

Centre Régional de la Convention de Stockholm pour la région Afrique du nord  
Regional Centre of Stockholm Convention for North African Countries  
Décision SC-7/17 – 15-05-2015

**REPORT on the  
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP UNDER THE THEME  
"IMPROVING AND HARMONIZING INVENTORIES OF  
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS AND ACTION  
PLAN"**

**Rabat, Marroco from October the 30<sup>th</sup> to Novembre the 02<sup>nd</sup> 2017**



## INTRODUCTION:

As part of the implementation of its 2016-2019 action plan, the Regional Center of the Stockholm Convention for the North Africa Region organized, in partnership with German Technical Cooperation GIZ, a capacity building workshop under the theme "Improvement and Harmonization of Persistent Organic Pollutants Inventories and Action Plan" in the direction of the focal points of the countries it covers. This workshop took place in Rabat, Morocco from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

The workshop was highlighted by the participation of the focal points of Algeria and Egypt as well as the representatives of the focal points of Morocco, Niger and Mali, and all the members of the validation committee of the NIP of Morocco. It is reported that Tunisia and Libya have not been represented. (See list of presents in annex 1)

The opening of the workshop was enhanced by the speech of the of the Secretary of State to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development representative, in charge of sustainable development. Mr. ABOUD Jamal, commended the efforts of the CRCS Algeria in carrying out its activities that meet the needs of the countries of the region to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

Mr. FEKAIRI Ahmed, deputy director of GIZ Algeria, reiterated his technical and financial support to the CRCS in the realization of its 2016-2019 action plan

In turn, Mr. FERGUI Abdelkader, coordinator of the CRCS expressed the willingness of the CRCS to provide technical assistance to the countries in order to support them and strengthen their capacities of intervention to fulfill their obligations under the convention. He also insisted that this third technical capacity building workshop under the theme of improving and harmonizing persistent organic pollutant inventories is another opportunity for dialogue and exchange in order to better meet the challenges of climate change. Development of POPs inventories in the region

**Conduct of the workshop: (see the program in appendix 2):**

**Summary of day 1 : 10/30/2017**

**1- Presenting the workshop objectives (Mr. Roland Weber expert POPs)**

**2- POPs management within the broader framework of chemicals and waste management (Mr. Roland Weber Expert POPs)**

- POPs management focuses on PCBs waste and pesticide stocks. But this does not preclude the evaluation of other modes of treatment for the other categories of POPs.
- It is necessary to move from the linear economy to the circular economy through the SAICAM approach and the MCPDs and the need also for a better synergy between the different conventions and international treaties Stockholm, Basel, SAICAM and SCP is necessary.
- Budgets for exporting all POPs waste are not available for developing countries. POPs will need to be partly managed in countries by integrating them into the different national waste management programs

**Debate:**

Discussions focused on synergies mechanisms between SAICAM, MINAMATA, the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, customs controls on products likely to contain POPs, and the responsibility of all sectors in the management of products. chemical products.

**2-Regional approach on POPs management (Mr. EROL CAVUS Représentant de l'UN Environnement) :**

- Enumerations of the different components of the Barcelona Convention and the existing link with the POPs (PCB and Mercury disposal project)
- There is a legal framework and administrative capacity in the Mediterranean region to eliminate chemicals and hazardous waste
- The competent bodies are ready to support the elimination, elimination and prevention of these chemicals.
- The tools and funds available can facilitate the work of countries to improve the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea and improve the livelihoods and health of the coastal population

**Debate:**

The discussed points during the debates were related to this project registration procedures and deadlines as well as the feedback from experience that the Sahel countries could benefit from.

**PCBs ecologically sound management in Egypt, Turkey, Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina, MEDPARTNERSHIP project from 2013 to 2015 (Panos Ioakimidis, Environment expert):**

**Project objectives** were to introduce environmentally sound management at all stages of the "life cycle" of electrical equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs.

- The project focused on the removal and disposal of 800 tonnes of PCBs at demonstration sites in four countries and the improvement of PCB inventories with trained local expert teams.

**Debate :**

Discussions were focused on the need of customs and local experts training and capacity building on containing or contaminated equipments by PCBs

**2- Presentation of Algeria , Egypt, Mali and Mauritania on their PCB management experience**

**3- Some good conclusion and learned lessons on pesticides and POPs stock management .Important information to go ahead (Mr. RUSSEL COBBANE, Environment Expert)**

- Every Pesticides stocks program contains four components with an evaluation of each
- Regarding many involved stake holders projects , formal and succinct and pungent references terms must be concluded between collaborators in the very beginning of a partnership
  - Defining Key activities of the project to determine the size of the task to avoid critical impacts on the project
  - The exchange of knowledge between the participating countries of a regional project should be more facilitated.
- NIP actors capacity building should be efficient

**Debate:**

The questions asked after this communication were related to preventive measures against the accumulation of new stocks of pesticides and risk assessment methods for the reduction of the risk of fire, as well as provisions for the decontamination of empty packaging.

