



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Ninth meeting**

Geneva, 29 April–10 May 2019

Item 5 (a) (iii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional
production and use: polychlorinated biphenyls**

Report on the activities of the polychlorinated biphenyls elimination network

Note by the Secretariat

As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on polychlorinated biphenyls (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6), the annex to the present note sets out a report on the activities of the polychlorinated biphenyls Elimination Network, prepared by the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1.

Annex



Report by UN Environment on Implementation of the Polychlorinated biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN)

Document prepared by:

UN Environment, Economy Division
Chemicals and Health Branch, Knowledge and Risk Unit
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland

Email: science.chemicals@un.org

Website: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pcb-elimination-network>

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Executive summary

1. Introduction

2. Present Status of the PEN

- 2.1. Membership
- 2.2. Advisory Committee
- 2.3. Thematic Groups
- 2.4. Financial matters and workplan

3. Meetings and PEN related activities

- 3.1. Advisory committee meeting
- 3.2. Awareness Raising
- 3.3. Project proposal on POPs in Open Applications

4. Other PCB related activities

- 4.1. GEF projects on PCB implemented by UN Environment
- 4.2. GEF projects on PCB implemented by other agencies

Annex I: Online meeting with the Advisory Committee of the PCB Elimination Network

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BRS Secretariat	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
COP	Conference of the Parties
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRULAC	Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PEN	PCB Elimination Network
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SIWG	Small Intersessional Working Group on PCB
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WEOG	Western Europe and Other Groups

Executive summary

Since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, the PCB Elimination Network, has been active in providing tools to assist in PCB identification, developing inventories and phase out.

During the last biennium, the PEN gained in new memberships and managed to fill three new positions of its the Advisory Committee

The PEN developed and published new awareness raising materials and updated PEN and PCB related webpages of the UN Environment website.

The financial basis for the operation of the PEN continues to remain weak. However, several Global Environmental Facility funded PCB related projects have been and are being assisting parties towards meeting their Convention obligations, while facilitate achieving the objectives of the PEN. UN Environment coordinated and developed a project proposal on POPs in open application of which PCB is one of the main components contributing to achieve the objectives of the PEN.

The PEN secretariat and several PEN Advisory Committee members have actively participated in the Small Intersessional Working Group on PCBs established by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, and implemented by the BRS Secretariat, with the objective to prepare a report on progress towards the eliminations of PCB to be presented for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1. Introduction

Pursuant to decisions SC-8/3 on polychlorinated biphenyls of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch has continued serving as the PCB Elimination Network Secretariat and undertaken activities to facilitate implementing the network and assisting Parties to the Stockholm Convention towards fulfilling their obligations on this topic. By the same decision, the Secretariat of the PEN was invited to report to its next meeting on the activities of the PEN. The following is an overview of the activities undertaken to date, including the current status of the PEN.

2. Present Status of the PEN

2.1 Membership

Since the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, few new members to the PEN and six new members to the Advisory Committee of the PEN were welcomed. As of January 2018, the PEN has a total of 452 members.

The revised PEN membership form is available in all UN languages and can be found in UN Environment website¹.

2.2 Advisory Committee

Revisions to the Terms of Reference² of the PEN Advisory Committee, adopted at the 7th meeting of the Advisory Committee was published.

The two new membership position established for the Regional Centres of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions were filled with:

- Mr. Anton Purnomo from the regional centres of BCRC-SCRC Indonesia and
- Mr. Abdelkader Fergui from the National Centre for Cleaner Technologies Production, Algeria.

The new representatives of regional centres were selected by the PEN Secretariat upon an indication of interest by the centres through a letter. During the selection, experience on PCB related issues and regional distribution were taken into account.

Additionally, the following four new members were selected to the PEN advisory committee, including two members nominated by the Bureau of the Stockholm Convention from respective regions.

