



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 (h) of the provisional agenda*
**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: reporting pursuant to Article 15**

Manual for national reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

Note by the Secretariat

As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/19), the annex to the present note sets out the draft manual for national reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group established by decision SC-8/17 to develop the manual. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1.

Annex

**Manual for National Reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm
Convention (Fourth reporting cycle)**

Draft as at March 2019

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Purpose	4
The Reporting Format	4
Content of the national report	5
Submission of the national report	6
Important details about data entry	7
Getting ready to report	8
Part A: General information	9
Part B: Information on the measures taken by the Party to implement the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention.	10
Section I. Article 7: Implementation plans	10
Section II. Article 3: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use	11
Section III. Article 4: Register of specific exemptions; Annex A and Annex B	13
Section IV. Article 5: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production	13
Information requirements regarding the action plans	14
Information requirements on source inventories and release estimates of Annex C chemicals	14
Information requirements regarding law/policy evaluation, and BAT and BEP	16
Section V. Article 6: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes.....	17
Section VI. Information required in paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Convention.	19
Section VII. Article 9: Information exchange.....	20
Section VIII. Article 10: Public information, awareness and education.	21
Section IX. Article 11: Research, development and monitoring.....	21
Section X. Article 12: Technical assistance	22
Section XI. Article 13: Financial resources and mechanisms	22
Part C: Information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in accordance with subparagraph (g) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention.	24
Section I. Article 6: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes	24
Section II. Part II of Annex A: Polychlorinated biphenyls.....	25
Section III. Information on local destruction and import and export of PCB for destruction	27
Part D: Information specifically on the progress made in eliminating perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in accordance with paragraph 3 in Part III of Annex B to the Convention.	29
Part E: Additional information and comments.....	32

Introduction

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.

As set out in Article 1, the objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.

To enable monitoring of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention by its Parties, the Convention provides that each Party reports to the Conference of the Parties on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention, as per Article 15.

At its 8th meeting in 2017, the Conference of the Parties established a small intersessional working group to develop a manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15, aimed at clarifying what is sought in each question and table of the format (decision SC-8/17). This document is the result of the work carried out between 2017 and 2019.

Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to assist Parties of the Stockholm Convention complete the national report in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention. It clarifies the information requested in the national reporting questionnaire and, where appropriate, provides guidance on filling out the format.

The Reporting Format

The reporting format or questionnaire used for the 4th reporting cycle, as per Article 15, is based on decisions adopted by the COP: SC-6/21¹, SC-7/27, SC-8/17 and BC.Ex 1/1.

Additionally, each time the COP lists a new POP into one of the Annexes to the convention, the questionnaire is adapted accordingly.

This manual was developed at the time of the submission to the 4th reporting cycle (due in 31 August 2018). In case the reporting format changes in the future, this manual may need to be adjusted accordingly.

Parties submit their national reports using the Electronic Reporting System (ERS) of the Stockholm Convention through which the reporting format/questionnaire is made available online. Instructions on accessing and submitting information through the ERS are contained in the User Manual for the Electronic Reporting System (ERS) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).² This manual focuses on the information that is required, and thus, is a complement to the User Manual for the ERS.

Each new national report is prefilled with the information from the previous reporting cycle. You therefore do not need to re-enter data that has not changed. You will need to enter new data and if previous data have been revised (for example an inventory has been updated and data from previous periods modified with more accurate values) you will need to replace the existing data with the revised information.

Note that the user interface of the Electronic Reporting System is dynamic. For example, if a question requires you to answer Yes or No, once you select your answer and there is additional information required, the reporting format will then present the relevant sub-questions or parts for you to provide the additional detail. For more information on how the system works, please consult the User Manual for the ERS.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/26/Add.1/Rev.1

² <http://www.pops.int/Countries/Reporting/Guidance/tabid/3670/Default.aspx>

Content of the national report

The official contact point/focal point is responsible for transmitting the national report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat.

The reporting format is divided into 22 sections and collects information on various aspects of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention as follows:

1. Part A: General information on Party:

This section includes information about official contact points and national focal points to the convention.

2. Part B Section I: Implementation plans (Article 7)

This section includes information on the status of national implementation plans (NIP) and their funding.

3. Part B Section II: Intentional production and use (Article 3)

This section contains information on Legal/administrative measures taken to reduce or eliminate the use of substances listed in Annex A and B of the Convention.

4. Part B Section III: Register of specific exemptions (Article 4)

Indicate whether or not your country has notified the Secretariat on the registration for specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B or for acceptable purposes listed in Annex B.

5. Part B Section IV-1: Unintentional production (Article 5), PCDD/PCDF

This section contains information on the status actions plans to identify sources and releases of unintentionally produced POPs and data on quantities of dioxins and furans that are released.

6. Part B Section IV-2: Unintentional production: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)

This section contains information on the status of the inventory of unintentionally produced PCB and data on quantities of PCB that are released unintentionally.

7. Part B Section IV-3: Unintentional production: Pentachlorobenzene

This section contains information on the status of the inventory of unintentionally produced pentachlorobenzene and data on quantities of pentachlorobenzene that are released unintentionally.

8. Part B Section IV-4: Unintentional production: Hexachlorobenzene

This section contains information on the status of the inventory of unintentionally produced hexachlorobenzene and data on quantities of hexachlorobenzene that are released unintentionally.

9. Part B Section IV-5: Unintentional production: Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN)

This section contains information on the status of the inventory of unintentionally produced PCN and data on quantities of PCN that are released unintentionally.

10. Part B Section IV-6: Unintentional production: law/policy evaluation, BAT&BEP

This section contains information on the status of the review of laws and policies, as well as, actions taken to promote best available technologies and best environmental practices to manage releases of unintentionally produced POPs.

11. Part B Section V: Stockpiles and wastes (Article 6)

This section contains information on the status of strategies to identify POP stockpiles, wastes, and contaminated sites, as well as data on quantities and number of sites identified.

12. Part B Section VI: Chemicals production, export, import, DDT (Article 15)

This section contains data on the production, import, export of POPs listed in Annex A and B and the status of transmission of a report on the production and use of DDT.

13. Part B Section VII: Information exchange (Article 9)

This section indicates whether or not your country has established an information exchange mechanism.

14. Part B Section VIII: Public information, awareness and education (Article 10)

This section provides a status of measures taken to inform, educate and raise awareness of the public and stakeholders on POPs, their effects and their sound management.

15. Part B Section IX: Research, development and monitoring (Article 11)

This section indicates the actions your country has taken to support research, development of alternatives, and monitoring of POPs.

16. Part B Section X: Technical Assistance (Article 12)

This section provides a summary of technical assistance received or given, including estimated total value of that assistance.

17. Part B Section XI: Financial resources and mechanisms (Article 13)

This section contains information the financial resources your country has allocated to implement the Convention, and if appropriate, to support implementation in developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

18. Part C Section I: PCB stockpiles and wastes

This section contains information on the implementation of strategies to identify stockpiles, products and articles in use, wastes and sites that contain or are contaminated with PCB, as well as measures taken to promote their sound management.

19. Part C Section II: PCB measures and management

This section contains information on the measures your country has taken to manage PCB and their wastes.

20. Part C Section III: PCB destruction

This section contains information on quantities of PCB destroyed in an environmentally sound manner either in a local facility as well as quantities that are imported or exported for environmentally sound disposal.

21. Part D: PFOS

This section contains information on the progress made in eliminating perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, including information on production and quantities used for specific exemptions or acceptable purposes, and information on alternatives.

22. Part E: Additional information and comments

Include in this section any additional information on the implementation of the Convention in your country and feedback on the electronic reporting system.

Submission of the national report

The Official Contact Point (OCP) to the Stockholm Convention to your country is the responsible authority to submit the national report. She or he may work together with a team of officers who help collect and enter the required information on Electronic Reporting System, but the ultimate responsibility for the submission is of the OCP.

