



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

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

Geneva, 4–15 May 2015

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

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

Report by the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network

Note by the Secretariat

As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on polychlorinated biphenyls (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/6), annex I to the present note contains a report by the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN). Annex II contains a report of an information meeting of the PEN, held in Geneva, on 6 May 2013. Annex III contains the report of the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee, held in Geneva, on 26 and 27 November 2014. The present note, including its annexes, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.7/1.

Annex I

Report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN)

Document prepared by:
UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
Science Team
International Environment House
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland
Email: science.chemicals@unep.org

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Structure of the PEN	5
2.1. Membership	5
2.2. Advisory Committee.....	5
2.3. Thematic Groups	6
3. Financial Issues and Workplan.....	6
4. Meetings	7
4.1. PEN Information Meeting	7
4.2. Fifth Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PEN.....	7
5. Activities of the Thematic Groups and Progress in Implementing the Workplan.....	7
6. Other PCB and PEN Related Activities	8
6.1. PCB- and PEN-related Activities of UNEP	8
6.2. PCB- and PEN-related Activities of the BRS Secretariat	9
6.3. PCB- and PEN-related Activities of UNIDO	9

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BCRC Argentina	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region in Argentina
BCRC China	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific Region in China
BRS Secretariat	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
COP	Conference of the Parties
DSA	Daily subsistence allowance
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
ESM	Environmentally sound management
EU	European Union
ExcOPs	Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
FSP	Full-sized project (as defined by Global Environment Facility)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HWE	Hazardous Waste Europe
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
INATEK	Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of Kibungo
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MSP	Medium-sized projects
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PEN	PCB Elimination Network
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SCRAP	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

1. Introduction

Pursuant to decision SC-5/7 on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) had facilitated a sustainable transition of the leadership of the PCB Elimination Network (PEN) to the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). At its sixth meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland, 28 April-10 May 2013, through decision SC-6/6 on PCB (paragraph 5), the COP invited UNEP Chemicals Branch to inform the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting regarding the activities of the network.

UNEP Chemicals Branch, in its function as the secretariat of the PEN, has worked in close collaboration with the BRS Secretariat to facilitate the work of the PEN (see paragraph 6 of decision SC-6/6). The provision of leadership and administrative support for the PCB Elimination Network has been approved within UNEP's Subprogramme 'Chemicals and Waste 2014-2015' and project 'Support to implementation of the chemicals and waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)' for output 524.

The following gives an overview of the activities undertaken to date and explains the current status of the PEN.

2. Structure of the PEN

2.1. Membership

Since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the PEN has slightly expanded and now counts 434 members (status as of 18.02.2015), as compared to 423 in 2013.

The PEN Advisory Committee at its fifth meeting held in Geneva, 26-27 November 2014, adopted a revised application form for PEN membership. The revised membership application form is contained in Annex E of the report of the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee as presented in Annex B of this document.

2.2. Advisory Committee

According to the terms of reference of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network contained in annex 3 of the document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/5, the membership of governmental representatives to the Advisory Committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network is for 4-year terms. In June 2013, the secretariat of the PEN asked the members of the Bureau of the Stockholm Convention to nominate two candidates from each United Nations region to serve on the Advisory Committee. For each region, one candidate was to be nominated for service of two years, from 2013 to 2015, and the other candidate, for service of four years, from 2013 to 2017. Due to the late arrival of the nominations, the terms did not start before early 2014.

The status of and changes to the PEN Advisory Committee are as follows:

- Africa: Ms. Stella Mojekwu (Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria) has been nominated to serve her second consecutive term for a period of two years (2014-2015). Mr. Aloys Kamatari (Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of Kibungo (INATEK)), Rwanda) has been nominated to serve his second consecutive term for a period of four years (2014-2017).
- Asia-Pacific: Mr. Jinhui Li (Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific Region in China (BCRC China), People's Republic of China) has been nominated to serve his second consecutive term for a period of two years (2014-2015). Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh (Ministry of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran) has been nominated to serve her second consecutive term for a period of four years (2014-2017).
- Central and Eastern Europe: Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Romania) has been nominated to replace Daniela Certikova (Slovak Environmental Agency, Slovak Republic) and will serve for a period of two years (2014-2015). Mr. Ion Barbarasa (Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Moldova) has been nominated to serve his second consecutive term for a period of four years (2014-2017).
- Latin American and the Caribbean: Mr. Tara Dasgupta (Pesticide Research Laboratory, Jamaica) has been nominated to serve his second consecutive term for a period of two years (2014-2015). Ms. Anna Ortiz (Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica) has been nominated to serve her second consecutive term for a period of four years (2014-2017).
- Western Europe and Others: Mr. Niklas Johansson (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden) had been nominated to serve his second consecutive term for a period of two years (2014-

2015) and Ms. Pauline Langeron (Ministry of the Environment, France) had been nominated to serve her second consecutive term for a period of four years (2014-2017). However, in 2014, Mr. Johansson and Ms. Langeron informed the PEN Secretariat of their retirement from the Advisory Committee. To date, no new nominations have been received and the two positions remain vacant.

In addition, seven non-government nominated members representing various stakeholders participate in the Advisory Committee.

- Mr. Alan D. Watson (International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)) continues to serve as civil society representative.
- Mr. Urs Wagner (ETI Umwelttechnik AG) continues to serve as technical representative.
- Mr. Hugues Levasseur (Hazardous Waste Europe (HWE)) continues to serve as industry representative.
- Mr. Mellon Chinjila (Zesco Ltd. Zambia) who had served on the PEN Advisory Committee as ‘holder of PCB’, deceased. To date, we have not been able to fill this position.
- Mr. Matthias Kern (BRS Secretariat) continues to serve as representative of the BRS Secretariat.
- Mr. Alfredo Cueva (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) has been nominated to replace Mr. Mohamed Eisa (UNIDO) as representative of Intergovernmental Organisations (IGO). Ms. Heidelore Fiedler (UNEP) serves as both, representative of IGO and coordinator of the secretariat of the PEN (located at the Chemicals Branch).

In total, three seats remain vacant.

The PEN Advisory Committee revised its terms of reference to allow the chair of the PEN to serve for a period exceeding four consecutive years and agreed that Ms. Ortiz will continue to serve in this function.

2.3. Thematic Groups

The Thematic Groups of the PEN have the following leads and co-leads (confirmed at the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee):

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

3. Financial Issues and Workplan

The financial basis for the operation of the PEN and the implementation of the workplan remains weak. No contributions have been received between May 2013 and December 2014.

Existing funds available for the PEN’s work were used as follows:

- Government of Sweden (SEK 200,000) to organize the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee including travel and daily subsistence allowances (DSA) (USD 16,986);
- Government of Finland (USD 28,981): Staff and consultants to coordinate the PEN, facilitate the PEN’s website and POPs Social, and supervise outputs (see item 5 below);
- Presently, the PEN has a remaining cash budget of USD 7,044;
- The members of the Advisory Committee, UNEP Chemicals Branch and the BRS Secretariat supported the PEN with substantial in-kind contributions (staff time and clearinghouse mechanism).

The originally agreed and presented workplan and budget for 2012/2013 and 2014/2015 were found to be too ambitious against the background of limited human and financial resources, therefore, the PEN Advisory Committee adopted a new workplan for 2014/2015 and 2016/2017. A total budget of USD 457,650 covering coordination and implementation of the activities during the 4-year period was agreed. The revised workplan relies mainly on in-kind contributions including UNEP, the PEN Advisory Committee, and regional centres. The revised workplan and budget including a timetable are presented in Annex C of the report of the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee as presented in Annex B of this document.

4. Meetings

4.1. PEN Information Meeting

The 'PEN Information Meeting for Members and Others Interested in PCB', organised by UNEP Chemicals Branch in its function as secretariat of the PEN, was held as a side event at the 'Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions' (ExCOPs) in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 May 2013. The meeting was successful, with almost 50 participants and featuring a number of presentations on topics related to the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCB in open and closed applications. The report of the meeting is set out in Annex B to this document and is available on the website of the PEN¹.

4.2. Fifth Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PEN

Due to a lack of funding, no meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee was held in 2013. However, UNEP Chemicals Branch organised the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, from 26 to 27 November 2014. The report of the meeting is set out in Annex III to this document and is also available on the website of the PEN.

During the meeting, the PEN secretariat provided an update on activities undertaken, the composition of the PEN Advisory Committee and PEN membership, financial issues, and other matters. The leads and/or co-leads of each Thematic Group provided updates on the activities that had been carried out and the progress that had been made in implementing the workplan. The BRS Secretariat, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNEP updated participants on their work relevant to PCB in general and the PEN in particular. Moreover, the Advisory Committee reviewed and revised the workplan and elected the leads and co-leads of each Thematic Group. In addition, the participants discussed and endorsed the draft document 'Preliminary assessment of efforts toward eliminating PCB', which had been prepared by UNEP Chemicals Branch in collaboration with the BRS Secretariat (discussed in more detail below). Finally, the PEN Advisory Committee adopted conclusions and recommendations for the COP to the Stockholm Convention, as contained in Annex D of the meeting report of the PEN Advisory Committee and document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/6.

5. Activities of the Thematic Groups and Progress in Implementing the Workplan

The following guidance documents have been finalised by the Thematic Groups and posted on the website of the BRS Secretariat²:

- a) The 'PCB Inventory Guidance', prepared by the Thematic Group on Inventories, is intended to serve as a guide on how to set up or update a comprehensive PCB inventory through a step-by-step approach. The document includes standardised inventory procedures that had been compiled based on experiences and lessons learned as well as existing guidelines on PCB inventories. It focuses especially on awareness raising, stakeholder participation, sampling and testing, and PCB database development and information management. The Guidance could be used for trainings and technical assistance to Parties.
- b) The 'Guidance on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB' has been prepared by the Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB. Its purpose is to support institutions and individuals involved in the ESM of equipment and oils containing PCB and to address their needs taking into account regional variations. It contains technical guidelines, procedures and practical recommendations, based on collected experiences from countries and companies, lessons learnt, existing guidelines and regulations. The Guidance is recommended for use in practical training workshops.

Three factsheets and a photo booklet have been finalised by the Thematic Groups and posted on the website of the BRS Secretariat:

- a) The 'Factsheet on Open Applications: Machinery and Installations' and the 'Factsheet on Open Applications' have been finalised by the Thematic Group on Open Applications: Residential and Public

¹ <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/PCBs/PEN/PENInformationMeetingMay2013/tabid/3852/Default.aspx>

² <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/PCBs/DocumentsPublications/tabid/665/Default.aspx>

Buildings': These factsheets aim to raise awareness and inform stakeholders involved in the management of open applications as well as others affected. The factsheets provide an introduction, basic background information, a list of 'Dos' and 'Don'ts', and numerous photos illustrating specific examples where PCB containing materials could be found.

- b) The 'Photo Booklet on Open Applications: Identification and Environmentally Sound Management' has also been prepared by the Thematic Group on Open Applications: The photo booklet illustrates a variety of open applications by means of photos and some explanatory text and provides an overview of situations of 'no immediate risk', 'potential risk' and 'high risk'. The booklet also gives background information, including on the issue of cross-contamination and back-diffusion.
- c) The 'Factsheet on Information Requirements' has been developed by the Thematic Group on Inventories. Its aim is to support Parties in information management and the reporting process under paragraph (g), Part II, Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.

Other activities undertaken by the Thematic Groups include the following:

- a) The Thematic Group on Inventories was involved in the 'Regional Workshop on Capacity Strengthening and Information Exchange on PCB Management', organised by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific (SCRAP) in Beijing, China, 25-26 April 2012.
- b) The Thematic Group on Inventories participated in the establishment and management of a regional information exchange platform on PCB, aiming to facilitate information exchange and the sharing of experiences in the fields of PCB management and elimination. The platform is entitled 'PCB Elimination Action in Asia-Pacific'³.
- c) The 'Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB' organised a Spanish-language webinar to train those involved in the management of PCB in the use of existing guidance documents. The webinar was well received and enjoyed a high participation.

6. Other PCB and PEN Related Activities

6.1. PCB- and PEN-related Activities of UNEP

In its function as the secretariat of the PEN, UNEP Chemicals Branch has coordinated and facilitated the activities of the Thematic Groups, provided substantive feedback and input for their products, participated in webinars organised by the BRS Secretariat, organised the PEN Information Meeting (2013) as well as the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee (2014), managed membership applications and the web page of the PEN, etc. UNEP Chemicals Branch also assumed responsibility for managing two groups on 'POPs Social': one for all PEN members and another for the members of the PEN Advisory Committee only.

In addition to its role as the secretariat of the PEN, UNEP Chemicals Branch has been involved in a number of other activities relevant to PCB and the PEN. UNEP Chemicals Branch is currently the implementing agency for four PCB-related projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), one single-country project and three regional projects: A project preparation grant is presently under implementation by the government of Cameroon for a project aiming for PCB reduction through the use of local expertise and the development of national capacities. A project to demonstrate a regional approach to the ESM of PCB liquid wastes as well as transformers and capacitors containing PCB is currently being implemented in West Africa. Among others, the project will dispose 600 tonnes of PCB in the concerned countries. The regional project in South America, with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region in Argentina (BCRC Argentina) acting as executing agency, is close to finalisation. This project is geared towards best practices for PCB management in the mining sector, including the removal of 42 tons of PCB. The third regional project implemented by UNEP is currently in the preparatory phase and will dispose of PCB oils contained in transformers as well as capacitors containing PCB in Southern African countries.

