

Webinar on PCB legislation and company policies - UNITAR

18 December 2024



Implementing the Stockholm Convention provisions to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals on PCB elimination

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Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Stockholm Convention provisions

<https://www.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/2232/Default.aspx>

186 Parties

ARTICLE 3

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

Each Party shall:

- (a) Prohibit and/or take the legal and administrative measures necessary to eliminate:
 - i. Its production and use of the chemicals listed in Annex A subject to the provisions of that Annex; and
 - ii. Its import and export of the chemicals listed in Annex A in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2;
- (b) Each Party shall take measures to ensure:
 - i. That a chemical listed in Annex A or Annex B is exported or imported only: (i) For the purpose of environmentally sound disposal as set forth in paragraph 1 (d) of Article 6



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ARTICLE 5

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

Each Party shall at a minimum take the following measures to reduce the total releases derived from anthropogenic sources of each of the chemicals listed in Annex C, with the goal of their continuing minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination:

- (a) Develop an action plan (part of the National Implementation Plans, NIPs)
- (b) Promote the application of available, feasible and practical measures to reduce or eliminate the releases
- (c) require the use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes to prevent the formation and release of the chemicals listed in Annex C
- (d) Promote, in accordance with its action plan, the use of best available techniques and best environmental practices

<https://www.pops.int/Implementation/BATandBEP/ReleasesfromunintentionalPOPs/Overview/tabid/9646/Default.aspx>



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ARTICLE 6

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes



Stockpiles consisting of or containing chemicals listed either in Annex A or Annex B and wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, consisting of, containing or contaminated with a chemical listed in Annex A, B or C, should be managed in a manner protective of human health and the environment

Each Party shall:

- (a) Develop strategies to identify stockpiles and products and articles consisting, containing or contaminated with POPs;
- (b) Manage POPs waste in an environmentally sound manner
- (c) Take appropriate measures so that such wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, are:
 - i. Handled, collected, transported and stored in an ESM
 - ii. Dispose the waste in such a way the POPs are destroyed or irreversibly transformed
 - iii. Not permitted to be subjected to disposal operations that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of persistent organic pollutants
 - iv. Not transported across international boundaries without taking into account relevant international rules, standards and guidelines

Stockholm Convention provisions



ARTICLE 6

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes

The Conference of the Parties shall cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to, inter alia:

- (a) Establish levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants as specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D are not exhibited; ([Destruction efficiency](#))
- (b) Determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal referred to above; ([ESM technologies](#)) and
- (c) Work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels of the chemicals
- (d) listed in Annexes A, B and C in order to define the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii). ([Low Pop Content Values](#))



191 Parties

<https://www.basel.int/>

Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with Persistent Organic Pollutants <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/POPsWastes/TechnicalGuidelines/tabid/5052/Default.aspx>

Stockholm Convention provisions



ARTICLE 6

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes

The Conference of the Parties shall cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to, inter alia:

e) Endeavour to develop appropriate strategies for identifying sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C; if remediation of those sites is undertaken it shall be performed in an environmentally sound manner.

Guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the management of sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants



<https://www.pops.int/Implementation/BATandBEP/POPscontaminatedsites/Overview/tabid/9648/Default.aspx>

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Annex A, Part II:

- **By 2025:** identify, label and remove from use PCB-containing equipment (transformers, capacitors, etc.)
- **By 2028:** environmentally sound management of PCB waste, including PCB-containing liquids and contaminated electric equipment.
- Identify and manage **other articles containing more than 0,005% (50ppm)** such as cable-sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects (open applications).



