

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

Geneva, 25–29 April 2011

Item 4 (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****Report on progress in establishing the polychlorinated
biphenyls elimination network and other activities to eliminate
polychlorinated biphenyls through environmentally sound
management and disposal******Note by the Secretariat****I. Report on polychlorinated biphenyls pursuant to paragraph (g) of
part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent
Organic Pollutants**

1. According to part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, each party to the Convention is to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and make determined efforts designed to lead, as soon as possible but no later than 2028, to environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing, and equipment contaminated with, polychlorinated biphenyls.
2. In addition, under paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A, each party is to provide a report every five years on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls and submit it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Article 15. According to paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A, the reports are to be considered by the Conference of the Parties in its reviews of polychlorinated biphenyls, which it is to undertake at five-year intervals or other appropriate periods in order to review progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls.
3. By its decision SC-2/18, the Conference of the Parties adopted a format for reporting on polychlorinated biphenyls, as contained in the annex to that decision, and requested the Secretariat to incorporate it into the format for reporting under Article 15 of the Convention. By its decision SC-4/30, the Conference of the Parties decided that each party must submit its second Article 15 report to the Secretariat by 31 October 2010 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.5/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 3 and Annex A; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its fourth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/38), annex I, decision SC-4/5.

4. When parties submitted their second reports pursuant to Article 15, they also include information relevant to polychlorinated biphenyls. That information is available in full in document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/23 and has been summarized in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/29.

II. Polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network

A. Launch of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network

5. By its decision SC-4/5, the Conference of the Parties endorsed a proposal by the Secretariat for the establishment of a polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network, as described in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on the initiation of a cooperative framework to support parties in their efforts to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls through environmentally sound management and disposal.¹ The network was officially launched at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings 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, held from 22 to 24 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia.

6. By paragraph 3 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to serve as the preliminary secretary of the network in the implementation of its activities and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on progress in establishing the network pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and subject to the possible establishment of a joint secretariat function.

7. By paragraph 1 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties urged parties to become members of the network. To expand the membership, the Secretariat invited official contact points and national focal points to become members and to recruit new members. The Secretariat also encouraged participants at meetings and workshops under the auspices of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to join the network. The Secretariat has established a database of network members, of which, as at 31 December 2010, there were 507.

B. Establishment of an advisory committee

8. In accordance with the Secretariat's proposal to establish a polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network as endorsed by the Conference of the Parties, a 15-member advisory committee was established to oversee the operation of the network. Ten members – two from each of the five regional groups – were designated by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, while one member from each of the following stakeholder groups was designated by the Secretariat: industry, holders of polychlorinated biphenyls, intergovernmental organizations, experts and non-governmental organizations.

9. The committee has met twice to date. At its first meeting, held in Geneva from 18 to 20 January 2010, it established four thematic groups and developed workplans for them. It also recommended the launch of the network at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

10. The committee's second meeting took place in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, from 29 November to 1 December 2010. At that meeting, the committee recommended revising the network's terms of reference. Those terms of reference, so revised, are set out in annex II to the present note. The committee also adopted workplans for the network and terms of reference for the network awards, and discussed a report on progress in establishing the network, the launch of an information-exchange platform and other possible network activities. The reports of the two meetings are available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/4.

11. The third meeting of the advisory committee is scheduled to take place at the end of November 2011 or at the beginning of December 2011.

C. Establishment of four thematic groups

12. As noted above, the committee at its first meeting established four thematic groups. At its second meeting, it identified committee members who would take the lead in each group and adopted the workplans set out in annex II to the report of the committee's second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/4), with a view to the groups developing the following outputs:

1 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/9/Rev.1.

- (a) Thematic group on inventory of polychlorinated biphenyls:
 - (i) Guidance on an inventory of polychlorinated biphenyls, including standardized inventory procedures based on a compilation of experiences, lessons learned and existing guidelines on polychlorinated biphenyl inventories;
 - (ii) Factsheets or pocket guides on polychlorinated biphenyl inventories for use by various sectors;
- (b) Thematic group on the maintenance, handling and interim storage of equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls: guidance on such maintenance, handling and interim storage;
- (c) Thematic group on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and remediation of contaminated sites: guidance, including a compendium of state-of-the-art disposal technologies and their application in practice;
- (d) Thematic group on open applications of polychlorinated biphenyls:
 - (i) Awareness-raising materials for open applications;
 - (ii) Guidance on the assessment and environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls in open applications;
 - (iii) Guidance based on a compilation of lessons learned.

