

Stockholm Convention on POPs

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Background: IFCS Report

- Cornerstone Conclusion:
 - “enough science to warrant *immediate* international action”
- Recommendations:
 - Governments and UNEP should initiate action
 - Develop global legally binding instrument to reduce/eliminate releases of the 12 POPs
- UNEP GC and WHA adopted the report and recommendations at their 1997 meetings

Background: INC Mandate

- UNEP GC Decision 19/13C (Feb. 3/97):
 - Develop legally binding agreement by 2000
 - Begin in “early 1998”
 - Governments urged to immediate action
 - UNEP directed to assist countries in taking actions on POPs

Background: INC Preparations

- UNEP & IFCS sub/regional workshops
- 138 countries in 8 workshops:
 - St. Petersburg, Russia (Jul/97)
 - Bangkok, Thailand (Nov/97)
 - Bamaco, Mali (Dec/97)
 - Cartagena, Columbia (Jan/98)
 - Lusaka, Zambia (Mar/98)
 - Iguassu Falls, Argentina (Apr/98)
 - Kranska Gora, Slovenia (May/98)
 - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (Jun/98)

Background: INC Process

- Montreal (June 29 - July 3, 1998)
 - CEG1 (Bangkok Oct. 26-30, 1998)
- Nairobi (January 25 - 29, 1999)
 - CEG2 (Vienna, June 14-18, 1999)
- Geneva (September 6 - 11, 1999)
- Bonn (March 20 - 25, 2000)
 - Special Session (Vevey, June 19-21)
- Johannesburg (December 4 - 10, 2000)
- Dozens of UNEP workshops held over 3 years

Stockholm Convention

- *Preamble* highlights the need for action
- *Objective* sets protection of health and environment as goal, and acknowledges precaution as an important element
- Will highlight the main provisions of the convention, beginning with the 3 major control provisions on:
 - intentionally produced POPs
 - unintentionally produced POPs
 - stockpiles and wastes

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **Goal of the Convention:**
 - elimination of production and use of all intentionally produced POPs (industrial chemicals and pesticides)
- production and use will be either ***eliminated*** or ***restricted*** and, in each case, ***trade will be restricted***
- 9 chemicals slated for “elimination” (Annex A):
 - aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor
 - hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex
 - polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), toxaphene
- DDT slated for “restriction”, for which there is a specified “Acceptable Purpose” (Annex B)

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **For PCBs**, all Parties must:
 - cease production of new PCBs ***immediately*** (entry into force)
 - eliminate use of in-place PCB equipment **by 2025**
 - make best efforts to identify, label and remove from use equipment containing > 50ppm, with higher priority given to equipment containing higher levels of PCBs
 - *no* trade in PCB equipment (except for ESM of wastes)
 - *no* recovery of liquids with > 50 ppm PCBs for reuse (except for maintenance and servicing of existing equipment)
 - achieve the ESM of PCB wastes ASAP and **by 2028**
 - report to the COP every 5 years on their progress
- COP will review progress on 2025 & 2028 targets every 5 years

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **For DDT:**
- All Parties must eliminate production & use:
 - except Parties that notify the Secretariat they need it for disease vector control programs:
 - only when locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the Party
 - special public DDT register
 - reporting and other obligations
- All Parties must promote research & development for alternatives to DDT: its use will be allowed until technically & economically feasible alternative products, practices or processes are available
- COP will review at its 1st meeting and every 3 years thereafter to see when DDT is no longer needed for disease vector control

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **Trade Issues:**

- trade will be restricted for all POPs in Annexes A and B
- imports and exports are limited to shipments:
 - intended for environmentally sound disposal, or
 - to Parties with:
 - “specific exemptions” under Annex A or B, or
 - “acceptable purposes” under Annex B
- exports to non-Parties may take place but there are:
 - conditions on both Non-Party and Party, and
 - accountability requirements (use & disposal of POPs)

