

# Overview of MEAs on chemicals and waste

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## Synergies

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# Which MEAs?



**Basel** Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (adopted in 1989, in force since 1992)

**Rotterdam** Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (adopted in 1998, in force since 2004)

**Stockholm** Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (adopted in 2001, in force since 2004).

**Minamata** Convention on Mercury (adopted in 2013, in force since 2017)

# Objectives

Stockholm (art 1): [...] to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants

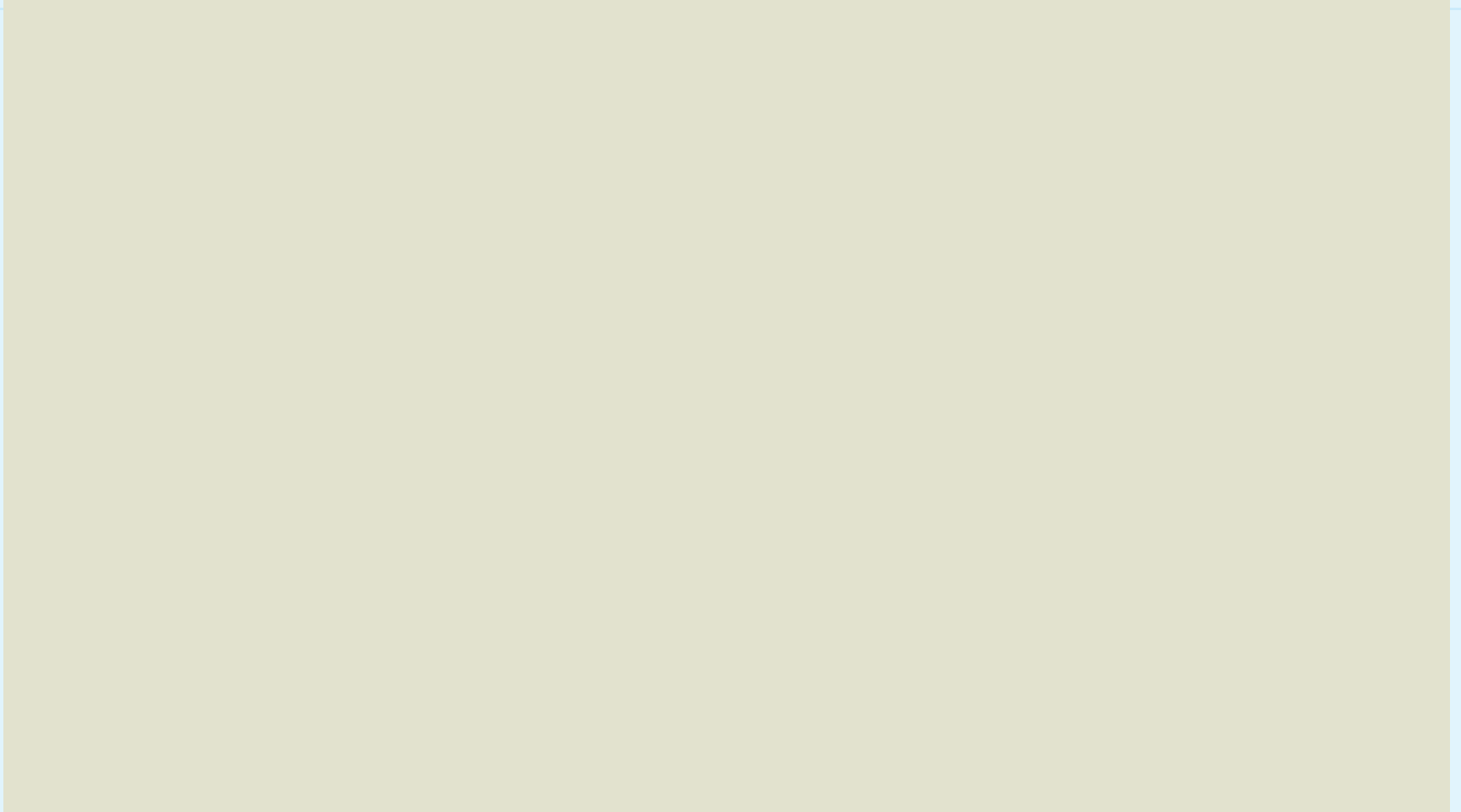
Rotterdam (art. 1): to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm [...]

Basel (preamble): Determined to protect, by strict control, human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes,

Minamata (art. 1): [...] to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.