In the context of the Global Monitoring Plan, UNEP Chemicals Branch coordinated the second Biennial Global Interlaboratory Assessment on POPs, which was carried out in 2012/2013 with funds from the European Union (EU) and the GEF. The purpose was to assess the performance of POPs laboratories, including those analysing PCB, in standard solutions and naturally contaminated test samples.

³ <http://pcbs.bcrc.cn>

UNEP is also engaged in relevant activities with the BRS Secretariat. Thus, UNEP Chemicals Branch participated in the small intersessional working group to update and/or develop the general and the various specific technical guidelines for the ESM of POPs wastes, including the technical guidelines for PCB waste and unintentionally generated PCB. Another example is the involvement in the update of factsheets for POPs destruction technologies, described in more detail below.

In its leadership role within the PEN, UNEP Chemicals, in cooperation with the BRS Secretariat and in consultation with the PEN Advisory Committee, developed a 'Preliminary assessment of efforts made toward the elimination of PCB', taking into account national reports submitted by parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention and other relevant sources of information. The report summarizes available information on the amounts of PCB (i) produced, (ii) eliminated to date, and (iii) still in need of elimination, in order to determine how much progress had been made towards the elimination of PCB. As part of this assessment, UNEP Chemicals Branch conducted a survey for the purpose of gathering additional, up-to-date information from GEF implementing agencies, the PEN Advisory Committee, the UNEP Regional Offices, and the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres. The report is set out in document UNEP/POPs/COP.7/INF/9.

6.2. PCB- and PEN-related Activities of the BRS Secretariat

Since the transfer of the leadership, the BRS Secretariat has remained an active participant in the PEN and has contributed towards fulfilling its mandate through its PCB-related work, for example its role in updating the general technical guidelines for the ESM of PCB wastes.

Another PCB-related activity of the BRS Secretariat is the updating of two sets of factsheets describing the technologies recommended for the destruction or irreversible transformation of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs, including PCB. One set provides a generic description of each of the technologies; the other contains information obtained from specific technology providers or companies. The updated factsheets will be published on the website of the BRS Secretariat.

Moreover, the BRS Secretariat organised a webinar on 'How to enhance PCB inventories: Identifying PCB in closed and open applications', which was held on 13 and 15 May 2014. The webinar aimed to provide assistance to Parties planning to improve and complete their preliminary inventories as well as to raise awareness of existing guidance materials on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCB. The lead of the Thematic Group on Inventories, Mr. Jinhui Li presented the above mentioned 'PCB Inventory Guidance'. Participants were also given the opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Li and the PEN Secretariat. Another set of webinars organised by the BRS Secretariat aimed to assist governments in the submission of their national reports.

6.3. PCB- and PEN-related Activities of UNIDO

UNIDO's work on PCB was mainly through GEF-funded projects supporting the ESM and disposal of PCB by overcoming barriers impeding the implementation of PCB-related obligations under the Stockholm Convention. To date three medium-sized projects (MSPs) on PCB management were completed, two are ongoing, one has been approved by the GEF, and another has been cancelled. The total GEF grant for these projects amounts to USD 8.5 million. In addition, USD 64.4 million have been granted for 14 full-sized projects (FSPs), nine of which are integrated POPs projects. One FSP was cancelled because the country wished to rely on non-combustion technologies which, however, was not possible since large amounts of PCB waste at high concentrations were to be treated.

Annex II



Report

**Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN)
Information Meeting for Members and Others Interested in PCB
Geneva, Switzerland, 6 May 2013**

UNEP/CB/PEN/Side event ex-COPs 2013

Report prepared by:

Secretariat of the PEN
Chemicals Branch
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/DTIE
chemin des Anémones 11-13
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland
e-mail: pen@pops.int, heidalore.fiedler@unep.org
www.pops.int/pen

Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network Information Meeting for Members and Others Interested in PCB

1	<u>Opening of the meeting</u>	13
2	<u>Organizational matters</u>	13
3	<u>Activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network</u>	13
3.1	<u>Report from the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network Secretariat</u>	13
3.2	<u>Report from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions</u>	14
3.3	<u>Presentation from Mr. Urs Wagner, an international expert</u>	15
3.4	<u>Presentation from Ms. Leila Devia, the implementing agency for the Latin America and the Caribbean regional project on PCB management in the mining sector</u>	15
3.5	<u>Presentation from Mr. John Vijgen, an international expert</u>	16
4	<u>Closure of the meeting</u>	16
5	<u>Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda</u>	17
6	<u>Appendix 2: List of Participants</u>	18

Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network Information Meeting for Members and Others Interested in PCB

Geneva, Switzerland, 6 May 2013

Meeting Report

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN) was held in Geneva at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 May 2013 from 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The meeting was held as an evening side event to the Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Such meeting had been proposed by the Advisory Committee of the PEN at its fourth meeting, held in Beijing, China, September 2012. The meeting was organized by the PEN Secretariat, which is hosted by the Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. by Ms. Heidi Fiedler, Coordinator of the PEN Secretariat and Senior Scientific Affairs Officer of the Chemicals Branch, DTIE, UNEP. In her opening statement, she welcomed the participants to the meeting and introduced the meeting programme and the speakers: Mr. Matthias Kern, Senior Programme Officer at the Technical Assistance Branch of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat), Mr. Urs Wagner, Technical Consultant at the ETI Environmental Technology Limited, Switzerland, Ms. Leila Devia, Director of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America, Argentina and Mr. John Vijgen, Director of the International HCH & Pesticides Association, Denmark.

2 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3. The programme of the meeting and the list of participants are set out in the appendix to this report.

4. The PEN Secretariat referred to decision SC-5/7 of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, documents UNEP/POPS/COP.6/9 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/5, the meeting report of the fourth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee which included the workplan and budget for 2012-2015 as well as the modified PEN membership application form. Participants were informed that the documents and presentations were available on the PEN webpage.

3 ACTIVITIES OF THE POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS ELIMINATION NETWORK

3.1 Report from the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network Secretariat

5. Ms. Heidi Fiedler started the meeting with a presentation entitled 'Introduction of the PEN and Status 2013'.

6. She shared the news on reclassification of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. On the basis of sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in humans and experimental animals, PCB had been classified as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1). Dioxin-like PCB had also been classified in Group 1.

7. She highlighted the need to attain the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention with respect to PCB. It was suggested during the course of the meeting to develop and submit a global project proposal to the Global Environment Facility to put PEN on a more solid basis for operation with the aim to assess the activities undertaken towards the 2028 goal of PCB elimination and harmonizing activities to avoid duplication.

8. She gave an overview of PEN and presented the modified PEN membership application form. She informed that the electronic document of the application form would be available on the website soon. She also informed that the two mailing addresses of the PEN Secretariat (pen@pops.int and heidlore.fiedler@unep.org) were both functioning.
9. She introduced POPs Social, the information exchange platform for PEN members, and requested for ideas on how to revitalize it. She introduced the first issue of the PEN magazine and asked for opinions on the future of the magazine. It was proposed to develop the second issue of the PEN magazine, but only in electronic format to save cost.
10. She introduced decision SC-5/7 of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention - the decision on the transfer of PEN leadership from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to UNEP - and explained its implementation so far and the activities undertaken by UNEP since the transfer of PEN. She introduced two documents (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/9 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/5), namely the reports from UNEP to the sixth meeting of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. She stressed the need for more targeted activities to raise funds to implement PEN activities.
11. She briefed participants on the past meetings of the Advisory Committee. She said the fourth meeting of the Advisory Committee and the first meeting of the Thematic Groups had recently been held from 7 to 9 September 2012 in Beijing, China and presented its meeting report. She also introduced the status of the development of guidance documents and factsheets by each Thematic Group and highlighted the need to speed up the process to meet the deadline of February 2014. She also introduced the workplan and the budget for the two biennia 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.
12. She explained the composition and terms of the Advisory Committee and requested for the new Advisory Committee members to be nominated and confirmed by 30 June 2013. She gave an overview of the current PEN member status, encouraged the applications of non-members and requested the members to provide changes in contact information or member status to the PEN Secretariat.
13. Finally, she acknowledged the financial contributions from the BRS Secretariat, governments of Sweden and Finland and thanked the members and participants to the event.
14. A question and answer session followed. There was a remark that the international standards, such as the European Union standard, should be applied in developing new guidance documents. Ms. Heidi Fiedler responded that the objective of PEN was to facilitate the communication on the work of the other actors and make public the existing work and thus prevent the duplication of work.
15. A concern was raised regarding the current classification of PCB as waste. Ms. Heidi Fiedler responded that the classification was guided by the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
16. A discussion followed on the question whether the manufacturers should be held liable according to the polluter pays principle. It was mentioned that India had never manufactured PCB and had started using alternatives since 1996 but bore the burden today as it had been using PCB without proper knowledge.

3.2 Report from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

17. Mr. Matthias Kern, Senior Programme Officer at the Technical Assistance Branch of the BRS Secretariat, thanked the Chemicals Branch for taking over the function of the PEN Secretariat. He congratulated the smooth and successful transition in the past two years, and confirmed that the BRS Secretariat would continue its cooperation and commitment as a member of the PEN and the Advisory Committee and as a provider of the PEN clearing house mechanism. He recalled the discussions at the fourth meeting of the Advisory Committee and emphasized the benefit of a synergistic approach in maintaining the network. He mentioned the interlinkage between the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention on disposal of PCB waste and highlighted PEN as a good example of a synergy process.

18. Ms. Heidi Fiedler thanked Mr. Matthias Kern and indicated that the use of both logos of UNEP and the Stockholm Convention in PEN activities was intentional to demonstrate the close linkage between the Chemicals Branch and the BRS Secretariat.

3.3 Presentation from Mr. Urs Wagner, an international expert

19. Mr. Urs Wagner, Technical Consultant at the ETI Environmental Technology Limited, Switzerland, gave a presentation entitled 'Expert's Perspectives to PEN and PCB Management'. He emphasized that his presentation was intended to provide the neutral and critical perspective of a Swiss expert.

20. He provided suggestions for the future activities of the PEN Magazine, POPs Social and guidelines and factsheets development.

21. He regretted that the transition of the PEN Secretariat had caused uncertainties and had put on hold many PEN activities, but appreciated that the transition was now concluded with clear leadership in place. He gave ideas on what should be done to strengthen the PEN and provide useful outputs for the next Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

22. He presented technical issues related to the disposal of PCB and suggested that reliable PCB assessment, appropriate technology selection and priority setting was needed for sustainable PCB management. He added that unnecessary and additional costs could be reduced by preventing the issue of cross contamination. On the issue of controlled recycling and disposal, he regretted that although there were plenty of guidelines and regulations, they were not being used because of unawareness, missing implementation and control and ignorance, among others due to financial constraints, and suggested that prevention was a cheaper and easier solution than remediation. He then summarized the main sources of diffuse PCB pollution.

23. He concluded that approved disposal and treatment technologies were available, that costs were transparent and fair with transportation remaining to be the costly and risky issue, that appropriate interim storage options would be available but not as a long term solution, and that the current focus should be on adaptation of existing inventories, prevention of further unnecessary cross contamination and unintentional formation of PCDD/PCDF and disposal. He noted that it was necessary to further develop respectively adapt Guidelines and incorporate appropriate strategies considering all stakeholders and all levels of workers and management.

24. Following the presentation, a representative from the Stockholm Convention Regional Center in Asia and the Pacific briefly introduced the inventory guideline which had been developed by the Regional Centre. She added that printed circuit board was stated as hazardous waste because of heavy metals and PCB. She said that capacitors containing PCB oils were relatively safe, but that the challenge was to identify which capacitors contained PCB oil and which did not. There was a remark that it was the safest to keep and use PCB in closed applications, but that problems would arise when it would become waste.

25. There was a discussion on which alternative technologies were available and concerns were raised that the plasma technology was too costly for India.

3.4 Presentation from Ms. Leila Devia, the implementing agency for the Latin America and the Caribbean regional project on PCB management in the mining sector

26. Ms. Leila Devia, Director of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America, Argentina, gave a presentation on best practices in PCB management in the mining industry in South America in Chile and Peru.

27. She introduced the project that had been implemented by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in South America, and said it was the first time that a project had been implemented in two countries where the regional centre was not hosted. She explained that as a result of the project, the assessments and reference documents for the region had been produced, and the application of best practices and the introduction of the best technologies had been facilitated.

28. She said the commitment and involvement of public and private sectors from both Chile and Peru had made direct impact on the project. She added that the management and mediation of disagreements among mining industry partners had been important for the project's success.

29. She explained that it had been the first project of the Centre which had been funded by the Global Environment Facility and two countries had benefited by making use of the available documents developed in the context of the project.

30. Ms. Heidi Fiedler responded by welcoming the contribution from mining sector, a non traditional partner to the project.

