

EXPERT MEETING ON THE EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION FOR PCB
AND
SIXTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE PCB
ELIMINATION NETWORK

Meeting Report
Brno, Czech Republic, 14-16 December 2015



UNEP/DTIE
CHEMICALS AND WASTE BRANCH

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BAT	Best Available Techniques
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional Center
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
BRS Secretariat	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
COP	Conference of the Parties
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HWE	Hazardous Waste Europe
INATEK	Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of Kibungo
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
MSP	Mediums-sized project
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
PEN	PCB Elimination Network
PBB	Polybrominated biphenyls
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PCTs	Polychlorinated terphenyls
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RECETOX	Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment
SC	Stockholm Convention
SCRAP	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific
UN Comtrade	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
US	United States
WEOG	Western Europe and Others Group

PCB Expert Meeting

1.1. Opening and Introduction of Participants

The 'Expert Meeting on the Effectiveness Evaluation of Implementation of the Stockholm Convention for PCB' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Expert Meeting') and the 'Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Elimination Network (PEN)' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Advisory Committee Meeting') were held back to back on Monday, 14 December 2015, until Wednesday, 16 December 2015. The meetings were held in Brno, Czech Republic, at the facilities of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) in the Czech Republic, hosted by Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), Faculty of Science, Masaryk University. They were jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) and the Science and Risk Team of the Chemicals and Waste Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The agenda of both meeting is attached as Annex A.

Following registration of the participants, the Expert Meeting was opened on Monday, 14 December 2015 at 09:00 a.m. by Ms. Kei Ohno on behalf of the BRS Secretariat. Ms. Ohno welcomed the participants and invited for a brief round of self-introduction. The meeting was attended by Ms. Chen Yuan, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, Tsinghua University, China; Ms. Anna Ortiz, Independent Expert, Costa Rica; Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi, Chemicals Control and Management Centre, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana; Mr. Ion Barbarasa, POPs Sustainable Management Office, Ministry of Environment, Moldova; Mr. Aloys Kamatari, Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of Kibungo (INATEK), Faculty of Rural Development, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Rwanda; Ms. Claudia Cabal, Independent Expert, Uruguay; Mr. Urs Wagner, ETI Umwelttechnik AG, Switzerland; Mr. Jindrick Petrlik, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Czech Republic; Mr. Hugues Levasseur, Hazardous Waste Europe (HWE), France; Ms. Katerina Sebkova, Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX); Mr. Ivan Holoubek, RECETOX; Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Science and Risk Team, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch; and Mr. Jost Dittkrist, Science and Risk Team, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch. The detailed list of participants is attached in Annex B.

Next, Ms. Ohno explained the overall objectives of the Expert Meeting, while also highlighting the interfaces with the Advisory Committee meeting. As regards the former, the aim was to consolidate the 'Preliminary assessment of efforts made towards the elimination of PCB'¹ and to develop a road map towards the elimination of PCB.

1.2. PCB and the Stockholm Convention

Ms. Ohno provided an overview of the PCB issue in the context of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), thereby recalling relevant Articles and noting important decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its various meetings. In particular, she stressed that progress towards elimination of PCB is to be reviewed on a four-yearly basis along with national reporting under Article 15, with the second review undertaken at the seventh meeting of the COP in 2015 and the next review schedule for the ninth meeting of the COP in 2019. For this purpose, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, upon invitation from the BRS Secretariat, had prepared the preliminary assessment. The COP, through Decision SC-7/3, had taken note of the assessment and had requested the Secretariat to consolidate the preliminary assessment in accordance with the framework for the effectiveness evaluation. Ms. Ohno proceeded to elaborate on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention, which is to be undertaken every four years. She explained

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/9

that the next evaluation was due at COP-8 in 2017. Ms. Ohno stressed that the consolidated assessment was an essential component of this upcoming evaluation. Once finalized, the consolidated assessment would be presented to the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee, scheduled for 31 January 2016.

1.3. The Draft Consolidated PCB Assessment

Moving to the next item on the agenda, Mr. Dittkrist provided a detailed explanation of the draft 'consolidated assessment of efforts made towards the elimination of PCB', including the compilation of data, which had been disseminated to the participants prior to the meeting. Following a quick recapitulation of the background of the assessment, Mr. Dittkrist explained that the objective of the assessment was to summarize available information on the amounts of PCB produced, eliminated to date, and still in need of elimination in order to determine how successful the efforts made by Parties have been in eliminating PCB. He explained the methodology, data compilation and relevant assumptions and adjustments made to allow for meaningful statistical analysis. In particular, accurate data was scarce and the estimates therefore made with a relatively high degree of uncertainty.