Two sets of username and password are made available to each Party to the convention:

- The designated OCP account which is provided with both administrative and technical privileges;
- The Technical Officer(s) account which is provided with the technical privilege only.

If you are the OCP, but do not know your password you can recover it through the website of the convention:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/Reporting/NationalReports/SCERSAccountrecovery/tabid/5280/Default.aspx>.

If you are a new OCP and would like assistance further assistance on National Report pursuant to Article 15, you may reach out to the Secretariat: E-mail: sc-natrep@brsmeas.org; Website: www.pops.int.

Important details about data entry

Prefilled data/information:

Questions, tables and comments fields are prefilled from the previous versions of the National report submitted by your country. Please check carefully if any information previously provided needs to be updated. And enter new information on the new years, as applicable.

Basic quality control:

Please avoid leaving any question/table unanswered or empty. Before submitting the national report of your country, please revise it to be sure that all applicable questions/tables/comments fields were answered properly.

Please pay special attention to numeric fields in each question and table. No characters such as "N/A", "no information available", ">", etc., should be introduced in any numeric field. Decimals separators should be indicated using a dot (e.g., 12.5, 100200.3, 0.54).

Error messages:

The system will guide you at all times on how to fill out the questionnaire and will warn you when it detects missing or incorrect forms of data by clicking the "Check for errors" button. This is just an informational warning. It will not prevent you to move to another page or to submit your report. However, a few quality control measures were included in the 4th reporting cycle questionnaire, to avoid basic mistakes at data entry.

Number of years to report:

In several questions/tables, countries will have the possibility to provide data on multiple years. For assessing the effectiveness of the convention, time-series data is required. Therefore, when there is a possibility, please include information for more years than just the last 4 years.

Access to the Electronic Reporting System:

To access the SC-ERS with the 4th reporting cycle questionnaire, please visit the convention website, menu "Countries", sub-item "Reporting".

Getting ready to report

If your country has submitted a report in a previous reporting cycle, the information has been imported (i.e. pre-filled) into the format for the following reporting cycle. Review the information and note any section of the report where newer data is available. For example, this new information could include:

- New focal point or official contact point or changes in contact information;
- New legislation or other measures to manage POPs at different stages of their lifecycle;
- Updated national implementation plans or inventories;
- More recent data on production, import, export, use, or disposal of POPs;
- New initiatives or programmes related to various articles of the Convention, such as: information exchange; public information, awareness and education; research, development and monitoring; technical assistance; financial resources and mechanisms; or effectiveness evaluation.

It is important to remember that information in the latest national report includes information reported in all the previous reporting cycles. Therefore, each reporting cycle offers an opportunity for countries to update previously provided information, and if necessary to correct previously reported data, to create a single complete report.

Parties should provide the latest status/information on official contact points, national focal points, administrative/legal measure taken, and update of national implementation plans and other activities. To enable the information compiled from national reports to be interpreted correctly, it is important that national reports indicate the year when a measure was taken, or data collected. This will assist in various evaluation processes such as the Effectiveness Evaluation, PCB evaluation and PFOS evaluation.

If your country has not previously submitted a report, there will be no data in the format. You can review this manual to get an overview of the information required.

Common sources of information used in compiling national reports include:

- National implementation plans;
- National inventories or inventories compiled as part of the development, update or implementation of national implementation plans;
- Annual reports from relevant ministries or agencies, including information from pollutant release and transfer registries;
- National statistics such as on the production, import, export, use of POPs;
- Surveys of industry, especially for data on production, use, storage and alternatives;
- Research reports or articles in the academic literature;
- Project reports.

Part A: General information

Part A of the report provides contact information for the contact and focal points for the Stockholm Convention. The table contains pre-filled information from the existing records, but you can modify, delete or add records by using the "edit", "delete" or "add" features.

Please note that the updated or new designations transmitted here will be confirmed by the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the COPs. Only once updates or designations are confirmed, will the Stockholm Convention contacts database (available on the convention's website) will be updated. The Secretariat may need to contact the Party for any additional information or clarification that might be required in this regard.

Official Contact Point(s)

The first question in the reporting format provides information on the Official Contact Point(s). Review the contact information for the Official Contact Point to see if it is up-to-date. If you wish the Secretariat to update the information, click on Yes in 1.1. If no changes are needed go to Question 2.

Provide the updated information in 1.2 and attach the Form for notification of designation of contacts, completed by a duly authorized entity, and any supporting documents (e.g. nomination letters) as appropriate in 1.3. Kindly note that self-nominations cannot be considered.

For forms and more information on the requirements refer to the BRS website.

National Focal Point

This question provides information on the National Focal Point.

Review the contact information for the National Focal Point to see if it is up-to-date. If you wish the Secretariat to update the information, click on Yes in 2.1 as appropriate. If no changes are needed go to the next page, Part B Section I.

Provide the updated information in 2.2 and attach Form for notification of designation of contacts, completed by a duly authorized entity, and any supporting documents (e.g. nomination letters) as appropriate in 2.3. Kindly note that a self-nomination will not be considered.

For forms and more information on the requirements refer to the BRS website.

Part B: Information on the measures taken by the Party to implement the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

Section I. Article 7: Implementation plans

Parties to the Stockholm Convention are required to prepare a national implementation plan (NIP), which explains how they are going to implement their obligations under the Convention. It is a dynamic document which is to be reviewed periodically to address additional obligations arising due to amendments to the Convention (for example new POPs) or progress made in achieving planned objectives.

Parties should update the information submitted in the previous reporting cycle, if any, or add new information in relation to the development, review and updating of NIPs.

This section of the national reports collects information on the status of your NIP. **The questions to be answered are:**

1. Has your country developed a national implementation plan, in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of Article 7 of the Convention?
2. Has your country received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to develop the national implementation plan?
3. Has your country reviewed and updated your national implementation plan, in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of Article 7 of the Convention and the guidance for the review and updating of national implementation plans set out in the annex to decision SC-1/12?
4. Has your country received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility to review and update your national implementation plan?

Please provide comments, if any, on questions [1] to [4] of this section.

Questions 1 and 2 refer to the initial plan. Questions 3 and 4 collect information on the status of reviews and updates. You can provide any additional information to clarify your response or that you think is relevant to national implementation plans and their updates in the box provided at the end of this section. Update the information submitted in the previous reporting cycle, if any; add new information related to the development, review and updating of your country's NIP.

In Question 1, indicate whether or not your country has developed a national implementation plan. If Yes, indicate in 1.1 whether it is transmitted, pending approval for transmission or in the process of transmission. If it is transmitted verify the date of transmission shown in 1.2; if it is incorrect, please provide a correction in the text box at the end of this section.

In Question 2, indicate whether or not your country has received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). If Yes, indicate the implementing agency from which you received this assistance in 2.1. If No, indicate the reason in 2.1 (for example your country does not qualify).

In Question 3, indicate whether or not your country has reviewed and updated its national implementation plan. Article 7 paragraph 1(c) specifies that each Party will review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the Conference of the Parties. If your country has updated its NIP in accordance with this paragraph indicate Yes and provide details for each review or update in Table 3.1. Indicate what prompted each review or update to be initiated or undertaken in the column "Trigger for the review and updating of the NIP"; for example, an addition to the list of POPs. Note: you can select more than one trigger if appropriate.

In Question 4, indicate (Yes or No) if you have received financial assistance to undertake a review or update of your NIP. If you have received assistance, please indicate the source of this assistance in Table 4.1. If you have not received assistance, indicate the reason why in 4.1.

Section II. Article 3: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

This section collects information on the measures you have taken to reduce or eliminate releases that are related to the intentional production or use of the substances listed in Annex A or B. **The questions are:**

5. Has your country prohibited and/or taken any legal and administrative measures necessary to eliminate releases from intentional production and use of chemicals listed in Annex A in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) of Article 3 of the Convention, or restrict the production and use of the chemicals listed in Annex B to the Convention, in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention?

6. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 3 of the Convention, has your country taken measures to regulate new pesticides or new industrial chemicals (i.e. chemicals that have not yet been introduced in the market or registered in your country), with the aim of preventing the production and use of new chemicals that exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants, taking into consideration the criteria in paragraph 1 of Annex D?

7. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 3 of the Convention, has your country taken into consideration the criteria in paragraph 1 of Annex D when conducting assessments of pesticides or industrial chemicals currently in use?

Update any of the information submitted in the previous reporting cycle and add all new information related to the measures taken to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use. Ensure to include the date when a measure took effect or initiative was taken.

To answer **Question 5**, fill out the tables provided, one for substances listed in Annex A, the second for substances listed in Annex B.

Chemicals listed in Annex A to the Convention

In this table please indicate the measures you have taken to reduce or eliminate releases that are related to the intentional production or use of the substances listed in Annex A. The Convention allows certain specific exemptions for the production and use of POPs as listed in Part 1 of Annex A. These exemptions are time limited. The Register of specific exemptions (refer to Part III below) lists the exemptions that are currently in effect.

For each substance listed select **all** legal or administrative measures or options that apply.

Select "Restriction in accordance with Annex A" if you have:

- Registered a **specific exemption** for the production or use of the substance;
- Provided a notification of a **chemical occurring as constituents of articles** manufactured or already in use before or on the date of entry into force of the relevant obligation; or
- Provided a notification of production and use of chemicals as **closed-system site-limited intermediates**

as required by the Convention.

Indicate the year the measure came into force. If measures were phased-in, indicate the date the last measure took effect. For example, if production and imports were prohibited in 2000 and uses and exports allowed until 2004, enter 2004 for the year.

You may provide more detail such as reference to the relevant legislation, the current situation or details of specific exemptions in the remark's column. Additional comments can be provided in the box at the end of this section.

Chemicals listed in Annex B to the Convention

For substances listed in Annex B, the Convention identifies both specific exemptions and acceptable purposes. In this table please indicate the measures you have taken to reduce or eliminate releases that are related to the intentional production or use of the substances listed in Annex B.

For each substance listed in Annex B select **all** legal or administrative measures or options that apply.

Select "Restriction in accordance with Annex B" if you have:

- Registered a **specific exemption** and/or **acceptable purpose** for the production or use of the substance;
- provided a notification of a **chemical occurring as constituents of articles** manufactured or already in use before or on the date of entry into force of the relevant obligation; or
- provided a notification of production and use of chemicals as **closed-system site-limited intermediates**

as required by the Convention.

Indicate the year the measure came into force. If measures phased-in, indicate the date the last measure took effect. For example, if production and imports were prohibited in 2000 and uses and exports allowed until 2004, enter 2004 for the year.

You may provide explanatory notes and/or details such as reference to the relevant legislation, your permitted uses or specific exemptions the remarks column. Additional comments can be provided in the box at the end of this section.

In Question 6, indicate whether or not you have measures that control entry onto the market of new pesticides or chemicals that exhibit the characteristics of POPs, or if it is under development. If your pesticide evaluation and registration scheme include measures to prohibit the introduction of pesticides with POP characteristics, but no equivalent scheme for industrial chemicals, indicate Yes and provide comments at the end of this section. If you have measures to control entry onto the market, but it does not include criteria that aim of preventing the production and use of new chemicals that exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants, select No.

If you answered Yes, indicate the year when the measure took effect (6.1).

If the measures for pesticides and industrial chemicals came into effect in different years, provide the date of the latest measure and provide an explanatory note in the box at the end of this section.

If you answered No, please specify in 6.1 whether or not you have a regulatory or assessment scheme for either pesticides or industrial chemicals but it does not consider the criteria outlined in paragraph 1 of Annex D. Provide details in the comment box at the end of this section (for example, you have a scheme for the assessment of new pesticides but not for new industrial chemicals).

In Question 7, indicate whether or not your country has an assessment or re-assessment scheme for either pesticides or industrial chemicals currently in use and it takes into consideration POPs characteristics as described in paragraph 1 of Annex D. If Yes, provide the year when this took effect in 7.1.

If the measures for pesticides and industrial chemicals came into effect in different years, provide the date of the latest measure and provide an explanatory note in the box at the end of this section.

If your pesticide evaluation and registration scheme include measures to prohibit the introduction of pesticides with POP characteristics, but no equivalent scheme for industrial chemicals, indicate Yes and provide comments at the end of this section.

If No, indicate in 7.1 if this is because you do not have an assessment scheme or if it is because the scheme does not consider the criteria outlined in paragraph 1 of Annex D.

Provide details in the comment box if, for example, you have a scheme to re-assess pesticides in use, but not industrial chemicals.

Section III. Article 4: Register of specific exemptions; Annex A and Annex B

To enable Parties to the Convention to take measures to reduce or eliminate releases of POPs from intentional production and use, for which alternatives do not exist yet or are not readily available, the Convention allows Parties to register specific exemptions for a specific period of time as well as to register for acceptable purposes. The difference between these provisions is that:

- In a specific exemption the Convention provides for a specific time frame when production and use will no longer be permitted when the Conference of the Parties has identified that alternatives are available but that more time is needed before all production or uses are eliminated;
- In an acceptable purpose the Conference of the Parties has determined that feasible alternatives are not yet available and permits on-going production and use until an alternative becomes available for that use.

To make use of a specific exemption or acceptable purpose, a Party needs to register it. More detail on these provisions is available on the Convention website.

Annexes A and B to the Convention describe specific exemptions, as well as acceptable purposes, that are available with respect to the relevant POPs. **There is one question in this section:**

8. Has your country notified the Secretariat to register for specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B or for acceptable purposes listed in Annex B?

Indicate Yes if you have registered either a specific exemption and that exemption is still in effect for any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or B, or an acceptable purpose and that acceptable purpose is still in effect for any of the chemicals listed in Annex B.

If you have not requested a specific exemption and/or acceptable purpose or none of the exemptions and/or acceptable purposes are still in effect indicate No.

Section IV. Article 5: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

One of the major goals of the Stockholm Convention is the continuing minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination of unintentionally produced POPs.

Parties are required to identify, characterize, quantify and prioritize sources of releases of unintentional POPs, and develop strategies with concrete measures, timelines and goals to minimize or eliminate these releases (this information is part of the action plan or, where appropriate, regional or subregional action plan, included within the implementation plan pursuant to Article 7).

Five years after developing their action plan, Parties are required to review their adopted strategies, including the extent to which their unintentional POPs releases have been reduced, and to incorporate such reviews in national reports. More information is available on the Convention website.

There are a few sub-sections of the reporting questionnaire related to Article 5.

Information requirements regarding the action plans

There are three questions in this section:

9. Has your country developed, reviewed and updated an action plan designed to identify, characterize and address the release of the chemicals listed in Annex C, in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article 5 of the Convention?

10. Has your country encountered difficulties in the implementation of the action plan?

11. Has your country been participating in any regional or sub-regional action plan?

In Question 9, indicate the status of the action plan (this information is available in the NIP). If you indicate that the action plan has been developed, you will also need to enter the year when the action plan was first completed (typically this coincides with the year of development of the first NIP). If appropriate, in Question 9.1 also indicate the subsequent years when the plan was reviewed and/or updated.

In Question 10, indicate if you have encountered difficulties in the implementation of the action plan. If your answer is 'Yes', in Question 10.1 indicate the reasons / types of difficulties encountered.

If your country is participating in a regional or sub-regional action plan tick Yes in **Question 11** and provide the details in 11.1 (name) and 11.2 (year when you started participation).