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **Exemptions:** (not time-limited)
 - laboratory-scale research
 - reference standards
 - unintentional trace contaminants in products and articles
 - constituents of articles manufactured or already in use before or on date of entry into force of an obligation concerning that chemical:
 - Party must notify Secretariat that product remains in use within that Party
 - Secretariat will make notification publicly available

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **Specific Exemptions:**
 - production and/or use of 8 (of 10) chemicals
 - ~50 countries have requested these (up to May 21)
 - after May 21, a State on becoming a Party may register by informing secretariat (public register of countries)
 - duration = 5 years, unless Party specifies an earlier date
 - extension = 5 years, if Party requests and COP approves
 - may be withdrawn by a Party at any time
- Parties using “specific exemptions” or “acceptable purposes” provisions must take measures to prevent or minimize human exposure and releases to the environment

Intentionally Produced POPs

- **Exemptions for HCB and DDT:**
- Production / use as **closed-system site-limited intermediates**
 - in which they are “chemically transformed in the manufacture of other chemicals that do not exhibit POPs properties”
 - Party must notify Secretariat of:
 - total amounts produced or used
 - nature of site-limited process, and
 - amount of HCB or DDT present in final product
 - notifications will be made publicly available
 - lapses after 10 years unless Party requests renewal and COP approves

Intentionally Produced POPs

- Parties with regulatory and assessment schemes for industrial chemicals and pesticides, shall, in conducting assessments of:
 - **new** substances, take “measures to regulate with the aim of preventing the production and use” of new POPs
 - **in-use** substances, consider the screening criteria for candidates for addition to Convention (Annex D)
- These provisions will allow the identification of possible POPs as soon as possible in these assessment programs

Unintentionally Produced POPs

- **Goal of the Convention:**
 - continuing minimization and, where feasible, ***ultimate elimination of total releases*** of chemicals in Annex C derived from anthropogenic sources (dioxins, furans, HCB, PCBs)
- **Parties must develop action plans within 2 years** of entry into force, and implement their plans:
 - evaluate current & projected releases
 - source inventories & release estimates
 - develop strategies to reduce releases
 - promote education and training on strategies
 - develop a schedule for implementation of action plan
 - evaluate efficacy of Party's laws & policies to manage releases
 - review success of strategies every 5 years and report to COP

Unintentionally Produced POPs

- **Parties must:**
 - promote application of available, feasible and practical measures to achieve realistic and meaningful levels of release reduction or source elimination
 - promote development and, where appropriate, require use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes to prevent formation and release of POPs in Annex C

Unintentionally Produced POPs

- **Parties must:**
- **promote**, and as provided for in an action plan, **require** use of best available techniques (BAT) for **new sources** within the following industrial source categories (Annex C, Part II) that have potential for comparatively high formation and release of POPs to the environment:
 - waste incinerators (municipal, hazardous or medical waste; sewage sludge)
 - cement kilns firing hazardous wastes
 - pulp production involving chlorine
 - thermal processes used in metallurgical industry (secondary production of aluminum, copper or zinc; sinter plants in iron and steel industry)
- phase in any BAT requirements for such new sources as soon as practicable but ***no later than 4 years*** after entry into force
- promote use of best environmental practices (BEP) for these new sources

Unintentionally Produced POPs

- **Parties must** promote use of BAT & BEP for:
 - **new** sources within 13 categories (Annex C Part III), &
 - **existing** sources within all categories (Parts II and III):
 - open burning of wastes (including landfill sites)
 - thermal processes in metallurgical industry not specified in Part II
 - residential combustion sources
 - fossil-fuel fired utility and industrial boilers
 - firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels
 - chemical production processes releasing unintentionally produced POPs (*e.g.*, chlorophenols, chloranil)

Unintentionally Produced POPs

- **Parties must** promote use of BAT & BEP for (continued):
 - motor vehicles (N.B. those burning leaded gasoline)
 - textile and leather dyeing and finishing
 - shredder plants for the treatment of end-of-life vehicles
 - smouldering of copper cables
 - waste oil refineries
 - destruction of animal carcasses
 - crematoria