According to the draft report, it was estimated that between 1 and 1.5 million tonnes of technical grade PCB have been produced by a small number of countries and companies since the late 1920s. According to available information presented in the draft assessment, ca. 5.4 million tonnes of equipment or materials containing or contaminated with PCB had been eliminated. Meanwhile, an estimated 11.1 million tonnes were still in need of elimination (mostly transformers), with progress varying considerably across regions. Mr. Dittkrist closed his presentation by highlighting some of the conclusions and recommendations provided in the draft. Among others, it was stressed that inventories remained incomplete, that open applications (as well as other issues) remained largely unaddressed to date and that progressive PCB elimination plans with strict timelines and continuous monitoring still remained to be drafted and adopted in most countries. The final version of the consolidated assessment is available on the webpage of UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch².

Following some initial comments on the challenges implied in providing accurate estimates as well as the importance of providing an assessment of the situation for the purpose of raising attention and placing the issue back on the international agenda, the experts discussed a number of themes with specific questions related to the draft consolidated assessment, thereby considering potential ways of improving the document. These had been provided to the experts prior to the meeting.

1.3.1. Theme 1: Improving Existing Data

First, the group discussed ways of improving the existing data gathered and summarized in the report. Addressing a number of sub-questions, the following conclusions and observations were provided, amongst others:

- A small, but notable number of countries stands out in terms of accurate reporting performance. These also include a few developing countries. Other countries could use these as an example to follow.
- It is difficult to judge with a high degree of certainty whether the amount reportedly eliminated is realistic. However, overall and considering existing destruction capacity (the participants discussed some concrete numbers and examples, e.g. the approximate amount of PCB waste destroyed in France), the estimate stands the test of expert judgement.

² <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/POPs/ChemicalsManagementandReduction/PhasingoutPCB>

- In cases where countries report large amounts of equipment or material suspected, but not confirmed to contain or be contaminated with PCB, several considerations need to be taken into account in order to determine whether or not the amount should be included in the estimate. Such considerations include whether initial density tests have been performed and the electricity infrastructure in the country. In case of doubt, it is better to over- rather than to under-estimate. Along similar lines, where countries do not report the concentration, it is reasonable to assume that it is above the thresholds specified in the Convention.
- Some countries may be tempted to report lower amounts for financial reasons.
- As regards the special case of Japan (which reported very large amounts compared to other countries), the experts agreed that the large amounts reported compared to other countries could be explained by the fact that Japan maintained very accurate inventories. This implies that the amounts reported by other countries significantly underestimate the situation. Meanwhile, it was also noted that the threshold specified in Japanese legislation was lower than in most other countries and the Convention, resulting in higher than average amounts.
- It is not advisable to extrapolate based on samples taken by countries, unless there are very strong indications vis-a-vis the unknown variables. In case of doubt, only confirmed amounts should be reported. Where applicable, the use of extrapolations should be clearly indicated.
- Potential double-counting is an important issue to be addressed through various means. For example, trade data reported by several sources should be cross-checked and, where applicable, adjusted. Particular attention should be paid to avoid situations where amounts reported in the past as stockpiles are (mistakenly) included in amounts reported as destroyed at a later point.
- Data reported under the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade) show some unexpected results, including a number of developing countries reporting imports of waste oils containing PCB/polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs)/polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) From developed countries. For this as well as some other reasons, the experts agreed that the UN Comtrade data was not to be included in the assessment's overall estimates.

1.3.2. Theme 2: Basic Methodology

Next, the participants turned towards the basic methodology used for the assessment. Some highlights included the following:

- As regards the use of conversion factors to calculate the overall mass of equipment and material containing or contaminated with PCB, though not an optimal solution, it can help to arrive at approximations. These are important in order to highlight the insufficient progress made to date in eliminating PCB and to draw attention to the topic. The experts also discussed in some detail the precise means of calculating and using the conversion factors. Transparency in terms of the methodology used is critical.
- Though the categorization of the various types of equipment and materials (transformers, capacitors etc.) is sub-optimal, it can help to identify the most significant challenges and thus set priorities at the national level.
- The main variable of interest is the total mass of equipment and material containing or contaminated with PCB. In practical terms, this variable is more relevant than others, such as the volume of oil contained in a transformer.
- Data on concentrations of POPs in human and in the environment should not form an integral part of the assessment, since it is already addressed elsewhere (notably within the framework of the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs). It is sufficient to note the importance of such data for the purpose of assessing progress and to provide references, as appropriate.

