

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Ninth meeting**

Geneva, 29 April–10 May 2019

Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: technical assistance****Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for
capacity-building and the transfer of technology****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. In paragraph 9, section II, of decision SC-8/15 on technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requested the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:
 - (a) Their workplans for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;
 - (b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 by 31 December 2018.
2. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, including on technology transfer, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.
3. In paragraph 11 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided by the Secretariat pertaining to the nomination and endorsement of regional centres. That information was set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1 and included information from the Russian Federation towards the establishment of a national coordination centre for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, which was presented to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in support of the Russian Federation's nomination of an entity to serve as the Stockholm Convention regional centre for the Central and Eastern European region as a replacement for the existing centre.
4. In paragraph 12 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged interested regional and subregional centres to work, under the Convention, on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter and microplastics and measures for their prevention and environmentally sound management and requested the Secretariat to reflect any such work in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1.

5. In decision SC-8/27 on the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019, the Conference of the Parties took note of the funding estimates in table 1 of that decision, which listed several activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness of the regional centres, including activity 19, “Coordination of and support for the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and cooperation and coordination between regional centres”.¹

6. In paragraph 12 (a) of decision SC-7/17 on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to that decision, based on the performance evaluation methodology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

7. In paragraph 13 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9 and taking into account possible adjustments to the performance evaluation methodology set out in annex III to decision SC-6/16, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to decision SC-7/17 and to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional and subregional centres under the Convention at its ninth meeting and every four years thereafter.

II. Implementation

A. Nominated Stockholm Convention centre

8. On 23 May 2017, in accordance with the terms of reference for the selection of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies under the Stockholm Convention,² the Secretariat received from the Central and Eastern European region, through one of the Bureau members representing that region, the nomination of the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry to serve as a Stockholm Convention regional centre.

9. The nominated centre subsequently submitted a report to the Secretariat explaining the status and components set forth in decision SC-2/9 and the annex to that decision, in the format provided by the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 6 of decision SC-3/12. The nomination letter submitted by the Bureau member and the report submitted by the centre are available on the Convention website.³

10. Pursuant to paragraph 5 (c) of the above-mentioned terms of reference, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, verified that the nominated centre met the criteria set out in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9, including by undertaking a visit of the nominated centre, and presented the information gathered to the Bureau during its meeting held on 3 and 4 July 2018 in Geneva. The Bureau took note of the verification by the Secretariat that the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry, nominated to serve as one of the Stockholm Convention regional centres for the Central and Eastern European region, met the criteria contained in decisions SC-1/15 and SC-2/9.⁴

11. Pursuant to paragraph (g) of the above-mentioned terms of reference, the Conference of the Parties is to consider the endorsement of the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry as a Stockholm Convention regional centre at its ninth meeting.

B. Workplans and activity reports of the regional centres

12. As at 30 January 2019, none of the 15 regional and subregional centres had submitted a workplan for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 to the Secretariat, nor had the nominated Stockholm Convention centre located in the Russian Federation. Any workplans submitted

¹ A fact sheet on activity 19 can be found in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/37/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/54/Rev.1.

² Decision SC-3/12, annex.

³ <http://chm.pops.int/?tabid=600>.

⁴ The report of the meeting of the Bureau is available at: <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Bureau/COP9Bureau2018/Overview/tabid/6260/Default.aspx>.

in advance of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be made available on the website of the Convention.⁵

13. As at 30 January 2019, 15 regional and subregional centres had submitted their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.⁶

14. A report by the Secretariat on the activities of the regional centres, including on technology transfer and on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management, is set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28.

C. Report on the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres

15. Pursuant to paragraph 12 (a) of decision SC-7/17, the Secretariat has prepared a draft report on the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the regional centres based on the performance evaluation methodology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-6/16. The summary of the draft evaluation report is set out in the annex to the present note and the full draft evaluation report is set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27.

D. Activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres

1. Online and other meetings

16. Between January 2017 and December 2018, the Secretariat organized a total of 10 online meetings and webinars to support the work of the regional centres. The objectives of these meetings were to prepare for the joint meetings of regional centres in 2017 and 2018, to coordinate the activities of interested regional centres on the follow-up to decision BC-13/12 on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, and to support the work of the regional centres' topic group on marine litter. Two annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal were held, the first from 6 to 8 November 2017 in Barcelona, Spain, and the second on 15 and 16 November 2018 in Geneva, with the objective of enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them. The reports of the meetings are available on the websites of the conventions.⁷

2. Other facilitating activities

17. Thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Government of Norway, the Secretariat invited the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions to submit project proposals from their business plans or workplans to assist Parties to implement their obligations under the conventions. Out of 14 proposals received, one submitted by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Senegal) and one submitted by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC-China)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-China), addressing the obligations under both conventions, were selected for funding and are in the process of being implemented.⁸

18. Thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Government of China, the Secretariat has updated and upgraded its online platform for activity reporting by the regional centres. The Secretariat also uses the online platform to collect information that enables it to evaluate the regional centres' performance.

19. The Secretariat assisted the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres in organizing a side event to raise awareness of environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and marine litter plastic and microplastic prevention during the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Furthermore, through online meetings and directors' meetings, as relevant, the Secretariat facilitated discussions among centres on how they could continue to contribute to the environmentally sound

⁵ www.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx.

⁶ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReport/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

⁷ See www.brsmeas.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6097 (2017 meeting) and www.brsmeas.org/Default.aspx?tabid=7668 (2018 meeting).

⁸ More information on those projects is set out in the report by the Secretariat on the activities of the regional centres, including on technology transfer, in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28.

management of plastic wastes and marine litter prevention in their regions. More information on the activities of the regional centres pertaining to plastic waste, marine plastic litter and microplastics is set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28.

III. Proposed action

20. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:⁹

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports for the period from January 2017 to December 2018¹⁰ submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres and available workplans for the period from January 2020 to December 2023;¹¹

(b) The report on the activities of the regional and subregional centres;¹²

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 15 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat¹³ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;¹⁴

2. *Welcomes* the extensive work that the regional and subregional centres have already done on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management and invites them to continue their activities;

3. *Welcomes also* the procurement capacity assessment¹⁵ conducted as an integral part of the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;¹⁶

4. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;¹⁷

5. *Notes* the performance of the regional centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in supporting developing-country Parties;

6. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology listed in the annex to the present decision;

7. *Also endorses* the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry located in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, as a Stockholm Convention regional centre for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, for a period of four years;

8. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting:

(a) Their workplans for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;

⁹ In line with the practice followed by the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention may wish to consider adopting the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/16, on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as part I of an omnibus decision on technical assistance and the draft decision set out in the present document as part II of such an omnibus decision.

¹⁰ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReports/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

¹¹ Available at www.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx.

¹² UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28.

¹³ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27.

¹⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/17, annex.

¹⁵ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27.

¹⁶ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

¹⁷ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

(b) Their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020 by 31 December 2020;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

(b) To prepare the draft performance evaluation reports of the centres referred to in paragraph 6 above, based on the methodology adopted by decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

(c) To undertake the following activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres:

- (i) Organize annual meetings of the coordinators of the regional centres under the Stockholm Convention and the directors of the regional centres under the Basel Convention with a view to enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them and attend, within available resources, meetings of the regional centre steering committees;
- (ii) Facilitate the implementation of regional, subregional and national projects based on the business plan or workplan of regional centres through the Small Grants Programme, subject to the availability of funding;
- (iii) Undertake, subject to the availability of funding, activities to strengthen the visibility of regional centres;

(d) To take the necessary steps to ensure that the institutional arrangements in support of establishing and the functioning of the regional centres, as decided by the Conference of the Parties, are in place;

10. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry and of the centres listed in the annex to the present decision and to reconsider their status as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology at its eleventh meeting;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a draft evaluation report of the regional centres mentioned in paragraph 10 above, based on the methodology adopted by decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

12. *Invites* Parties, observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

Annex to decision SC-9/[--]

Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres evaluated by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and endorsed until the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

[to be inserted]

Annex

Summary of the draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres^a

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centre</i>	<i>Performance evaluation score based on activities reported for 2015–2018 (%)</i>
Africa	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	76
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	94
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC Senegal)	70
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC South Africa)	82
Asia and the Pacific	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC China)	100
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC India)	73
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC Indonesia)	64
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC Iran)	39
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC Kuwait)	64
Central and Eastern Europe	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czechia (SCRC Czech Republic)	100
Latin America and the Caribbean	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	100
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC Mexico)	67
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC Panama)	79
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC Uruguay)	100
Western Europe and others	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Spain (SCRC Spain)	91

^a The full draft evaluation report is set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27.