D. Publication of a magazine

13. At its first meeting, the committee endorsed a proposal by the Secretariat to produce a magazine as part of the network's activities. It agreed that the first issue would focus on inventories of polychlorinated biphenyls and undertook to take a leading role in submitting articles and to assist in arranging for feature articles from various regions to appear in the magazine.
14. For the first issue, 41 articles were provided by network and committee members, including representatives from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other experts from industry and academic institutions. The 120-page issue was made available in the six official languages of the United Nations and published in English in December 2010. Copies of the English version of the magazine were sent to parties and network members. Electronic copies in all six languages can be downloaded from the Convention website and hard copies obtained upon request.
15. At its second meeting, the committee agreed that the second issue of the magazine would focus on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls.

E. Information-exchange platform

16. A dedicated web page (www.pops.int/pen) has been developed to provide information on polychlorinated biphenyls and the network. It contains information on the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls, including a collection of available guidance material, details of the network's activities and a section on frequently asked questions.
17. In addition, the Secretariat has been working on an information-exchange platform, integrated into the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, which will enable social networking between members of the network. Testing of the platform by the committee began in December 2010.

F. Award function for the network

18. At its second meeting, the committee adopted terms of reference for the awards to be bestowed by the network, deciding to call them the "PEN Awards". The terms of reference for the awards are set out in annex III to the report of the committee's second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/4). A maximum of eight awards will be bestowed every two years to encourage members to make efforts to achieve the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls.

G. Outreach and awareness-raising activities

19. The Secretariat produced a logo for the network and promotional items such as pens, posters and flyers, in particular for the network's launch at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The Safe Planet Campaign of the three conventions also contributes to the publicity surrounding the network. The Secretariat has advertised the network at other relevant meetings, including capacity-building workshops.

H. Synergistic approach

20. By its decision SC-4/5, the Conference of the Parties invited the Basel Convention to join the network on an equal footing in the spirit of decision SC-4/34 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

21. Under the Basel Convention, several technical guidelines that are relevant to the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls have been developed and are available in the six official languages of the United Nations on the Convention website (www.basel.int). Furthermore, a general training manual for the preparation of a national environmentally sound management plan for polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls and a detailed training manual for hazardous waste project managers are available as substantial background documents for the network's activities.

22. The advisory committee at its second meeting recognized the importance of technical input from the Basel Convention and reaffirmed the benefit of inviting the Convention to continue its close collaboration with the Stockholm Convention in relation to the network's activities.

I. Capacity-building activities

23. As requested in decision SC-4/8, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, has implemented capacity-building activities on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes and polychlorinated biphenyls, including seven workshops. Further details can be found in document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/12.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

24. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

- (a) To take note of the information provided in the present note;
- (b) To take note of the list of advisory committee members set out in annex I to the present note and the reports of the meetings of the advisory committee, including the workplans for the network, as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/4;
- (c) To endorse, with any amendments, the draft revised terms of reference for the network recommended by the advisory committee at its second meeting, as set out in annex II to the present note;
- (d) To welcome the publication of the first issue of the network magazine and the establishment of awards by the network and to invite parties and observers in a position to do so to provide financial support for those activities;
- (e) To take note of the information relevant to polychlorinated biphenyls in the reports provided by parties pursuant to paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A, as provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/23 and summarized in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/29;
- (f) To consider undertaking 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, taking into account the third reports to be submitted by parties pursuant to Article 15;
- (g) To request the Secretariat to continue to serve as the secretary of the network in the implementation of its activities to support parties in achieving the goals of the Convention with regard to the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls by 2028 and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on progress made in implementing the network;
- (h) To welcome the participation of the Secretariat of Basel Convention in the network;
- (i) To request the financial mechanism of the Convention and to invite parties and observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support for the activities of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network;²
- (j) To invite all entities interested in the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls to join the network and to contribute to its activities.

² Subparagraph (i) is reproduced from annex III to document UNEP/POPS/COP.5/26, which sets forth newly proposed additional guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention. Subparagraph (i), along with other proposed additional guidance to the financial mechanism, will be considered under item 4 (h) of the provisional agenda. Inasmuch as it relates directly to the subject of the present note, however, it is reproduced here for convenience.