3.5 Presentation from Mr. John Vijgen, an international expert

31. Mr. John Vijgen, Director of the International HCH & Pesticides Association, Denmark, made a presentation on the progress in establishing new fact sheets for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) destruction under the Basel Convention.

32. After giving a brief history of the work to develop the fact sheets since 2001, he explained that new fact sheets were under development since 2011, as had been requested by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to better confirm to the Basel Convention's Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced PCDD, PCDF, HCB or PCB.

33. During this presentation, there were discussions on issues such as pros and cons of incineration based technology, best available techniques and best environmental practices.

4 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

34. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m. on 6 May 2013.

5 APPENDIX 1: MEETING AGENDA

	
PCB Elimination Network Information meeting for members and others interested in PCB	
6 May 2013, 18:15 h - 19:45 h Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Room 15	
Agenda	
Welcome	PEN Secretariat
Introduction of the PEN and status 2013	Heidelore Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals, PEN Secretariat
Advisory Committee Members	
BRS Secretariat on transition	Matthias Kern, BRS Secretariat
PEN and PCB management from expert's point of view	Urs Wagner, International Expert
PEN Members	
Regional PCB project	Leila Devia, Basel Regional Center, ARG
Factsheets on POPs destruction technologies	John Vijgen, International HCH and Pesticides Association
Questions and answers	

6 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ms. Lulwa ALI
 Research Scientist, Coordinator
 Stockholm Convention Regional Center on POPs
 Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)
 P.O. Box 24885, Safat 13109
 Kuwait
 Tel.: +965 2498 9090
 Fax: +965 2498 9089
 Email: lali@safat.kisr.edu.kw,
 ali.lulwa@yahoo.com

Mr. Abdulmohsen AL-MAHMOOD
 Head
 Waste Management Section
 Environmental Control Directorate
 Public Commission for the Protection of Marine
 Resources, Environment and Wildlife
 P.O. Box 18233
 Bahrain Mall
 Bahrain
 Tel.: +973 17 386 595
 Fax: +973 17 920 213
 Email: mohsinm@pmew.gov.bh,
 a.mohsin_060@yahoo.com

Mr. Amal AL-RASHDAN
 Manager
 Central Analytical Laboratory
 Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)
 P.O. Box 24885, Safat 13109
 Kuwait
 Tel.: +965 24989060
 Fax: +965 24989059
 Email: arashdan@kisr.edu.kw,
 dramel_alrashdan@yahoo.com

Mr. Suresh Lochan AMICHAND
 Senior Inspector
 Training and Enforcement
 Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board
 Ministry of Agriculture
 NARI Compound, Mon Repos
 East Coast Demerara
 Guyana
 Tel.: +592 671 45 44
 Email: amichands@yahoo.com,
 samichand@ptccb.org.gy

Ms. Gulshira ATEMOVA
 Head of the Methodological Support Management
 Department for State Environment Regulation
 Ministry of Environmental Protection
 Oryndor Street, Ministry House, 14
 010000 Astana
 Republic of Kazakhstan
 Tel.: +7 7172 740 8 46
 Fax: +7 7172 740 8 82
 Email: gulshira73@mail.ru

Ms. Svetlana BOLOCAN
 Deputy Head
 Division of Pollution Prevention and Waste
 Management
 Ministry of Environment
 9 Cosmonautilor Street, 2005 Chisinau
 Moldova
 Tel.: +373 (22) 20 45 27
 Fax: +373 (22) 22 68 58
 Email: bolocan@mediu.gov.md

Mr. Darren BYRNE
 Environmental Inspector
 Ministry of Environment
 Custom House, 1 Dublin
 Ireland
 Tel.: +353 1 8882435
 Fax: +353 1 8882994
 Email: Darren.Byrne@environ.ie

Ms. Yuan CHEN
 Programme Officer
 Stockholm Convention Regional Center for
 Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology
 in Asia and the Pacific, Basel Convention Regional
 Center for Asia and the Pacific, China
 School of Environment, Tsinghua University
 100084 Beijing
 China
 Tel.: +86 (10) 6279 4351
 Fax: +86 (10) 6277 2048
 Email: chenyan227@tsinghua.edu.cn,
 bccc@tsinghua.edu.cn

Mr. Mario Roberto CISNEROS PARRENO
 Tecnico de Registro de insumos Agrícolas
 Coordinación de Control Fitosanitario
 Agencia Ecuatoriana de Aseguramiento de la
 Calidad del Agro-Agrocalidad
 Av. Eloy Alfaro y Amazonas
 Edificio Magao. Pios 9, Quito
 Ecuador
 Tel.: +593 225 67232
 Fax: +593 225 43319
 Email: direcseesa@sesa.gov.ec,
 mcisneros@sesa.gov.ec

Mr. Motsamai Stanley DAMANE
 Director for Environment
 Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
 6th Floor Post Office Building
 King Way Road, P.O.Box 10993,
 100 Maseru
 Lesotho
 Tel.: +266 22 31 17 67
 Fax: +266 22 31 11 39
 Email: stanleydamane@hotmail.com

Ms. Leila DEVIA
 Director
 Buenos Aires Basel Convention Regional Centre
 for South America
 Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI)
 Avda. Leandro N. Alem 1067 – 7 Floor
 1001 Buenos Aires
 Argentina
 Tel.: +54 (11) 4515 5022
 Fax: +54 (11) 4313 2130
 Email: lumiere@inti.gov.ar,
 lumiere@uolsinectis.com.ar

Ms. Halimatou Tandéta DIALLO
 Conseillère Chargée de l'Environnement / Point
 Focal de la
 Convention de Stockholm
 Direction Nationale de l'Environnement
 Ministère de l'Environnement
 B.P. 761, Conakry
 Guinea
 Tel: +224 62 39 49 80
 Fax: +224 46 84 56
 Email: hamaty@yahoo.fr, hamaty@hotmail.com

Mr. Armando DIAZ
 Coordination Ambiente
 Gerencia de Ambiente
 INTEVEP PDUSA
 Caracas
 Venezuela
 Tel.: +58 212 330 7882
 Fax: +58 212 330 7801
 Email: diaz999@pdusa.com

Mr. Franklin Gabriel GÓNGORA RUIZ
 Técnico de la Dirección Nacional de Control
 Ambiental
 Dirección Nacional de Control Ambiental
 Ministerio de Ambiente de Ecuador
 Calle Madrid 1159 y Andalucía, Quito
 Ecuador
 Tel: +593 23987600 Ext. 1118
 Email: fgongora@ambiente.gob.ec

Mr. Nassereddin HEIDARI
 Deputy Secretary
 National Authority for Chemical Conventions
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Building 8/2, United Nations Street
 Ferdousi Avenue, Imam Khomeini Square
 Tehran
 Iran, Islamic Republic of
 Tel: +98 (21) 6115 4448
 Fax: +98 (21) 6674 0094
 Email: nheidari63@gmail.com,
 nheidari@mfa.gov.ir

Mr. Ahmed HOUSSEIN BOUH
 Conseiller Technique du Ministre, Point Focal
 Technique de la Convention de Stockholm sur les
 POPs
 Ministère de l'Environnement, Ministère de
 l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement
 B.P. 11
 Djibouti
 Tel: +253 (77) 821 112
 Fax: +253 (21) 351 618
 Email: pops_djibouti@yahoo.fr

Mr. Ram Niwas JINDAL
 Additional Director
 Hazardous Substances Management Division
 Ministry of Environment and Forests
 Room No. 556, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O
 Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 510
 India
 Tel.: +91 (11) 2436 6347
 Fax: +91 (11) 2436 0662
 Email: rnjindal@yahoo.com, ram.jindal@nic.in

Mr. Flavien Philomel JOUBERT
 Director General, Wildlife Enforcement and Permit
 Division (WEP)
 Department of Environment
 Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment and
 Transport
 P.O.Box 445
 Seychelles
 Tel: +248 670566
 Fax: +248 610648
 Email: f.joubert@env.gov.sc

Ms. Liudmila MARDUHAEVA
Main Advisory Officer
Division of Pollution Prevention and Waste
Management
Ministry of Environment
9 Cosmonautilor St., MD-2005,
MD-2005 Chisinau
Republic of Moldova
Tel.: +373 (22) 20 45 26
Fax: +373 (22) 22 68 58
Email: liudmila@moldovapops.md,
l.marduhaeva@mail.md

Mr. Momodu-Segiru MOMODU
Director
Chemical Evaluation and Research
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration
and Control
Medical Compound, Edmund Crescent,
Yaba, Lagos, PMB 2081
Nigeria
Tel.: +234 1 7742249, +234 8033063280
Email: momodu.s@nafdac.gov.ng,
msmomodu@yahoo.com

Mr. N'Ladon NADJO
Assistant au Point Focal de la Convention de
Stockholm,
Coordonateur Projet Monitoring des POPs dan
Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources
Forestières
247 Rue des Nîmes, B.P. 4825, Lomé
Togo
Tel: +228 224 31 828
Fax: +228 222 1 03 33
Email: nnadjonab@yahoo.fr,
nadjonladon@hotmail.fr

Ms. Moleboheng PETLANE
Environment Officer
Department of Environment
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
7th floor Post Office Building
King's Way road, P.O.Box 10993,
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel: +266 22 31 17 67
Fax: +266 22 31 11 39
Email: marleymjp@gmail.com

Mr. Shierdath Michael RAMSAMMY
Inspector
Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board
Ministry of Agriculture
NARI Compound, Mon Repos
East Coast Demerara
Guyana
Tel: +592 624 40 17
Fax: +592 220 89 33
Email: smichael679@gmail.com

Ms. Meropi SAMARA-MILIOTOU
Environment Officer
Environment Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and
Environment
Email: cyprus@cyprusmission.ch

Mr. Mory SANO
Point Focal de la Convention de Bâle
Direction Nationale de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement
Durable
B.P. 3118, Conakry
Guinea
Tel.: +224 63 42 37 62
Email: sanofabinka@yahoo.fr

Mr. Vusumuzi Fortune SIMELANE
Environmental Inspector
Environmental Assessment and Compliance
Swaziland Environment Authority
Karl Grant Street
Former MTN Office Park, P.O.Box 2602
100 Mbabane
Swaziland
Tel.: +268 2404 6960
Fax: +268 2404 1718
Email: vfsimelane@sea.org.sz

Ms. Andrea Patricia SOLER GALINDO
Assistant to the Director General of Social Health
Ministry of Social Protection
Calle 10 No 5 - 51 Palacio de San Carlos
Dirreccion Correspondencia Carrera 5
No 9 - 03 Edificio Marco Fidel Suarez
Bogota D.C.
Colombia
Tel.: +57 (1) 3305000 Ext. 1286
Fax: +57 (1) 3305050 Ext. 1280
Email: asoler@minprotectionsocial.gov.co

Mr. Thabo Vicent Kobeli TŠASANYANE
Senior Environment Officer, Basel Convention
Focal Point
Department of Pollution Control
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
6th Floor Post Office Building
Kingsway Road, 10959 Maseru 100
Lesotho
Tel.: +266 (58) 035 830
Email: tsasanyanetk@hotmail.com

Mr. Vander TUMIATTI
 General Partner
 Sea Marconi Technologies s.a.s.
 Via Ungheria 20, 10093 Collegno
 Italy
 Tel.: +39 011 234 3434
 Mobile: +39 348 712 7120
 Fax: +39 011 234 3435
 Email: tumiatti@seamarconi.it, info@seamarconi.it

Mr. John VIJGEN
 Director
 International HCH & Pesticides Association
 (IHPA)
 Elmevej 14, DK-2840 Holte
 Denmark
 Tel: +45 (45) 410 321
 Email: john.vijgen@ihpa.info

UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Andrianirina FANOMEZANA
 Intern
 Chemicals Branch
 Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
 United Nations Environment Programme
 International Environment House
 11-13, chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (22) 917 8188
 Email: Andrianirina.fanomezana@unep.org

Ms. Heidelore FIEDLER
 Senior Scientific Affairs Officer
 Chemicals Branch
 Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
 United Nations Environment Programme
 International Environment House
 11-13, chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (22) 917 8187
 Mobile: +41 (79) 477 0833
 Fax: +41 (22) 7973460
 Email: heidelore.fiedler@unep.org

Mr. Matthias KERN
 Senior Programme Officer
 Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
 Conventions
 International Environment House
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (22) 917 87 67
 Email: matthias.kern@unep.org

Ms. Inara NAMAZOVA
 Intern
 Chemicals Branch
 Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
 United Nations Environment Programme
 International Environment House
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (22) 917 8599
 Email: inara.namazova@unep.org

Ms. Jiwon RHEE
 Consultant
 Chemicals Branch
 Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
 United Nations Environment Programme
 International Environment House
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (22) 917 8468
 Email: jiwon.rhee@unep.org

Mr. Paul WHYLIE
 Senior Scientific Advisor
 Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
 Conventions
 International Environment House
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (22) 917 83 05
 Email: pwhylye@pic.int

Annex III

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS ELIMINATION NETWORK (PEN)
FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Geneva, Switzerland, 26-27 November 2014

Report prepared by:
Secretariat of the PEN
UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
International Environment House
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland

Email: pen@pops.int
Web: www.pops.int/pen

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	25
Acronyms and abbreviations	27
1. Opening of the Meeting	29
2. Organisational Matters	29
2.1. Adoption of the Agenda	29
2.2. Introduction of Participants	29
2.3. Election of the Chair	29
3. Update from the PEN Secretariat	30
3.1. Activity and Progress Report	30
3.2. Composition of the PEN Advisory Committee and PEN Membership	30
3.3. Financial Issues	31
3.4. Other Matters	31
4. Activity and Progress Reports of the Thematic Groups	31
4.1. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Inventories	31
4.2. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB	32
4.3. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Disposal and Remediation of Contaminated Sites	32
4.4. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Open Applications of PCB	32
4.5. Others: French PCB Regulation and PCB Management Project in Morocco	33
5. Reports by the BRS Secretariat, UNIDO and UNEP Chemicals Branch on Work Relevant for the PEN	34
5.1. BRS Secretariat	34
5.2. UNIDO	34
5.3. UNEP	35
6. Review of the Workplan and Budget	36
7. Future Strategy of the PEN	37
8. Nominations of the Leads and Co-leads of the Thematic Groups	39
9. Draft Report on Progress Towards Eliminating PCB	39
9.1. Presentation of the Draft Report	39

9.2. Discussion of the Draft Report	40
10. Conclusions and Recommendations of the PEN Advisory Committee	41
11. Other Matters	41
12. Adoption of the Meeting Report	41
13. Closure of the Meeting	41
Annex 1 –Agenda	42
Annex 2 – List of Participants	44
Members of the Advisory Committee	44
Meeting Organization	45
Annex 3 – Workplan and Budget 2014-2017	46
Annex 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations	49
Annex 5 – Revised Application Form for Membership to the PCB Elimination Network (PEN)	51

Acronyms and abbreviations

APPELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional Center
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
BRS Secretariat	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
COP	Conference of the Parties
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)
ESM	Environmentally sound management
EU	European Union
FSP	Full-sized project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GII	Green Industry Initiative
HCH	Hexachlorocyclohexane
HWE	Hazardous Waste Europe
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IHPA	International HCH and Pesticides Association
INATEK	Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of Kibungo
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
ISID	Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development
MEAs	Multilateral environmental agreements
MSP	Mediums-sized project
NIP	National Implementation Plan
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group
PEN	PCB Elimination Network
PBB	Polybrominated biphenyls

PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
QA/QC	Quality assurance/quality control
SC	Stockholm Convention
SCRAP	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific
UN Comtrade	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
uPOPs	Unintentional POPs
WEOG	Western Europe and Others Group

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chemicals Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme, in its function as Secretariat of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN), organised the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PEN in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26 and 27 November 2014.

The fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PCB Elimination Network (PEN), organised and hosted by the Chemicals Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its function as Secretariat of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN), was opened at 09:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 26 November 2014, by Heidelore Fiedler, Senior Scientific Affairs Officers of UNEP Chemicals Branch. On behalf of Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, Head of UNEP Chemicals Branch, who was not able to attend the meeting due to other commitments, Ms. Fiedler welcomed the participants. She noted that all UN regions, except the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG), as well as other important stakeholders were represented, but that some members of the PEN Advisory Committee were not present, namely Ms. Stella Mojekwu, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria, co-representing the African Group; Ms. Pauline Langeron, Ministry of the Environment, France, co-representing the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG); Mr. Tara Dasgupta, Pesticide Research Laboratory, Jamaica, co-representing the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC); Mr. Jinhui Li, Basel Convention Regional Center (BCRC) for Asia and the Pacific, China, co-representing the Asia-Pacific Group; Mr. Alan Watson, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), NGO representative; and Mr. Urs Wagner, ETI Umwelttechnik AG, technical representative.

Ms. Fiedler recalled that the PEN Advisory Committee had not met in two years (the fourth meeting took place in September 2012), although the business plan foresees annual face-to-face meetings. She further emphasised the need for this meeting by noting that membership had changed substantially and that the workplan had to be updated. Ms. Fiedler said that the main objective of the meeting was to discuss the future role and objective of the PEN.

2. Organisational Matters

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Fiedler introduced the draft agenda and explained that an extraordinary item had been included in the draft agenda, namely the report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), jointly prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) and UNEP Chemicals Branch, which had been scheduled for discussion at the second day of the meeting. The participants were asked whether they had any comments or proposals for the draft agenda. As there were no comments, the agenda was adopted. The agenda can be found in Annex A.

2.2. Introduction of Participants

After logistical and technical matters had been outlined, a brief round of introduction followed. The meeting was attended by the following members of the PEN Advisory Committee: Mr. Ion Barbarasa, Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Moldova, co-representing the Eastern European Group; Ms. Yuan Chen, BCRC for Asia and the Pacific, China (nominated on behalf of Mr. Jinhui Li); Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh, Ministry of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran, co-representing the Asia-Pacific Group; Mr. Aloys Kamatari, Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of Kibungo (INATEK), Rwanda, co-representing the African Group; Ms. Anna Ortiz, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica, co-representing the GRULAC; Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Romania, co-representing the Eastern European Group; Mr. Alfredo Cueva, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), IGO representative; Mr. Matthias Kern, BRS Secretariat, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) representative; and Mr. Hugues Levasseur, Hazardous Waste Europe (HWE), France, industry representative. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Katarina Magulova, BRS Secretariat; Mr. Jost Dittkrist, Consultant, UNEP; and Mr. Andrea Carraro, Intern, UNEP. The detailed list of participants is attached in Annex B.

2.3. Election of the Chair

After having introduced the meeting documents, which are to be posted on the webpage of the PEN, hosted by the BRS Secretariat, Ms. Fiedler proceeded to explain that, according to paragraph 11 of the terms of

reference of the PEN Advisory Committee, a chair shall be elected from among its members to serve for a period of two years and not exceeding four consecutive years. Noting that Ms. Anna Ortiz had exceeded this limit, Ms. Fiedler proposed to amend this provisions so as to allow Ms. Ortiz to continue serving as the chair, subject to the unanimous agreement of the members of the PEN Advisory Committee present at the meeting. All members present agreed to this proposal. Ms. Fiedler then suggested for Ms. Ortiz to continue serving as the chair of the PEN, which was accepted by her and endorsed by all members present.

3. Update from the PEN Secretariat

Ms. Anna Ortiz invited Ms. Fiedler, in her capacity as representative of the Secretariat of the PEN, to move to the next item on the agenda, i.e. to give an update on relevant developments, elaborate on activities that had been carried out, and provide a report on progress in the implementation of the PEN.

3.1. Activity and Progress Report

Ms. Fiedler highlighted that the PEN Advisory Committee was convening for the fifth time. While previous meetings had been more frequent (at least once per year), the last meeting had taken place more than two years ago, in September 2012, in Beijing, China. This gap had largely been due to a lack of financial resources as well as challenges encountered as regards the composition of the PEN Advisory Committee. It was noted that the report of the fourth meeting had been prepared and posted on the webpage of the PEN. Ms. Fiedler drew attention to a report by Ritter et. al., containing, among others, general information on PCB.

Another highlight had been the 'PEN Information Meeting for Members and Others Interested in PCB', held as a side event at the 'Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions' in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 May 2013. The meeting had been successful, with almost 50 participants and featuring presentations by Mr. Kern on the work undertaken to date and the transition of the PEN Secretariat from the BRS Secretariat to the UNEP Chemicals Branch; Mr. Wagner on PCB management from an expert's point of view; Ms. Leila Devia (Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for the South American Region in Argentina) on a regional PCB project; and Mr. John Vijgen (International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA)) on the 'Factsheets on POPs Destruction Technologies'. UNEP Chemicals Branch, in its role as the PEN Secretariat, had prepared a report on progress in the implementation of the PEN, in particular the transition of the leadership of the PEN, as requested in decision SC-5/7 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention (SC). Ms. Fiedler further noted that, in implementing decision SC-6/6, paragraph 5, another report on progress for the period between 2013 and 2015, to be submitted to the SC COP as an information document for consideration at its seventh meeting, to be held in May 2015, was under preparation.

On the issue of outreach, attention was drawn to 'POPs Social', the Social Networking Platform of the Stockholm Convention Clearing House Mechanism, which provides a platform for information sharing, open debate and direct expert-to-expert exchange. POPs Social features two groups relevant for the PEN: one for all PEN members and another for the members of the PEN Advisory Committee. These groups are currently managed by UNEP Chemicals Branch and had been cleaned to include the respective members only (131 for the PEN and 14 for the PEN Advisory Committee, both including administration). The introduction had also been updated. Ms. Fiedler noted that the platform was not being used actively.

3.2. Composition of the PEN Advisory Committee and PEN Membership

Ms. Fiedler proceeded to highlight the changes in the composition of the PEN Advisory Committee since the fourth meeting: Following a consultative process involving all relevant countries, Ms. Paun had been nominated as co-representative of the Eastern European Group, thus replacing Daniela Certikova, Slovak Environmental Agency, Slovak Republic. In 2014, Mr. Johansson and Ms. Langeron had informed the PEN Secretariat of their retirement from their current positions, leaving both positions for the WEOG vacant. UNIDO had nominated Mr. Alfredo Cueva to replace Mohamed Eisa. Mr. Mellon Chinjila, Zesco Ltd. Zambia, who had served on the PEN Advisory Committee as 'holder of PCB', had deceased, leaving this position vacant, too. Zesco Ltd. Zambia had not nominated an alternative. The participants exchanged ideas on how to fill the vacant position of 'PCB holder'. There was agreement that the representative should preferably come from a developing country or a country with an economy in transition and that it could be either from the public or private sector. It was mentioned that companies or institutions participating in Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects could be approached. It was also noted that it may be recommendable to nominate somebody

who had already conducted an inventory and needed assistance in managing stockpiles of equipment containing PCB.

It was noted that difficulties had been encountered in filling the vacant positions and that swift action by the Bureau of the COP to the Stockholm Convention was needed. According to the terms of reference of the PEN, the members of the Advisory Committee representing the five UN regions may be re-elected but cannot serve for more than two periods, meaning that some of the members would have to be replaced at the next COP. Participants agreed to make efforts to place the issue of PEN Advisory Committee nominations on the agenda of the regional preparatory meetings for the 2015 COPs, which are to be held in March and April 2015. By contrast, there is no limit on the number of terms for which the non-governmental members may serve. Mr. Levasseur indicated his readiness to continue to serve as 'industry' representative.

Mr. Fiedler proceeded to inform the participants that the PEN had slightly expanded to count 429 members. Some of these may, however, have retired from their previous positions and may thus not be active anymore. Moreover, the Stockholm Convention focal points had been automatically added, which may be a questionable practice.

3.3. Financial Issues

Finally, on financial issues, Ms. Fiedler reported that UNEP Chemicals Branch had received financial contributions from the governments of Sweden (USD 27,000) to organize the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee, from the government of Finland (USD 28,981) to implement the workplan of the PEN, and from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention (USD 15,000) for a consultant to prepare the report on progress towards eliminating PCB. Expenditures included travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (USD 16,986) as well as a consultancy (USD 16,000). With the PEN depending on voluntary contributions and neither being eligible for the General Trust Fund nor able to access the assessed contributions from the BRS Secretariat, the financial basis for implementing the workplan of the PEN was very weak.

3.4. Other Matters

Ms. Fiedler also informed that 26 experts from 12 countries had met in 2013 at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France, to reassess the carcinogenicity of PCB and polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs). From among the members of the PEN Advisory Committee, herself and Mr. Niklas Johansson (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency), former co-representative of the WEOG, had participated. On the basis of sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in humans and experimental animals, PCB – previously considered probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A) had been classified as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1). In addition, dioxin-like PCB as well as all commercial mixtures of PCB had also been classified in Group 1, making PCB as a group the most hazardous persistent organic pollutants (POPs). This information would be published in the IARC Monographs Volume 107.

4. Activity and Progress Reports of the Thematic Groups

The Chair invited the leads of the Thematic Groups – or those otherwise designated – to provide their activity and progress reports.

4.1. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Inventories

Ms. Chen reported on the activities that had been carried out and the progress made in implementing the workplan of the 'Thematic Group on Inventories'. Ms. Chen started by recapitulating the objectives of the Thematic Group, including to foster collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders in the establishment of comprehensive inventories, to develop guidance materials, support standardisation in conducting inventories, and to enhance the exchange of information. The Thematic Group had conducted six main activities.

First, the 'PCB Inventory Guidance' had been revised. The Guidance includes standardised inventory procedures that had been compiled based on experiences and lessons learned as well as existing guidelines on PCB inventories. The Guidance could be used for trainings and technical assistance to Parties. It will be published on the website of the PEN. Second, the first draft of a factsheet on information requirements to support information management and the reporting process under paragraph (g), Part II, Annex A of the Stockholm Convention had been developed. Third, the lead of the Thematic Group had been very active on POPs Social. Fourth, a 'Regional Workshop on Capacity Strengthening and Information Exchange on PCB

Management', organised by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific (SCRAP), had been held in Beijing, China, on 25-26 April 2012. The topics of the workshop had included information exchange regarding the status of PCB management, development of a PCB regional management strategy, and discussions on the establishment of a regional information exchange platform and mechanism. Fifth, a regional information exchange platform on PCB had been established, among others to facilitate information exchange and the sharing of experiences in the fields of PCB management and elimination. The platform is entitled "PCB Elimination Action in Asia-Pacific"⁴ and is managed by the BCRC in China. It was noted that it may prove useful to have other BCRCs establish similar platforms as well as to establish a network among the BCRCs to exchange information. Lastly, Ms. Chen informed the participants that Mr. Li had participated and presented the 'PCB Inventory Guidance' in a webinar organised by the BRS Secretariat, which aimed to provide guidance to Parties on how to enhance their current PCB inventories and to raise awareness of existing guidance materials on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCB.

