

Elaborated process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans

A. Introduction

The elaborated process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans set out below is intended to be read in conjunction with:

- (a) The guidance for the review and updating of national implementation plans set out in the annex to decision SC-1/12 of the Conference of the Parties;¹
- (b) The guidance for assisting countries in the preparation of national implementation plans set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/7 and subsequently referred to as the guidance for developing national implementation plans;
- (c) The chart showing the main elements of the elaborated process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans set out in figure 1 below.

B. Steps to be followed when reviewing and updating national implementation plans

Step 1: Identification of the need to review and update national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7

To determine whether a Party has a need to review and update its national implementation plan pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention, the Party concerned should assess whether it is affected by any external or internal factors, such as those referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the annex to decision SC-1/12:

External factors

- (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).

Internal factors

- (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 arrangements);
- (d) Inventories of persistent organic pollutants, after improvement or updating, indicating a change in the scope of the problem to be addressed.

Step 2: Initiation of the process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans

When initiating the process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans, Parties are advised to take into account the guidance for developing national implementation plans set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/7 and to apply it as appropriate.

When the trigger for a Party's need to review and update its national implementation plan is not a change in its obligations arising from an amendment to the Convention or its annexes, including the addition of chemicals to Annexes A, B or C, the Party concerned may notify other Parties to the Convention through the Secretariat of its intent to review and update its national implementation plan.

¹ Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I.

Step 3: Coordinating mechanism and process organization

It is recommended that Parties follow, as appropriate, phase I, entitled “Establishment of Coordinating Mechanism and Process Organization”, in the guidance for developing national implementation plans. Parties are encouraged to use existing coordinating mechanisms, such as national coordinating committees for issues related to the Convention, making the necessary adjustments, if relevant, to address the factors triggering the review and updating of their national implementation plans.

The coordinating mechanism shall undertake an assessment of a Party’s financial and technical needs in order to carry out the review and updating of its national implementation plan.

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. In this regard, reference should be made to the guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-1/9.

Parties eligible to receive technical assistance pursuant to Article 12 of the Convention are encouraged to take into consideration the guidance on technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-1/15.

Step 4: Assessment of the effects of the external or internal factors referred to in step 1 above on Parties’ existing national implementation plans

When dealing with a change in obligations arising from amendments to the Convention or its annexes, including the addition of chemicals to Annexes A, B or C, it is recommended that Parties follow, as appropriate, phase II of the guidance for developing national implementation plans, entitled “Establishment of persistent organic pollutant inventories and assessment of national infrastructure and capacity”, and phase III, entitled “Priority assessment and objective setting”.

For changes required as a result of all other external and internal factors, it is recommended that Parties reassess their national priorities vis-à-vis those already in their existing national implementation plans and adjust the plans accordingly. In doing so, it is recommended that Parties follow phase III of the guidance for developing national implementation plans.

It is not necessary to undertake all the tasks mentioned in the guidance. Only those applicable to the external or internal factors referred to in step 1 above need be undertaken.

Other relevant guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties should also be taken into account, e.g., guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices² and decision SC-1/21 on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes.

Step 5: Formulation of revised and updated national implementation plans

Relevant existing action plans and strategies should be adjusted as necessary in order to reflect the external or internal factors that have led to the review and updating of a national implementation plan. In the case of an amendment to the Convention or its Annexes A, B and C, the required action plan or strategy should be developed as appropriate. It is recommended that Parties follow, as appropriate, phase IV of the guidance for developing national implementation plans, entitled “Formulation of the national implementation plan”.

Step 6: Endorsement of updated and revised national implementation plans

For this step, Parties should follow, as appropriate, phase V of the guidance for developing national implementation plans, entitled “Endorsement and submission of the national implementation plan”.

Step 7: Transmission of updated and revised national implementation plans to the Conference of the Parties

² The Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices has been mandated by decision SC-1/19 of the Conference of the Parties to complete further work on the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

When the review and updating of a national implementation plan has been undertaken in order to comply with changes in the obligations under the Convention occasioned by amendments to the Convention or its annexes, the Party concerned shall transmit to the Conference of the Parties its revised and updated implementation plan within two years of the entry into force for that Party of the amendment.

When the review and updating of a national implementation plan has been undertaken in response to any other external or internal factor, the Party concerned shall transmit its updated and revised plan to the Conference of the Parties as soon as practicable.

When transmitting their revised and updated national implementation plans to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat, it is recommended that Parties consider transmitting both hard copy and electronic versions.

Figure 1. Main elements of the elaborated process of reviewing and updating national implementation plans (NIPs)