Information requirements on source inventories and release estimates of Annex C chemicals

Article 5, paragraph (a) (i) of the Stockholm Convention requires that Parties evaluate current and projected releases, including the development and maintenance of source inventories and release estimates of chemicals listed in Annex C, Part I, taking into consideration the source categories identified in Annex C, Part II and III, of the Convention.

As of March 2019, Annex C lists the following chemicals covered by the provisions of Article 5:

- Polychlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins (PCDD);
- Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF);
- Hexachlorobenzene (HCB);
- Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd);
- Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB);
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB);
- Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs).

Annex C Parts II and III lists the source categories covered by the provisions of Article 5. To facilitate the development of national release inventories and the reporting of POPs releases, these source categories are placed into source groups according to which Parties are required to report releases:

- Waste Incineration;

- Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Metal Production;
- Heat and Power Generation;
- Production of Mineral Products;
- Transportation;
- Open Burning Processes;
- Production of Chemicals and Consumer Goods;
- Miscellaneous;
- Disposal.

To implement this article, Parties must prepare their initial release estimates and update these estimates at regular intervals (every five years). Parties may also find it necessary to revise their initial/previous estimates using a consistent approach (e.g. same set of emission factors) as in their updated estimates in order to maintain the comparability and consistency of results over time for detecting trends in releases over time.

A harmonized framework and guidance for elaboration of comparable release inventories of Annex C chemicals, including Excel spreadsheets to automatically calculate annual releases from all source categories in a given country or region based on default emission factors, is found in the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs.

For practical reasons, inventory activities should be focused on PCDD/PCDF, as these substances are indicative of the presence of other unintentional POPs. In addition to emission factors for PCDD/PCDF, the Toolkit contains emission factors for other POPs when such information is available.

PCDD/PCDF releases are accompanied by releases of other unintentional POPs, which can be minimized or eliminated by the same measures that are used to address PCDD/PCDF releases. **When a comprehensive inventory of PCDD/PCDF is elaborated, it allows to identify priority sources, set measures and develop action plans to minimize releases of all unintentional POPs.**

They are considered to constitute a sufficient basis for identifying and prioritizing sources of all such substances as well as for devising applicable control measures for all Annex C POPs and for evaluating their efficacy. Typically, emission factors are provided for the five release vectors, *i.e.*, air (EF_{Air}), water (EF_{Water}), land (EF_{Land}), product ($EF_{Product}$), and residue ($EF_{Residue}$).

There is one question in this sub-section:

12. Has your country developed source inventories and release estimates of the chemicals listed in Annex C to the Convention taking into consideration the source categories identified in Annex C, in accordance with paragraph (a) (i) of Article 5 of the Convention?

Indicate in **Question 12** whether you have developed source inventories and release estimates of the chemicals listed in Annex C.

If the answer is 'No', in Question 12.1 you have to provide the reason for not developing the inventory.

If the answer is 'Yes', you will be prompted with a series of questions regarding the inventories of each individual chemical listed in Annex C.

Please note that **inventory activities should be focused on PCDD/PCDF**, as these substances are indicative of the presence of other unintentional POPs. PCDD/PCDF releases are accompanied by releases of other unintentional POPs, which can be minimized or eliminated by the same measures that are used to address PCDD/PCDF releases. **When a comprehensive inventory of PCDD/PCDF is elaborated, it allows to identify priority sources, set measures and develop action plans to minimize releases of all unintentional POPs.** It is thus

recommended, for practical reasons, that inventory activities be focused on PCDD/PCDF, as these substances are indicative of the presence of other unintentional POPs.

In question 12.1 indicate whether or not you have an inventory for dioxins and furans (PCDD/PCDF). The initial inventory has most likely been compiled during the development of the National Implementation Plan. Subsequent updates of the NIP should also likely include updated inventories.

If you have indicated that you have an inventory of dioxins and furans, you will then be prompted additional information requirements in 12.1.1 and 12.1.2. Provide information for each reference year.

In 12.1.1 indicate the sources of information used to estimate releases such as the UNEP Toolkit, the UNECE CLRTAP Guidelines, or nationally derived emission factors as appropriate. Click on the “Add” which will open a dialogue box. Select the reference year, and then indicate the source of information. Click “Add” to save the information for that reference year. Repeat this for each reference year for which you have data.

Then fill out the table **in 12.1.2** for each reference year. Please keep in mind that when inventories are revised or updated, changes may have been made to release estimates from previous reference years to ensure data are comparable between years. In such cases it will be necessary to revise the values reported in the previous cycle(s).

When completing the tables take note of the following definitions:

Baseline year: The first year for which activity data have been collected as part of your country inventory for a chemical, or year 2001 if activity data exists for years before 2001.

Note: *The baseline source inventory and release estimate is the first inventory of sources and releases of chemicals listed in Annex C to the Convention developed by a party, usually as part of the national implementation plan developed under Article 7 of the Convention. This first inventory serves as a baseline against which subsequent updated release estimates are assessed in order to establish trends in releases over time and evaluate the efficacy of the adopted strategies for minimizing or eliminating releases of polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF) and other unintentional POPs.*

Reference Year: Is the year in which the unintentionally release occurred and for which the activity data have been collected.

Select **NR** (not relevant) if the source category does not exist in your country. Please leave it blank if the source category is relevant but no release estimation was made.

Use similar approach for Questions 12.2 (PCB), 12.3 (PeCB), 12.4 (HCB), 12.5 (PCNs):

Please note that:

- All the definitions, the methodology, and the reference documents mentioned above apply to all Article 5 / Annex C chemicals;
- The focus of the inventories (and their reporting) should be on PCDD/PCDF;
- Release estimates of PCDD/PCDF and dioxin like PCB should be reported in gTEQ/year;
- Releases of PeCB, HCB, PCN should be reported as kg / year.

Information requirements regarding law/policy evaluation, and BAT and BEP

This section provides information on the measures taken to reduce and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentional POPs. **There are two questions:**

13. Has your country undertaken an evaluation of the efficacy of the laws and policies adopted to manage releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, in accordance with paragraph (a) (ii) of Article 5 of the Convention?

14. Has your country promoted or introduced requirements for use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for new sources and existing sources, in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e) of Article 5 of the Convention?

In Question 13, indicate whether or not your country has undertaken an evaluation of the efficacy of laws and policies adopted to manage the unintentional production and release of POPs. If Yes, please indicate the year(s) when the evaluation(s) was undertaken.

In Question 14, indicate if your country has introduced measures to promote and/or, as applicable, require the use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP). Indicate in question 14.1 the actions listed that apply:

For new sources, does your country:

- Require the use of BAT for all source categories or for priority source categories only;
- Promote the use of BAT for all source categories or for priority source categories only;
- Promote the use of BEP for all source categories or for priority source categories only.

For existing sources, does your country:

- Require the use of BAT for all source categories or for priority source categories only;
- Promote the use of BAT for all source categories or for priority source categories only;
- Promote the use of BEP for all source categories or for priority source categories only.

In each case, indicate the starting year in which the measures have taken effect.

You can provide details of your action or comments on questions 9 to 14 related to unintentional production of POPs at the end of this section.

Section V. Article 6: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes

Article 6 identifies actions that Parties should take to prevent stockpiles and wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, that consist or contain chemicals listed in the annexes to the Convention. And that these are managed in a manner which is protective of human health and the environment. Questions 15-23 ask information on the status of implementation of Article 6. You may provide additional comments in the text box provided at the end of this section.

15. Has your country developed strategies for identifying stockpiles consisting of, or containing, chemicals listed in either Annex A or Annex B to the Convention, in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) (i) of Article 6 of the Convention?

16. Has your country identified stockpiles consisting of, or containing, chemicals listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention, in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of Article 6 of the Convention?

17. Has your country taken any measures to manage stockpiles in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner, in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of Article 6 of the Convention?

18. Has your country developed strategies for identifying products and articles in use and wastes consisting of, containing, or contaminated with chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention?

