

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

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**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Twelfth meeting**
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

**Draft report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its
twelfth meeting****Addendum****I. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties
(agenda item 4)**

[to be completed]

**II. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention
(agenda item 5)****A. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and
use****1. Exemptions**

1. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/4, which presented information on the current status of the registers of specific exemptions and acceptable purposes and notifications of chemicals occurring as constituents of articles and of production and use of chemicals as closed-system site-limited intermediates, and a draft decision on the matter.

2. She recalled, among other things, that, in accordance with Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention, all registrations of specific exemptions expired five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to a particular chemical, unless the Conference of the Parties, upon request from a Party concerned, in accordance with the review process adopted in decision SC-3/3 and amended in decisions SC-4/3 and SC-7/1, decided to extend the expiry date.

3. In line with those provisions, the Republic of Korea had submitted requests, which had been circulated to Parties in May 2024, for the extension of specific exemptions for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, as well as for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF). In September 2024, the Party had further clarified that it was requesting extensions only for exemptions for firefighting foam for liquid fuel vapor suppression and liquid fuel fires (Class B fires) in installed systems, including both mobile and fixed systems, for PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, in accordance with paragraph 2 of part X of Annex A, and for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, in accordance with paragraph 10 of part III of Annex B. Those specific exemptions were due to expire for the Republic of Korea on 2 June 2026, unless an extension was granted pursuant to paragraph 7 of Article 4.

4. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the revised review process, the Secretariat had prepared a report on the review of information relevant to the decision on the requests for the extension of specific exemptions, which was available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/7/Rev.1.
5. With regard to PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, in accordance with paragraph 3 of part X of Annex A, a review of specific exemptions for the use of perfluorooctyl iodide for the production of perfluorooctyl bromide for the purpose of producing pharmaceutical products was due to take place at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A request for relevant information was contained in decision SC-9/13, with a submission deadline of 1 December 2025.
6. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Republic of Korea said that the production of firefighting foams containing PFOS or PFOA had been prohibited in her country since 2012 and 2023, respectively, and all such firefighting foams had been replaced by alternatives in public fire stations. The Republic of Korea had estimated, however, in December 2024, that up to 1,700 tons of firefighting foam containing PFOS or PFOA remained in private facilities, including on hazardous material manufacturing sites, such as oil refineries. Recent amendments to national firefighting facility legislation allowed for the swift implementation of a mandatory self-inspection system for private facilities, and the Party would develop detailed replacement plans for such facilities to ensure the comprehensive removal of stockpiles of firefighting foam containing PFOS and PFOA, with the aim of withdrawing any extensions for specific exemptions before 2030. The Republic of Korea also asked Parties to share with it any relevant information if they were in a similar situation and any relevant experience they may have had in the phase-out of firefighting foam containing PFOS and PFOA.
7. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcoming the transparency and efforts of the Republic of Korea, said that the requests of the country for the extension of the specific exemptions were acceptable, although the exemptions should be as narrow as possible. Some representatives did not support the requests of the Republic of Korea, stressing the importance of not setting a precedent of extending exemptions, in particular in the light of the global efforts being made by developing countries towards the elimination and reduction of persistent organic pollutants and the fact that the requests were made by a developed country, noting that agreement to such requests could send the wrong message at the international level. They further noted the importance of strict adherence in working towards the elimination of persistent organic pollutants and the need for a focus on the transition to safer and more sustainable technologies.
8. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on the listing of chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to consider further the paragraph in the draft decision contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/4 regarding the requests for the extension of specific exemptions submitted by the Republic of Korea.
9. [to be completed]

2. DDT

10. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in line with paragraph 6 of part II of Annex B, the Conference of the Parties evaluated the continued need for DDT for disease vector control at each ordinary meeting and noted that, thanks to financial support provided by the European Union, the DDT expert group had prepared its report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control at its tenth meeting. The conclusions and recommendations of the expert group were set out in the annex to UNEP/POPS/COP.12/5, and document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/8 contained both the full report of the expert group and the draft revised DDT questionnaire. In line with decision SC-11/2, an intersessional process of consultations with Parties in the DDT register on a possible phase-out plan had continued through the DDT expert group, and a summary of that process was contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/8.
11. The Secretariat had received notifications from five Parties withdrawing from the DDT register pursuant to paragraph 7 of Part II of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention, namely Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.
12. A representative of UNEP presented the work carried out since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to implement the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT, as described in the UNEP report. He noted with regret that no new financial contributions had been made since 2013 but drew attention to activities contributing to road map implementation that were financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The implementation of the road map was falling short of what was required, and enhanced concerted action of the relevant actors at the global, regional and national levels, supported by additional and dedicated financial resources, was needed to achieve the objectives of the road map and the transition to DDT alternatives as soon as possible.

13. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, thanked the DDT expert group for its report.
14. While the prospect of a DDT phase-out was generally welcomed, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that several countries, notably African countries, continued to use DDT as part of their integrated vector management strategies and were therefore not currently in a position to withdraw from the register, in particular given the challenges posed by the increase in frequent extreme weather events and the high costs of alternatives.
15. Several representatives noted the importance of adequate funding, capacity-building and regional cooperation for countries to be able to make the transition away from DDT for vector control. One representative requested that a policy review be carried out for East Africa, as the most recent review had been carried out a decade earlier by UNEP and WHO.
16. Some representatives, speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the proposal to continue intersessional consultations through the DDT expert group with Parties in the DDT register. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored their appreciation of the efforts of Parties that had recently phased out DDT, encouraging others to follow their example. One representative drew attention to the significant reduction in global production and use of DDT, while another stressed that, given the ecotoxicological risks posed by DDT, it was critical that it be eradicated at the global level as soon as possible. One representative said that, although his country had made significant progress in reducing its reliance on DDT for vector control, it would not ban DDT until alternatives had proven to be effective and sustainable at the national level.
17. One representative underscored the importance of an evidence-based multifaceted strategy to combat malaria, noting that his country continued to explore innovative alternatives, such as the sterile insect technique and larvicides. Another representative drew attention to the successful use of insecticide-treated nets in her country. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged industry to invest in the development of alternatives to DDT.
18. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the sound management of obsolete stocks of DDT was essential for the prevention of harm to human health and the environment, and therefore urged all relevant Parties to ensure that their inventories were up to date. Another representative, noting that his country had safely disposed of almost half of its stockpiles of DDT, requested assistance from the international community to complete that critical task. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the adoption of the revised questionnaire and the proposal to alter the interval for submission of information on DDT to two years in order to align better with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
19. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/5.

3. Polychlorinated biphenyls

20. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documentation, including the information contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/6. He said that, in accordance with decision SC-11/3, the Republic of Moldova had served as lead country of the small intersessional working group on PCBs, and he thanked the European Union for its generous financial support, which had enabled the working group to meet three times online and once in person. The working group had assisted the Secretariat in preparing the updated guidance for the development of PCB inventories and determination of PCB content (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/10) and the revised strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals on PCBs of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/11).
21. Thanks to financial support from the European Union and France, the Secretariat had held regional workshops and launched pilot projects, thereby providing technical assistance and capacity-building and accelerating progress towards the achievement of the 2025 and 2028 goals regarding PCB elimination. Finally, he drew attention to a report on the activities of the PCB Elimination Network (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/12) and announced that, in December 2024, a new global elimination programme for PCBs had been launched by GEF, in collaboration with the World Bank and other implementing agencies.
22. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the small intersessional working group, the Secretariat, UNEP and the PCB Elimination Network for their work in support of Parties and the 2025 and 2028 goals, and acknowledged the Secretariat's updated guidance for the development of PCB inventories and determination of PCB content, and the revised strategy to meet the 2025 and 2028

goals on PCBs. One representative expressed the view that the updated guidance and the revised strategy should be considered further in a contact group. He suggested that it would be useful to have guidelines on the assessment of the hazardous properties of PCB and underscored the need for a unified approach to establishing low-content values of PCB.

23. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, outlined activities being carried out at the national level with a view to eliminating PCBs. A number of representatives expressed their appreciation for the financial and technical support provided in that endeavour, including by GEF and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). One representative voiced support for the incorporation of specific PCB action plans into national implementation plans, pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention.

24. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, highlighted the difficulties faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in carrying out all the actions required to inventory, monitor, report on and eliminate the use of PCBs in equipment and ensure the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with PCBs. They emphasized the urgent need for greater international cooperation, including sustained financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, capacity-building and monitoring mechanisms, to support developing countries in their efforts to meet the PCB objectives. One representative pointed out that developing countries lacked the resources and sustainable solutions needed to deal with legacy PCB-contaminated equipment. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries called upon Parties and stakeholders to increase support for developing countries, bearing in mind the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

25. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the approval of the GEF global elimination programme for PCBs, expressing the hope that it would support Parties in making substantive progress towards meeting the 2025 and 2028 deadlines. One representative sought information on how to participate in the programme.

26. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that consideration be given to extending the fast-approaching 2025 and 2028 PCB deadlines. One representative pointed out that countries experiencing conflict faced particular challenges in meeting those deadlines. Another representative highlighted the importance of allowing some flexibility so as to enable countries to achieve the objectives. One representative expressed concern about meeting the deadlines with regard to PCB-contaminated equipment and fluids, which were still being used in heavy equipment. Another representative, noting that such equipment was still in widespread use in hospitals, called for a specific and sufficient budget to be allocated in the new GEF programme to help Parties to replace contaminated equipment.

27. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that their countries had already succeeded in, or made significant progress towards, the elimination and sound disposal of PCBs and stood ready to share knowledge, exchange experiences and lessons learned, and provide technical assistance to other Parties.

28. A representative of UNEP outlined a number of projects and programmes being implemented by the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP to assist countries in the environmentally sound management and disposal of PCB waste and the replacement of PCB-contaminated equipment. She also described UNEP-led projects that were funded by GEF, including the Global Monitoring Plan for persistent organic pollutants, aimed at enhancing inventories, monitoring capacity and providing critical data on PCB trends in the environment. An initiative was under way to help countries to replace PCB-contaminated transformers with modern, PCB-free and energy-efficient transformers. Financial support was urgently needed to sustain the PCB Elimination Network, which had not received any specific contributions since May 2013, and to enable the full implementation of its workplan.

29. A representative of the World Bank announced that the first phase of the newly approved global elimination programme for PCBs, being led by the World Bank, in cooperation with GEF, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Development Bank, would cover six countries in Africa. The programme was aimed at PCB removal and treatment, as well as the modernization of the energy sector, including the replacement of PCB-contaminated transformers and other equipment, with a view to achieving the environmentally sound management of PCBs by 2028. Countries wishing to join a possible future phase of the programme could contact the World Bank.

30. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/6.

4. Brominated diphenyl ethers

31. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat, recalling that, in decision SC-10/8, the Conference of the Parties had decided to undertake an evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers at the current meeting, drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/7, on an evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, including a draft decision on the matter. The report on the evaluation and review, prepared thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union, was set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/13.
32. Regarding the draft decision on the matter, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that Parties should be required to review their continued need for registration for specific exemptions and provide such information to the Secretariat, in order to facilitate the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers. Another representative, noting the significant challenges faced by developing countries in particular in identifying persistent organic pollutants in products, articles and waste, suggested that Parties should be encouraged to share experience in managing recycled plastics and wastes containing brominated diphenyl ethers, including cost-effective methods suitable for developing countries, and to contribute to capacity-building efforts. The use of the specific exemption for the recycling of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers covered under the Stockholm Convention, as listed in Annex A in 2009, should be stopped as soon as possible.
33. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare an amended draft decision on the matter, taking into account the discussion in plenary.
34. [to be completed]

B. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

35. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/8, concerning guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, and drew attention to the draft decision set out therein.
36. Two expert meetings on best available techniques and best environmental practices had been held during the intersessional period. The experts had prepared or updated draft best available techniques and best environmental practices guidance for chemicals newly listed in Annex A to the Convention, in part thanks to financial support from Norway, and had updated two sections of the best available techniques and best environmental practices guidelines relevant to Article 5 and Annex C to the Convention, also with generous financial support from Norway. They had also finalized the draft guidance on the identification and management of sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants thanks to generous financial support from the European Union. All guidelines and guidance documents were available on the Convention's website.
37. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their appreciation for the work of the experts and indicated their support for the draft decision.
38. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored the importance of awareness-raising and technical assistance to support effective use of the toolkit and guidance, and requested enhanced support for his region to that end, as well as for the management of persistent organic pollutants, including site identification, assessment and clean-up. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the toolkit and the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practice were very important for achieving the Convention objectives of reducing or eliminating unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants, and encouraged all Parties and stakeholders to use them extensively.
39. The President suggested that Parties consider taking into account the ongoing consideration of the proposal by Ethiopia to amend the listing of UV-328, which could be of relevance to the workplan of the best available techniques and best environmental practice experts set out in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/8 and, to that end, proposed the text of an amendment to subsection 2 (b) of part A, on areas of work, in annex II to the document.
40. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/8, with subsection 2 (b) of part A, on areas of work, in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/8, as orally amended.