- Mr. Agustin Harte - GRULAC Region;
- Mr. Richard C. Hawkins - WEOG Region;
- Mr. Nelson Manda - UNITAR, representing the Intergovernmental Organizations;
- Mr. Jacque Ledure - Suez PCB Decontamination, Industry.

In accordance with the revised Terms of Reference, one seat still remains vacant within the Western Europe and Other Groups.

See Figure 1 below for the full list of PEN Advisory Committee members.

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pcb-elimination-network>

² <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/27371>

Advisory Committee of the PCB Elimination Network (PEN)				
Party-Nominated Members			Other Stakeholders	
Region	Country	Name	Category	Name
Africa (2)	Nigeria	Stella Uchenna Mojekwu	Industry (1)	Hugues Levasseur, Hazardous Waste Europe
	Rwanda	Aloys Kamatari	PCB holders (1)	Jacques Ledure, Suez PCB Decontamination
Asia and Pacific (2)	China	Jinhui Li	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) (1)	Claudia Cabal, Administración Nacional de Usinas y Transmisiones Eléctricas (UTE)
	Iran	Sanaz Jafarzadeh	Experts (1)	Lee Bell, International POPs Elimination Network (POPs)
Eastern European Group (2)	Moldova	Ion Barbarasa	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat (1)	Urs K. Wagner, Environmental Technology International (ETI)
	Romania	Mihaela Claudia Paun	Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) (2)	Kei Ohno, BRS Secretariat
Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) (2)	Costa Rica	Anna Ortiz		Alfredo Cueva, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
	Argentina	Agustin Harte	Stockholm and/or Basel Conventions Regional Centres (SCRC/BCRC) (2)	Nelson Manda, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG) (2)	United Kingdom	Richard C. Hawkins		Anton Purnomo, Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia in Indonesia (BCRC-SCRC Indonesia)
	Vacant			Abdelkader Fergui, National Centre for Cleaner Technologies Production (NCCTP), Algeria
Secretariat of the PEN	UN Environment			Jacqueline Alvarez

Chair of the Advisory Committee: As agreed at sixth meeting of the advisory committee, Ms. Anna Ortiz continue to serve as Chair including at its seventh meeting.

2.3 Thematic Groups

During the reporting period, the leads and co-leads of the Thematic Groups of the PEN have remained unchanged as follows:

Thematic Groups on:	Lead by:	Co-leads:
Inventories	Mr. Jinhui Li	Mr. Ion Barbarasa Mr. Aloys Kamatari
Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB	Ms. Anna Ortiz	WEOG representative invited
Disposal of PCB and Remediation of Contaminated Sites	Lead - Mr. Hugues Levasseur	Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh
Open Applications of PCB	Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun	Mr. Urs K. Wagner

2.4 Financial matters and workplan

The financial basis for the operation of the PEN and for the implementation of workplan adopted by the advisory committee continue to remain weak. No specific contributions to the work on PCB and the PEN have been received since May 2013.

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch, the BRS Secretariat and the members of the Advisory Committee have supported the PEN with substantial in-kind contributions.

3. Meetings and PEN related activities

3.1 Advisory Committee meeting

An online meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PEN was held on 20 April 2018 in order to welcome the new member to the Advisory Committee and to take a stock of the work that had been undertaken by the different members.

The notes of the online meeting are set out the appendix to this document and can also be found in UN Environment website³.

3.2. Awareness Raising

A brochure and a video on PCB were developed and made available through the UN Environment webpage⁴.

The **brochure** contains an introduction to the major PCB related issues, and information on specific themes such as PCB in open applications, efforts made towards elimination of PCB and case studies.



The Video provides a general introduction into the global issue of PCB and the progress made toward elimination of PCB. The video is in English language.