# Synergies process *(video)*



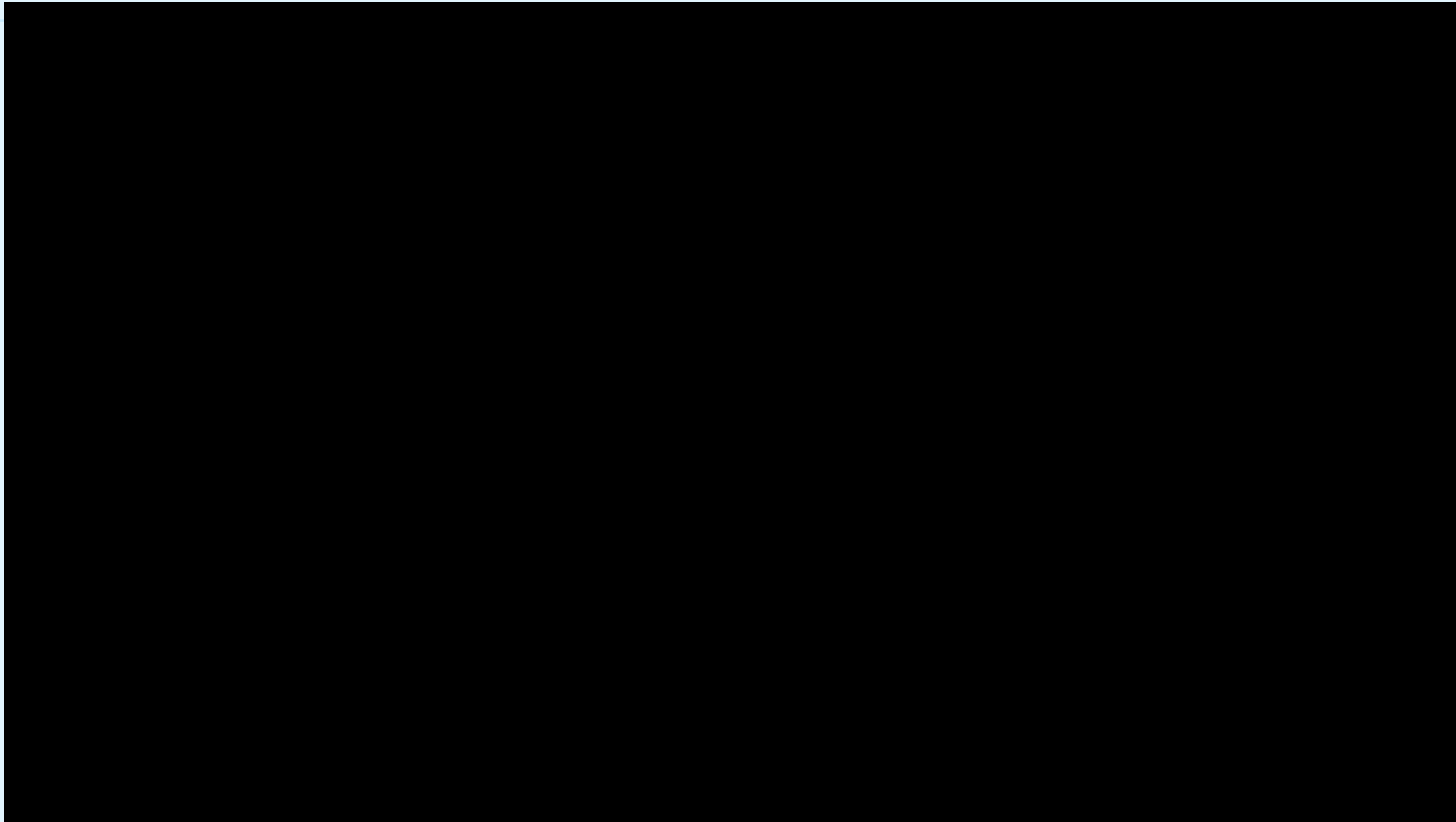
# Overview of MEAs on chemicals and waste

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## The Minamata Convention

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# Minamata Convention (*video*)



Adopted in 2013 and entered into force in 2017

# Minamata Convention

## Operational provisions

Export and import controls are one of the main instruments to reduce supply and trade of mercury

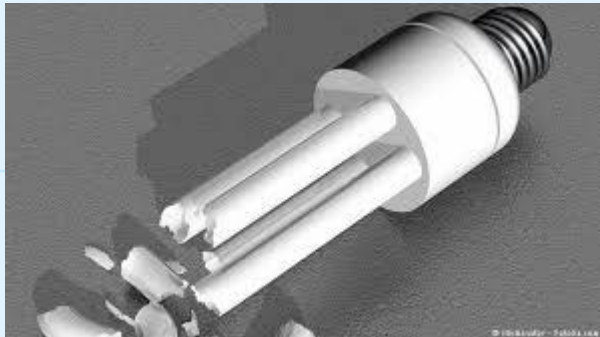
- Bans **new primary mercury mining**. Parties must cease primary mercury mining activities no more than 15 years after the entry into force
- Establishes an **informed consent procedure** for the **exportation of mercury**