Annex I

List of advisory committee members

A. Experts nominated by the parties

African group

Nigeria (Mr. Olusegun Dada)

Rwanda (Mr. Aloys Kamatari)

Asian and Pacific group

China (Mr. Jinhui Li)

Islamic Republic of Iran (Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh)

Central and Eastern European group

Republic of Moldova (Mr. Ion Barbarasa)

Slovakia (Ms. Daniela Certikova)

Latin American and Caribbean group

Costa Rica (Ms. Anna Ortiz)

Jamaica (Mr. Tara Dasgupta)

Western European and others group

France (Ms. Pauline Langeron)

Sweden (Mr. Niklas Johansson)

B. Stakeholders nominated by the Secretariat

Expert

Mr. Urs K. Wagner, ETI Environmental Technology Inc.

Polychlorinated biphenyls holder

Mr. Mellon Chinjila, ZESCO Limited

Industry

Mr. Hugues Levasseur, Tredi

Non-governmental organization

Mr. Alan David Watson, International POPs Elimination Network

Intergovernmental organizations

Mr. Mohamed Eisa, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Mr. Matthias Kern, Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Annex II

Draft revised terms of reference of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network

A. Mission statement

1. The objective of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network is to promote and encourage the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls with a view to attaining the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention.
2. The network operates according to the following principles:
 - (a) The network members support the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls as prescribed by the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls and persistent organic pollutant wastes;
 - (b) The network is a forum for the exchange of information and is intended to foster transparency, openness and collaboration between sectors;
 - (c) The network is intended to catalyse and complement current activities to achieve the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls, while avoiding duplication.

B. Membership

3. Membership in the network is open to Governments, intergovernmental organizations, donors, polychlorinated biphenyl holders, non-governmental organizations, experts, and industry and business sectors relevant to polychlorinated biphenyls.
4. The network members enjoy equal status and shall foster collaboration, exchange information and share experiences with one another. They shall promote the network and its activities at the global, regional, national and community levels and participate in meetings and related activities, including thematic groups. They are eligible for the awards being offered by the network.
5. The members' main roles are to provide quality-assured information through the sharing of experiences and knowledge on the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls and their alternatives, to provide financial support for the network's activities, as appropriate, and to participate in network meetings and discussion forums.

C. Organizational structure

6. The network receives its mandate from the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and operates on the platform of the Convention's clearing-house mechanism. The bodies of the network include an advisory committee, a secretary and thematic groups. The Conference of the Parties reviews the reports of the network's advisory committee and assesses and endorses proposed activities as appropriate.

D. Advisory committee

7. An advisory committee is hereby established to oversee the operation of the network. It shall consist of 16 members drawn from the following member groups:
 - (a) Parties:

African States:	2
Asian and Pacific States:	2
Central and Eastern European States:	2
Latin American and Caribbean States:	2
Western European and other States:	2
 - (b) Industry: 1
 - (c) Polychlorinated biphenyl holders: 1
 - (d) Intergovernmental organizations: 2

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| (e) Non-governmental organizations: | 1 |
| (f) Experts: | 1 |

8. The members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing each of the five United Nations regions shall select two parties to serve on the advisory committee. Each party so selected shall nominate one member of the committee no later than 31 August 2009 for an initial term of four years.

9. The Secretary shall identify no later than 31 August 2009 one member from each of the other categories listed above to serve on the advisory committee for an initial term of four years.

10. The advisory committee shall elect from among its members a chair.

11. After the initial term of four years, the advisory committee members may make voluntary offers to continue to serve on the advisory committee and members of the network may put forth the names of individuals to serve 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 shall have a term of office of four years. The Parties, through their regional groups and the members of the Bureau from their regions, should ensure the selection of members having the expertise necessary to enable the committee to carry out its functions effectively. Members who are unable to attend advisory committee meetings will be requested by the Chair to consider resigning.

12. The advisory committee shall meet annually to review the network's activities and establish the network's draft workplans for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The reports of the committee's meetings shall be made available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ordinary meetings.

13. Donor organizations, partners and experts may be invited to the meetings of the advisory committee as observers.

E. Secretary

14. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention shall perform the function of Secretary of the network. The Secretary shall support the network's activities.

F. Thematic groups

15. Thematic groups shall be established by the advisory committee to deal with specific issues related to the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls and to implement activities as agreed in their workplans. The advisory committee members shall serve as leaders of the thematic groups. Members of the network may participate in the activities of any of the thematic groups. The thematic groups' activities shall be supported by the regional centres of the Stockholm Convention.

G. Budget

16. The network shall receive financial support from voluntary contributions by its members and other interested donors. The network shall build on existing activities and convene meetings in conjunction with other events, as appropriate, on an ad hoc basis.