1.3.3. Theme 3: Filling the Gaps

The experts proceeded to discuss potential strategies to fill the remaining gaps in existing data. Here, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The focus should be on data reported by the countries, rather than estimating amounts for countries where no data is available. Meanwhile, such gaps need to be clearly highlighted in order to urge relevant stakeholders to close such gaps in the future.
- The lack of data for some countries implies that the overall estimate provided in the assessment is conservative, meaning that the actual amounts eliminated and to be destroyed are likely to be (much) higher than suggested in the assessment.
- It is important to follow-up by assessing countries' capacity to undertake inventories and report relevant data.
- It can be expected that new data will be available in the near future within the context of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) updating currently undertaken by a number of Parties.
- Where no data is available, countries should be directly contacted through official channels in order to urge the provision of lacking information.
- While potentially a useful means of estimating total amounts in countries where only preliminary inventories were undertaken, extrapolations based on, for example data on historic electricity consumption or a comparison of the country in question with countries having a similar structure (in particular in terms of electricity use and infrastructure) is beyond the scope of this assessment.
- Given the transboundary dimension of PCB, data for non-Parties (most notably the United States (US) and Italy) is relevant and should be presented in the assessment. A clear distinction should however be made.
- Very little data is available on open applications, meaning that the assessment fails to address a potentially very significant sector, in terms of both the amounts and human health effects. Similarly, lack of data means that landfills and contaminated sites cannot be included in the assessment, though these issues are also worth highlighting.

1.3.4. Theme 4: Life-cycle Assessment

Lastly, the group discussed whether a life-cycle assessment could be undertaken in order to understand the fate of technical grade PCB. This could also help in estimating the amounts of equipment containing PCB produced, the amounts released to the environment, the amounts stockpiled etc. The following conclusions were drawn:

- While in principle such a life-cycle assessment is possible and though accurate data exists on the production of technical grade PCB, thorough and accurate estimates of the next steps in the life-cycle is not feasible. Among others, an important limitation is the lack of information on how much (and which types of) material containing PCB was produced.
- As a consequence, it is also not possible to provide a good estimate with regard to cross-contamination. It can safely be assumed that cross-contamination and dilution are very important issues. Each ton of technical grade PCB generated multiple tons of equipment or material containing or contaminated with PCB.

1.4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Next Steps

Recalling that the consolidated assessment was to inform the next effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention, Mr. Dittkrist invited the participants to discuss and, where possible, agree on a set of key conclusions and recommendations to be included in the assessment report and

to be communicated, through the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee, to the COP. Among others, the participants highlighted the points listed below. It was noted that these should also be considered in designing future projects.