- ***New PCB and PEN webpages***

The two webpages dedicated for PCB and PEN under the UN Environment website have been updated to include new information and improved their visual outlook to facilitate enhanced communication. Following are the links to respective webpages:

- **PCB a forgotten legacy?**
Web Link: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pcb-forgotten-legacy>
- **PCB Elimination network**
Web Link: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pcb-elimination-network>

3.3 Project proposal on POPs in Open Applications

As part of the in-kind contributions, UN Environment with the support of UNITAR, a project proposal on POPs in Open Applications was developed for consideration by the Global Environment Facility. PCB has been included in the project proposal as one of the main components. Overall objective of the project proposal is to:

- Assess the global situation of POPs in open applications;

³<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pcb-elimination-network>

⁴<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/video/polychlorinated-biphenyls-forgotten-legacy>

- Draft guidance and methodologies to identify their sources;
- Generate reliable data that will allow the development of sound planning and policies to manage POPs in open applications; and
- Develop a global strategy to address related issues.

4. Other PCB related activities

In addition to its functions as the Secretariat of the PEN, the UN Environment, through its other chemicals and waste related activities, have contributed towards meeting the objectives of the PEN while facilitating the parties to meet their Convention mandates.

4.1. GEF projects on PCB implemented by UN Environment

UN Environment recently completed the project on Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans in African Least Developed Countries of the Economic Community of West African States Member states subregion⁵. This project successfully disposed of almost 1,200 tonnes of PCB-contaminated waste from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The project also developed a Regional Guideline on the Environmentally Sound Management of PCB wastes which was instituted into legislation in nine countries, including development of PCB management elements into utilities' quality and environmental management systems.

- *SADC PCB Project*⁶

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch is currently implementing project in Southern African countries (SADC) for the disposal of PCB oils contained in transformers and disposal of capacitors containing PCB. The project is executed by the Stockholm Convention regional centre, Africa Institute. It aims to manage over 4,000 tonnes of PCB-contaminated waste in an environmentally sound manner, covering 12 countries. Since May 2017 partners have inventoried PCB-containing equipment in the electrical utilities and started developing disposal plans. The project has also provided training for customs and inspection services for POPs identification and control.

- *PCB Reduction in Cameroon*⁷

UN Environment is implementing a similar project in Cameroon with direct execution from the Ministry of Environment Protection and Sustainable Development. This project aims to manage 1,800 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment. Since 2016, have inventoried PCB-containing equipment in the electrical utilities and started developing disposal plans. The project has also provided training for customs and inspection services for POPs identification and control.

- *POPs Global Monitoring Plan*

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch execute the implementation of POPs Global Monitoring Plan projects, in 43 countries, to strengthen the capacities to monitor POPs, including PCB in selected metrics. More information about the Global Monitoring Plan is available at UN Environment website⁸.

Additionally, several PCB related projects (e.g. Chile and Peru PCB mining project, PCB Reduction in Cameroon Through the use of Local Expertise and the Development of National Capacities) have been implemented in the past and already reported to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention by UN Environment in former reports⁹.

4.2 Contributions by PEN Secretariat other PCB related activities

UN Environment participated at the **Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) on PCB Workshop, Prague, Czech Republic, December 2018** and contributed to the work towards finalizing its report to the night meeting of Conference of the parties to the Stockholm Convention, that is schedule for the 29 April to 10 May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

⁵ <https://www.thegef.org/project/afldc-capacity-strengthening-and-technical-assistance-implementation-stockholm-convention-1>

⁶ <https://www.thegef.org/project/disposal-pcb-oils-contained-transformers-and-disposal-capacitors-containing-pcb-southern>

⁷ <https://www.thegef.org/project/pcb-reduction-cameroon-through-use-local-expertise-and-development-national-capacities>

⁸ <http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/science-and-risk/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops/pops-monitoring>

⁹ [UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/11](https://www.unep.org/POPS/COP.8/INF/11).