#### **4- Presentation of Algeria , Egypt, Mali and Mauritania on their PCB management experience**

#### **5- Key Issues for Developing Inventories for PFOS and Related Products (Roland Weber Expert POPs):** les objectifs des inventories des PFOS ;

- The objectives of PFOS inventories;
- Identify economic sectors that have critical uses of PFOS that fall into the use categories listed as acceptable goals and specific exemptions in the Convention and related volumes.
- Evaluate past use of PFOS and stock of products.
- Identify contaminated sites and their risks
- Identify gaps in the information needed to complete the inventory.
- Contribute to the development of a strategy on the elimination and management of PFOS, development of action plans and prioritization of sectors and actions requiring attention.
- Provide a basis for PFOS reporting requirements under the Stockholm Convention.

#### **- Debate:**

PFOS safety data sheets and guidelines for dealing with PFOS producers were the elements of debate.

#### **6- Presentation of Algeria , Egypt, Mali and Mauritania on their PCB management experience**

#### **Summary Day 2 : 10/31/2017**

##### **1- Options for action plan activities for the management of PFOS and related substances (Mr. Roland Weber expert POPs)**

- Establish a policy and regulatory framework for the use, management and substitution of PFOS and related substances and PFAS in industrial uses and in products and wastes (SAICM synergy)
- Update and refine PFOS inventories and other uses of PFAS to better manage information and define a specific life cycle for these products
- Promote the use of BAT and BPE for the management of these products and opt for alternatives

## **Key questions for developing inventories of POP-BFRs (Mr. Roland Weber expert POPs)**

Determining Key PBDE Sectors: Transportation, Electronics Plastic Recycling

- A key result of the PBDE inventory is to obtain a correct database for waste / resource management of electrical and electronic waste polymers and end-of-life vehicles.
- High volumes of plastics / polymers in the EEE, vehicles and construction sectors represent a significant volume of total plastic volume resulting in the urgency of environmentally sound management

## **Presentation of countries on their experience in managing flame retardant POPs (Algeria, Egypt, Niger)**

### **2- Main issues for the development of inventories for unintentional POPs (including new UPOPs) (Mr. Roland Weber expert POPs)**

- Overview of the generation mode of these UPOPs
- Overview on the toolkit for the identification of dioxins and furans
- Details of the steps for carrying out an inventory of dioxins and furans
- Some examples of contamination of food and drinking water by dioxins and furans

## **DEBATE:**

Discussions in the debate focused on governing co-incineration in cement kilns guidelines and the need for impact assessment to assess the direct and indirect impact of process change

## **Bio-monitoring of the exposure of the Algerian population to pollutants (Dr. MANSOURI / CNT Algeria)**

- - Obtain first biomonitoring data representative of the Algerian population (adults aged 18 to 74) in organochlorine POPs
- - Determine baseline values and norms of the various organochlorine POPs chosen in the blood in children aged 18 to 74 years and determine the distribution by age, sex and region
- Identify at-risk populations and associated factors

## **DEBATE:**

After this presentation, questions were mainly focused on availability of remedies and people care showing signs of contamination

## **SIMMARY DAY 3 :11/01/2017**

### **1- SC National plan update evaluation (NIP) Mr. ADNANE BENABDELKRIM (expert PNM Maroc)**

- Listing the different update steps
- Presentation of the national and international legislative framework
- Details of inventories of POPs and comparative with the inventories of the first PNM
- Presentation of some national priority actions to be implemented in the updated NIP for the management of POPs

## **Debate:**

- A big debate followed the communication focused on:
  - \* The quantities of dioxins and furans recorded during the new inventory;
  - \* The detection of PCB transformers, their inventories and their treatment;
  - \* Sites hosting POPs stocks and decontamination procedures;
  - \* The total cost of updating the NIP as well as monitoring.

### **EU regulation on POPs and other EU legislation on the management of POPs and POPs-contaminated waste (Mihaela Claudia PAUN Official Contact Point and National Focal Point for the Stockholm Convention Ministry of the Environment Romania)**

- Specific exemption on intermediate use or other specification of the POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention
- Presentation of the implementation plan of the European Community and its objectives
- Presentation of POPs management methodology in the European Union and specific exemptions for other treatment methods requested by member states.