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Annex A, Part II:

- equipment containing greater than 10 per cent (100.000 ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 5 litres;
- equipment containing greater than 0.05 per cent (500ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 5 litres;
- equipment containing greater than 0.005 percent (50ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 0.05 litres;

Promote the following measures to reduce exposures and risk to control the use of polychlorinated biphenyls:

- (i) Use only in **intact and non-leaking equipment** and only in areas where the risk from environmental release can be minimised and quickly remedied;
- (ii) Not use in equipment in areas associated with the **production or processing of food or feed**;
- (iii) When used in populated areas, including **schools and hospitals**, all reasonable measures to protect from electrical failure which could result in a fire, and regular inspection of equipment for leaks;



Stockholm Convention provisions



ARTICLE 12 - Technical assistance

ARTICLE 13 - Financial resources and mechanisms

ARTICLE 7 - Implementation plans

ARTICLE 15 - Reporting

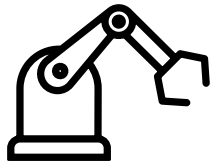
ARTICLE 16 - Effectiveness evaluation

ARTICLE 17 – Non-compliance

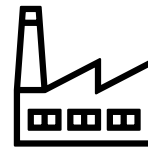
Ensuring PCB disposal



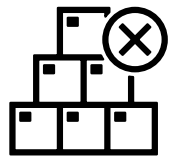
Challenges on PCB ESM



Need for enhanced capacities at all levels (technical, regulatory, etc.)



Lack of access to cost-effective disposal solutions



Incomplete PCB inventories



Sustainable funding

Strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals for PCB elimination



Actions required to meet the targets:

1. Phase-out the use of PCB equipment

- Develop and enforce **regulations** to prohibit production, import, recovery and use of PCBs in equipment, as well as export of PCBs for purposes other than their environmentally sound waste management,¹⁰ and develop the regulatory framework to establish the obligations and requirements at the national and local levels for identifying, labelling, and removing PCB-contaminated equipment and oil from use.
- Establish national, subnational, and local schemes for **environmental control and enforcement** to oversee the implementation of the regulations and monitor compliance.
- Develop national and local capacities for the **identification, sampling and testing of PCBs** following international quality standards.
- Develop a **national inventory** for the registration and monitoring of PCB-containing equipment and materials, where information on the status and quantities of contaminated equipment is collected and updated periodically.
- Set **provisions for phasing out and temporary or interim storage of contaminated equipment**, including equipment out of use intended for decontamination prior to its disposal.

Strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals for PCB elimination



Actions required to meet the targets:

2. Environmentally sound management of PCB waste

- Develop and **enforce regulatory policies** for the ESM of PCB waste, including provisions for transportation, storage, treatment, and elimination facilities, based on the best available techniques and best environmental practices.
- Strengthen local capacities for PCB management, including **treatment and elimination** of the different types of PCB waste (i.e. porous and non-porous materials), including the recovery and recycling of decontaminated materials (i.e. copper, aluminium, ferrous metals) when possible.
- Establish and review **national and local policies for environmental control and enforcement** to oversee the management of PCBs done by waste owners, transporters and disposal facilities.
- **Mainstream funding** to ensure sufficient resources are available to implement actions for the ESM of PCBs and to achieve the PCB elimination targets under the Stockholm Convention.
- Develop and periodically review the **national PCB management plans**.

Strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals for PCB elimination



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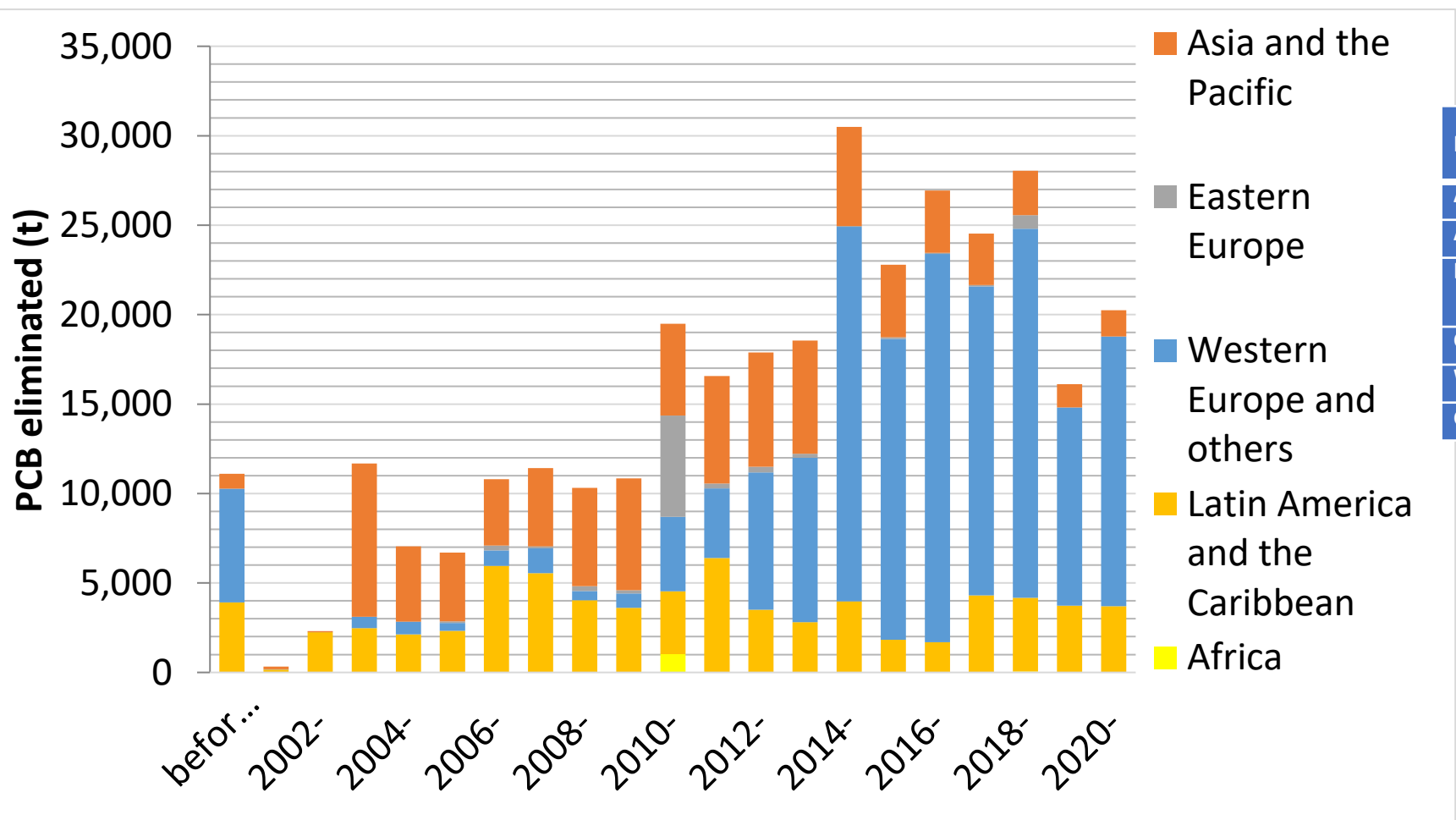
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Progress on PCB elimination: Local elimination

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11



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Region	NR3 (t)	NR4 (t)	NR5 (t)	Cumulative total (t)
Africa	1,033	1,080	1,033	1,088
Asia-Pacific	7,160	8,560	83,411	83,463
Eastern Europe	7,245	7,647	874	8,614
GRULAC	21,008	47,207	74,379	74,379
WEOG	11,946	78,511	149,394	165,760
Grand total	48,392	143,005	309,160	333,304