4.2. GEF projects on PCB implemented by other agencies

Presented below is a compilation of PCB related GEF projects¹⁰ implemented by other agencies:

- PCB Management in Ethiopia to Meet the 2025 Stockholm Convention Deadline - Phase 1- Implemented by UNDP;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of (PCBS) in the Republic of South Africa. Development Bank of Southern Africa;
- Capacity Building for PCBs and U-POPs in The Gambia - Implemented by UNDP;
- Strengthening the Environmentally-sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs in Paraguay - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of PCBs in Nigeria - Implemented by UNDP;
- PCB-Free Electricity Distribution in Georgia - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Destruction of PCBs in Mexico: Second Phase - Implemented by UNDP;
- Implementation of PCB Management Programs for Electric Cooperatives and Safe e-wastes Management in Philippines - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Comprehensive Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs in Montenegro - Implemented by UNDP;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) - Containing Equipment and Disposal of DDT Wastes, and Upgrade of Technical Expertise in Guatemala - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally Sound Management of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) - Containing Equipment and Wastes and Upgrade of Technical Expertise in Bolivia - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs in Congo - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of PCBs Wastes and PCB Contaminated Equipment in Sri Lanka - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of PCBs in the Power and Non-Power Sector in Iran - Implemented by UNDP;
- Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs at the Russian Railroad Network and Other PCB Owners - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally-Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs in Serbia - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Environmentally-sound Development of the Power Sector with the Final Disposal of PCBs in Bangladesh - Implemented by UNIDO;
- PCB Management and Disposal at the Energy Sector in Lao PDR - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Integrated PCB Management in Costa Rica - Implemented by UNDP;
- Introduction of an Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal System for PCBs Wastes and PCB Contaminated Equipment in Indonesia - Implemented by UNIDO;
- Development of National Capacity for the Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of PCBs in Colombia - Implemented by UNDP.

¹⁰ <https://www.thegef.org/projects>

Appendix



Online meeting with the Advisory Committee of the PCB Elimination Network (PEN)

20 April 2018, 14:00 – 15:00 (Geneva time, GMT +02:00)

In preparation for the seventh PEN Advisory Committee meeting

Participants: Yuan Chen (On behalf of Jinhui Li, China), Sanaz Jafarzadeh (Iran), Ion Barbarasa (Moldova), Anna Ortiz (Costa Rica), Richard Hawkins (United Kingdom), Hugues Levasseur (Industry), Jacques Ledure (Industry), Claudia Caval (PCB holder), Lee Bell (NGO, IPEN), Kei Ohno-Woodall (BRS Secretariat), Nelson Manda (IGO, UNITAR), Anton Purnomo (BCRC-SCRC Indonesia), Victor Estellano (UN Environment).

Agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting
3. Welcome to the new members of the Advisory committee of the PEN
4. Opportunity to share information and comments (including taking stock of work plan)
5. Next steps
6. Closure of the online meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The secretariat of the PEN:

Opening remarks were provided and they included the objectives of the online meeting and perspectives on future activities of the PEN. The main objectives of the meeting were: a) to introduce the new members and to confirm the membership of the Advisory committee, and b) to provide updates of the activities regarding PCB in the different Regions

2. Welcome to the new members of the Advisory committee of the PEN

The Secretariat of the PEN introduced the new configuration of the Advisory committee and showed how the Advisory Committee is conformed as to April 2018.

Advisory Committee of the PCB Elimination Network (PEN)				
Party-Nominated Members			Other Stakeholders	
Region	Country	Name	Category	Name
Africa (2)	Nigeria	Stella Uchenna Mojekwu	Industry (1)	Hugues Levasseur, Hazardous Waste Europe
		Rwanda	Aloys Kamatari	PCB holders (1)
Asia and Pacific (2)	China	Jinhui Li	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) (1)	Claudia Cabal, Administración Nacional de Usinas y Transmisiones Eléctricas (UTE)
	Iran	Sanaz Jafarzadeh	Experts (1)	Lee Bell, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)
Eastern European Group (2)	Moldova	Ion Barbarasa	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat (1)	Urs K. Wagner, Environmental Technology International (ETI)
	Romania	Mihaela Claudia Paun	Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) (2)	Kei Ohno, BRS Secretariat
Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) (2)	Costa Rica	Anna Ortiz		Alfredo Cueva, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
	Argentina	Agustin Harte	Stockholm and/or Basel Conventions Regional Centres (SCRC/BCRC) (2)	Nelson Manda, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG) (2)	United Kingdom	Richard C. Hawkins		Anton Purnomo, Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia in Indonesia (BCRC-SCRC Indonesia)
	Vacant			Abdelkader Fergui, National Centre for Cleaner Technologies Production (NCCTP), Algeria
Secretariat of the PEN	UN Environment		Jacqueline Alvarez	

