointed by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting with terms of office beginning on 5 May 2024

African States

[The names of the four members to be inserted]

Asia-Pacific States

[The names of the four members to be inserted]

Eastern European States

[The names of the one member to be inserted]

Latin American and Caribbean States

[The names of the two members to be inserted]

Western European and other States

[The names of the three members to be inserted]
