

SC-8/18: Effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the purpose of the effectiveness evaluation, namely, to assess whether the Convention has succeeded in achieving its objective of protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants,

Recognizing that conclusions and recommendations by the effectiveness evaluation committee as to the effectiveness of specific measures of the Convention to achieve its objective have an impact on all elements of the Convention and are useful in informing the relevant processes and mechanisms under the Convention,

Mindful that the priority areas for action identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee, as recognized in paragraphs 3 and 5 (a)–(l) below, as well as all other recommendations of the committee, are addressed by the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants pursuant to Article 16,¹ including the conclusions and recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee,² and the report on the framework for effectiveness evaluation;³
2. *Acknowledges* that, as confirmed by the effectiveness evaluation committee in its evaluation, the Convention provides an effective and dynamic framework for addressing the production, use, release, import, export and disposal of persistent organic pollutants globally, but that inadequate implementation is the key issue identified in the evaluation;
3. *Notes* that the mechanisms and processes required by the Convention to support Parties in meeting their obligations have all been put in place, except for procedures and mechanisms on compliance pursuant to Article 17;
4. *Encourages* Parties to step up their efforts to achieve full implementation of the Convention and, to that end, to give priority to developing or strengthening and enforcing national legislation and regulations implementing the Convention that are appropriate for both industrial chemicals and pesticides;
5. *Takes note* of the following priority areas for action to address implementation challenges identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee:
 - (a) Sustained and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation and continued support for research, monitoring, risk evaluation, data sharing and modelling;
 - (b) Enhanced efforts by Parties to update their national implementation plans, including national inventories, and the development or revision of regulatory frameworks and national legislation with a view to specifically addressing their obligations in respect of the chemicals listed under the Convention;
 - (c) Urgent implementation of legal and administrative measures to meet the obligations under the Stockholm Convention related to 2025 and 2028 for the elimination and environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls throughout their life cycles;
 - (d) Promotion of sustainable integrated vector management in order to reduce the use of DDT while supporting the strengthening of the capacity of Parties still relying on DDT to commence a sustainable transition away from DDT;

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/40.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/41.

(e) Identification, collection and provision through the appropriate reporting mechanisms of quantitative information on articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers and on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and the introduction of safer and affordable alternatives where applicable;

(f) Development and updating of source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Convention and provision of relevant information as part of national reports under Article 15 while ensuring quality control, consistency and comparability in respect of data reported over time;

(g) Acceleration of efforts to ensure the sound management of stockpiles and wastes in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention and prioritization of their sound disposal;

(h) Registering for needed specific exemptions by States upon becoming Parties to the Convention or on becoming bound by its amendments;

(i) Adequate and timely submission of the information specified in Annex E and Annex F to the Convention in response to requests for input from the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;

(j) Timely and accurate completion of national reports under Article 15 of the Convention;

(k) Strengthening of technical assistance activities for the priority areas identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee;⁴

(l) Sustainable financing to continue to support and enhance the implementation of the Convention in the long term;

6. *Notes* that the framework for effectiveness evaluation provided a good basis for conducting the first evaluation cycle and requests the Secretariat to revise the framework in the light of the report of the effectiveness evaluation committee⁵ for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP8/22/Add.1.

⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/41.