



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

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STOCKHOLM CONVENTION DIVISION

The Stockholm Convention Division (SCD) is responsible for supporting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Through SCD, UNIDO has played a leading role in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention since it opened for signature in 2001.

SCD's strategic programmes focus on the industrial sectors mentioned in the Convention, including, but not limited to, power utilities, textile industries, metallurgical industries, pesticide manufacturers, recycling industries, pulp and paper, leather, as well as food industries.

Working with industry, SCD helps optimize production processes to avoid POPs emissions, set up new facilities and production lines utilizing POPs alternatives, as well as construct and operate facilities for the safe management of POPs-containing material. In this regard, particular emphasis is placed on the promotion of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for POPs reduction and for the environmentally sound elimination of POPs.

SCD furthermore works to develop new industries without POPs releases and to establish recycling and waste management industries in a manner that minimizes the generation and release of POPs. In addition, SCD helps strengthen the capacity of public and private sector institutions to assist industries and SMEs in implementing their countries' POPs National Implementation Plans.

All SCD projects are underpinned by collaboration with government and industry to create supportive framework conditions for the effective reduction and elimination of POPs in industrial production. Activities in this area include regulatory and policy guidance, technical guidelines development and capacity building in order to ensure sustainable industrial transformation in an economically and environmentally sound, lasting and replicable manner.



Policies for POPs Management

The formulation of a National Implementation Plan (NIP) is required of all parties to the Stockholm Convention in order to define a country's commitment and the means of implementing the Convention's requirements. In most countries, assistance from SCD commences with so-called Enabling Activities for the preparation and development of a country's initial NIP. This assistance has been provided to 41 countries resulting in NIPs which are tailored to country-specific conditions and are based on the country's unique institutional, policy and regulatory structures.

When chemicals are added to the Convention, parties need to review their NIP and update it with information on how they will address the newly-listed POPs. The process of reviewing and updating the NIPs can be challenging for parties that lack adequate resources and technical capacity. To date, 48 countries have been assisted by SCD with NIP review and update projects.



Reduction of Unintentional POPs Releases

SCD proactively encourages the introduction of BAT and BEP at the different sources of unintentionally produced POPs (uPOPs, such as dioxins) to ensure continued minimization of uPOPs releases. SCD has developed a diverse portfolio aimed at reducing and, where feasible, eliminating uPOPs releases from priority source



categories, as well as from specific industrial sectors.

Through the application of appropriately selected technologies and fuels, and BEP, SCD's interventions simultaneously increase energy efficiency and reduce uPOPs releases. This assists countries address climate change, while meeting their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

Recycling industries have further been developed to reduce uPOPs emissions from solid municipal waste and from open burning. These projects promote the adoption of BAT/BEP in relevant industries and institutions of varying complexity and sizes, in a manner that protects human health and reduces adverse environmental impacts.

PCB Management through Non-Combusting Technology

SCD's polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) management and disposal projects aim to create fundamental capacities within industries, governments, institutions and PCB owners for complying with the PCB-related obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The projects enhance critical regulatory and legislative infrastructures and strengthen institutions at national, regional and local levels to manage PCB-containing equipment and wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

Building capacities in local laboratories for PCB sampling and analysis, transferring technology know-how for local PCB treatment and elimination, and undertaking inspections at PCB-contaminated sites assure compliance with PCB-related legislations. Environmentally sound PCB management practices are established with PCB-owners, reducing PCB releases and risks to human and environmental health. Raising targeted public awareness and dissemination of information is a major component of all SCD's PCB projects.



Manufacturing without POPs

Many of the POPs chemicals, particularly those newly listed in the Stockholm Convention, are actively used as they are, or as ingredients in manufactured products. SCD is therefore shifting the focus of its activities towards supporting industries to introduce alternatives to POPs chemicals in industrial processes, as well as fostering the production of POPs-free manufactured goods. Examples include the conversion of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) production in India, as well

as the introduction of alternatives to polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants in auto part manufacturing in China. It is also expected that future programming will be introduced on phasing out hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) flame retardants in insulation foam manufacturing.

Management of Recycling Chains without POPs Recycling or Formation

Recycling industries, in particular e-waste recycling, carry with them the potential hazard of recycling or re-forming POPs. In terms of SCD's POP management, this means emphasizing the management of PBDE-containing plastics and ensuring that this fraction is not further recycled. In addition, SCD works towards supporting regional initiatives aimed at enhancing information exchange and knowledge sharing and management. This occurs through policy and technical fora, as well as by enhancing South-South and North-South cooperation activities.

In the area of e-waste, SCD ensures the POPs-relevant enhancement of recycling schemes through policy and legislation guidance, detailed inventories and the design and financing of collection schemes and recycling technologies. The results are scaled and made economically sustainable by establishing long-term financing models, supported by linkages to downstream markets, and by conducting capacity building and awareness-raising exercises.

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