Ms. Chen drew attention to the first NIP of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK), according to which the country was producing PCB at least until 2006. She further informed the participants that she had knowledge that the DPRK was still producing PCB, although in the first NIP it had specified the target of phasing out production by 2012. She also noted that the DPRK was not capable of producing the necessary alternatives and would therefore need assistance, including through technology transfer and awareness raising. The BCRC in China had assisted the DPRK through supplying materials of substitution technology and could assist in such endeavours further if there were financial support.

4.2. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB

The meeting proceeded with Ms. Ortiz providing her update on the work of the 'Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB'. Since the last meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee, there had been two main activities. First, the 'Guidance on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB' had been submitted by the thematic group lead to the Secretariat of the PEN for its comments. The comments had been incorporated and the final draft prepared. The Guidance will be published on the website of the PEN. It was emphasised that in order to reach all target audiences, it would be necessary to translate the document into all UN languages; however, it was also noted that no financial resources were currently available for this task. Second, a webinar familiarising participants with the use of the various guidance documents had been held in Spanish. The webinar had been well received and had enjoyed a high participation. Due to a lack of financial resources, it had not been possible to carry out other activities that had been envisaged, such as practical training workshops.

Mr. Barbarasa complimented the work of the thematic group and said that the Guidance was very useful, including for technical staff. He and other participants further stressed the need to make available, share and compile existing guidance material, experiences and lessons learnt in order to avoid duplication of efforts. It was underlined that this also applied to relevant GEF projects which often produced a plethora of useful information, including ongoing ones where it may prove useful to initiate early exchanges of lessons learnt.

4.3. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Disposal and Remediation of Contaminated Sites

The leads of the Thematic Group on Disposal and Remediation of Contaminated Sites – Mr. Dasgupta and Mr. Watson – had not been able to attend the meeting.

4.4. Activity and Progress Report of the Thematic Group on Open Applications of PCB

The next item on the agenda was the activity and progress report of the 'Thematic Group on Open Applications of PCB'. Since Mr. Wagner was not present, Mr. Dittkrist provided the update.

Several information materials had been finalised: Two factsheets on open applications – one addressing open applications in residential and public buildings, the other in machinery and installations – had been developed to raise awareness. The PEN Advisory Committee was informed that they provided an introduction,

⁴ <http://pcbs.bcrc.cn>

basic background information, a list of ‘Dos’ and ‘Don’ts’, and numerous photos illustrating specific examples where PCB containing materials could be found. Moreover, a photo booklet on the identification and environmentally sound management (ESM) of open applications had been developed. The booklet illustrated each of the many applications by means of photos, some explanatory text and an overview of situations of ‘no immediate risk’, ‘potential risk’ and ‘high risk’. The booklet also provided background information, including on the issue of cross-contamination and back-diffusion. The materials had been published on the webpage of the PEN. It was suggested to translate them in the official UN languages in order to reach a larger audience.

The members of the Advisory Committee were also informed about a case study on ‘Management of PCB from Open and Closed Applications’ conducted in Switzerland, which also provides some general background on the issue of open applications. It was noted that PCB in open applications accounted for approximately 21 % of PCB uses. While it was often the largest source of releases, it received little attention from policy-makers. PCB from open applications often diffused into the environment and other surrounding materials. Based on the Suisse experience, the case study drew a number of conclusions and lessons learnt in managing PCB in open applications. The first step would be to conduct an inventory, followed by the establishment of comprehensive management and legislative frameworks. It was necessary to carefully select appropriate remediation approaches and set necessary standards for screening, sampling and analysis. It was emphasised that such work should only be undertaken by trained specialists.

4.5. Others: French PCB Regulation and PCB Management Project in Morocco

Next on the meeting agenda was a presentations by Mr. Levasseur on French PCB regulation, held on behalf of Ms. Langeron. As regards the current situation in France, Mr. Levasseur explained that the most recent inventory had revealed that ca. 50,000 units of electrical equipment containing PCB at concentrations between 0.005 % and 0.05% (mainly transformers) still had to be treated. He stressed that according to EU legislation, transformers at such concentrations had to be decontaminated or disposed of at the end of their useful life. He explained that under French law it was forbidden to hold equipment with fluid containing PCB at concentrations greater than 0.005% beyond 1 January 2023 at the latest, depending on the date of manufacture. EU legislation was currently lacking such a provision for equipment at concentration greater than 0.005%, leaving a gap between EU legislation and the Stockholm Convention.

Mr. Levasseur continued with a presentation on a PCB management project to be carried out in Morocco. The project would be carried out with financial support from UNIDO and was set to be initiated in 2015. He informed that its purpose was to build a local plant capable of treating 1,000 tons per year. The plant would be capable of treating PCB waste at both low and high concentrations. While transformers at concentrations of PCB higher than 5,000 ppm (an expected 25 %) were to be exported for treatment at approved plants, any other types of material with concentrations above 50ppm (expected to represent about 75 % of the waste) would be treated locally. Depending on its quality, equipment with concentrations up to 5,000 ppm would be refurbished. The plant would also feature a laboratory to conduct relevant analyses, including electrical tests to check functionality of the equipment after treatment.

In answering a question from the floor, Mr. Levasseur explained that the project was scheduled for two years, corresponding to the treatment of 2,000 tons of PCB waste, and that it was still to be decided whether the plant would subsequently continue to operate and possibly also import PCB waste from other countries. Ms. Ortiz noted that many countries prohibited the import of hazardous waste – in some cases including transit – and that this may constitute an obstacle to finding regional solutions. She further voiced her support for solutions where equipment was reused after treatment, but noted that this may only be economically viable for numbers above a certain threshold. Mr. Barbarasa discussed the costs involved in setting up and operating such plants in developing countries in the longer term and stressed the difficulties involved in gathering the necessary financial resources. In response, Mr. Levasseur explained that there was a market for the treatment of PCB in France and that the key driver in this respect was the existence of an adequate regulatory framework. With respect to the project in Morocco, he argued that the plant would be capable of working profitably since a large share of the equipment would be re-used. He also said that in-situ treatment (extraction of the oil) was only practiced at very low levels, typically at a maximum of 500 ppm. Ms. Ortiz mentioned that an alternative option were to decontaminate the transformer and only export the contaminated oil for destruction.

5. Reports by the BRS Secretariat, UNIDO and UNEP Chemicals Branch on Work Relevant for the PEN

The Chair called upon the representatives of the BRS Secretariat, UNIDO and UNEP Chemicals Branch to update the PEN Advisory Committee on work related to PCB and relevant for the PEN that had been carried out since the forth meeting.

5.1. BRS Secretariat

Mr. Kern provided an update on the activities of the BRS Secretariat in relation to PCB and the PEN, thereby highlighting linkages with the BRS Secretariat's work under both the Basel and the Stockholm Convention. As regards the latter, the COP to the Stockholm Convention had requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on progress towards the elimination of PCB, as specified in para 3 of decision SC-6/6. Mr. Kern informed participants that the BRS Secretariat, in close cooperation with UNEP Chemicals Branch, had gathered data and prepared a draft report which would be presented to the participants later during the meeting. In the context of the Basel Convention, he recalled the decision taken at the COP 2013 to not only develop general technical guidelines for the ESM of the 'new' POPs, but also to update existing ones, including those for PCB. This work was being carried out by the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention, under the leadership of the government of Japan. He explained that the guidelines had been undergoing revision in the past months, including in September at the ninth meeting of the OEWG. Further comments were currently being gathered and the final draft will be available for the COP 2015.

Another activity had been the updating of two sets of factsheets describing the technologies that were recommended for the destruction or irreversible transformation of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs, carried out with funding from the government of Norway. One set provided a general description of each of the generic technologies; the other contained information obtained from specific technology providers or companies. Once the editing was finalised, the updated factsheets were to be published on the website of the BRS Secretariat. These factsheets would serve as one of the tools available for countries to identify those technologies most appropriate given the specific national circumstances. Ms. Fiedler added that a difficulty was posed by the fact that some of the technologies and/or companies were no longer operative.

Mr. Kern further informed on workshops and webinars organised by the BRS Secretariat. Two sets of PCB related webinars had been organised. One set had aimed to assist governments in the submission of their national reports; the other, conducted in cooperation with the BCRC in China and the PEN (also referred to above), had provided information relevant for the development of inventories. Moreover, while the BRS Secretariat had no longer been involved in the organization of training workshops on PCB, it had been participating in a large number of regional, sub-regional and national meetings and projects, often in cooperation with the GEF. He drew attention to a sub-regional workshop focusing on illegal traffic of hazardous waste, scheduled for December in Colombia.

5.2. UNIDO

Mr. Cueva thanked the PEN Advisory Committee for the warm welcome and clarified that UNIDO would continue to cooperate with and actively participate in the PEN. His presentation started with a quick introduction into UNIDO's vision of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), approved by UNIDO's Governing Council through the 2013 Lima Declaration, and the Green Industry Initiative (GII), with its twofold objective of greening existing industries and developing new green industries. In this context, the participants emphasised the need to take a holistic approach, studying not only direct, but also indirect impacts of a process, e.g. with regard to the use of chemical additives in incineration technologies, thus taking a lifecycle approach.

Mr. Cueva proceeded to outline UNIDO's work in the area of POPs, which consisted of six components: Policies for POPs management, promotion and demonstration of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to reduce unintentional POPs, PCB project development and management and technology transfer on non-combustion technologies, production of POPs alternatives, management of recycling chains, and area-based eco-effective chemical management models and eco-industrial parks.

UNIDO's work on PCB was mainly through GEF-funded projects supporting the ESM and disposal of PCB by overcoming barriers impeding the implementation of PCB-related obligations under the SC. Focal areas

included, among others, capacity building, regulatory frameworks, awareness-raising, and technology transfer. On the topic of non-combustion technologies, Mr. Cueva stated that developing countries faced a twin barrier, namely that they did not have at their disposal substitute transformers to cover for prolonged treatment periods and that they lacked the budget for replacing PCB contaminated equipment and oil. Non-combustion technologies could provide a solution to these problems since they allowed on-line or on-site treatment and because the cleaned equipment and oil would be reusable. He further explained that public-private partnerships were an important element of UNIDO's approach and included, for example, partnerships with cement kiln processing companies and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the field of e-beam technology. To date, with regard to medium-sized projects (MSPs) on PCB management, three had been completed, two were ongoing, two had been approved by the GEF, and one had been cancelled. The total GEF grant for these projects amounted to USD 8.5 million. In addition, 64.4 million had been granted for 14 full-sized projects (FSPs), nine of which were integrated POPs projects. One FSP had been cancelled because the country had wished to rely on non-combustion technologies which, however, had not been possible since large amounts of PCB waste at high concentrations had to be treated.

In this context, participants noted that the Stockholm Convention allowed two types of techniques, namely destruction and dechlorination. Concerns were raised regarding the use of non-combustion technologies, since the dechlorinated molecule (the biphenyl) was not inert and would thus still need to be destroyed. It was noted that a combination of destruction and dechlorination technologies was often used. Non-combustion technologies could effectively reduce PCB concentrations to very low levels. Moreover, they could allow the recycling and reuse of resources. Meanwhile, it was mentioned that high technology incineration was the most effective way to destroy PCB. It was also noted that the guiding paradigm should not be to look for cheap and fast solutions.

Ms. Ortiz emphasised the benefits of classifying equipment in inventories according to the level of dechlorination/destruction needed and that there were three elements to be considered in such a classification: volume, price and PCB concentration. Ms. Paun emphasised the need for integrated databases at the national level, among others to efficiently track transformers throughout their lifecycle. Participants agreed that it may be useful to develop a decision tree assisting decision-makers in the choice of technologies depending on variables such as the level of contamination and also advising on issues such as whether to opt for in- or ex-situ treatment. It was further concluded that the most viable option for many smaller countries, especially developing ones, would be to conduct inventories and put appropriate storage solutions in place, rather than investing in destruction or decontamination technologies.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. Cueva discussed some important insights gained from UNIDO's work on PCB. He noted that country ownership and stakeholder commitment were crucial. He also highlighted the need for awareness-raising, the provision of information and the importance of conducting good inventories as a starting point. It was further stressed that there were no 'one size fits all' solutions. Ms. Ortiz called upon the participants to take these lessons learned into consideration when contemplating the PEN Advisory Committee's future work and strategy.