- Existing data, although limited, is sufficient to confirm that most of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention are currently not on track to meet the 2028 goal. The situation is most alarming in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Expert judgement suggests that the estimates presented in the assessment are conservative, under-estimating the actual amounts that still need to be eliminated.
- Meanwhile, it is beyond doubt that the Stockholm Convention did have a significant, tangible impact as compared to a hypothetical alternative scenario without the Convention. In evaluating progress, not only quantitative (the focus of the assessment) but also qualitative indicators should be assessed. For example, the Convention raised awareness and placed the issue on the international agenda, which resulted in concrete follow-up actions.
- Notwithstanding the above, it is important to applaud past efforts that had an important beneficial impact in drawing attention to the PCB issue, in raising awareness, in building capacity and in eliminating liquids and equipment. This includes projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as other initiatives. Meanwhile, such projects could be improved in terms of cost-efficiency.
- Disposal of certain amounts of PCB equipment is not the only indicator of progress towards the 2025 and 2028 objectives. The GEF should adjust its strategy accordingly and account to a higher degree for benefits from wider capacity-building efforts.
- Existing data gaps need to be urgently closed. For this purpose, it is necessary to undertake or refine inventories, as applicable, and to improve reporting. Responsibilities rests both with the Parties to provide less ambiguous and more accurate data and with stakeholders such as the BRS Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, most notably through the PEN, to provide additional assistance and facilitate reporting schemes.
- Inventories form the basis of any action to be taken; yet, they are preliminary in most countries. Often, projects are based on wrong baselines. Inventories need to be undertaken in a systematic and harmonized manner. This can form part of the NIP review/update process. Countries may need to consider the establishment and periodic updating of a national database. Guidance on inventories as well as other aspects related to PCB management is available and should be relied upon as appropriate.
- The basis of any effective action to be is the existence of appropriate regulatory frameworks and national action plans. Countries should be encouraged to define progressive plans for the environmentally sound management of PCB, including its elimination, with strict timelines as part of national hazardous waste management plans and to ensure continuous monitoring of progress toward the Stockholm Convention targets. Strategies may vary and each country should explore the optimal and most cost-effective solution given its specific domestic background and circumstances.
- It is necessary to expedite and intensify efforts, including through increased technology transfer, provision of targeted trainings (in many cases, the wrong staff has been trained and/or the trained staff left shortly after the project without having trained successors), financial assistance, and better use of existing resources. Projects can be designed in a sustainable way with country ownership, so as to strengthen human and infrastructure capacities in the long term, beyond the duration of the project. If appropriately designed, initiatives to manage PCB in an environmentally sound manner will have a positive spill-over effect across hazardous waste management issues.
- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is still producing PCB and may need assistance to phase out such production.

- Assistance should not only target final disposal, but all stages throughout the life-cycle.
- Technologies and capacities for the elimination or irreversible transformation of PCB are available.
- Linking the sound management of PCB with the SDGs and integrating it in new national development plans may prove a successful strategy to place the issue on the agenda and attract funding.
- In order to allow for informed decision-making, it may prove useful to compile information on the costs of elimination (including from completed and ongoing GEF projects) and the cost-effectiveness of available technologies as well as to identify steps that can be taken to reduce such costs or increase financial leverage.
- Awareness-raising continues to be an important task, in particular for open applications, which has not yet received the attention that is warranted given the significant effects on human health and the environment. It is necessary to develop appropriate guidance on identification, removal and disposal of open applications containing or contaminated with PCB. Contaminated sites will also need to be addressed. There are also some sector that have not been sufficiently taken into account, for example the military.
- A large share of the PCB that was produced has already been released to the environment. Handling and storage practices that are not sufficiently sound and not in line with the Basel technical guidelines may trigger further accidents and releases, with severe consequences on human health and the environment. In light of its toxicity and the large quantities of PCB still in use or in stockpiles for disposal, the environmentally sound management and elimination of PCB should be made a priority.
- The assessment should be updated periodically on a 4-year basis. Such updating should be synchronized with the PCB reviews that are undertaken under the Stockholm Convention (the third PCB review is scheduled for the ninth meeting of the COP in 2019).

Following this in-depth discussion, the participants discussed the next steps. Ms. Alvarez and Mr. Dittkrist explained that a revised draft of the consolidated assessment, taking into account the suggestions made during the meeting, would be disseminated by mid-January for final comments. Thereafter, the final version of the report would be submitted to the BRS Secretariat. Moreover, the consolidated assessment and the PCB Expert Meeting report would be presented to the COP at its eighth meeting, scheduled for May 2017, as information documents. Ms. Ohno further explained that the consolidated assessment would feed into the summary report that was to be submitted to the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee by the end of January.

1.5. PCB Management in Central Asia

The next item on the agenda was a remote presentation by Mr. Maksim Surkov, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the UNDP's PCB management work in Central Asia, with a focus on experiences gained and lessons learned during country projects in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Surkov started by highlighting the fundamental waste management principles, namely the identification of stockpiles, the management of stockpiles in an environmentally sound manner, and the undertaking of actions so that wastes are handled and disposed in accordance with the Basel Technical Guidelines. Turning towards the situation in Central Asia, Mr. Surkov noted that Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had ratified SC convention, while Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan had not done so. Two full-sized GEF-funded projects were implemented in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

In Kazakhstan, the main challenge encountered related to the export of the PCB waste. Surface exports was not possible due to a lack of consent from the potential transit countries. Therefore,

airlifting was opted for; this option increased disposal costs substantially. Due to public opposition, domestic disposal had not been possible. The project succeeded in improving the domestic situation and national capacities: The regulatory framework was strengthened, storage options were identified (including training of national waste management companies), the inventory was expanded and several laboratories were accredited for oil, soil and food sampling. As an important lesson learned vis-à-vis inventories, Mr. Surkov highlighted that the more you look, the more you find. Cooperation with partners, including the private sector and government officials, was good.

