

## Organizational structure

PEN bodies include the Advisory Committee, the Secretary and Thematic Groups.

### The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee comprises 16 representatives from the various categories of members. The Committee meets annually to review activities undertaken by the PEN, establish direction for future work and to adopt work-plans.

### The Secretary

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention will perform the function as Secretary for the PEN.

### Thematic Groups

The Thematic Groups of the PEN are established as necessary to cover specific issues related to the ESM of PCBs. Network members with a particular thematic interest (e.g. on certain treatment methods or research on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practice) are encouraged to exchange information through the Stockholm Convention's Clearing House Mechanism and by holding discussion fora as appropriate. The outcomes of Thematic Group activities will contribute to existing national and regional efforts to achieve ESM of PCBs. The Thematic Groups report annually to the Secretary regarding these activities.

### Establishment of the PEN

In 2009, the Advisory Committee will be set up. The PEN will be launched at the first meeting of the Committee in October 2009. The PEN will become fully operational at the start of 2010.

### Budget

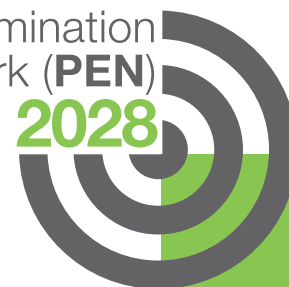
The PEN is funded by the voluntary contributions of its members and those of other donors. The Network builds on existing activities and convenes meetings to streamline its activities with other appropriate events on an ad-hoc basis. The anticipated cost for implementing the PEN for the first four years is USD 536,750.

### For more information please contact:

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PCBs Elimination  
Network (PEN)

2028



## Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs

Inventory of PCBs  
Maintenance of PCBs equipment  
Disposal of PCBs  
PCBs in open equipment



UNITED NATIONS



STOCKHOLM  
CONVENTION



UNEP

## Mandate

The purpose of the PEN is to provide support, information exchange and to promote the cost-effective completion of the environmentally sound management (ESM) of liquids and equipment containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) by 2028. The PEN functions as a forum for stakeholders from different sectors with an interest in the ESM of PCBs to interact within a voluntary and participatory framework.

## Rationale

A decision was taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting in May 2009 to introduce a mechanism for information exchange on PCBs among all relevant sectors that are linked to the use, management and disposal of PCB oils and PCBs contaminated equipment. The PEN was endorsed as this arrangement with voluntary membership across sectors for information exchange and aims at improved coordination and cooperation among stakeholders with an interest in the environmentally sound management of PCBs.

## Mission statement

The PEN provides a framework to promote and facilitate the delivery of national obligations under the Stockholm Convention for the environmentally sound management of PCBs by 2028.

## Objective

The objective of the PEN is to promote and encourage the environmentally sound management of PCB oils and equipment containing PCBs.

## The situation today

- PCBs are found across the globe
- Approximately 3.1 million tons of PCB oils and contaminated equipment exist worldwide among countries that are Parties to the Stockholm Convention
- Some initiatives ongoing to establish environmentally sound management of PCBs
- Awareness of PCBs and its undesirable properties is low
- Detailed inventories are still not available in most countries
- Limited information exchange occurs between sectors

## PEN principles

The PEN is based on the following principles:

- Members of the PEN support the ESM of PCBs and their disposal in accordance with the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the ESM of PCBs and POPs wastes
- PEN is a forum for information exchange which fosters transparency and collaboration among sectors
- PEN shall catalyze and complement ongoing activities to achieve ESM of PCBs, while avoiding duplication

## PEN activities

The PEN is based on Thematic Groups and will carry out the following activities:

- Facilitate information exchange between Network members
- Promote the Stockholm Convention and the achievement of its PCB- related objectives
- Establish annual awards for contribution to the ESM of PCBs using donations from members
- Raise awareness on successful ESM activities
- Coordinate and support ongoing national and regional efforts to achieve ESM of PCBs
- Promote the research, development and the transfer of environmentally sound techniques to developing countries

## Membership

PEN membership is open to the following groups:

- Governments
- Holders of PCBs
- Donors
- Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)
- Experts
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Industry

## Application for membership

Stakeholders that are interested in becoming members of the PEN, are invited to fill in the application form (attached) which is also available at the website of the PEN ([www.pops.int/pen](http://www.pops.int/pen)) or from the Secretary of the PEN ([pen@pops.int](mailto:pen@pops.int)). Please send your filled in application form to [pen@pops.int](mailto:pen@pops.int) or mail to the address shown at the end of this factsheet. Parties to the Stockholm Convention, having endorsed the establishment of the PEN at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, are automatically members of the PEN. However, Parties are also requested to promote and encourage relevant stakeholders in their countries to apply and become members of the PEN.

## Benefits for members of the PEN

PEN members shall enjoy the following benefits:

1. Rewards and distinctions for members carrying out ESM activities
2. A dedicated page on Stockholm Convention website
3. Access to a wide range of PCB-related experts and expertise available through Network members
4. PEN members are supported toward the ESM of PCB oils and contaminated equipment
5. Network members can participate in Thematic Groups and gain from extended linkages