C. Implementation plans

41. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/10/Rev.1, on implementation plans, and drew attention to the draft decision set out therein.

42. She highlighted the work carried out by the Secretariat on updating existing guidance and developing new guidance on methoxychlor, Dieldrin Plus and UV-328 with financial support from the European Union and the government of Flanders of Belgium, and on organizing a regional workshop on reviewing and updating implementation plans with financial support from the European Union and Sweden. As part of a GEF project, the Secretariat had also collaborated in the development of an electronic template for quantitative and qualitative information, which was now available on the Stockholm Convention website for use by Parties. Further details were available in the related information documents.

43. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, acknowledged the importance of national implementation plans for the effective implementation of the Convention. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries welcomed the development of an electronic template to facilitate the submission of national implementation plans and the online course on preparing, reviewing and updating the plans, as well as the updated and new guidance, which she encouraged all Parties to use as extensively as possible to support the proper implementation of the Convention.

44. Some representatives spoke about their progress in developing or updating their implementation plans and expressed gratitude for the support provided by the Secretariat and GEF. Some others reported difficulties related to data gathering and analysis, inventory updates and management, laboratory capacity development and contaminated site management, and indicated the need for additional financial and technical support. One representative said that her country's experience in updating its national implementation plan had demonstrated that the fulfilment of that obligation, which required effective institutional coordination, the development of comprehensive inventories, the identification of viable alternatives and the availability of qualified human resources, was highly dependent on the provision of adequate means of implementation.

45. [to be completed]

D. Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention

1. Chlorpyrifos

46. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/12, which contained a recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list chlorpyrifos in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions, and a corresponding draft decision containing the text of the proposed amendment. Submissions by Parties relating to the recommendation were compiled in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/27.

47. During the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including a number who spoke on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for listing chlorpyrifos in Annex A with specific exemptions as recommended by the Committee. One representative, however, said that he did not support the recommendation, as there was no suitable alternative for the use of chlorpyrifos in his country. Several representatives highlighted the need for additional specific exemptions, including for pest control in cotton, cotton seeds, rice, sorghum, sugar cane and corn, as well as for construction and veterinary uses. General support was expressed for the establishment of a contact group to discuss the recommendation further, to clarify the exemption requests and transition processes. A number of representatives underscored the fact that maintaining food security in their countries was of the utmost importance, and others stressed the continuing need for technical and financial assistance and capacity-building in certain developing countries, including small island developing States, for the monitoring and management of persistent organic pollutants. Some representatives also drew attention to the fact that their countries had already banned chlorpyrifos at the national level.

48. The Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on the listing of chemicals under the Stockholm Convention, to be co-chaired by Timo Seppälä (Finland) and Lamin Jaiteh (Gambia), to prepare a draft decision on listing chlorpyrifos, based on the text provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/12 and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The Conference of the Parties noted that a draft decision on listing a chemical contained standard text for amending Annex A, B and/or C and that, if the contact group so wished, it could propose additional actions related to the chemical and prepare a supplementary draft decision.

49. [to be completed]

2. Chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight

50. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/13, which contained a recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions, and a corresponding draft decision containing the text of the proposed amendment. The Parties also had before them document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/24, setting out a compilation of comments received from Parties related to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee's recommendations to list chemicals in Annex A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention.

51. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the nominating Party, and others who had worked to gather data and produce the documentation on a very complex group of substances.

52. Many of the representatives who spoke expressed support for listing chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight, and the specific exemptions proposed, in Annex A to the Convention, and stated their agreement with the conclusion of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that the chemicals met the criteria for listing in Annex A. One representative said that the chemicals were widespread in nature at high levels, while others noted that significant adverse effects on human health and the environment had been observed.

53. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that medium-chain chlorinated paraffins of all chlorination levels should be addressed in the listing to avoid regrettable substitution and to facilitate enforcement, and indicated that further specific exemptions should be included for consideration, in the light of recent information on certain applications. One representative said that alternatives were available for each specific application of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins, although time-limited and narrowly defined exemptions might be necessary to allow a transition period for the implementation of alternatives. Another representative said that engagement with the World Customs Organization would help to clarify the administrative requirements related to customs tariffs on relevant chemicals. Several representatives said that developing countries and countries with economies in transition required technical and financial support for compliance-related activities, including data assessment, capacity-building for monitoring, research and the development of alternatives, and end-of-life disposal.

