

## **BC-15/6: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the small intersessional working group to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;

2. *Adopts* the following technical guidelines:

(a) General technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;<sup>1</sup>

(b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds;<sup>2</sup>

(c) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordecone, dicofol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical;<sup>3</sup>

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;

4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established by paragraph 9 of decision OEWG-I/4 to provide that the group shall monitor and assist in the review, updating and preparation, as appropriate, of technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, through face-to-face meetings;

5. *Recognizes* that in some cases provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values have been established at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties and that in other cases knowledge limitations have posed challenges to the setting of such values;

6. *Decides* to continue working towards a review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate, before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to establishing low persistent organic pollutant content values for persistent organic pollutants for which no single value has been established;

7. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 October 2022, comments on the low persistent organic pollutant content values included in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate, and related information, including on studies, taking into account relevant information available in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

8. *Invites* Parties and observers to provide to the Secretariat, by 30 October 2022:

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.1/Rev.1.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.2/Rev.1.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

(a) Comments on the parts enclosed in square brackets in section IV.G.2 (e) of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision on cement kiln co-incineration;

(b) Comments on additional guidance for section IV.G.4 of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision on other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutant content is low;

(c) Information on further or updated examples of national legislation for inclusion in annex II to the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, including on any concentration limits, as well as links to online sources where such legislation can be found;

9. *Decides* that the following should be considered in the updating of the general technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision and the preparation or updating of specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention by decision SC-10/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023:

(a) Establishment of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation for the chemicals necessary to ensure that, when disposed of, they do not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention;

(b) Determination of which disposal methods constitute environmentally sound disposal as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

(c) Establishment, as appropriate, of the concentration levels of the chemicals in order to define for them low persistent organic pollutant content as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

10. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to indicate to the Secretariat by 31 July 2022 their willingness to take the lead in updating the following technical guidelines, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the present decision:

(a) The general technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, taking into account decision SC-10/9;

(b) Technical guidelines on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, to include perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, taking into account decision SC-10/9;

11. *Invites* the lead country or countries or lead organization or organizations referred to in paragraph 10 of the present decision, or, if there is no lead country or countries or lead organization or organizations, requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare draft technical guidelines in accordance with paragraph 10 of the present decision, taking into account the comments and information provided pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a compilation of the comments and information referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;

(b) To continue to undertake, subject to the availability of resources, technical assistance activities to support developing-country Parties and other Parties in need of assistance in using the adopted technical guidelines, organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;

(c) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a short document that explains how the technical guidelines can be used at the national level, with a view to facilitating the dissemination and use of the technical guidelines, as part of its technical assistance activities;

(d) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.