# Minamata Convention

## Operational provisions

- Requires the phasing out of **mercury-added products** by 2020 (e.g. fluorescent lamps, barbeque grills, fryers, hot plates, griddles, and rotisseries)
- Requires the phasing out of **manufacturing processes** where mercury or mercury compounds are used (e.g. use of switches containing mercury to control power to heater or pumps / to activate airbags, anti-lock brakes)

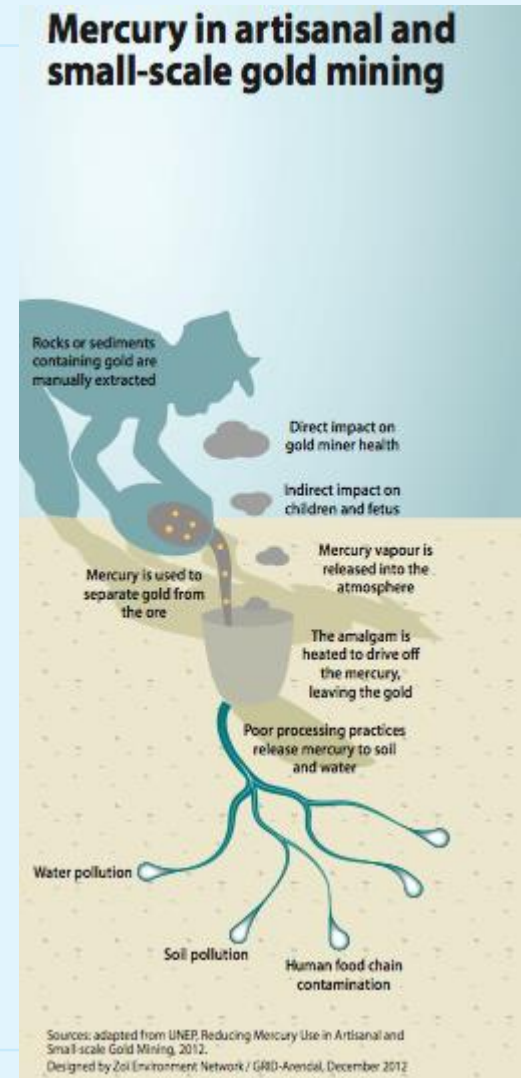




# Minamata Convention

## Operational provisions

- Requests Parties with artisanal and small-scale goldmining and processing in which mercury amalgamation is used to take steps to reduce and where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury and its compounds (national action plan)



# Minamata Convention

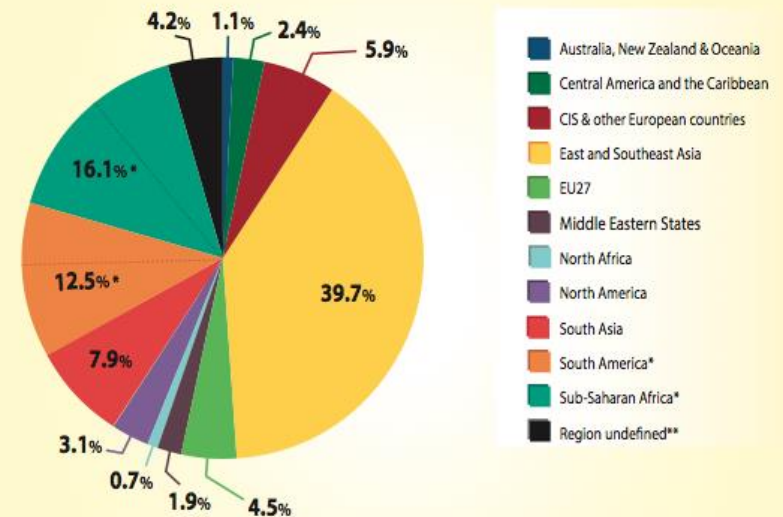
## Operational provisions

Establishes a set of measures to control:

- emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the **atmosphere** from relevant sources; and
- releases to **land and water**

**Inventory of emissions and releases** within 5 years from the entry into force of the Convention  
**Reporting obligations.**

## Regional mercury emissions in 2010



\* Artisanal and small-scale gold mining is by far the major contributor to mercury emissions in South America and Sub-Saharan Africa

\*\* Emissions from contaminated sites.