In Kyrgyzstan, the initial inventory was very limited. The updated inventory also remained preliminary. PCB holders were reluctant to cooperate, most notably due to the residual value of outdated equipment. Political challenges were also encountered. The project succeeded in training two laboratories, although frequent staff changes resulted in a loss of capacity, which was not adequately addressed. One of the key objectives, namely improvement of the regulatory framework, was only achieved after closure of the project. Mr. Surkov also noted that the project was designed in such a way as to learn from the experiences gained in Kazakhstan, most notably the transit issues. Notwithstanding, it was not possible to find airlifting options within the budget. Environmentally sound storage of identified equipment could also not be ensured due to institutional changes.

In closing, Mr. Surkov highlighted that:

- The wider political and socio-economic domestic background is an important factor determining project success.
- Economic arguments are critical in convincing stakeholders to engage in PCB management activities.
- Transit issues may pose significant challenges; however, airlifting is not considered a cost-effective method. Customs unions may provide a way forward.
- Additional initiatives and projects will be necessary in the region.

1.6. Proposal for a Road Map Towards the Elimination of PCB

The last topic for discussion in the PCB Expert Meeting covered the proposal for the development of a 'road map towards the elimination of PCB'. Mr. Dittkrist explained that the purpose of the Road Map was to outline a strategy and workplan defining who would need to do what and when in order to meet the 2025 and 2028 deadlines for PCB under the Stockholm Convention. The Road Map would define national activities, regional activities, global activities, milestones and critical dates.

The participants discussed the initial activities listed in the draft road map, including for example the establishment of dedicated national working groups, reviews of regulatory frameworks, completion of preliminary and final inventories, undertaking of trainings, development of sound management plans, implementation of disposal options etc. The experts proposed some additions, discussed the feasibility of the timeline and explored potential alternative strategies. Among others, they repeatedly highlighted the significance of addressing cross-contamination, the need to include open applications in national PCB management plans, and the advantages of having comprehensive national databases. It was also noted that it was important to take into account the variations in terms of national circumstances. While some countries, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition, had made considerable progress, others still had not completed essential initial steps.

There was general agreement that a clear strategy with measurable milestones was needed to outline a strategy for achieving the 2025 and 2028 deadlines. The participants decided to follow up on the idea for a Road Map or a similar tool after the meeting. Following some concluding remarks provided by Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Ohno, the PCB expert meeting was closed.

6th Meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee

1.7. Opening

The sixth PEN Advisory Committee Meeting, organized in close cooperation with the BRS Secretariat and hosted by RECETOX, was opened by Ms. Alvarez on behalf of UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, in its function as Secretariat of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN). Following some introductory remarks, Ms. Alvarez explained that the participants of the PCB expert meeting who were not also PEN Advisory Committee members were kindly invited to participate in the meeting, since their expertise was valued for the topics of discussion. The detailed list of participants is attached as Annex B.

Ms. Alvarez outlined the agenda, noting that the objective was to provide an update on past activities by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Members, discuss relevant outcomes of the seventh meeting of the COP of the Stockholm Convention, and discuss the future strategy of the PEN, including the workplan and budget. The detailed agenda is attached as Annex A.

1.8. UNEP Update on PCB and the PEN

As the first item on the agenda of the Advisory Committee Meeting, Ms. Alvarez provided an update on recent developments related to PCB, elaborated on activities that had been carried out by the PEN Secretariat, explained the status of the PEN, and presented ideas for future activities.

Key decisions relevant for the PEN taken by the COP were recapitulated, including decision SC-5/5 of 2009, which established the PEN, decision SC-6/7 of 2011, which facilitated the transfer of the PEN Secretariat from the BRS Secretariat to UNEP, and decision SC-6/6 of 2013, which invited UNEP to inform COP-7 about the activities of the PEN. The Chemicals and Waste Branch had submitted two Information Documents to COP-7, namely the 'Preliminary Assessment of Efforts Made Toward the Elimination of PCB' (UNEP/POPs/COP.7/INF/9) and the 'Report by UNEP on progress in the implementation of the PEN' (UNEP/POPs/COP.7/INF7/10). In response, through Decision SC-7/3 on PCB, the COP:

- took note of the Preliminary Assessment;
- invited UNEP to inform the COP of the activities of the PEN at its eighth meeting;
- requested Parties to improve their reporting performance;
- encouraged Parties to intensify efforts to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals;
- requested the Secretariat to consolidate the Preliminary Assessment; and
- invited stakeholders to provide technical and financial resources to support the PEN.