19. Has your country taken any measures to manage wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, in accordance with paragraph 1 (d) of Article 6 of the Convention?

20. Has your country disposed of wastes consisting of or containing chemicals listed in Annex A, B, or C to the Convention in an environmentally sound manner, in accordance with paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention?

21. Has your country developed strategies for identifying sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, in accordance with paragraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention?

22. Has your country identified sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, in accordance with paragraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention?

23. Has your country taken steps to remediate the sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, in accordance with paragraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention?

Question 15: Your country may have developed strategies to identify stockpiles of POPs listed in Annex A or B as part of the development or update of the NIP, its update or its implementation. Select Yes if you have a strategy for either pesticides or industrial chemicals. Provide additional detail in 15.1a and 15.1b. If not, indicate if your strategy is under development. If you have not developed a strategy, click on No and indicate the reasons in 15.1.

Many countries have developed strategies for the identification of stockpiles of pesticides as an independent initiative. If you have a strategy for pesticides, including pesticides listed in Annex A or B, indicate the year this strategy was first developed in 15.1.a. Select more than one year if there have been revisions or update to the strategy.

If you have developed strategies for industrial chemicals click on “Add” under the table in **15.1.b**. This will open a dialogue box where you can select the chemical(s) in question and the year when the strategy was developed. Select more than one year if there have been revisions or update to the strategy. If you have prepared strategies for more than one of the substances listed, select one and then repeat for each additional chemical or group of chemicals.

Question 16: If you have identified stockpiles of chemicals listed in Annex A or B, indicate Yes. Provide the year(s) when the stockpiles of pesticides were identified (16.1.a); for industrial chemicals, click on “Add” and in the pop-up box identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when the stockpiles were identified (16.1.b). Otherwise indicate No.

If you have quantified stockpiles of chemicals listed in Annex A or B, indicate Yes (16.2). Provide the year(s) when the stockpile of pesticides was quantified (16.2.a); for industrial chemicals, click on “Add” and in the pop-up box identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when the stockpiles were quantified (16.2.b). Otherwise indicate No.

Question 17: If you have taken measures to manage stockpiles of chemicals listed in Annex A or B, indicate yes. Provide the year(s) measures to manage stockpiles of pesticides were taken (17.1.a); for industrial chemicals, click on “Add” and in the pop-up box identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when the measures to manage stockpiles were taken (17.1.b). Otherwise indicate No.

Question 18: If you have developed strategies for identifying products and articles in use and wastes consisting of, containing, or contaminated with chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, indicate Yes.

For substances in Annex A or B: Provide the year(s) strategies were developed for pesticides (18.1.a); for industrial chemicals, click on “Add” and in the pop-up box identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when strategies were developed (18.1.b).

For substances in Annex C provide the year(s) strategies were developed (18.1.c)

Indicate if strategies are currently being developed, otherwise indicate No and select the reasons why in 18.1.

Question 19: If you have taken any measures to manage wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, indicate Yes. Otherwise indicate No.

For substances in Annex A or B: Provide the year(s) when measures were taken for pesticides (19.1.a); for industrial chemicals, click on “Add” and in the pop-up box identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when measures were taken (19.2.b). For substances in Annex C provide the year(s) measures were taken (19.1.c)

Question 20: If your country disposed of wastes consisting of or containing chemicals listed in Annex A, B, or C to the Convention in an environmentally sound manner, indicate Yes.

For substances in Annex A or B: Provide the year(s) when pesticide wastes were disposed of (20.1.a); for industrial chemicals, click on “Add” and in the pop-up box identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year of disposal (20.1.b).

For substances in Annex C provide the year(s) when wastes containing unintentional POPs were disposed of (20.1.c).

Otherwise indicate if no information is available or disposal is currently underway. If the answer is No, then select the reasons why your country has not been able to do so in 20.1.

Question 21: If you have developed strategies for identifying sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, indicate Yes. Otherwise indicate if strategies are currently being developed or indicate No and select the reasons why in 21.1.

If yes, for substances in Annex A or B: Provide the year(s) strategies were developed for pesticides (21.1.a); for industrial chemicals, identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when strategies were developed (21.1.b). For substances in Annex C provide the year(s) strategies were developed (21.1.c)

Question 22: If you have identified sites contaminated by chemicals listed in Annex A, B or C, indicate Yes.

For substances in Annex A or B: Provide the year(s) when the sites contaminated by pesticides were identified (22.1.a); for industrial chemicals, identify the type (group) of chemical and the associated year when the sites were identified (22.1.b). For substances in Annex C provide the year(s) strategies were developed (22.1.c)

If appropriate indicate if sites are currently being identified, information is not available, or No if your country has not initiated a strategy to identify contaminated sites.

Question 23: Indicate whether or not your country has taken steps to remediate sites contaminated by POPs.

If Yes, you will be prompted to indicate in 23.1 whether a remediation plan is currently being prepared or if remediation is in progress, and the year when the work has been initiated. In the event that the remediation is complete, give the year when it was completed.

If No, in 23.1 you will be prompted to identify the reasons why remediation was not undertaken (For example, there is a lack of institutional or policy framework, financial resources, human resources, or technical capacity or sites have not yet been identified).

Section VI. Information required in paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Convention

This section collects information on the production, export, and import of chemicals listed in Annex A or B. Update any of the information submitted in the previous reporting cycle, and add any new information available on the production, export and import of POPs. If your country produced, exported or imported POPs in the past, indicate Yes provide the starting and ending year of production, export and import, as appropriate.

There are four questions in this section:

24. Has your country produced any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention?

25. Has your country exported any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention?

26. Has your country imported any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention?

27. Has your country submitted a report on the production and use of DDT in a format provided by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 4 of Part II of Annex B?

Question 24: Complete the table to provide information on the **production** any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or B of the Convention. If the chemical was never produced in your country, indicate No. If production did occur in your country, indicate Yes, the year in which production started, the year in which it ended, and the total estimated production in kilograms over the should period. If you have no information on production, indicate N/Av (not available). Include all historical information and indicate the start and end years of production as appropriate. Ensure that the data provided here are consistent with information provided in question 5 of Part D for PFOS.

Question 25: If your country **exported** any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or B (refer to the list of substances in Q. 24) indicate Yes and provide the most accurate information you have on these exports, including, the chemical, purpose of the export, destination (country name), and the amount (in kilograms) of the chemical exported in a year in 25.1. Otherwise indicate No or Information not available, as appropriate. Ensure that the data provided here are consistent with answers provided in question 17 of Part C for PCB. This is particularly important if the purpose of export was for final disposal.

Question 26: If your country **imported** any of the chemicals listed in Annex A or B (refer to Q. 24) indicate Yes. In 26.1 provide the most accurate information you have on these imports, including, the chemical, purpose of the import, country or countries of origin, and the amount (in kilograms) of the chemical imported in a year. Otherwise indicate No or Information not available, as appropriate. Ensure that data provided here are consistent with answers in question 16 of Part C for PCB. This is particularly important if the purpose of import was for final disposal.

Question 27: Paragraph 4 of Part II of Annex B stipulates that, every three years, a Party that uses DDT shall provide to the Secretariat and the World Health Organization information on the amount used, the conditions of such use, and its relevance to that Party's disease management strategy.

Please indicate whether or not you have submitted a report to the Secretariat, using the DDT Questionnaire, on the production and use of DDT. If Yes, indicate the year(s) when you submitted such a report. If you have used or produced DDT but have not submitted a report every three years, indicate No. If your country does not produce or use DDT, indicate Not applicable.

You can provide comments to better describe available information on production, import, export, or use of POPs in your country in the text box.

Section VII. Article 9: Information exchange

Article 9 requires each Party to facilitate or undertake the exchange of information on POPs. A Party is to designate a national focal point for the exchange of this information through the Secretariat. In this section **there is one question** where you indicate whether or not your country has established an information exchange mechanism:

28. Has your country established an information exchange mechanism, in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention?