The secretariat, explained that according to the Terms of References, approved in the seventh meeting of the Advisory Committee, held in December 2016 in Asunción, Paraguay, the new Nomination of new members can be submitted no later than 2 months after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention throughout the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

After the process of nomination some of the members were re-elected and new members were nominated and finally confirmed. In total 6 new members were included in the Advisory Committee, 4 of the new members participated to the online meeting.

The secretariat of the PEN asked the new members to introduce themselves.

- Mr. Anton Purnomo on behalf of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre Indonesia, introduced himself.
- Mr. Richard C. Hawkins from United Kingdom introduced himself as one of the representatives for the WEOG region.
- Mr. Nelson Manda on Behalf of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), introduced himself as one of the representatives for Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO).

-
- d) Mr. Jacques Ledure from Suez PCB Decontaminations based in Belgium, introduced himself as one of the representative of the Industry.
 - e) The secretariat of the PEN introduced Mr. Agustin Harte from Argentina and representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).
 - f) The secretariat of the PEN introduced the Regional Center of the Stockholm convention for North African Countries based in Algeria, represented by Abdelkader Fergui.
 - g) The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) represented by International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) has changed representative and is going to be represented by Mr. Lee Bell. Mr. Bell introduced himself.

3. Opportunity to share information and comments (including taking stock of work plan)

The secretariat of the PEN informed that the awareness raising materials with the brochure and the video on PCB are already finished and were presented in the COP-8. The video can be watched and the Brochure downloaded throughout the UN Environmental web-page.

For the video, you can use the following link: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops>

The Brochure can be downloaded using the following link:

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20786/PCB%20Brochure%20%282017%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

At its eighth meeting, the COP to the Stockholm Convention requested the establishment of a small intersessional working (SIWG) group on PCB. The SIWG have been requested to prepare a report on progress towards the elimination of PCB.

SC COP-8: decision SC-8/3 on PCB

Ms. Kei Ohno-Woodall from the BRS secretariat briefed about the SIWG. She explained the Terms of References and the objectives of the SIWG. The SIWG is composed by experts designated from each UN Regions, and by other observer experts. So far, the SIWG had meet two times. During the last online meeting it was presented the Milestones of the report and the draft of the Questions to be included in the BRS online survey to be sent to Parties of the Stockholm Convention. The final report would be prepared and submitted to the COP-9 in 2019.

Mr. Anton Purnomo, from Indonesia, informed that Inventory of PCB in Indonesia for current stage has been completed. The technology for the destruction of PCB would be installed in Indonesia, he explained that the technology will be supplied by an Italian company and would be based in Base Catalysed Dechlorination.

Ms. Anna Ortiz, updated regarding the GEF funded project: "Integrated PCB Management in Costa Rica", implemented by UNDP and executed by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. During this project has been exported for destruction 140 tons of PCB and 10 tons of DDT.

Mr. Lee Bell, communicated the experience of West Australia, where have been the management and destruction of PCB using not incinerating technologies. He explained that the plant was built in 1995 and had virtually destroyed all of the PCB waste in Western Australia as well as DDT pesticide stockpiles.

4. Next Steps

Only highlights were mentioned for this agenda item. The document was already known by the AC members and no significant difference in the conclusions and recommendation.

5. Closure of the online meeting.

The online meeting discussion was very useful, and many items identified, further involvement of PEN AC members is of extreme importance to carry on.