POPS in Stockpiles & Wastes

- **Goal is environmentally sound management (ESM)** of stockpiles, wastes, and products and articles upon becoming wastes that consist of, contain or are contaminated by POPs
- **Parties must:**
 - develop and implement strategies to identify stockpiles, products and articles in use, and wastes containing POPs
 - manage stockpiles in a safe, efficient and ESM until they are deemed to be wastes
 - take measures to handle, collect, transport and store wastes in ESM and dispose of wastes in a way that destroys POP content, or otherwise in ESM taking into account international rules, standards and guidelines

POPS in Stockpiles & Wastes

- **Parties must:**
 - *not* allow recovery, recycle, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of POPs
 - *not* transport these materials across international boundaries without taking into account international rules (e.g., Basel Convention)
 - develop strategies for identifying contaminated sites and, if remediation is attempted, do it in an environmentally sound manner

Adding New POPs

- To ensure that the convention responds to future issues, provision has been made for addition of new POPs through application of scientific criteria and an agreed process for evaluation of candidates nominated by Parties in the future.
- The process and criteria incorporate precaution in a number of ways to ensure that all proposed candidates are thoroughly considered and evaluated on the basis of available scientific data to see if they possess POPs properties.
- A POPs Review Committee will be set up to advise the COP on the application of the criteria and process.
- There are safeguards in the process to ensure that all Parties have the opportunity to get a full hearing on any nominated candidate.

Identifying New POPs

- POPs Review Committee will advise COP on proposals submitted by Parties
- Scientific criteria and an agreed process will be used to evaluate candidate POPs
- Criteria are specified (Annex D):
 - chemical identity (names, structure)
 - persistence
 - bio-accumulation
 - potential for long range transport
 - adverse effects

Identifying New POPs

- **Review Process - Step 1:**
 - Committee agrees that screening criteria are met and proposal and Committee's report are made public
 - Parties & observers submit information specified in Annex E to develop a ***risk profile***
- **Review Process - Step 2:**
 - Committee agrees that the proposal should proceed
 - Proposal is made public with Committee's report
 - Parties & observers submit information specified in Annex F to develop a ***risk management evaluation*** (includes associated socio-economic considerations)

Identifying New POPs

- **Review Process - Step 3:**
 - Committee reviews risk profile & risk management evaluation
 - Committee recommends to COP whether the chemical should be listed in Annexes A, B and/or C
- **Review Process - Step 4:**
 - COP will consider Committee's recommendations and any scientific uncertainty
 - COP shall decide, *in a precautionary manner*, whether to list the chemical and specify its related control measures in Annexes A, B and/or C

General Obligations

- Develop, implement and update an implementation plan
- Designate a National Focal Point
- Promote and facilitate a wide range of public information, awareness and education measures
- Encourage/undertake research, development, monitoring and cooperation on all aspects of POPs and their alternatives
- Report to the COP on:
 - measures taken by Party to implement the Convention
 - effectiveness of measures taken
 - data/estimates for total quantities of POPs in Annex A and B that are traded, and list of States involved

Financial & Technical Assistance

- **Convention specifications:**
 - Developing countries and countries with economies in transition will need technical and financial assistance.
 - Regional and subregional centres will be established for capacity building and transfer of technology to assist countries in need.
 - Developed countries will provide technical assistance and ***new and additional*** financial resources to meet ***agreed full incremental*** implementation costs.
 - Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been named as an interim financial mechanism to handle funding of capacity building and other related activities.

Other Provisions

- Open for signature May 23 in Stockholm, and then until May 22, 2002 at UN HQ
- Enters into force 90 days after 50th ratification
- COP must review effectiveness 4 years after entry into force
- UNEP to provide Secretariat

Future Activities

- INC-6 will be held in June 2002
- Implementation of the DipCon resolutions
- Sub/regional capacity building workshops sponsored by UNEP/GEF/WB
- Technical and administrative preparations for COP-1