Indicate whether or not your country has established an information exchange mechanism. If Yes, indicate the year it was established in 28.1. Provide more detail on your information mechanism in the text box available in this section, as appropriate. Include a note on relevant online sources of information identified by name, URL, language(s) with a brief description of the information contained if available.

Section VIII. Article 10: Public information, awareness and education

This section provides a status of measures taken to inform, educate and raise awareness of the public and stakeholders on POPs, their effects and their sound management. **There is one question in the section:**

29. Has your country taken any measures to implement Article 10 of the Convention?

Indicate whether or not your country has taken measures to promote and facilitate access to information, increase awareness and provide education related to POPs as described in Article 10. Such measures include:

- Awareness on persistent organic pollutants among policy and decision makers;
- Provision to the public of all available information on persistent organic pollutants;
- Development and implementation of educational programmes especially for women, children and the least educated on persistent organic pollutants, as well as on their health and environmental effects and on their alternatives;
- Public participation in addressing persistent organic pollutants and their health and environmental effects;
- Training of workers, scientists, educators and technical and managerial personnel;
- Development and exchange of educational and public awareness materials at the national and international level;
- Development and implementation of education and training programmes at the national and international level.

If Yes, indicate in 29.1 the year when your country started to take such measures and identify the specific measures (as appropriate) in 29.2. If No, you will be prompted to identify the reason(s) why you did not implement such measures in 29.1.

You may provide additional information on the implementation of Article 10 in the text box available in the section.

Section IX. Article 11: Research, development and monitoring

This section indicates the actions your country has taken to support research, development of alternatives, and monitoring of POPs. **There is one question:**

30. Has your country undertaken any research, development, and monitoring and cooperation pertaining to persistent organic pollutants, and where relevant, to their alternatives and to candidate persistent organic pollutants, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention?

In Question 30, indicate if your country has undertaken any research, development, and monitoring and cooperation activities pertaining to persistent organic pollutants, and where relevant, to their alternatives and to candidate persistent organic pollutants. Activities include:

- Sources and releases into the environment;
- Presence, levels and trends in human health and the environment;
- Environmental transport, fate and transformation;
- Socio economic and cultural impacts;
- Effects on human health and the environment;
- Release reduction and/or elimination;
- Harmonised methodologies for making inventories of generating sources;
- Analytical techniques for the measurement of releases.

If Yes, in 30.1 indicate the type of actions undertaken (research and development; monitoring; or cooperation) and in 30.2 the year(s) when these activities were undertaken. Identify the type of activities in 30.3. If No, you will be prompted to identify the reason(s) in 30.1.

You may provide additional comments on activities related to research, development and monitoring in the text box at the end of the section.

Section X. Article 12: Technical assistance

This section provides a summary of technical assistance received or given, including estimated total value of that assistance. **There are two questions:**

31. Has your country provided technical assistance to another Party, in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention?

32. Has your country received technical assistance in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention?

Question 31: Please indicate whether or not your country has provided technical assistance to another Party. If Yes, you will be prompted to provide the following information in 31.1:

- Year the technical assistance was given;
- Name of the Party receiving the assistance;
- Type of assistance;
- Total value of this assistance in USD, including in-kind contribution.

Question 32: Please indicate whether or not your country has received technical assistance from another Party. If Yes, you will be prompted to provide the following information in 32.1:

- Year the technical assistance was received;
- Name of the Party providing the assistance;
- Type of assistance;
- Total value of this assistance in USD, including in-kind contribution.

You may provide additional information or comments related to technical assistance in the text box at the end of the section.

Section XI. Article 13: Financial resources and mechanisms

The questions in this section aim at collating information on the financial resources made available for the implementation of the Convention as outlined in Article 13. **There are three questions:**

33. Has your country undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes, pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 13 of the Convention?

34. Has your country provided financial resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Convention, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention?

35. Has your country provided financial resources in accordance with its capabilities and in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention?

Question 33: Indicate whether or not your country has provided financial support and incentives for national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

If Yes, you will be prompted to indicate the total financial support per year in 33.1 and the types of incentives provided (by year) in 33.2.

Question 34: Indicate whether or not your country has provided financial resources to assist developing country Parties or Parties with economies in transition to meet the incremental costs of implementing measures under this Convention. If Yes, you will be prompted to provide the following information in 34.1:

- The year(s) these financial resources were provided;
- Sources or channels through which the resources have been provided;
- Whether or not these were new or additional financial resources;

-
- The total amount of this assistance per year (USD);
 - Who received these resources (institution, region or sub-region, or Party).

Question 35: Indicate whether or not your country has provided financial resources to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels. If Yes, you will be prompted to provide the following information in 35.1:

- Year the financial resources were provided;
- Sources or channels through which the resources were provided;
- Indicate if these were new or additional financial resources;
- The total amount of this assistance per year (USD);
- Who received these resources (funding institution, region or sub-region, or Party).

Provide any comments you may have on financial resources and mechanisms in the box provided at the end of the section.

Part C: Information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in accordance with subparagraph (g) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention.

Section I. Article 6: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes

Article 6 of the Convention requires Parties to undertake certain measures to reduce or eliminate releases of POPs from stockpiles and wastes. Part C of the report collects additional information on measures related to PCB (see related questions (15-23) in Section V Part B), including measures identified in Annex A to the Convention. Some of these measures might have been undertaken as part of other initiatives such as the development or update of the national implementation plan, the compilation of the inventory of PCB in use, or inventory of contaminated site.

Strategies typically include some of the following elements:

- Media campaign;
- Regulatory and enforcement policies;
- Incentives;
- Partnerships with stakeholders;
- Identification of relevant sectors;
- Database (electronic or paper copy);
- Formal communication;
- Informal communication;
- Door to door search.

There are six questions in this section:

1. Has your country developed strategies for identifying stockpiles consisting of or containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) (i) of Article 6 of the Convention?
2. Has your country developed strategies for identifying products and articles in use and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention?
3. Has your country developed strategies for identifying products and articles containing more than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB contaminated through open applications of PCB (e.g. cable-sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects), in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) (ii) of Article 6 and paragraph (f) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention?
4. Has your country taken any measures to ensure PCB or products and articles containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB identified as wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner, in accordance with paragraph 1 (d) of Article 6 of the Convention?
5. Has your country developed strategies for identifying sites contaminated by greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, in accordance with paragraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention?
6. Has your country identified sites contaminated by greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, in accordance with paragraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention?

Update the information submitted in previous reporting cycles if required and add any new information on measures taken to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes of PCB. When requested, provide information on the year the activity occurred or was initiated.

Question 1 asks about stockpiles that contain or consist of PCB in concentrations greater than 0.005% (50 ppm). Indicate whether or not you have developed a strategy to identify such stockpiles. If Yes, provide details (date and elements) as requested in 1.1 and 1.2.

Question 2 asks about products and articles in use and wastes that contain or consist of or contaminated with PCB at concentrations greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB. Indicate whether or not you have developed a strategy to identify such sources. If yes, provide details (date and elements) as requested in 2.1 and 2.2.

PCB were used in a very wide variety of industrial and consumer applications. Applications have been categorized as closed, semi-closed, and open. **Question 3** asks about products and articles containing more than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB contaminated through open applications of PCB (for more information on open applications see the Convention's website). Indicate whether or not you have developed a strategy to identify such sources. If Yes, provide details (date and elements) as requested in 3.1 and 3.2.

Question 4 asks about measures taken to ensure that PCB wastes, including articles or products that contain or are contaminated with PCB in concentration of more than 0.005% (50 ppm) are managed in an environmentally sound manner. If Yes, please indicate the year when the measures first took effect (4.1) and if they addressed the handling, collection transportation, storage, and/or disposal of these wastes (4.2).