Source: Adapted from UNEP, Global Mercury Assessment 2013: Sources, Emissions, Releases and Environmental Transport, 2013. Designed by Zof Environment Network / GRID-Arendal, December 2012.

# Minamata Convention

## Operational provisions



- **Interim storage** of mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a Party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner
- **Mercury wastes** – Basel Convention for trade and disposal
- **Contaminated sites** – identification and assessment (COP guidance)

# Minamata Convention

## Implementation

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- Financial resources mechanism
- Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- Information and awareness raising
- Effectiveness evaluation

# Minamata Convention

## Institutional arrangements

- Implementation and Compliance Committee
- Conference of the Parties
  
- Secretariat

## COP-2 highlights

- capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer;
- environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than mercury waste;
- releases;
- waste thresholds;
- Harmonized Customs codes;
- effectiveness evaluation;
- secretariat arrangements;
- contaminated sites.



# Thank you

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# Overview of MEAs on chemicals and waste

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## The Stockholm Convention

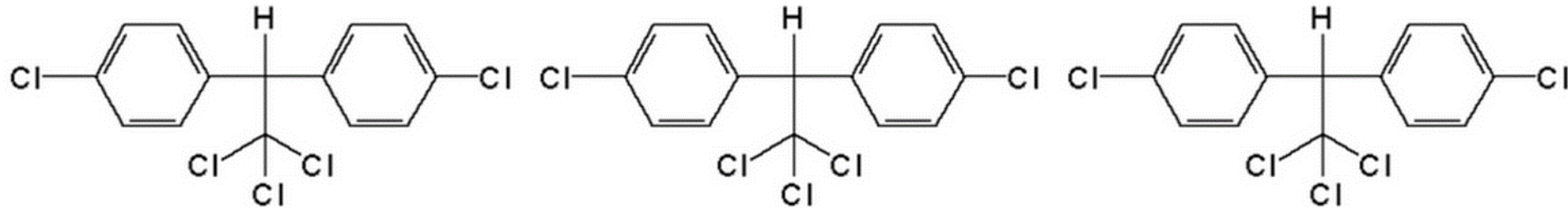
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# Stockholm Convention *(video)*

You, Me, DDT



# Stockholm Convention



- Organic chemical substances (carbon-based)
- A particular combination of physical and chemical properties such that, once released into the environment, they:
  - remain intact for **exceptionally long periods** of time;
  - become **widely distributed throughout the environment** as a result of natural processes involving soil, water and, most notably, air;
  - accumulate in the **fatty tissue of living organisms**, including humans, and are found at higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain

# Stockholm Convention

Why do we care about POPs

They are **toxic** to both humans and wildlife

**Effects** include:

- Cancer
- allergies and hypersensitivity
- reproductive disorders
- damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems
- disruption of the immune system / endocrine disrupters



# Stockholm Convention

## Negotiations history



- **May 1995:** by decision 18/32, the UNEP Governing Council requested that an **international assessment process** be undertaken of an initial list of **12 POPs** and that the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) develop **recommendations on international action** for consideration by UNEP GC and World Health Assembly no later than 1997.
- **June 1996:** IFCS concluded that **available information was sufficient to demonstrate that international action**, including a global legally binding instrument, **was required to minimize the risks** from the **12 POPs** through measures to reduce and/or eliminate their emissions or discharges.
- **February 1997:** UNEP GC by decision 19/13C invited UNEP to prepare for and convene an **intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)**, with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action initially beginning with the 12 POPs and requested that the INC establish an **expert group** to develop **criteria** and a **procedure** for identifying additional POPs as candidates for future international action

# Stockholm Convention

## Negotiations history

- **May 2001:** the Stockholm Convention was adopted and opened for signature at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries
- **17 May 2004:** the Convention entered into force
- **TODAY:** 182 Parties.



# Stockholm Convention

## Objective and scope

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To “...protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants”

Releases from:

- intentional production and use;
- releases from unintentional production;
- releases from stockpiles and waste

# Stockholm Convention

## Which chemicals

The initial 12 POPs recognized as causing adverse effects on humans and the environment, can be classified in three categories:

- **Pesticides**

aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene

- **Industrial chemicals**

hexachlorobenzene (“HCB”), polychlorinated biphenyls (“PCBs”)

- **By-products:**

hexachlorobenzene (“HCB”), polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF); and PCBs



