Stockholm

In a nutshell

The Stockholm Convention aims to eliminate or restrict the use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), chemicals that are toxic and long-lasting in the environment and in organisms.

Covers 31 substances **No. of parties** 184

History

Adopted 2001 **Enforced** 2004

After Unep called for global action on POPs due to their cross-border implications. Unep defined POPs as “chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment”.

Who’s not involved?

Notable non-ratifying countries are the **US**, **Israel** and **Malaysia**.

Structure

Signatories must pass their own legislation to transpose the Convention’s requirements into national law. A scientific committee under the Convention, consisting of 31 international experts appointed by parties, meets to consider candidates nominated for listing under the Convention. This Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee decides whether chemicals meet the criteria for being considered a POP, whether global action is warranted, and gives recommendations for what that action could be, taking socio-economic considerations into account. Parties of the Convention meet every two years to discuss and vote on recommendations.

Content and substances

The convention requires developed countries to take financial measures to stop producing and using POPs intentionally, as well as to eliminate unintentional production and use “where feasible”. It also requires POPs waste to be managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

Stockholm initially covered just 12 chemicals, the so-called dirty dozen (bolded below). Since its initial adoption, 19 additional chemicals have been listed in its annexes. Three substances are listed in both annexes A and C.

Annex A: Chemicals for which the production and use, as well as the import and export, must be eliminated and/or banned by parties:

- **Aldrin**
- **Chlordane**
- Chlordecone
- Decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE
- **Dicofol**
- **Dieldrin**
- **Endrin**
- **Heptachlor**
- Hexabromobiphenyl
- Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)
- Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether
- **Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)**
- Hexachlorobutadiene
- Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane
- Beta hexachlorocyclohexane
- Lindane
- **Mirex**
- **Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds**
- Pentachlorobenzene
- Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters
- **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)**
- Polychlorinated naphthalenes
- Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs)
- Technical endosulfan and its related isomers
- Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether
- **Toxaphene**

Annex B: Chemicals for which the production and use must be restricted by parties:

- **DDT**
- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

Annex C: Chemicals for which the unintentional release must be minimized and, where feasible, eliminated by parties.

- **Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)**
- Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)
- Pentachlorobenzene
- **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)**
- **Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD)**
- **Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF)**
- Polychlorinated naphthalenes