In Question 5 indicate whether or not your country has developed strategies for identifying sites contaminated with PCB. If Yes, provide the year when it was developed in 5.1.

In Question 6 indicate whether or not your country has identified sites contaminated with PCB. If Yes, provide the year(s) when these were identified in 6.1.

Section II. Part II of Annex A: Polychlorinated biphenyls

This section of the national report collects information on measures taken to manage PCB as outlined in Annex A Part II of the Convention. Part II of Annex A outlines measures Parties should consider with regard to the management of PCB and their wastes and the elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025.

There are eight questions in this section:

7. Has your country taken measures to identify and label, where appropriate, equipment in use containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, in accordance with paragraph (a) of Part II of Annex A?
8. Has your country taken measures to identify and/or label, where appropriate, wastes liable to contain greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, in accordance with paragraph (a) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention?
9. Has your country taken measures to identify and manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 the articles containing more than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB contaminated through open applications of PCB (e.g. cable-sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects) in accordance with paragraph (f) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention?
10. What proportion of waste containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB identified in your country is managed in an environmentally sound manner?
11. Has your country developed a specific plan for the management, phase-out and disposal of PCB?
12. Has your country encountered any difficulties in the implementation of the specific plan for the management, phase-out and disposal of PCB?
13. Has your country promoted any measures to reduce exposures from the use of PCB, in accordance with paragraph (b) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention?

14. Has your country undertaken an inventory of PCB in equipment (e.g. transformers, capacitors or other receptacles containing liquid stocks), articles, oils and waste?

Update the information submitted in previous reporting cycles if required and add any new information on measures taken in accordance with part II of Annex A on PCB. When requested, provide information on the year the activity occurred or was initiated.

In Question 7, indicate whether or not your country has taken measures to identify and label, where appropriate, equipment in use containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB. If Yes, identify the year these measures were initiated in 7.1 and the type of measures in 7.2. Examples of measures include: constitution of task force, questionnaire or survey, legislation/regulation, or development of an inventory.

In Question 8, indicate whether or not your country has taken measures to identify and label, where appropriate, wastes that are likely to contain greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB. If Yes, identify the year these measures were initiated in 8.1 and the type of measures in 8.2. Examples of measures include: use of labels, screening test, or laboratory analysis for identification.

Paragraph (f) of Part II of Annex A to the Convention endeavours Parties to develop strategies, identify and manage stockpiles of POPs, ensure wastes are handled appropriately, and to develop strategies to identify contaminated sites.

In Question 9, indicate whether or not measures have taken to address PCB-containing materials used in open applications.

If Yes, please indicate the year (9.1) the type of measures (constitution of task force, questionnaire survey, legislation/regulation, and/or development of inventory) (9.2). In 9.3, click on "Add" at the bottom of the table and in the pop-up box select the type of articles and materials containing more than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB contaminated through open applications and indicate the year or period in which they were identified.

In Question 10, indicate the extent to which wastes containing PCB are managed in an environmentally sound manner. If 100% of all PCB-containing wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner, indicate the year this occurred in 10.1. If only some of the PCB containing waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, indicate whether most (greater than 50% and less than 100%) or a limited amount (greater than 0% and less than or equal to 50%) of it is.

In Question 11, indicate whether or not your country has a specific plan for the management, phase-out and disposal of PCB; if Yes, indicate in 11.1 the year it was developed.

In Question 12, indicate whether or not your country encountered any difficulty in the implementation of the specific plan. If Yes, in 12.1, indicate the reason(s) or factor(s) that caused the difficulties. For example, these could be lack of institutional or policy framework, financial resources, human resources, technical capacity, disposal or storage facilities and/or lack of analytical laboratories.

Question 13 relates to paragraph (b) of Part II of Annex A requires Parties to promote measures that will reduce the risks from exposures to PCB. Such measures include:

- Use only in intact and non-leaking equipment and only in areas where the risk of environmental release can be minimized and quickly remedied;
- No use in equipment in areas associated with the production or processing of food or feed;
- When used in populated areas, measures are in place to protect from electrical failure which could result in a fire;
- When used in schools, measures are in place to protect from electrical failure which could result in a fire;

- When used in hospitals, measures are in place to protect from electrical failure which could result in a fire;
- When used in populated areas, regular inspection of equipment is made for leaks;
- When used in schools, regular inspection of equipment is made for leaks;
- When used in hospitals, regular inspection of equipment is made for leaks.

Indicate whether or not you have promoted such measures in Question 13. If Yes, indicate the year when you started to promote these measures in 13.1 and select the measures that are applicable in 13.2.

In Question 14, indicate whether or not your country has undertaken an inventory of sources of PCB:

- Equipment containing greater than 10% (100,000 ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 5 litres;
- Equipment containing greater than 0.05% (500 ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 5 litres;
- Equipment containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 0.05 litres;
- Equipment containing an undefined concentration of PCB;
- Stored liquids (oil) containing PCB;
- Other wastes containing PCB.

If your country has developed a PCB inventory, including as part of the development or update of its NIP indicate Yes. If Yes, in 14.1 indicate whether or not it is a preliminary or complete inventory and provide data from the most recent inventory in Table 14.2. The information requested is:

- The source category;
- The status of the equipment (in use, out of service, unspecified);
- The year the inventory was compiled;
- The number of pieces of equipment;
- The total mass of equipment in kilograms (kg);
- The mass of solid parts of equipment (equipment without oil) in kilograms (kg);
- The mass of liquids (oil) in kilograms (kg);
- The PCB content of the oil as a percentage (%);
- Total mass (kg).

If your country has reported PCB quantities in a previous reporting cycle and new information has become available, update the information in Table 14.2.

If the answer to **Question 14** is No, indicate the reasons why your country was not able to compile such an inventory: for example, the lack of institutional or policy framework, financial resources, human resources, and/or technical capacity.

You can provide any additional comments that can clarify the state of implementation of measures to manage PCB in your country in the text box at the end of the section.

Section III. Information on local destruction and import and export of PCB for destruction

The Convention includes provision for the destruction of PCB, including the importation and exportation of PCB for the purpose of destruction. This section contains information on quantities of PCB destroyed in an environmentally sound manner:

- Local destruction of PCB, in accordance with paragraph 1 d (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention;

- Import of PCB for destruction;
- Export of PCB for destruction.

This section has three questions:

15. Has your country locally destroyed, in an environmentally sound manner, equipment, liquids, or other wastes containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB (e.g. transformers, capacitors or other receptacles containing liquid stocks) identified in your country?

16. Has your country imported equipment, liquids, or other wastes containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB for environmentally sound destruction?

17. Has your country exported equipment, liquids, or other wastes containing greater than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB (e.g. transformers, capacitors or other receptacles containing liquid stocks) for environmentally sound destruction?

Question 15 asks about local (within national boundaries) destruction of PCB. If your country has a facility for the environmentally sound destruction of wastes containing more than 0.005% (50 ppm) PCB, and it was used to destroy PCB, indicate Yes. Provide information on the quantity of PCB destroyed in Table 15.1.

Click on “Add” and in the pop-up window and specify if the PCB were contained in equipment, liquids or waste, the year they were destroyed, and the quantities (in metric tons) that were destroyed for that year. For PCB that were destroyed before 2001, provide the cumulative total of PCB destroyed.

In Question 16, indicate whether or not your country has received PCB waste for the purpose of their environmentally sound destruction. If Yes, provide information on the quantity of PCB destroyed in Table 16.1.

Click on “Add” and in the pop-up window specify if the PCB were contained in equipment, liquids or waste, the year they were destroyed, and the quantities (in metric tons) that were destroyed for that year. For PCB that were destroyed before 2001, provide the cumulative total of PCB destroyed.

If your country has imported PCB for environmentally sound destruction (final disposal) report this information here **and** in question 26 of Part B above.