**Debate:**

Questions asked after the presentation were around the application of the directives of the European Union in the member states and the partnership programs proposed by the European Union for the improvement of the regulatory frameworks in the countries of North Africa

**2-Article 15 Reports - Overview, link to NIP inventory data and ongoing activities to support the next reporting cycle (31 August 2018) (Mihaela Claudia PAUN Official Contact Point and National Focal Point for Stockholm Convention Ministry of the Environment of ROMANIA)**

Reminder of the regulatory anchoring of the national report for the Stockholm Convention

- Detail of the contents of the report and its different sections
- The different cycles of the national report are:
  - First report 31 December 2006
  - Second report 31 October 2010
  - Third report 31 August 2014
  - Fourth report 31 August 2018

**3-Legal aspects relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in five countries of the North Africa region: Algeria, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia Questions and discussion**

- The objective of the study is the human and institutional strengthening of the Regional Center of the Stockholm Convention (CRCS) for the North Africa Region
- Pilot Project for the Analysis of the Regulation of Hazardous Chemicals in Five Countries in the North Africa Region
- The study is divided into three main stages:
  - Identification of laws and other legal texts
  - Update and enrichment
  - Update and enrichment

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- **2- The need to substitute POPs and POP-like chemicals - For cleaner production cycles towards a (more) circular economy**

- Giving the limitation of resources, it is more than necessary to move to more closed material cycles towards a circular economy
- It is very difficult to control PCB-containing oils in developing and transition countries because of the value of waste oil recycling and the cost of disposal, hence the need to overcome the challenge of integrated PCB in material cycles
- Evaluation / development of alternatives and substitution with more green and sustainable chemicals is needed.
- The recycling sector must be significantly improved and promote the use of BAT / BEP for the separation of problem materials.

**2- Panel discussion :**

- 1- At the end of the workshop a discussion panel was organized between the experts and the participants, the panel's recommendations are as follows:
- 2- **Mrs. Michaela PAUN** : Make a strong link between POPs and chemicals and integrate their management into state policies and defend them and make these policies a priority
- 3- **Mme. Eloise TONI** : There is a need to develop GEF-eligible projects that are in line with the United Nations SDGs and country priorities
- 4- **Mme. Kimberly DE MUGEL (SCP/RAC)** : need to work on POPs prevention and implement the project to ban lead in paints
- 5- **Mr. Russel GOBAN** : develop and improve prevention mechanisms to prevent contamination by POPs
- 6- **Niger** : the workshop is a great opportunity for improving NIPs.
- 7- **Egypt** : proposal for a workshop on socio-economic assessment related to POPs
- 8- - Request for technical assistance for POPs databases
- 9- - Encourage university research work
- 10-- Encourage the activities of NGOs
- 11-**Morocco** : proposal for a workshop on the preparation of national reports
- 12-**Algeria** : advocate working together and regionally

- Relate practical solutions, state policy and donors to move from theory to implementation of NIPs
- Propose a POPs day at the regional level to convince and influence decision-makers on POPs issues

**13-Mauritania** : request for technical assistance for inventories

- Lack of sensitization on POPs at regional level

**14-Mali**: lack of capacity to deal with chemical waste

### **Workshop RECOMMENDATION:**

- Statement by Algeria to integrate the draft inventory of 2000 tons PCB and 30 tons mercury
- Countries in the region will have to visit Europe to see the PBDE recycling plants
- Create an exchange network for sharing this kind of experience and other activities that countries have.
- Request donors to release funding for soil decontamination that is very expensive

### **Summary day 4: 11/02/2017**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of November was dedicated to the visit of the PCB stock management platform at Casa Blanca.

This platform is only processing PCB transformers whose PCB oil content does not exceed 5000 ppm, processors with content greater than 5000 ppm are export-oriented

The platform provides treatment and rehabilitation of electrical equipment contaminated with PCBs; the disposal abroad of highly contaminated electrical equipment (packaging and export); the treatment of oils with low PCB contamination for recovery and recycling of metallic materials;

The platform is equipped with an insulating floor, air filter, their objectives are a minimization of accidents, pollution, occupational diseases and safety is first.

The platform provides treatment and rehabilitation of electrical equipment contaminated with PCBs; the disposal abroad of highly contaminated

electrical equipment (packaging and export); the treatment of equipment with low PCB contamination for recovery and recycling of metallic materials; The treatment of equipment goes through several stages: lifting and handling; dielectric treatment, dechlorination of oils; washing; valuing metals ..... etc

The first step after receiving the transformer is to determine the level of oil contamination for the control.

Followed by washing and degreasing under high pressure with an ecological washing agent; 10% sodium hydroxide, a dechlorination of the oils is the third step, and to extract the chlorine from the PCB molecules, the KPG process is used: reagent composed of potash (alkaline) plus polyethylene glycol (dispersant).

Then they pass to transformers, which are steamed after pumping and draining in order to thin the residual oils at a temperature of 80 ° C, these oils are collected by absorption and pumping. Transformers are then reassembled; the decontamination of the magnetic sheets in a bath (water + potassium hydroxide) is the next step.

The platform is equipped with an analytical laboratory, used for the frequent control and analysis of any contamination and the content before and after. After being decontaminated, these dielectric oils are regenerated in order to regain their qualities of rigidity, by a vacuum filtration and heating process, traces of water, suspended particles and others, so that the oil regains its qualities.

# **ANNEXES**

## Annexe 1 : Atendees sheet

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### Annexe 3 : Reportage photographique