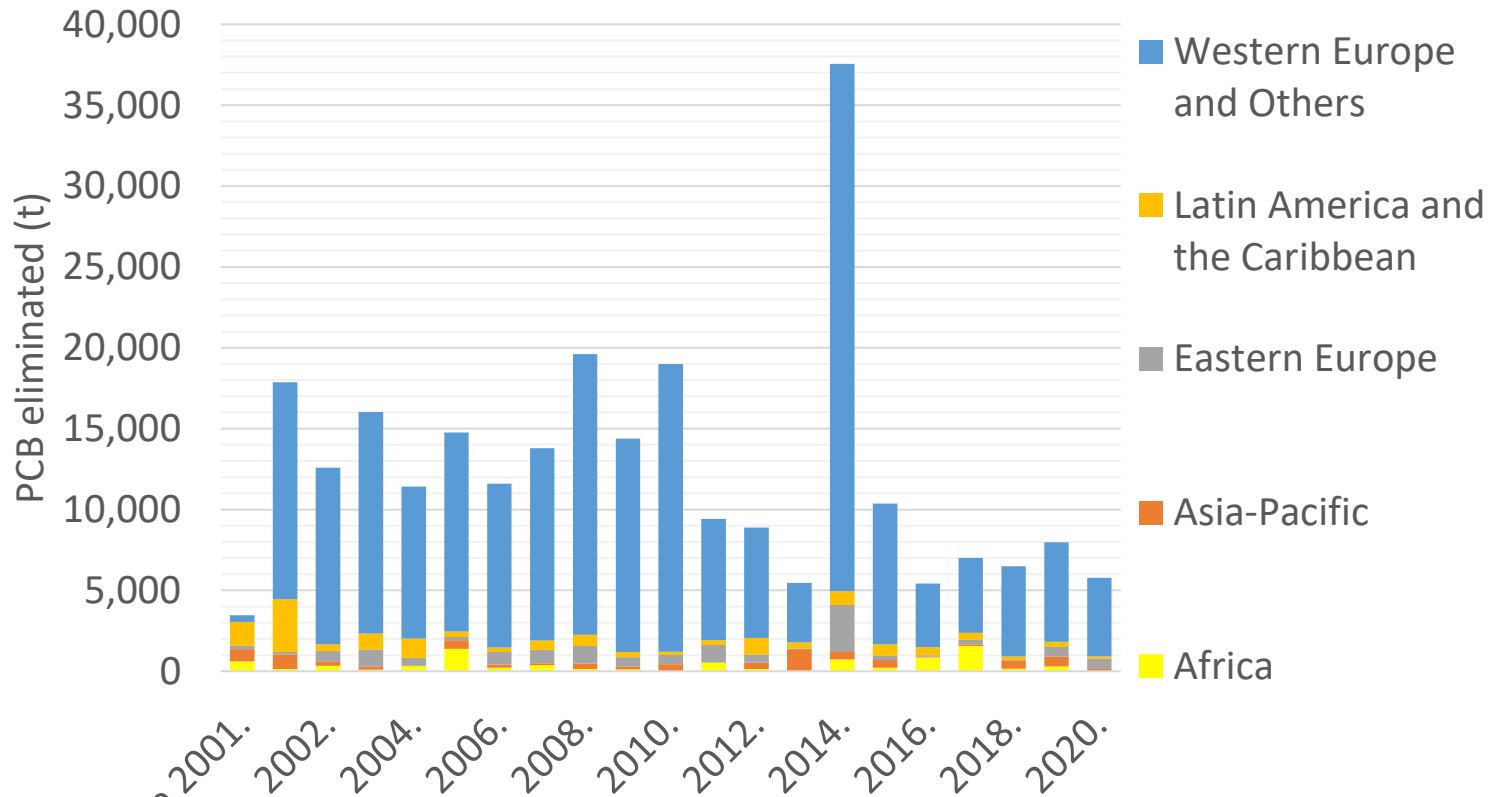
Only 41 countries have reported local capacities for PCB disposal.