54. Several representatives expressed reservations about the listing of the chemicals in Annex A at the current time. One representative said that the information provided on bioaccumulation by concentration did not meet the criteria for listing, and emphasized the need for actual field data rather than experimental data. In addition, the issues of alternatives, adverse effects on health and the environment, and the broader use of chlorinated paraffins had not been sufficiently researched. Another representative said that industry representatives had reported difficulty in identifying products and articles containing chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight owing to the complexity of supply chains and the broad scope of the chemicals involved. More time was needed to collate information on potential exemptions. Another representative said that medium-chain chlorinated paraffins presented significant regulation challenges, given their complex composition and wide range of uses. In addition, the term "chlorinated paraffins" was in effect a commercial term that did not necessarily conform with the chemical definition, further complicating their identification and regulation. More time was needed to undertake further study on such issues. Another representative expressed concern at the current absence of affordable alternatives to assist developing countries in making the transition away from the listed chemicals.

55. The Conference of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter to the contact group on the listing of chemicals, with a mandate to prepare a draft decision on listing chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight, based on the text provided in paragraph 8 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/13, and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The Conference of the Parties noted that a draft decision on listing a chemical contained standard text for amending Annex A, B and/or C and that, if the contact group so wished, it could propose additional actions related to the chemical and prepare a supplementary draft decision.

56. [to be completed]

3. Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds

57. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/14, which contained a recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAs), their salts and related compounds in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions, a corresponding draft decision containing the text of the proposed amendment, and draft actions related to those chemicals, including a process for establishing an indicative list of substances covered by the listing of long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds.

58. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives expressed support for listing long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, and the specific exemptions proposed, in Annex A to the Convention, and stated their agreement with the conclusion of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that the chemicals met the criteria for listing in Annex A. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the proposal to establish an indicative list of substances covered by the listing of long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, given the rising global concern at the levels of pollution by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and stressed the importance of avoiding the substitution of long-chain PFCAs with other PFAS substances. One representative said that the recommendation of the Committee on long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds demonstrated the ability of the Committee to regulate large groups of chemicals, and indicated the robustness and flexibility of the Convention in that regard.

59. One representative said that further scientific research was required to establish whether long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds met the criteria for inclusion in Annex A, including in such areas as the degree of hazard to the environment; the potential hazards of alternatives; and the availability of viable alternatives. Another representative said that a further review should be carried out on the identification of related compounds, including long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acid-related compounds and PFOA-related compounds, to ensure the consistency in the application of control measures.

60. The Conference of the Parties agreed, with regard to the draft decisions set out in paragraph 6 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/14, to refer further discussion of the matter to the contact group on the listing of chemicals, with a mandate to prepare a draft decision on listing long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, based on the text provided in section A of paragraph 6 of document 14 and taking into account the discussion in plenary; and with a mandate to prepare a draft decision on actions related to long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, based on the text provided in section B of paragraph 6 of document 14 and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The Conference of the Parties noted that a draft decision on listing a chemical contained standard text for amending Annex A, B and/or C and that, if the contact group so wished, it could propose additional actions related to the chemical and prepare a supplementary draft decision.

61. [to be completed]

4. Developments in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

62. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/11, including the draft decision set out therein. She also drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/6, containing the curricula vitae of candidates nominated for appointment during the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, and document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/64, which set out updated indicative lists of substances covered by the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, and a draft indicative list of long-chain PFCAs (PFCAs), their salts and related compounds. She recalled that, in addition to appointing the Committee's members, the Conference of the Parties was also expected to elect its new Chair.

63. Peter Dawson, Chair of the Committee, reported on the technical work carried out by the Committee during the most recent intersessional period. The Committee had concluded its consideration of, and adopted the risk profiles and risk management evaluations for, three chemicals, namely chlorpyrifos, chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight, and long-chain PFCAs, their salts and related compounds. Pursuant to a proposal by Switzerland, polybrominated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins and dibenzofurans and mixed polybrominated/chlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins and dibenzofurans were currently under consideration by the Committee. He emphasized the importance of the effective participation of all Parties and observers in the work of the Committee, which relied on the information it received in drawing up risk profiles and risk management evaluations.

64. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the role played by the Committee and its Chair. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the Conference of the Parties request the Committee, at its twenty-first meeting, to identify an interim Chair to preside over the Committee's twenty-second meeting, and that the Conference of the Parties should decide to consider the election of the Chair of the Committee at its thirteenth meeting.

65. One representative praised the Committee's report on options for identifying persistent organic pollutants in stockpiles, products and articles in use, as well as in wastes, which was set out in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/26. She noted that the report highlighted the need for concerted global actions to ensure transparency and traceability throughout value chains. Another representative called for time to be devoted to discussing some of the ideas and possible solutions mentioned in the report, which included a globally harmonized digital product passport. In particular, it would be helpful to consider what steps, if any, could be taken by the Committee or other bodies to develop the ideas further. Another representative requested the publication, for ease of sharing, of the document on long-range environmental transport, which was set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.19/INF/14/Rev.1.

66. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to organize training workshops for new members of the Committee, with one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, calling for such efforts to continue. One representative underscored the need for interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations at the Committee's meetings and the importance of taking into account socioeconomic considerations in accordance with Annex F to the Convention. Another representative highlighted the need for technical support and capacity-building in developing countries with regard to the listing of chemicals, while a third sought clarification of the criteria by which the Committee determined the accessibility of alternatives to chemicals considered for listing. In response, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, according to the format for collecting information on Annex F from Parties and observers, "accessibility" referred to the extent to which geographic, legal or other limiting factors affected whether an alternative could be used.

67. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/11, as orally amended.

68. [to be completed]

5. **Proposal to amend Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

69. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/31, the annex to which set out a proposal by Ethiopia to amend the listing of UV-328, and related Part XII, in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. She reported that, on 18 January 2025, the Secretariat had received a further communication from the Government of Ethiopia providing additional rationale, information on use and an updated proposal to amend the listing of UV-328. The communication was set out in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/70. In line with paragraph 2 of Article 21 and paragraphs 3 (a) and 4 of Article 22 of the Convention, any amendments to Annex A were to be adopted at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

70. The representative of Ethiopia introduced a conference room paper setting out a revised proposal to amend Annex A to the Convention. She summarized the rationale detailed in Annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/70 and explained that the revised proposal reflected an updated, narrowed and more precise understanding of where the limited presence of two uses of UV-328 continued to be required in civilian and military aircraft production. She said that she would be pleased to discuss the proposal further in a contact group.

71. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed concern regarding the amendment, including several who said that it might set a dangerous precedent and undermine the integrity of the Convention, including, as some noted, by paving the way for further post-listing exemptions that had not been rigorously studied by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

72. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the exceptional and complex nature of the situation that had given rise to the proposal. A number of representatives supported the proposal, citing the need to balance environmental and human health concerns with consideration for the unique challenges, capacities and developmental priorities of the Parties; the importance of being flexible, dynamic, adaptable and pragmatic in implementing the

Convention; the desirability of ensuring compliance with the Convention; and the lack of viable alternatives to UV-328 for the applications proposed as a new specific exemption. A number of other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that any amendment should not compromise the long-term success of the Convention or weaken the progress already made thereunder, with some saying that it should be as specific and time-limited as possible and one noting that it should avoid opening the door to broader interpretations of the Convention.

73. One representative expressed a desire to better understand the scope and likely consequences of the proposed amendment, while another pointed out that, since any amendment would not enter into force for a year following written notification to the Depository, interim measures would be required to enable affected Parties to comply with the Convention, potentially through an “interim opt-in” system. One representative noted the particular challenges faced by developing countries that lacked the regulatory and monitoring capacity to identify UV-328.

74. There was general support expressed for pursuing the discussion in a contact group.

75. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties agreed to add to the mandate of the contact group on the listing of chemicals the consideration of the proposal by Ethiopia to amend Annex A to the Convention regarding UV-328, as set out in the conference room paper submitted by Ethiopia, and to prepare any necessary draft decision on the matter.

76. [to be completed]

E. Reporting pursuant to Article 15

77. [to be completed]

F. Effectiveness evaluation

78. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat highlighted the information in notes by the Secretariat on the effectiveness evaluation pursuant to Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/20) and on the Global Monitoring Plan for the effectiveness evaluation (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/21).