In Question 17, indicate whether or not your country has sent PCB waste to another country for the purpose of their environmentally sound destruction. If Yes, provide information on the quantity of PCB exported for destruction in Table 17.1.

Click on “Add” and in the pop-up window and specify if the PCB were contained in equipment, liquids or waste, the year they were exported, and the quantities (in metric tons) that were exported for that year. For PCB that were exported before 2001, provide the cumulative total of PCB exported for destruction.

If your country has exported PCB for environmentally sound destruction (final disposal), report this information here **and** in question 25 of Part B.

Please provide comments, if any, on questions [15] to [17] of this section in the text box provided.

Part D: Information specifically on the progress made in eliminating perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in accordance with paragraph 3 in Part III of Annex B to the Convention.

Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS) are listed in Annex B of the Convention. Salts include: potassium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 2795-39-3), lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 29457-72-5), ammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 29081-56-9), diethanolammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 70225-14-8), tetraethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 56773-42-3), didecyldimethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 251099-16-8).

Paragraph 3 in Part III of Annex B stipulates that every four years, each Party that uses and/or produces these chemicals shall report on progress made to eliminate PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and submit information on such progress to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to and in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention. When PFOS was listed, several specific exemptions and acceptable uses were identified.

By paragraph 2 of decision SC-7/1 (2015), the Conference of the Parties noted that pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 4 of the Convention, that as there were no longer any Parties registered for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives and rubber and plastics, no new registrations of specific exemptions may be made with respect to them.

Part D of the National Report includes information on the progress made to eliminate PFOS.

There are eight questions in this section:

1. Has your country registered for any of the specific exemptions related to PFOS listed in Annex B to the Convention?
2. Has your country registered for any of the acceptable purposes related to PFOS listed in Annex B to the Convention?
3. If you answered yes to questions 1 and/or 2, has your country reviewed the continued need for the specific exemption(s) and/or acceptable purpose(s)?
4. Has your country developed and implemented an action plan with the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the production and/or use of PFOS, as Parties are encouraged to do in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of Part III of Annex B?
5. Has your country produced PFOS?
6. Has your country used PFOS for production in the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions listed in Annex B?
7. Has your country taken any actions to phase out the use of PFOS as safer alternative substances or methods have become available, as Parties are encouraged to do in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of Part III of Annex B?
8. Has your country taken action to promote research on and development of safe alternative chemicals and non-chemical products and processes, methods and strategies to the use of PFOS as Parties are encouraged to do in accordance with paragraph 4 (c) of Part III of Annex B?
9. Has your country taken action to build the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in accordance with paragraph 5 (d) of Part III of Annex B?

Note: When filling out Part D, use information commencing from the year in which the amendment to add PFOS in Annex B of the Convention entered into force for your country.

Update any of the information submitted in the previous reporting cycles if needed, and add any new information on the progress made in eliminating PFOS, its salts and PFOSF. When requested, please specify the year or years.

Question 1: Indicate whether or not your country registered for a specific exemption. If Yes, list the exemptions your country registered for in the text box 1.1.

Question 2: indicate whether or not your country has registered for an acceptable purpose. If Yes, list the acceptable purposes our country registered for in 2.1.

Question 3 applies only if you have registered either a specific exemption or an acceptable purpose or both. Indicate whether or not your country has reviewed the continued need for these uses. If Yes, provide details on this review in the text box 3.1

Question 4: Indicate whether or not your country has developed and implemented an action plan with the goal for reducing and ultimately eliminating the production and/or use of PFOS. If Yes, indicate the year it was developed in 4.1. If the plan has been developed but not yet implemented indicate Yes.

Question 5: Indicate whether or not your country has ever produced PFOS. If Yes, provide data on its production for acceptable purposes in **Table 5.1**. The data requested are for the production of PFOS (in kilograms) for each acceptable purpose listed in Annex B part III. If information is not available for the specified use, indicate N/Av in the column Produced PFOS? For production before 2009, aggregate the data of previous years to give a total value. The information provided in this question should be consistent with data provided in question 24 of Part B above.

In **Table 5.2.1** provide data on production of PFOS for **specific exemptions** listed in Annex B part III. The data requested are for the production of PFOS (in kilograms) for each specific exemption. If information is not available for the specified use, indicate N/Av in the column Produced PFOS? For production before 2009, aggregate the data of previous years to give a total value.

Table 5.2.2 provides data on the specific exemptions for which no new exemptions may be registered after 2015 as per decision SC-7/1 (see above). Enter historical information or revised estimates of production for the uses listed this table.

Question 6: indicate whether or not your country has used PFOS for any of the **acceptable purposes** listed in Annex B part III of the Convention. If Yes, when such information is available, in **Table 6.1** provide data on use of PFOS (in kilograms) for the acceptable purposes listed in Annex B of the Convention. If information is not available for the specified use, indicate N/Av in the column Use PFOS? For use before 2009, aggregate the data of previous years to give a total value. The information provided in this question should be consistent with data provided in Section VI. of Part B above.

In **Table 6.2.1** provide data on the use of PFOS for **specific exemption** listed in Annex B part III. The data requested are for the use of PFOS (in kilograms) for each specific exemption. If information is not available for the specified use, indicate N/Av in the column Use PFOS? For production before 2009, aggregate the data of previous years to give a total value.

Table 6.2.2 provides data on the specific exemptions for which no new exemptions may be registered after 2015 as per decision SC-7/1 (see above). Enter historical information or revised estimates on use for the uses listed this table.

Question 7: The Conference of the Parties encourages each Party using PFOS to take action to phase out uses when suitable alternatives substances or methods are available (refer to paragraph 4 (a) of Part III of Annex B). Indicate whether or not your country has taken action to phase out the use of PFOS. If Yes, provide a description of the alternative substance(s) or method(s) used to replace PFOS in the applicable specified use in Table 7.1. If No, indicate the reason(s) your country has not been able to take action to phase out the use of PFOS: for example, information on alternatives is not available, lack of financial resources and/or insufficient technical capacity.

Question 8: Paragraph 4 (c) of Part III of Annex B encourages Parties to promote research on and development of safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products and processes, methods and strategies within their capabilities. Indicate whether or not your country has taken initiatives in research and development of alternatives in Question 8. If Yes, provide details in the text box 8.1. If No, indicate the reason(s) in 8.1. These could include that information on alternatives is not available, or that there is a lack of financial resources or technical capacity.

Question 9: Paragraph 5 of Part III of Annex B stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the continued need for PFOS for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including progress in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on such alternatives. Indicate whether or not your country has taken initiatives to build the capacity to transfer to the use of alternatives. If Yes, provide details in the text box 9.1. If No, indicate the reason(s) in 9.1, which could include that information on alternatives is not available, or that there is a lack of financial resources or technical capacity.

You can provide any additional comment on efforts to eliminate the use of PFOS or on barriers to such elimination in your country in the text box provided at the end of the section.

Part E: Additional information and comments

This section provides additional information on the implementation of the Convention in your country and feedback on the electronic reporting system. There are two text boxes for you to input your observations:

1. Please provide any substantial information that you consider useful.
2. Please provide comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding ways to improve the reporting format, if any.
3. If you wish to add any supporting documents to your report, please use the option below:

Question 1: Provide any information that you deem relevant to that could assist other Parties and the Secretariat understand situation in your country including challenges to the implementation of the Convention and opportunities for improvement.

Question 2: Provide any feedback you may have on the electronic reporting format that would make easier for you to use and provide the requested information.

Question 3: Please upload any supporting file that may complement your national report submission.

This is the end of the reporting format. Please review your submission and ensure that all questions have been answered.

Please click “Submit the National Report” at the top of the page to submit the report after completing the form. Indicate the name of the person who is submitting the report. Under the Convention, the Official Contact Point is the authority that submits a national report to the Secretariat.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat. E-mail: sc-natrep@brsmeas.org; Website: www.pops.int.