5.3. UNEP

Next, Ms. Fiedler informed the participants about the work of UNEP Chemicals Branch on PCB. First, she provided an overview of relevant GEF projects, namely two country projects and three regional projects: A country project in Cambodia which aimed to update the national implementation plan (NIP) was currently in the final stages of implementation. Plans existed for follow-up integrated waste projects to include PCB removal, subject to prioritisation by the government. The other country project, to be implemented in Cameroon, was currently in the preparatory phase and would aim for PCB reduction through the use of local expertise and the development of national capacities. Ms. Fiedler voiced her hope that this did not preclude the use of international solutions, which would be necessary to achieve the project's objectives. A regional project to demonstrate a regional approach to ESM of PCB liquid wastes and transformers and capacitors containing PCB was currently under implementation in West Africa. A specific purpose was the disposal of 600 tons of PCB in the concerned countries; some progress had already been made in this respect. Ms. Fiedler noted that impediments included the lack of comprehensive and reliable inventories as well as the difficult situation in terms of public health. Another regional project was currently under implementation in South America, with the BCRC in Argentina being the executing agency. This project was geared towards best practices for PCB management in the mining sector, including the removal of 42 tons of PCB. Ms. Fiedler noted that this project offered high potential for replication and upscaling. The third regional project implemented by

UNEP was currently in the preparatory phase and would aim to dispose of PCB oils contained in transformers as well as capacitors containing PCB in Southern Africa, including through the use of mobile plants. The project would replicate good experiences from the West African project. Again, however, too, detailed and accurate inventories were lacking.

Ms. Fiedler referred to several reports that had been developed during project implementation addressing PCB analysis and screening approaches. The reports are available for consultation or download from the website of the BCRC in Argentina (<http://www.inti.gob.ar/pcb/informes.php>).

Ms. Fiedler proceeded to outline activities of UNEP Chemicals Branch in the area of PCB analysis. She first explained that different norms and methods were available, varying in terms of performance and complexity, and that the choice also differed across countries and regions. Among others, she highlighted the US EPA recommended method 1668 as a good, but demanding method.

In the context of the Global Monitoring Plan, UNEP Chemicals Branch had coordinated the second Biennial Global Interlaboratory Assessment on POPs, carried out in 2012/2013 with funds from the European Union (EU) and the GEF. The purpose had been to assess and compare participating laboratories' performance in identifying and quantifying POPs concentrations in samples. The samples had included PCB in a standard solution, sediment, fish, mothers' milk, air extract, and transformer oil. Performance and participation for the standard solution had largely been satisfactory, while also leaving room for improvement. Performance for the other matrices varied between very poor (air extract) and largely satisfactory (sediment). Very few laboratories had been capable of analysing transformer oils. There had been six indicator PCB. In general, performance was relatively good for the total sum of the PCB congeners, but much less so for the individual analytes. Ms. Fiedler emphasised that more training was necessary, especially focusing on quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC), in order to build capacity at the national level. Significant variations in terms of regional performance could be identified. In Africa, for instance, only one laboratory had been capable of analysing transformer oil. Moreover, for PCB in both the standard solution and the transformer oil, there had been some extreme outliers.

UNEP had also engaged in relevant activities in cooperation with the BRS Secretariat. First, UNEP Chemicals Branch participated in the small intersessional working group to update and/or develop the general and the various specific technical guidelines for the ESM of POPs wastes, including the technical guidelines for PCB waste and unintentionally produced PCB. Ms. Fiedler informed that the guidelines would be translated before the next COP (to be held in May 2015). Second, as regards the above mentioned factsheets for POPs destruction technologies, Ms. Fiedler said that despite providing technical information, they should be practical and easy to read. She also noted that, while only commercially available full-scale technologies should be presented, a few of the technologies were actually no longer available and/or only existed at pilot scale. Cooperation with the relevant companies had generally been constructive. Ms. Fiedler explained that there was no need for endorsement of the factsheets through the COP or the OEWG, but that it was nonetheless important to stay consistent with the technical guidelines. She called upon the members of the Advisory Committee to assist in the finalization of the factsheets.

6. Review of the Workplan and Budget

The PEN Advisory Committee proceeded to review the workplan and budget that had been adopted at its third and revised at its fourth meeting. Under the guidance of the chair, the workplans of each Thematic Group as well as the core activities were discussed one after the other. It was found that a number of activities had been successfully completed. For some activities, some but not all of the relevant actions had been carried out, while yet other activities had not been implemented at all due to a lack of human and/or financial resources. The participants agreed that it was necessary to re-evaluate the feasibility of carrying out the listed activities against the background of limited human and financial resources.

For each of the Thematic Groups as well as the core activities, some activities and/or actions were removed, modified and/or added. Some activities that had not yet been completed were moved to the next biennium. In some instances, changes were made in terms of responsible actors. Moreover, the timeframe and budget was adapted. The revised workplan covers the period between 2014 and 2017. As regards the budget, efforts were made to propose a more realistic budget, meaning that it was significantly reduced.

The Advisory Committee decided that in many cases it would be necessary to rely increasingly on in-kind contributions and that the regional centers as well as other relevant partners would have to take a prominent

role in this respect, for instance by translating relevant documents, organizing workshops and seeking synergies between their work and the PEN's workplan. The revised workplan and budget including a timetable are presented in Annex C to this report.

7. Future Strategy of the PEN

The second day of the meeting began with the chair reading a letter that had been prepared by Mr. Urs Wagner, former lead of the Thematic Group on Open Applications of PCB. In this letter, Mr. Wagner stressed the need to review the strategy of the PEN, given limited outputs and little momentum in terms of increasing PEN membership. If necessary, the approach of the PEN would need to be modified in order to avoid unnecessary costs.

Mr. Wagner observed that fundraising was identified as a major challenge. The COPs had failed to allocate a budget for the PEN and the welcome contributions from the governments of Sweden and Finland had not been sufficient to implement the workplan. Further observations included the following:

- Other entities should see the PEN as a forum for cooperation and synergies, rather than a competitor
- Recognizing that it had been difficult for members of the Advisory Committee to dedicate more time to advance the PEN's cause, it was nonetheless necessary for them to become more proactive, given their valuable knowledge and vast experience. This could include fundraising and the organization of workshops or webinars.
- Workshops and webinars should be organised on a regional rather than on a country-basis.
- In order to be more successful in the future, the PEN should aim to raise awareness of PCB.
- Capacity-building activities should be devised in a way that maximises impact.
- The PEN should ensure that the appropriate stakeholders and decision-makers are targeted and invite these to practical workshops and webinars.
- The PEN should increase its visibility, including through participation at relevant international and regional conferences, meetings, and workshops.
- A second edition of the PEN Magazine should be developed and published online in order to save costs.
- Synergies with regional centers and other IGOs should be identified and cooperation should be increased. GEF projects could help to advance some of the activities and actions specified in the PEN's workplan.

With regard to closed applications of PCB, Mr. Wagner noted that vast financial resources had been spent on the development of inventories, but that developing countries and countries with economies in transition nonetheless still lacked comprehensive and reliable inventories. Estimates based on preliminary findings had often been proven to be highly inaccurate. An important task was to streamline and standardize inventory methodologies. Yet less progress had been made on open applications. This is despite paragraph (f), Part II, Annex A of the Stockholm Convention, which requires parties to endeavour to identify other articles containing more than 0.005% PCB and to manage them in an environmentally sound manner. Mr. Wagner noted that some developed countries had started to address this complex issue and had succeeded in raising awareness, with a very small number of countries having developed comprehensive management approaches. Meanwhile, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and even many developed countries have so far failed to take appropriate action. Mr. Wagner also highlighted the risk that machinery with open applications could be legally exported to developing countries and countries with economies in transition due to obscure classification of such devices and a lack of dedicated analyses. He suggested to use the information materials developed by the Thematic Group to raise awareness and emphasised the importance of including open applications in inventory activities. The importance of establishing appropriate regulatory frameworks and training relevant staff was also mentioned.

Moreover, Mr. Wagner suggested to establish a cooperation between the PEN and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in order to help improve PCB preparedness and response, including collection and disposal of PCB disaster waste, after disasters. Ms. Fiedler clarified that this subject area was not within the primary areas of responsibility of the PEN and that other frameworks were addressing such issues, notably the 'Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local level' (APPELL) and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit were the relevant entities.

He also drew attention to the observation that analytical investigations of foodstuffs often showed increased concentrations of PCB and highlighted the need for more testing, especially in developing countries and

countries with economies in transition. Ms. Fiedler explained that there was no mandate to justify action in this area. Ms. Chen further noted that it was necessary to take the point of view of developing countries, where such issues were of a lesser priority; instead, it was necessary to raise PCB awareness.

Mr. Wagner also discussed the topic of density tests, noting that they are still considered a suitable alternative to PCB test kits during inventory activities. However, he argued that while they could be regarded as an emergency method where sources of pure PCB would need to be identified, they were not reliable for testing contaminated oil. Such tests would only reveal whether the concentration was high or not, and could not give any indication whether the oil was PCB free or indeed contaminated. The use of such tests would thus have adverse implications for the reliability of inventories. In addition, density tests were often not carried out by professionals. In response, Ms. Fiedler argued that density tests could be helpful in certain situations and could, for instance, enable cost reductions. Important considerations would be when to apply them and to draw which conclusions.

In his letter, Mr. Wagner further stressed that a lot of useful guidance had been developed and that the Advisory Committee of the PEN had at their disposal significant experience and expertise. These should be put to practical use. Instead of developing new documents, on-going activities should be catalysed and complemented, while avoiding duplication. In some cases, existing guidelines needed updating.

The participants voiced their appreciation and general support for Mr. Wagner's input. In particular, they agreed with his remarks on the difficult financial situation and noted that this were reflected in the revised workplan and budget. Most notably, this would be achieved by focusing more on direct involvement of the PEN and its members in relevant activities implemented by other stakeholders, including relevant GEF projects, increased presence and participation in regional initiatives, and increased use of PEN materials in third-party activities and projects. In this sense, it was agreed that the future role of the PEN should be more that of a facilitating, rather than executing body, which would add value to existing initiatives, rather than funding its own large-scale projects. Notwithstanding, it was underlined that substantial funding would still be needed to carry out the activities specified in the revised workplan and organize annual meetings of the Advisory Committee. The participants agreed that fundraising efforts should be undertaken, including at the regional preparatory meetings for the 2015 COPs, in order to have some key activities included in the voluntary budget of the Stockholm Convention and secure bilateral contributions.

Ms. Ortiz noted that the PEN would need to be more proactive and contemplate how it could provide concrete assistance on a regional basis. As an example, she specified that POPs Social could be used to maintain efficient communication channels between the PEN Advisory Committee and countries, not least for information sharing purposes.

The members of the Advisory Committee agreed that the regional preparatory meetings could also be used to explore governments' vision of the future of the PEN in terms of its future strategy and activities. It was agreed that it would be important to highlight first that PCB should be prioritised and receive special attention, given their inherent toxicity as substances classified as carcinogenic to humans and the large volumes still in use or storage and in need of elimination, and second that the PEN, if equipped with the necessary financial resources, would be capable of contributing in an effective manner towards achieving the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention.

The participants stressed the importance of addressing open applications of PCB, while also emphasizing that such efforts should not divert attention from closed applications which remain a significant challenge for many countries. Mr. Levasseur recommended establishing a hierarchy for open applications, taking into account the varying dangers posed by them. All participants agreed that inventories of open applications should be included in the NIP updates. Ms. Paun mentioned that the current guidance on the updating of national implementation plans did not include instructions for developing inventory of PCBs in open applications. Therefore the guidelines should be amended to include such instructions. More generally, it was noted that the specific priorities would need to differ across countries, depending on the specific national background, and that it may be beneficial to initially focus on the 'low-hanging-fruits'. It was suggested that guidance was needed on what types of actions were necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the Stockholm Convention and that the PEN – and in particular the Advisory Committee – were in a position to provide such guidance. In this sense, the PEN would fulfil certain agenda-setting functions.

It was agreed that the PEN should have a role in the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention and that it would be desirable for one or more members of the Advisory Committee to participate therein. In the future, the Advisory Committee should regularly assess progress towards eliminating PCB.

Mr. Barbarasa introduced the idea that the PEN Advisory Committee could draft a proposal for a GEF project, notably to address open applications, including by developing standardised guidance and organising workshops and trainings. Ms. Chen said that in devising such a project and identifying target countries, it was important to have a good understanding of the number of countries still using PCB equipment, the amounts awaiting disposal etc. Noting that the PEN is not a legal body that could be contracted for such a project, it was noted that one or several members of the PEN Advisory Committee and/or their organisations could serve as executing agency. Ms. Fiedler said that UNEP could support such an initiative, assist in bringing a concept note into the pipeline, and serve as implementing agency. It was agreed that a draft concept note would be developed in the near future (March 2015) by Mr. Barbarasa and Ms. Paun.

8. Nominations of the Leads and Co-leads of the Thematic Groups

The Advisory Committee agreed on the following composition for the leads and co-leads of the Thematic Groups:

- The Thematic Group on Inventories will continue to be led by Mr. Jinhui Li, with the support of Mr. Ion Barbarasa and Mr. Aloys Kamatari as co-leads.
- The Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB will continue to be led by Ms. Anna Ortiz, with the support of the WEOG representative that is to replace Ms. Pauline Langeron as co-lead, subject to his/her approval.
- The Thematic Group on Disposal of PCB and Remediation of Contaminated Sites will be led by Mr. Hugues Levassuer, with the support of Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh as co-lead.
- The Thematic Group on Open Applications of PCB will be led by Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun, with the support of Mr. Urs Wagner as co-lead, subject to his approval.

