

Annex to decision SC-1/12

Guidance for the review and updating of national implementation plans

Introduction

1. Each Party to the Stockholm Convention is required to develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. In accordance with paragraph 2 (b) of Article 7 of the Convention, a Party's implementation plan is to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties within two years of entry into force of the Convention for that Party. A Party's initial plan will reflect the initial obligations imposed by the Convention and will address the twelve persistent organic pollutants listed in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention. The implementation plan could be expected to reflect for a Party:

- (a) Its assessment of its persistent organic pollutants problem, based on surveys, monitoring and inventories;
- (b) The obligations of the Convention applicable at the time the plan is prepared;
- (c) Its priorities in addressing the persistent organic pollutants problem, taking into account broader social and economic priorities;
- (d) Its programme for achieving sustainable development;
- (e) Its institutional arrangements and available infrastructure.

2. For all Parties, the development of the implementation plan is a substantial investment that outlines a Party's objectives, activities to be undertaken, the responsibilities of stakeholders, and the time frame for achieving results. While the implementation plan should be flexible so that it can accommodate changes in priorities and progress, the overall framework should be stable enough to provide long-term planning and commitment.

I. Need for review and update

3. It is unlikely that the factors outlined in paragraph 1 above will remain static over time, and the implementation plan will need to be updated to reflect changes. The factors that could trigger such a review and update could be external to the Party or internal to the Party.

4. The external factors include:

- (a) Changes in obligations arising from amendments to the Convention or its annexes, including the addition of chemicals to Annexes A, B or C;
- (b) Decisions of the Conference of the Parties that may affect how Parties implement Convention obligations, including adoption of guidance or guidelines;
- (c) Changes in the availability of technical or financial assistance;
- (d) Changes in access to infrastructure external to the Party (e.g., disposal facilities).

5. The internal factors include:

- (a) Reporting under Article 15 of the Convention indicating that the Party's implementation plan is not adequate;
- (b) A change in national priorities;
- (c) A significant change in national circumstances (e.g., infrastructure or institutional arrangement);
- (d) Inventories of persistent organic pollutants, after improvement or updating, indicating a change in the scope of the problem to be addressed.

6. In assessing whether or not to review and update an implementation plan in response to internal factors, consideration should be given to the previous investment in developing the implementation plan, the involvement and commitment of stakeholders in the process, the actual period of implementation and the effectiveness of the implementation.

II. Process of the review and updating

7. For those changes in the obligations under the Convention due to amendments to the Convention or its annexes referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above, a Party will review and update its implementation plan and within two years of the entry into force of the amendment for it, transmit its updated plan to the Conference of the Parties consistent with paragraph 1 (b) of the Convention.

8. For those factors listed in paragraphs 4 and 5 above that may trigger a review and update of a Party's implementation plan, with the exception of subparagraph 4 (a), a Party may notify the other Parties to the Convention through the clearing-house mechanism of its intent to review and update its implementation plan.

9. Funding to support the review and updating of implementation plans for those Parties eligible to receive such funding should be sought through the financial mechanism of the Convention.

10. The process and format for the review and update could be based on the interim guidance contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/13, which was developed to assist countries in the preparation of national implementation plans.