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## Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**  
Fourth meeting  
Geneva, 4–8 May 2009  
Agenda item 5 (a) (iv)

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:  
measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production  
and use: polychlorinated biphenyls**

### **Initiation of a cooperative framework to support Parties to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls through environmentally sound management and disposal\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Background**

1. According to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, one of the functions of the Secretariat is “to facilitate assistance to the Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of this Convention”.
2. Over the past year, the Secretariat has received requests from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for support in identifying appropriate destruction entities, experts and donors to assist them in their efforts to manage polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment containing them in an environmentally sound manner.
3. To assist Parties requesting such assistance, the Secretariat has developed, in consultation with a small group of stakeholders, a proposal for a cooperative framework called the “PCBs Elimination Network” to support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls through environmentally sound management. The proposal is set out in the annex to the present note and has not been formally edited.
4. Given that polychlorinated biphenyl oils continue to be used in electrical transformers and other equipment worldwide, the proposal takes into account the extensive set of activities to be undertaken and completed by 2025 to remove such equipment and to achieve disposal in an environmentally sound

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\* Mandate for the action described in the present note contained in: Stockholm Convention, Article 3 and Annex A.

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manner by 2028. The Club will provide another means of tracking the progress in meeting these deadlines and will support the exchange of information on polychlorinated biphenyls with a view to the overall evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention.

5. The budget set out in the proposal is dependent on voluntary contributions being provided by multiple donors. The Secretariat's ability to manage the PCBs Elimination Network will depend on staff resources being available to do so.

## **II. Possible action by the Conference of the Parties**

6. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

- (a) To endorse the proposal;
- (b) To request the Secretariat to support the activities outlined in the proposal;
- (c) To request the financial mechanism of the Convention to support the activities outlined in the proposal and to invite other international financial institutions to do so;
- (d) To invite Governments, owners of polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment containing them, destruction companies, independent experts on polychlorinated biphenyls and international financial institutions to join the Club and to participate in its activities;
- (e) To request the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on the progress made in establishing and implementing the PCBs Elimination Network.

## Annex



# Proposal to establish a PCBs Elimination Network (PEN)



## A. Mandate

### 1. General mandate

The PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) is established as an arrangement for information exchange on the promotion of the cost-effective completion of the environmentally sound management (ESM) of liquids and equipment containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The PEN is designed as an equal partnership for stakeholders from different sectors with an interest in the ESM of PCBs to interact within a voluntary framework to undertake the following:

- Promote ESM of PCBs and its equipment;
- Foster cooperation;
- Promote technical assistance and technology-transfer;
- Provide and facilitate information exchange;
- Raise awareness;
- Encourage development and adoption of environmentally-sound techniques and practices to eliminate PCBs;
- Establish linkages between stakeholders;

### 2. Commission from the Stockholm Convention

Paragraph 1 and 2 of Article 9 of the Stockholm Convention, requires Parties to facilitate or undertake the exchange of information relevant to the reduction or elimination of the production, use and release of persistent organic pollutants; and Alternatives to persistent organic pollutants, including information relating to their risks as well as to their economic and social costs. Further, Parties shall exchange the information referred to above directly or through the Secretariat. Additionally, in Paragraph 4 of Article 9, the Convention provides for the Secretariat to serve as a clearing-house mechanism for information on persistent organic pollutants, including information provided by Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Section (c) of Part II of the Stockholm Convention on PCBs states that Parties shall eliminate the use of PCBs in equipment by 2025 and shall “Make determined efforts designed to lead to environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a polychlorinated biphenyls content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6, as soon as possible but no later than 2028, subject to review by the Conference of the Parties.” The PEN would be such an arrangement built on the platform of the clearing-house mechanism and providing support to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to reach the goals of the Stockholm Convention in relation to PCBs.

The PEN shall implement its work on information exchange being mindful of the obligations of the Basel Convention on the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and its disposal and of the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade.

## B. Terms of Reference for the PEN

### 1. Mission statement

A framework is established that promotes and facilitates the delivery of the obligations of the Stockholm Convention on the environmentally sound management of PCBs.