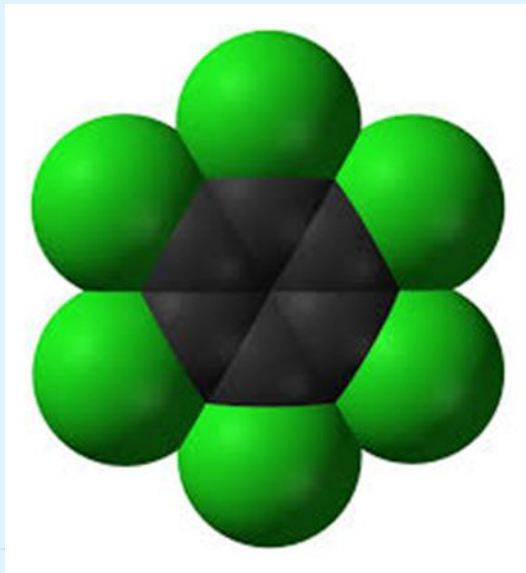
**Amendments** in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015 for the listing of new chemicals

# Stockholm Convention

Elimination (Annex A)



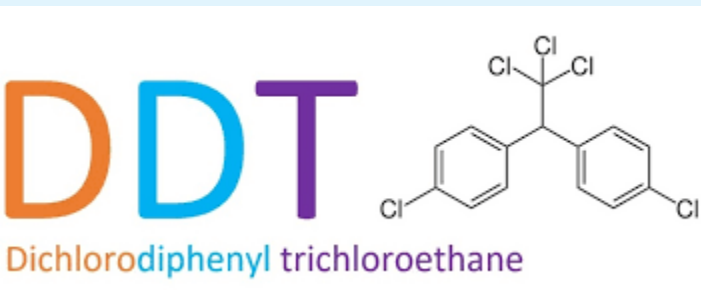
- Prohibits and/or eliminates the **production, use, import and export**, of the intentionally produced POPs (listed in Annex A)



- Allows for the registration of specific **exemptions** for the **production and/or use** of listed POPs
- Allows for the **import and export** of the listed chemicals under specific restrictive conditions

# Stockholm Convention

## Restriction (Annex B)



- Restricts the **production, use, import and export**, of the intentionally produced POPs (listed in Annex B)
- Allows for the registration of **acceptable purposes** and of specific **exemptions** for the **production and use** of the listed POPs
- Allows for the **import and export** of the listed chemicals under specific restrictive conditions, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 3.





# Stockholm Convention

Unintentional production (Annex C)

- Seeks to reduce and, where feasible, ultimately eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs (listed in Annex C)
- Promotes the use of **best available techniques** and **best environmental practices** for preventing releases of POPs into the environment.



# Stockholm Convention

## Stockpiles and waste

To ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner, Parties have to:

- Develop **strategies** for identification of POPs;
- **Identify** and manage stockpiles and wastes in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner;
- Take measures so that wastes are:
  - handled, collected, transported and stored in an environmentally sound manner;
  - disposed of so that the POPs content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed;
  - not permitted to be subject to disposal operation that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of POPs;
  - not transported across international boundaries without taking into account relevant international rules, standards and guidelines.
- Endeavour to develop strategies for identification of contaminated sites and undertake eventual remediation

Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes

# Stockholm Convention

## Additional POPs

A Party submits a proposal for listing a chemical

The secretariat verifies the elements in Annex D

### Screening

The POPRC

- Screens the proposal: if it finds that the criteria have been fulfilled, it circulates to the Parties and observers and invites them to submit the information in Annex E
- Prepares a **risk profile** and circulates the draft to Parties and observers, collects technical comments and completes the risk profile.
- Based on the risk profile, makes a decision on whether the chemical is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effect such that global action is warranted.

### Risk management evaluation

- If the POPRC decides that the proposal shall proceed,
- It invites parties and observers to submit information related to the socioeconomic considerations
- develops a risk management evaluation
- on that basis, it then recommends whether the chemical should be considered by the COP for listing in Annexes A, B and C.

The COP

Considers the POPRC recommendations and any scientific uncertainty and adopts (or not) a decision on listing and related control measures.



# Stockholm Convention

## Best available techniques and best available practices

Measures to reduce the total releases derived from anthropogenic sources of each of the chemicals listed in Annex C => continuing minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination

- **Best Available Techniques (BAT):** “the most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing in principle the basis for release limitations designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, generally to reduce releases of chemicals listed in Part I of Annex C and their impact on the environment as a whole”.
- **Best Environmental Practices (BEP):** “the application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies.”

Harmonized framework for elaboration of comparable release inventories of Annex C chemicals

Detailed state-of-the-art guidelines on BAT and guidance on BEP.

# Stockholm Convention

## Institutional arrangements

- Conference of the Parties
  - Secretariat
  - Regional and Coordinating Centres for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer
  - POPRC
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- Non-compliance
  - Financial and technical assistance – the GEF

# Thank you

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