9. Draft Report on Progress Towards Eliminating PCB

9.1. Presentation of the Draft Report

The next item on the agenda was the draft report on progress towards eliminating PCB. On behalf of UNEP Chemicals Branch, Mr. Dittkrist held a presentation to provide an overview of the preliminary assessment that had been undertaken and circulated among the members of the Advisory Committee in advance of the meeting. Mr. Dittkrist quickly explained the background of this work, thereby quoting paragraph (a), (e) and (h) of Part II, Annex A of the Stockholm Convention. The mandate had been given by the COP to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 28 April to 10 May 2013, through decision SC-6/6 on PCB, which had requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on progress towards the elimination of PCB on the basis of the third national reports submitted by the parties. The report's objective was to summarize available information on the amounts of PCB (i) produced, (ii) in need of elimination in 2004, (iii) eliminated to date, and (iv) still in need of elimination, so as to determine how much progress had been made towards the elimination of PCB.

Since the information available from the third national reports under the Stockholm Convention had been found insufficient to fulfil the mandate, additional sources of information had been consulted in order to prepare a comprehensive report on quantitative data and to fill the gaps where incomplete information was available. These had included the first and second national reports, NIPs, national reports under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; PCB-related projects funded by the GEF; and the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade). In addition, information was included from technical reports and from a survey conducted by the Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals Branch in 2014 among Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, UNEP Regional Offices, GEF implementing agencies, and members of the PCB Elimination Network. A number of assumptions had been made during the review and adjustment of the data. For instance, according to expert judgment, extrapolations had been made, unjustifiable outliers removed, units harmonised, including converting volumes to mass, etc. For each country the data had been 'cleaned' and information provided by multiple sources had been removed *i.e.*, to avoid 'double counting'. The members of the Advisory Committee were informed that a number of limitations and challenges had been encountered, including the following: Most inventories were incomplete and preliminary, typically relying on rough estimates; inventories were developed following many

different methodologies, instead of relying on a standardised approach; typically, not all relevant variables of interest were reported, often lacking specification of the total mass; little information had been available on open applications; *etc.*

Turning to the results of the preliminary assessment, estimates of the total production of PCB had varied between one and two million tonnes, with Breivik *et al.* having reported a total of 1.3 million tonnes. It was again noted that the DPRK had reported production of PCB as ongoing in its first NIP. Comprehensive data on the total amounts of equipment and materials manufactured with PCB had been lacking. According to one estimate, transformer oil accounted for 48 % of historical PCB use, small capacitors for 21 %, open applications for 21 %, and other closed systems for 10 %. It was stressed that the mass of equipment and material containing or contaminated with PCB was necessarily much larger than the amounts of PCB produced.

Only taking into account the total mass destroyed to date as reported in the national reports would give an estimate of more than half a million tonnes. The data could be interpreted to suggest a slight acceleration in terms of elimination efforts. Taking into account other sources of information, the draft report estimated that between approximately three and six million tonnes had been destroyed to date. In order to estimate the total mass, conversion factors had been derived and applied to obtain estimates of the total mass based on other reported variables, where the total mass had not been reported. The various figures obtained had then summed up and added to the total mass already reported, thus yielding overall estimates of the total mass already eliminated. It was argued that one could identify an acceleration in the speed at which PCB was being eliminated; however, it was recognised that the data only allowed cautious conclusions. The data suggested that the large majority had been destroyed in the WEOG, followed by GRULAC and Eastern Europe. Meanwhile, it was noted that it was in many instances not possible to be certain as to whether the mass reported as destroyed was of domestic/foreign origin or had been imported/exported. The audience was informed that the data discussed so far had not included UN Comtrade data, since it was difficult to avoid double-counting and because some of the reported data was considered incorrect according to expert judgement (e.g. many cases of developing countries importing PCB waste from developed countries).

The procedure followed to estimate the total mass eliminated to date had also been followed to estimate the total mass still in need of elimination, yielding an estimate of more than nine million tonnes. Again, a strong variation across regions could be observed, with Asia accounting for the largest share of mass still in need of elimination, followed by Eastern Europe and the WEOG. Mr. Dittkrist cautioned that some of these findings were intuitive, for instance, the WEOG had disposed the largest amount so far; the African region and the GRULAC had relatively low consumption reported. He further stated that the estimate of more than nine million – while appearing very high compared to previous estimates – could in fact be an underestimation, most importantly because inventories had not been comprehensive (e.g. lacking quantitative data on open applications). Based on the estimates of the amounts already eliminated and those still in need of elimination, it could be estimated that ca. two thirds of the total mass would still need to be eliminated. This meant that, although some progress had been made, parties to the Stockholm Convention would need to accelerate and intensify their efforts in order to achieve the 2025 and 2028 targets. Another conclusion was that there was a need for better data and improved reporting on behalf of the parties. Moreover, inventories would need to be more comprehensive and should also take into account open applications. It was noted that additional financial resources were necessary to assist developing countries in their efforts. Furthermore, it was mentioned that GEF projects aiming to eliminate PCB should be more cost-effective.

The presentation concluded with recommendations on how to refine the analysis. These include, more in-depth country-specific research be undertaken since available data were found insufficient and further work on the conversion factors. Lastly, Mr. Dittkrist directed some questions to the Advisory Committee for the purpose of improving the analysis.

9.2. Discussion of the Draft Report

The members of the Advisory Committee voiced their appreciation for the efforts of UNEP Chemicals Branch and the BRS Secretariat in compiling the draft report on progress towards eliminating PCB. A discussion ensued and the members of the Advisory Committee provided a number of recommendations, including of methodological nature, to improve the preliminary assessment. The essence of the recommendations and discussions is given below:

- The members of the Advisory Committee agreed that it was necessary to consult additional sources, rather than relying on the national reports only. Further sources, not yet taken into consideration, were suggested.
- Instead of reproducing the estimate of total PCB production developed by Breivik *et al.*, a new table should be compiled, which should include all available estimates and indicate a range (high and low estimates). This table should also list the information provided by the DPRK in its first NIP.
- While the development of a mass balance would be difficult, an illustrative graphic of the material flows of PCB would be helpful.
- It may be worthwhile further exploring a mass balance approach in order to validate or otherwise reject the estimates. Meanwhile, it had to be recognised that such an endeavour would be difficult given issues such as cross-contamination and dilution, and notably the fact that material and equipment may have varying, often very small, concentrations of PCB.
- Suggestions for numeric values were given to extrapolate such as for the average PCB content in small capacitors, the typical weight of transformers in relation to its capacity. It was agreed that this issue needed follow-up after the meeting. There were some concerns that the estimates made based on conversion factors did not always reflect such expert assumptions.
- It was agreed that there was a high degree of uncertainty in the estimates and they should be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, they gave an impression of the dimension of the challenge and should be seen as an alert that parties need to step up their efforts to eliminate PCB in order to achieve the goals of the Stockholm Convention.
- To provide a clearer how much PCB had been eliminated in a given year, the members of the Advisory Committee recommended using the middle point instead of ranges, or otherwise setting the year based on informed expert judgement.
- It would be helpful if the estimate of the amount still to be eliminated could be qualified, especially in terms of factors such as the PCB content, the types of equipment *etc.* Meanwhile, it was noted that such information had limited relevance for practical purposes, since the entire amount would need to be eliminated either way.
- It was concluded that the report should feed into the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations of the PEN Advisory Committee

Following the discussion on the report on progress towards eliminating PCB, the Advisory Committee drafted the conclusions and recommendations of its fifth meeting. The members of the Advisory Committee entrusted the PEN Secretariat with the editing of the conclusions and recommendations. The edited version, which has been approved by the members of the Advisory Committee can be found in Annex D. The members of the Advisory Committee agreed to undertake efforts to communicate the conclusions and recommendations at the regional preparatory meetings.

11. Other Matters

The PEN Advisory Committee adopted the revised application form for PEN membership, contained in Annex E, which will be posted on the webpage of the PEN.

12. Adoption of the Meeting Report

The members of the Advisory Committee entrusted the PEN Secretariat with the preparation of the report, with a draft being circulated among participants of this meeting.

13. Closure of the Meeting

The Chair thanked UNEP Chemicals Branch for organizing and hosting the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee and all members for their active participation in the meeting. After the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 17:00 p.m. on Thursday, 27 November 2014.

Annex 1 –Agenda

Time slot	Item	Lead
Wednesday, 26 November 2014		
8:30-9:00	<i>Registration</i>	
09:00-09:15	Welcome by the Secretariat of the PEN	Heideloire Fiedler
09:15-09:30	Round of introduction	All
09:30-9:45	Organizational matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of the chair of the meeting • Adoption of the agenda • Organisation of work 	Heideloire Fiedler, Chair (Anna Ortiz)
9:45-10:00	Update from the PEN Secretariat	Heideloire Fiedler
10:00-10:30	Activity and progress report of the thematic group on inventory of PCB including publication/publicity materials	Yuan Chen
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00-11:30	Activity and progress report of the thematic group on maintenance, handling, and interim storage of equipment containing PCB including publication/publicity materials	Anna Ortiz
11:30-12:00	Presentations on PCB management in Morocco and French PCB regulation	Hugues Levasseur
12:30-13:00	Activity and progress report of the thematic group on open applications of PCB including publication/publicity materials	Jost Dittkrist
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-14:20	Update on activities from BRS Secretariat	Matthias Kern
14:20-14:40	Update on activities from UNIDO	Alfredo Cueva
14:40-15:00	Update on activities from UNEP	Heideloire Fiedler
15:00-15:30	Introduction to PEN implementation, workplan and budget	All
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00-17:30	Discussion on update of workplan, budget and future activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committee nominations; period of terms • Final approval of new membership declaration form • Membership (list) of the PEN • Communication, e.g., POPs Social • Fund raising • Potential ways forward 	All
17:30	<i>End of Day 1</i>	
17:30-18:30	<i>Drinks</i>	

Thursday, 27 November 2014		
9:00-10:15	Report on progress in implementation of the PEN for COP7 and INF materials	Heideloire Fiedler (introduction)
10:15-10:30	Presence/activities during Stockholm COP-7	Chair
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00-12:30	Presentation of the draft report on progress towards eliminating PCB; questions and answers	Katarina Magulova (Intro) Jost Dittkrist
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-15:30	Discussion of the participants' feedback and input for the draft report on progress towards eliminating PCB	All
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00-16:30	Preparation of the COP document	Katarina Magulova

16:30-17:00	Adoption of the meeting report, concluding remarks and next steps	Chair, Heidelore Fiedler
17:00	<i>End of workshop</i>	

Annex 2 – List of Participants

Members of the Advisory Committee

Mr. Ion Barbarasa

Assistant Project Manager/Procurement Officer
 Ministry of Environment, Procurement Office,
 POPS Sustainable Management Office
 EMP Managementul Durabil POP
 9, Cosmonautilor Str., Office 614a
 MD-2005 Chisinau
 Republic of Moldova
 Tel: +37-322-226849
 Fax: +37322226254
 Email: ibarbarasa@moldovapops.md

Ms. Yuan Chen

Programme Officer
 Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the
 Pacific
 Room 805, School of Environment, Tsinghua
 University, Haidian District
 Beijing 100084
 China
 Email: bccc@tsinghua.edu.cn

Mr. Alfredo Cueva

Industrial Development Officer
 Environmental Management Branch
 Stockholm Convention Unit
 United Nations Industrial Development
 Organization (UNIDO)
 Wagramerstrasse 5
 P.O. Box 300
 1400 Vienna, Austria
 Email: a.cueva@unido.org

Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh

Administrator
 Ministry of Energy, Environment Department
 Tavanir Co., Yasemi st., Kordestan Exp. Way
 14155-6467 Tehran
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)
 Tel: +98-912-1009646
 Email: Sanaz.jafarzadeh@yahoo.com

Mr. Aloys Kamatari

Associate Professor
 Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education
 of KIBUNGO (INATEK), Faculty of Rural
 Development, Department of Agricultural
 Engineering
 06 Kibungo
 Rwanda
 Tel: +250-788 -427780
 Email: Aloys.kamatari@gmail.com

Mr. Matthias Kern

Senior Programme Officer
 Technical Assistance Branch
 Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
 Conventions
 Chemin des Anémones 11-13
 CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
 Switzerland
 Tel: +41 (22) 917 87 67
 Email: matthias.kern@unep.org

Mr. Hugues Levasseur

Vice President
 HWE Hazardous Waste Europe
 60 Bd du Général Leclerc
 92100 boulogne Billancourt
 France
 Tel: +33 1 41 31 41 95
 Fax: +33 1 41 31 41 96
 Email: h.levasseur@hazardouswasteurope.eu

Ms. Anna Ortiz

Environmental Consultant
 Ministry of Environment and Energy
 P.O Box 640-1250
 1250 San José
 Costa Rica
 Tel: +506-83856839
 Fac: +506-22896603
 Email: ortianna@gmail.com

Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun

Senior Adviser
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change,
General Directorate, Impact assessment and
Pollution Control
12 Libertatii Blvd., 5th District
040129 Bucharest
Romania
Tel: +40-754-231239
Fax: +40-21-3160421
Email: mihaela.ciobanu@mmediu.ro

Meeting Organization

Ms. Katarina Magulova

Programme Officer
Scientific Support Branch
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
Conventions
Chemin des Anémones 11-13
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland
Tel: +41 (22) 917 8170
Email: katarina.magulova@brsmeas.org

Ms. Heidelore Fiedler

Senior Scientific Affairs Officer
Science Team, Chemicals Branch
United Nations Environment Programme
Chemin des Anémones 11-13
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (22) 917-8187
E-mail: heidelore.fiedler@unep.org

Mr. Jost Dittkrist

Consultant
Science Team, Chemicals Branch
United Nations Environment Programme
Chemin des Anémones 11-13
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (22) 917-8735
E-mail: jost.dittkrist@unep.org

Mr. Andrea Carraro

Intern
Science Team, Chemicals Branch
United Nations Environment Programme
Chemin des Anémones 11-13
CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE)
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (22) 917-8118
E-mail: andrea.carraro@unep.org

Annex 3 – Workplan and Budget 2014-2017

Activities	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe	Resources
I. Thematic Group on Inventories				
1. Revise and finalize the guidance on PCB inventory including standardised inventory procedures based on compilation of experiences, lessons learned, and existing guidelines on PCB inventories, taking into account regional variations (60 p.)	1. Develop a revised draft based on comments	Chairs, PEN Secretariat	Completed	in-kind (SSFA through SCRC China)
	2. Invite comments from the Committee members	PEN Secretariat	Completed	PEN Secretariat staff time
	3. Finalize a draft based on comments for presentation to the next meeting of the PEN and the next SC COP.	Chairs	Completed	in-kind
	4. Translate into UN languages. Make the final document available online	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	31 December 2015	Translation and publication
2. Develop a factsheet on information requirements to support information management and the reporting process under paragraph (g), Part II, Annex A	1. Develop a first draft of the factsheet	Chairs	Completed	in-kind
	2. Invite comments from the Committee members	PEN Secretariat	31 January 2015	PEN Secretariat staff time
	3. Finalize the document	Chairs	31 March 2015	PEN Secretariat staff time
	4. Translate into UN languages. Make the final document available online	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	30 April 2015	Regional rep in-kind
3. Identify the needs of the Stockholm Convention Parties in the development of PCB inventories and information processing	1. Identify the parties that require assistance with PCB inventories and processing of the information on PCB	BRS Secretariat	January 2015	in-kind
4. Based on the needs assessment, use the guidance documents on PCB inventories in technical assistance activities	1. Organize webinars on specific sections of the guidance in the language of the target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee in cooperation with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	2015-2017	in-kind
II. Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB				
1. Revise and finalize the guidance on maintenance, handling and interim storage of equipment containing PCB	1. Develop a revised draft based on comments	Chairs, PEN Secretariat	Completed	in-kind
	2. Invite comments from Advisory Committee members	PEN Secretariat	Completed	PEN Secretariat staff time
	3. Finalize draft based on comments	Chairs	Completed	in-kind
	4. Translate into UN languages (30 p.), make final document available online	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	31 December 2015	Translation and publication
2. Use the guidance documents on PCB maintenance in technical assistance activities	1. Organize webinars on specific sections of the guidance in the language of target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	Completed	PEN Secretariat staff time
	2. Organize webinars on specific sections of the guidance in the language of the target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee in cooperation with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	2015-2017	in-kind

III. Thematic Group on Disposal of PCB and Remediation of Contaminated Sites				
1. Assessment of the need for guidance material in the identification and assessment of sites contaminated by PCB	1. Review of existing UNIDO guidelines on assessment of contaminated sites, relevant to PCB	Chairs	31 June 2015	in-kind
2. Encourage information exchange on the amount of PCB disposed of and methods used in PCB disposal, experiences and lessons learned	1. Initiate discussions on POPs Social to exchange information on the amount of PCB disposed of and methods used in PCB disposal, experience and lessons learned by stakeholders (developed and developing countries, industry, NGOs, etc.)	Lead by Advisory Committee member (Mr. Barbarasa)	Completed	in-kind
	2. Request GEF PEN Secretariat to make available PCB projects mid-term and final evaluations	PEN Secretariat	30 June 2015	in-kind
	3. Prepare and translate factsheets on lesson learned for PCB projects	Chairs together with Regional Centers	31 December 2015	in-kind
IV. Thematic Group on Open Applications				
1. Revise and finalize the awareness raising materials (1 photo booklet, 2 fact sheets and the presentation)	1. Revise the awareness raising materials based on comments and include the criteria above in the material	Chairs	Completed	in-kind
	2. Invite second comments and additional input from the AC and PEN members on the photo booklet	PEN Secretariat	Completed	in-kind
	3. Finalize awareness raising materials based on comments and additional information and publication	Chairs, PEN Secretariat	Completed	in-kind
	4. Translate the materials into UN languages	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	30 June 2015	in-kind
2. Awareness raising activities, communicate the message to the stakeholders	1. Organize webinars on PCB in open applications in the language of the target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee in cooperation with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	2014-2017	in-kind and PEN Secretariat staff time
3. Compile information to evaluate further needs for guidance and/or activities to assist parties in implementing paragraph (f) of Part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention	1. Request from implementing agencies to consider the assessment of open applications in NIP update projects and make available guidelines materials	PEN Secretariat	31 January 2015	in-kind, PEN Secretariat staff time
	2. Information analysis and response to request from the implementing agencies	Chairs and AC	31 December 2015	in-kind
Core Activities of the Advisory Committee				
1. Develop outreach materials on the Advisory Committee outputs	Electronic material, posters, videos, etc.	PEN Secretariat in cooperation with Chairs of Thematic Groups	2014-2017	in-kind, PEN Secretariat staff time
2. PEN participation in implementing agency regional PCBs workshops	Each workshop for 5 days (4 UN regions)	PEN Secretariat with Chairs of Thematic Groups, Regional Centers	2014-2017	IA

3. Compile lessons learned and good practices (bi-ennially)	Put compilation report on the website and present it to the PEN and COP	PEN Secretariat with Chairs of Thematic Groups	31 December 2015 31 December 2017	In-kind, PEN Secretariat staff time
4. Prepare progress report on an annual basis	Put progress report on the website and present it to the PEN and COP	PEN Secretariat in cooperation with the Advisory Committee	31 January 2015 31 January 2016 31 January 2017 31 January 2018	PEN Secretariat staff time
5. Undertake assessment of PCB implementation activities to support other evaluation processes	Review of documents and AC participation and conduct surveys	PEN Secretariat in cooperation with chairs of Thematic Groups, and Regional Centers	2014-2017	in-kind
6. Review, revise the guidance documents and fact sheets every 3-4 years	Update the guidance documents and fact sheets, publish on the web, make available to the PEN	PEN Secretariat with Chairs of Thematic Groups	2014-2017	in-kind, PEN Secretariat staff time
7. Hold annual Advisory Committee meetings (preferential face-to-face)	Hold the meetings in 2015, 2016, 2017	PEN Secretariat to organize the meetings, AC	2015 - 2017	Travel, DSA, hospitality, PEN Secretariat staff time
8. Every second year hold the PEN/PCB information meeting in association with the SC COPs	Hold the meeting at the same time as the SC COP	PEN Secretariat to organize the meetings, AC	May 2015 May 2017	PEN Secretariat staff time
9. Review the TORs of PEN and make recommendations to the next meeting of the PEN	PEN Secretariat with PEN Chair, AC to review, PEN Secretariat to finalize	PEN Secretariat with the members of the AC	Completed	In-kind, PEN Secretariat staff time
10. Establish a technical assistance platform in Regional Centres to respond on PCB matters for implementation of the SC	Regional Centres and PEN Secretariat	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	31 December 2015	PEN Secretariat staff time, Regional Centres staff time and infrastructure
11. Propose a GEF project on a pending issue to be determine	Prepare the concept document	Ion Barbarasa and Mihaela Paun	31 March 2015	In-kind

Item (2014-2017)	Subtotal (in USD)
PEN Secretariat staff time (3 yrs, 30% P3)	180,000
Travel, DSA, hospitality	75,000
Regional centers staff time	90,000
Translations and publications	60,000
Direct operational budget	405,000
PSC (13%)	52,650
Total (in USD)	457,650

Annex 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and recommendations of the advisory committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network at its fifth meeting, 26-27 November 2014

1. The Chemicals Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Chemicals), acting in its capacity as secretariat of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN), organised jointly with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants the fifth meeting of the advisory committee of the PEN in Geneva on 26 and 27 November 2014. Participants, after being updated on progress in implementing the workplan of the thematic groups, reviewed the budget and strategy and provided feedback on the preliminary assessment prepared by UNEP Chemicals in cooperation with the Secretariat on efforts made toward the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).
2. Regarding that assessment, the advisory committee of the PEN:
 - (a) Acknowledges the work undertaken, noting that the assessment of progress toward the elimination of PCB is being performed ten years after the Stockholm Convention entered into force;
 - (b) Emphasizes that the environmentally sound management of PCB requires the consideration of these chemicals throughout their life cycle, and that the assessment of progress toward their elimination has to cover issues relevant to their production, use, disposal and reporting;
 - (c) Recognizes the complexity of the issues and the need for specialised expertise to implement decision SC-6/6 and to support UNEP Chemicals and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in their work of further refining the assessment report for the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention to be performed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Members of the PEN advisory committee could effectively provide such specialised expertise.
3. The findings and recommendations of the PEN advisory committee include the following highlights:
 - (a) One party to the Stockholm Convention, in its first national implementation plan, reported that the production of PCB was ongoing as of 2006. It is therefore recommended that the question of whether PCB are still being produced be evaluated, that any such activity be monitored and that all possible steps be taken to phase it out;
 - (b) The guidance on the updating of national implementation plans should be amended to include instructions on developing inventories and assessments of PCB in open applications;
 - (c) While PCB inventories have been developed in many countries they should be completed, using standardised methods, with more specific and comparable information. This activity should be included as part of the process of updating the national implementation plans;
 - (d) Essential activities such as inventory development and PCB elimination have to be stepped up substantially to reach the 2025 and 2028 goals;
 - (e) The limited information available and slow pace of progress toward PCB elimination suggest a lack of sufficient funding and enforcement capacities, and the inefficient use of the available human and financial resources. Efforts should be made to provide better targeted assistance.
4. Furthermore, the PEN advisory committee:
 - (a) Encourages parties, intergovernmental organizations, donors and others to use and take advantage of the work and documents developed within the framework of existing PCB projects, especially those funded by the Global Environment Facility;
 - (b) Offers its expertise to parties and regional centres in ongoing and future PCB projects and invites those centres to collaborate closely with the advisory committee in order to improve implementation at the regional level;
 - (c) Recognizes that PCB should be prioritised and receive special attention in view of the large volumes still in use and in storage worldwide awaiting elimination and their inherent toxicity as substances classified as carcinogenic to humans by the International Agency for Research on Cancer;

- (d) Suggests that the Conference of the Parties requests the development and adoption of a standardised methodology for the inventory and future assessment of PCB in closed and open applications;
- (e) Advises the development of national and regional information management systems (e.g. national/regional databases) to improve inventory data management and exchange;
- (f) Recommends that the effectiveness evaluation committee, once formed, include at least one or two members of the PEN advisory committee with the requisite specialised expertise;
- (g) Emphasizes the need, in the near future ,for substantial additional funding for the identification and disposal of PCB;
- (h) Recommends engaging regional centres and others in targeted PCB information and awareness campaigns.

Annex 5 – Revised Application Form for Membership to the PCB Elimination Network (PEN)

1. Personal information

I wish to register as an: Institution Individual person

Institution			
First name		Title (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.)	
Family name			
Job title			
Mailing address		Postal code	
City		Country	
Telephone	<i>(please include international code)</i>	Mobile	<i>(please include international code)</i>
Fax		E-mail	

2. Additional information

Please specify to which category of stakeholders you belong (please choose only one category):

- Government (ministries, agencies, environmental inspectorates etc.)
- PCB disposal service industry (entities offering maintenance, treatment or destruction of PCB)
- PCB owner or holder (private or state enterprises holding contaminated equipment or oils)
- Regional Centre for the Stockholm or Basel Convention for capacity building and the transfer of technology
- Inter-governmental organization
- Non-governmental organization
- Research institution or academia
- Other: _____

In the field below, please briefly describe your involvement with PCB.

I am interested in the following topics of the thematic group (multiple checks possible):

- Inventory of PCB
- Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB
- Disposal of PCB and Remediation of Contaminated Sites
- Open Applications of PCB
- Other: _____

3. Declaration

I hereby declare that I will make determined effort towards achieving environmentally sound management of PCB. I accept that all information provided can be shared publicly.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please e-mail or mail the completed form to:
 Secretariat of the PEN, Chemicals Branch, DTIE, UNEP
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE), Switzerland
 E-mail: pen@pops.int or heidelore.fiedler@unep.org