### 2. Objective

To promote and encourage the environmentally sound management of PCBs oils and equipment containing PCBs from identification to disposal toward the achievement of the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention.

### 3. Principles of the PEN

The PEN operates according to the following principles:

- The members of the PEN support the ESM of PCBs as established by the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the ESM of PCBs and POPs wastes;
- The PEN is a forum for information exchange that fosters transparency, openness and collaboration among sectors;
- The PEN shall catalyze and complement ongoing activities to achieve ESM of PCBs, while avoiding duplication.

#### **4. Membership**

The membership of the PEN is open to the following entities:

- Governments: Parties and Non-Parties to the Stockholm Convention;
- Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs): IGOs working on the ESM of PCBs, such as the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility and related initiatives such as the Secretariat of the Basel Convention or the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM);
- Donors: Entities providing financial support for activities on the ESM of PCBs;
- Holders of PCBs: Governments, utility companies, industry and the representatives of holders of PCBs;
- Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs): NGOs working on related issues.
- Experts: International experts in the field of PCBs;
- Industry and business sector: manufacturers of transformers, equipment suppliers, enterprises involved in research and development related to PCBs, providers of alternatives, replacement or maintenance services, companies offering destruction and treatment of PCBs, companies involved in the transport, handling and storage of PCBs.

The members of the PEN enjoy equal status and shall foster collaboration, exchange information and share experiences with each other. The members of the Network shall promote the PEN and its activities at the global, regional, national and community levels and shall participate in meetings and related activities. The members can participate in and support the work of thematic groups covering specific issues and are all eligible for the awards being offered by the PEN.

The main roles and responsibilities of the members are to provide quality assured information through the sharing of experiences and knowledge on the ESM of PCBs and their alternatives, provide financial support for the work of the PEN as appropriate and to participate in discussion fora and meetings within thematic groups.

#### **5. Benefits for members of the PEN**

The PCBs Elimination Network provides incentives for entities to participate in activities of the Network by proposing awards and distinctions based on performance of Network members. The PEN also improves information available on current methodologies for the destruction of PCB oils and on the replacement of equipment containing PCBs in use.

The members of the PEN enjoy the following benefits:

1. Rewards and distinctions for members carrying out ESM activities, including the public posting of a list of achievements attained by the members, as well as membership awards;
2. Annual award for outstanding achievements from activities on the ESM of PCBs;
3. A dedicated page on the website of the Stockholm Convention to facilitate information exchange and to provide updated information on available resources on ESM of PCBs;
4. Collaboration and cooperation including joint implementation of activities with donor Network members;
5. Access to the wide range of PCB-related expertise available through Network members;
6. Establishment of linkages to policy makers;
7. Network members that own PCBs obtain goodwill and public acceptance for the management of PCBs;
8. Network members are supported toward the achievement of the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention;
9. Equipment in use provides greater efficiency from cost-effective maintenance;
10. Network members can participate in thematic groups.

#### **6. Organizational structure**

The PEN is mandated by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention under the platform of the clearing-house mechanism. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention reviews reports prepared by the Advisory Committee and assesses and endorses proposed information exchange activities as appropriate.

The bodies of the PEN include the Advisory Committee, the Secretary and the Thematic Groups:

### **The Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee is composed of 16 representatives from the various categories of members. Members are selected as follows:

Members	Number of representatives
Parties to the Stockholm Convention	10 (2 per region)
Industry	1
Holders of PCBs	1
IGOs	1

Members	Number of representatives
Donors	1
Experts	1
NGOs	1
<b>SUM</b>	<b>16</b>

The Advisory Committee meets annually to review the activities undertaken by the PEN, establish the direction for future work of the PEN and adopt its workplans. The Advisory Committee furthermore reports on the results and effectiveness of the Network to the COP.

### **The Secretary**

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention performs the function of the Secretary for the PEN. The Secretary:

- Coordinates the work of the PEN;
- Develops and implements an information exchange mechanism;
- Facilitates the organisation of meetings of the thematic groups and administrative arrangements;
- Seeks funding for the activities of the PEN;
- Organises the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee;
- Prepares the workplan of the PEN for submission to the Advisory Committee;
- Provides annual reports to the Advisory Committee on activities of the PEN.

