**SC-7/8: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the nominations to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster,[[1]](#footnote-1) the report of the second expert meeting on best available techniques and best environmental practices[[2]](#footnote-2) and the conclusions and recommendations of the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices;[[3]](#footnote-3)
2. *Adopts* the workplan set out in the annex to the present decision;
3. *Takes note* of the revised draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention[[4]](#footnote-4) and the revised draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention;[[5]](#footnote-5)
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, and considering the work on 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pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention,[[6]](#footnote-6) to revise the draft guidance referred to in paragraph 3 above in order to update the references to the work under the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, in particular the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants as adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Basel Convention, and to reflect the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;
5. *Recognizes* that listing of new substances in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention will trigger the need to further update existing guidance and/or develop new guidance to support parties in implementing new obligations, requiring specific expertise;
6. *Requests* the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices:

(a) To continue the work on the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines and guidance;

(b) In consultation with the Toolkit experts, to develop joint terms of reference for synergistically considering aspects relevant to releases from unintentional production and best available techniques and best environmental practices for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention;

1. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing the process for the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines and guidance as referred to in paragraph 6 above, as well as awareness-raising and technical assistance activities to promote the guidelines and guidance, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
2. *Invites* parties, States not party to the Convention, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and industry to participate actively in the review and updating of the guidelines and guidance and to submit relevant information to the Secretariat for consideration by the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices;
3. *Invites* parties and others to nominate experts with specific expertise in best available techniques and best environmental practices, in particular those relevant to the chemicals that were listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster;
4. *Encourages* parties and others to use the guidelines and guidance when applying best available techniques and best environmental practices in the implementation of action plans and other actions related to the obligations under the Convention and to share their experiences in using the guidelines and guidance, such as in the form of case studies, by means of the Stockholm Convention clearing-house mechanism.

**Annex to decision SC-7/8**

**Workplan for the ongoing review and update of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices**

I. Areas of work

* 1. **Guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or Annex B**

Draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention

1. Collect and evaluate new information on areas of concern identified by parties regarding the management of stockpiles and products and articles in use consisting of or containing PFOS, the assessment and remediation of PFOS-contaminated sites and success stories regarding the implementation of alternatives and revise and supplement the guidance document as appropriate, including through the development of case studies.
2. Consider the further updating of references and revise existing information to increase the overall consistency of the guidance document.
3. Consider restructuring the guidance document with a view to improving its   
   user-friendliness.

Draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) listed under the Stockholm Convention

1. Collect and evaluate new information on areas of concern identified by parties regarding separation technologies for PBDE-containing plastic, assessment and remediation of PBDE‑contaminated sites, update of the technologies listed and revise and supplement the guidance document as appropriate, including through development of case studies.
2. Consider the further updating of references and revise existing information to increase the overall consistency of the guidance document.
3. Consider restructuring the guidance document with a view to improving its user-friendliness.

Best available techniques and best environmental practices for other persistent organic pollutants

1. Collect and evaluate information on areas of concern identified by parties regarding the management of materials containing hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) and develop additional guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as appropriate, taking into account the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with HBCD as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting.
2. Assess the need for developing additional guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for other persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention, taking into account existing technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants developed under the Basel Convention.
3. Collect and evaluate information relevant to best available techniques and best environmental practices for the persistent organic pollutants that were listed in the annexes to the Convention at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
   1. **Guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C**
4. Collect and evaluate new information on key sources of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants as identified by parties and the Toolkit experts, recently updated best available technologies reference documents (BREFs) and national documents on best available techniques and best environmental practices and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.
5. Collect and evaluate information on best available techniques and best environmental practices for sources of releases of the persistent organic pollutants that were listed in the annexes to the Convention at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, assess the applicability of the existing guidance for those substances and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.
   1. **Alternatives**
6. With regard to the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C to the Convention, supplement with new information on available alternative techniques and practices, including locally developed alternatives, and on the use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes.
7. With regard to the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention, supplement with new information on available alternatives as identified by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.
   1. **Remediation of contaminated sites**
8. Collect and evaluate information relevant to the remediation of contaminated sites and assess the need for the development of guidance.

II. Timelines

| *Scheduled date* | *Activity* |
| --- | --- |
| Ongoing throughout 2015**–**2017 | Collection of information specified in the workplan for the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices |
| February 2015 | Task teams and leads are identified from the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster for each area of work included in the workplan |
| May 2015 | Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties |
| May 2015 | Secretariat invites information submissions from parties and others on the areas for further work identified in the workplan |
| By September 2015 | Task teams assess information submissions to date and develop a proposal for updating existing guidance and/or developing additional guidance for each area of work, including proposed revisions, restructuring and the development of case studies   * Task team leads send the draft proposals to the Secretariat by 21 September 2015 * Secretariat sends the draft proposals for review by the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts by 25 September 2015 |
| November 2015 | Joint meeting of the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts to consider revisions and/or additional guidance according to the proposals by task teams |
| By April 2016 | Task teams prepare first drafts of updated and/or additional guidance on the basis of the assessment of information submitted and comments by the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts   * Task team leads send first drafts to the Secretariat by 25 April 2016 * Secretariat sends the drafts for review by the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts by 29 April 2016 * Secretariat makes available the drafts on the Stockholm Convention website by 29 April 2016 for comment by parties and others by 30 June 2016 |
| By June 2016 | Parties and others send to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016 their comments on the drafts submitted for their review |
| July 2016 | Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts provide comments on the draft updated and/or additional guidance   * Secretariat compiles the comments and sends the compilation to task teams and leads by 24 June 2016 |
| October 2016 | Task teams revise the draft updated and/or additional guidance on the basis of the comments received and additional information collected intersessionally   * Task team leads send the drafts to the Secretariat by 24 October 2016 * Secretariat sends the drafts to the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts by 28 October 2016 |
| November 2016 | Joint meeting of the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts to review the draft guidance and develop conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. |
| January 2017 | Task teams finalize the draft guidance on the basis of the agreement at the November joint meeting   * Task team leads send the final drafts to the Secretariat by 15 January 2017 |
| May 2017 | Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties |

1. See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/20. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/19. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNEP/POPS/COP.7/14, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/21. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/22. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8, annex I. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)