Progress on PCB elimination: PCB waste exported for disposal

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11



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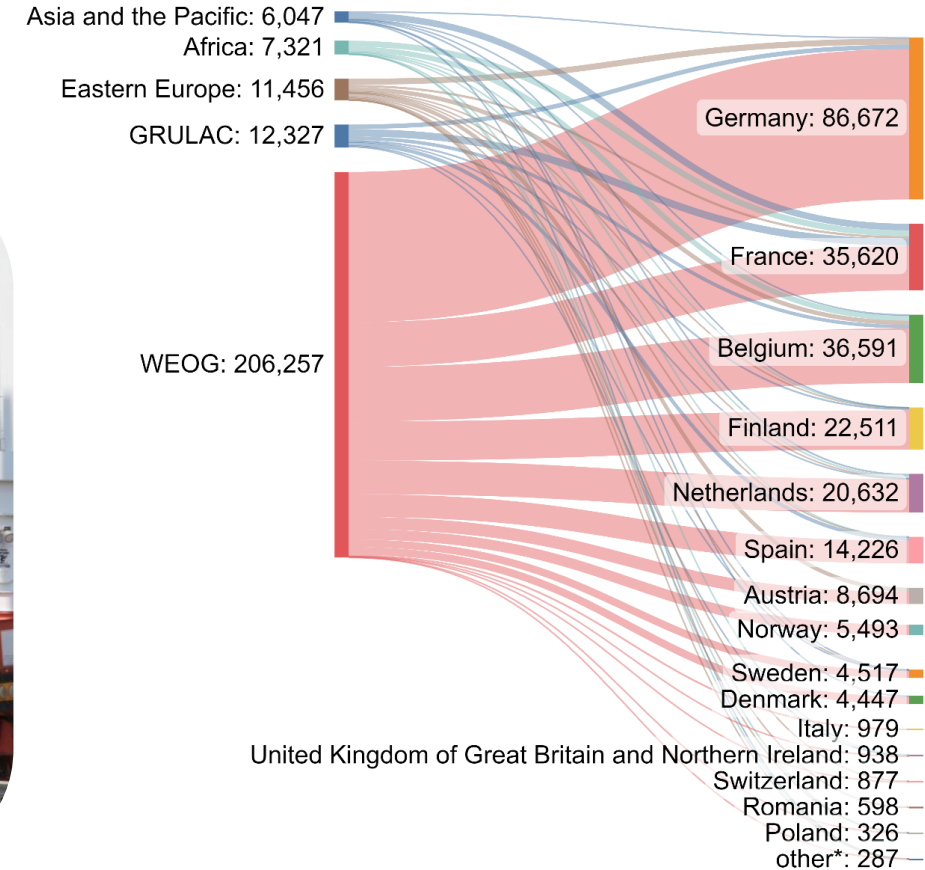
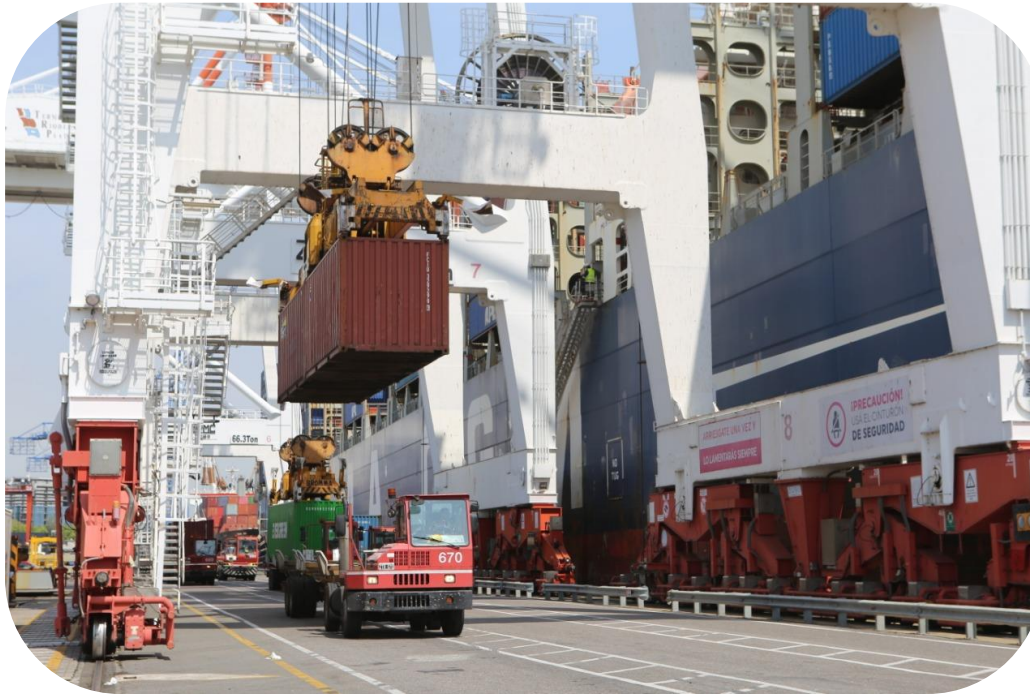