79. In relation to the effectiveness evaluation, he recalled that the Secretariat had prepared an interactive web-based version of the report of the second effectiveness evaluation in order to improve the accessibility and visibility of key findings while enhancing user engagement. He also recalled that the Conference of the Parties had decided, at its eleventh meeting, to initiate the process for the third effectiveness evaluation at its twelfth meeting.

80. In relation to the Global Monitoring Plan, he said that the global coordination group and regional organization groups for the implementation of the fourth phase of the Global Monitoring Plan had developed updated guidance on the Global Monitoring Plan, regional strategies and recommendations for the implementation of the fourth phase.

81. UNEP continued to support the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan, including through the development of a new project funded by GEF, namely the global chemicals monitoring programme to support global monitoring for the Stockholm and Minamata conventions, as outlined in the note by Secretariat on the matter (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/73).

82. In the ensuing discussion, some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the draft decisions on the effectiveness evaluation and the Global Monitoring Plan. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they looked forward to the third effectiveness evaluation, which would take into account the recommendations set out in the report on the second evaluation. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the interactive online version of the report of the second effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. One of the representatives said that there remained a need to further strengthen the financial and technical support offered to developing countries to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

83. Some representatives applauded the efforts under the Global Monitoring Plan to address regional data gaps, with one expressing appreciation for the expansion of the project supporting the Plan to include additional countries in her region. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries welcomed the work done on guidance for the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan and expressed support for the further development of the Plan. One representative welcomed the cooperation with the Minamata Convention under the Plan, while another said that he looked forward to potential cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the implementation of

the UNEP chemicals monitoring programme. She called for training and capacity-building assistance for implementation at the national level and to ensure sustainability.

84. A representative of UNEP explained that the organization continued to support the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan through data generation and capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. She said that, in 2024, under the Global Monitoring Plan, UNEP had completed the second phase of GEF-funded projects in 42 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, which had provided substantial data on air and water to the Global Monitoring Plan data warehouse. The UNEP–World Health Organization (WHO) human milk survey had also served as a major source of data on human exposure to persistent organic pollutants.

85. With regard to the global chemical monitoring programme under development, she explained that \$23.5 million in GEF contributions and \$65.5 million in co-financing would be allocated to the programme to support the global monitoring of persistent organic pollutants and mercury. The programme marked the first consolidated effort to carry out global monitoring of persistent organic pollutants and mercury in various regions simultaneously.

86. In relation to the effectiveness evaluation, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/20. In relation to the Global Monitoring Plan, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/21.

G. Compliance

[continued]

87. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that compliance was crucial for the successful implementation of the Convention by all Parties. Some of those representatives, including the one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed specific support for the work programme of the Compliance Committee. Another representative highlighted the important opportunity for the newly established Compliance Committee of the Stockholm Convention to draw on the valuable experience of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention and the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention.

88. Some representatives said that they considered the Stockholm Convention compliance mechanism to be a tool for understanding the challenges faced by Parties in implementing their obligations under the Convention and for strengthening the Convention itself. One of them proposed that the Compliance Committee draw up an estimate of the costs associated with the full implementation of the Convention, including the development and updating of national implementation plans and inventories, environment and human monitoring, reporting, waste management and standard operating procedures, the maintenance of electronic systems, and human and administrative resources. Such a survey could provide input for decision-making under the Convention, contributing to a better understanding of national capacities and the development of more effective international cooperation strategies. The other representative explained that, since becoming a Party to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, her country had taken major steps to improve chemical and environmental safety, both with the support of partners and on its own. Despite the progress it had achieved, however, her country, like many others, still faced challenges, particularly in terms of stable financing and sufficient capacities in terms of the disposal of waste persistent organic pollutants. She expressed concern about some Parties' ability to meet the 2025 deadline for the elimination of PCB in equipment and proposed that the compliance mechanism be used to find an appropriate and equitable solution. She called for constructive and realistic dialogue on such important matters.

89. The Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on compliance matters, to be co-chaired by Sonja Dünnwald (Germany) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), to consider further the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/12, taking into account the discussion in plenary, and to develop a work programme for the biennium 2026–2027, based on the elements set out in paragraph 7 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/12, taking into account the discussion in plenary and bearing in mind the discussions under other relevant agenda items to ensure coherence.

90. [to be completed]

III. Other matters (agenda item 10)

91. [to be completed]

IV. Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 11)

92. [to be completed]

V. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

93. [to be completed]