### **Thematic groups**

The thematic groups of the PEN are established as necessary on a regional and sub-regional basis with support from the Stockholm Convention Regional Centres to cover specific issues related to the ESM of PCBs. Network members with a particular thematic interest (e.g. on certain treatment methods or research on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practice) are encouraged to exchange information through the clearing house mechanism (CHM) of the Stockholm Convention and by holding discussion fora as appropriate. The exchange of information through the thematic groups will feed into existing national and regional efforts to achieve ESM of PCBs. The thematic groups report on an annual basis to the Secretary on its work.

## **C. Implementation of the PEN**

### **1. Establishment of the PEN**

The PEN is endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (COP-4) in May 2009. The Parties shall nominate representatives on or before August 31, 2009 to serve on the Advisory Committee of the PEN. The Regional Bureau members shall select two representatives per region from the nominees respectively. The Secretary shall invite representatives from other member groups to serve on the Advisory Committee for the first period of four (4) years. Thereafter, members shall make voluntary offers for service on the Advisory Committee. If there are more than two offers per member group, the selection is made by a simple majority vote among the members of each group respectively. Each member of the Advisory Committee shall have a term of office of four (4) years. The Network shall be launched in 2009 at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee. At each meeting, the Advisory Committee shall:

- Review and endorse the workplan and activities for the PEN that are proposed by the Secretariat;
- Endorse the establishment of thematic groups and nominate entities to chair such groups;
- Approve the budget for the work of the PEN;
- Establish a strategy for the mobilisation of resources to support the workplan of the PEN;

- Review and endorse a report on the work and future plans of the PEN for the COP and the general membership;
- Prepare the criteria and the process for the selection of awardees and other incentives.

To support the work of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary shall:

- Collect and collate reports from the thematic groups;
- Prepare a report on the work of the PEN for review at each meeting of the Advisory Committee;
- Prepare a workplan for each successive year;
- Make the necessary arrangements for each meeting of the Advisory Committee.
- Make the necessary arrangements for information exchange to support the membership in its work.

### 2. Activities of the PEN

The PEN is implemented based on thematic groups, which will carry out the following activities:

- Create incentives for and promote ESM;
- Establish annual awards for contribution to the ESM of PCBs using donations from members;
- Facilitate information exchange between the members of the Network;
- Coordinate and support ongoing national and regional efforts to achieve ESM of PCBs;
- Provide a link between members and promote local networking;
- Encourage research and development on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practice for alternatives to PCBs;
- Promote the sharing of information on non-combustion technologies for the environmentally sound disposal of PCBs;
- Promote the use of the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the ESM of PCBs;
- Create incentives for countries to undertake and update inventories on PCBs oils and equipment containing PCBs and share information on inventories;
- Raise awareness on successful ESM activities;
- Record and disseminate information on the activities of the PEN through the CHM.

### 3. Budget

Financial support of the PEN is achieved through voluntary contributions of its members and other interested donors. The PEN builds on existing activities and convenes meetings in conjunction with other events as appropriate on an ad-hoc basis. The costs for the implementation of the PEN are USD 536,750. The details of the budget of the PEN for the period of 2009-2012 are outlined in table 1.

**Table 1:** Budget and workplan for 2009-2012 for the establishment of a PCBs Elimination Network.

Activities for 2009-2012	Cost (USD\$)	Duration
1. Convene a global meeting of the Advisory Committee	20,000	2009
2. Initiate and facilitate the work of the thematic groups	200,000	2010-2012
3. Develop and implement an information exchange programme	180,000	2010-2012
4. Initiate an incentive scheme to promote the participation of Network members in the work of the PEN	50,000	2010-2012
5. Administrative expenses and incidentals	25,000	2009-2012
<b>SUM</b>	<b>475,000</b>	
<i>Programme support costs (13%)</i>	<i>61,750</i>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>536,750</b>	