Region	SC and BC cumulative total (t)
Africa	8,305
Asia-Pacific	9,140
Eastern Europe	12,969
GRULAC	14,572
WEOG	214,950
Grand Total	259,902

Progress on PCB elimination

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11

- Exported PCB waste



The financial Mechanism



111 Projects, 120+ Parties supported:

- Enabling activities
- NIP developments / NIP updates (PCB inventories and action plans)
- PCB projects (regulatory frameworks, inventories, capacity building, technologies, disposal)
- POPs and hazardous chemicals projects



The Global Elimination Programme for PCBs (GEP-PCB, GEF ID 11749),

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/brs-conventions_stockholmconvention-pcb-pcbelimination-activity-7274469108912427011-XF Z?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

Mandate of the Conference of the Parties



Decisión SC-11/3. Urges Parties to:

Implement measures to **meet their obligations** under the Stockholm Convention, in particular to PCB in equipment and on their environmentally sound waste management, respectively;

To endeavour to identify articles containing more than 0.005 per cent PCB in **open applications**, such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects, and manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6;

To develop, update and maintain **national PCB inventories** following the guidance for the development of PCB inventories and analysis of PCB;

To report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures they have taken to implement part II of Annex A to the Convention, including quantitative information on PCB, in their **national reports** pursuant to Article 15

Encourages Parties to:

enhance synergies at the national level, with the focal points and competent authorities of the **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to ensure consistency in the information transmitted in national reports, as appropriate, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of PCB waste in line with the Basel Convention technical guidelines.

To continue promoting and facilitating the provision of **public information** and developing and implementing educational and public awareness programmes on persistent organic pollutants, including PCB.

Small Intersessional Working Group on PCB



Argentina
Armenia
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Cote d'Ivoire
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Iran
Japan
Republic of Moldova
Sweden
United Kingdom
Zimbabwe
UNEP
UNITAR
BCRC-Argentina
Center for Chemical safety (ECOMIR)
Hazardous Waste Europe

Activities:

- Updated guidance on PCB inventories
- Updated strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 targets on PCB under the Stockholm Convention
- Revised other relevant guidance documents
- Support to the PCB project implemented by the Secretariat
- Report on progress on PCB elimination to be developed by 2027

9th meeting from 15 to 17 October, Geneva

<https://www.pops.int/Implementation/IndustrialPOPs/PCB/SIWGonPCB/Overview/tabid/9725/Default.aspx>

Capacity building and technical assistance



“Global clean-up in view of meeting the 2025 and 2028 goals regarding PCB under the Stockholm Convention”

EU Commission – 2M USD

Project objective:

The Project’s objective is to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) by strengthening national capacities for environmentally sound management of PCB at the global scale in line with the 2025 and 2028 goals for the elimination of PCB under the Stockholm Convention.

¡Muchas gracias!



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programme**

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