Following a quick summary of the objectives of the PEN, Ms. Alvarez proceeded to note that the PEN now had 439 members. She then presented the current composition of the Advisory Committee, noting that Mr. Petrlik of IPEN had replaced Mr. Alan Watson as non-governmental (NGO) representative. Ms. Stella Mojekwu (Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria), one of the two representatives for the African Region, Ms. Sanaz Jafarzadeh (Ministry of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran), co-representing the Asia-Pacific Group, Mr. Alfredo Cueva, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Mr. Jinhui Li (BCCC, China), co-representing the Asia-Pacific Region, were unable to attend. Mr. Li was represented by Ms. Yuan. Ms. Alvarez also stressed that three seats remained vacant: Despite several communications, the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) had not provided the two nominations needed for each of the UN regions, meaning that these seats were still vacant. Moreover, the seat for the holder of PCB had not yet been filled. The participants discussed potential strategies to fill these seats. Among others, it was decided that renewed attempts would be made to fill the WEOG vacancies, including with the help of Mr. Adu-

Kumi, President of the Stockholm Convention Bureau. As regards the PCB holder, the PEN Advisory Committee Members suggested that Ms. Cabal could occupy this seat, given her profound expertise and experience related to PCB and since she worked with the National Administration of Power Plants and Electrical Transmissions of Uruguay. There were no objections and Ms. Cabal accepted the invitation.

The Advisory Committee had met five times between 2010 and 2014. During the fifth meeting, held on 26-27 November 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, participants had provided updates on activities undertaken, had reviewed and revised the workplan and budget, had discussed and endorsed the Preliminary Assessment, and had adopted a set of conclusions and recommendations. As Mr. Dittkrist highlighted, an important outcome of this meeting was a revised strategy with a more pronounced focus on in-kind contributions from the Advisory Committee members and increased efforts to seek synergies with existing initiatives and projects in order to respond to the continued lack of funding. The Conclusions and Recommendations adopted at the meeting were also submitted to COP-7 as part of the Information Document on progress in implementing the PEN.

Ms. Alvarez then gave an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee. Highlights included the following: During COP-7, a side event had been organized under the title 'Towards the Elimination of PCB'. The side event, which had a large number of participants, had served as an opportunity to learn about and discuss recent activities undertaken in relation to PCB and the PEN, present the Preliminary Assessment, share expert insights on PCB management, and present success stories on identification and disposal of PCB from national and regional perspectives. Moreover, information materials had been exposed during the science fair. The latter had also featured an 'in-booth' event on the Preliminary Assessment. As another key activity, the Chemicals and Waste Branch, in close cooperation with and upon invitation from the BRS Secretariat, had prepared the Consolidated Assessment (as discussed in more detail in the previous section on the PCB Expert Meeting). Ms. Alvarez also briefed the Committee members on the preparation of a GEF project proposal on open applications containing PCB. As she and Mr. Dittkrist explained, the project would cover the following components:

- Preparation and dissemination of awareness-raising and guidance materials;
- development of a rapid screening test;
- training of relevant stakeholders in the identification, regulatory framework and ESM of open applications containing PCB;
- development of inventories of open applications containing PCB, including establishment of national information management systems, preparation of risk assessments and establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks; and
- development of sustainable national action plans for the ESM of open applications.

The Committee Members discussed the concept note in some detail, thereby providing a set of recommendations on how to further improve it. Among others, the Members agreed that the project should not only seek to identify, but also dispose, at least in a pilot demonstration, some open applications. For this purpose, the project would need to take the form of a full-sized project, rather than a medium-sized project (MSP). The development of a rapid screening test for open applications was also discussed; here, some concern was raised as to whether the identified potential industry partner would be willing to participate in the project. All Members emphasized the importance of including socio-economic considerations and linkages with the sustainable development goals, among other interfaces and synergies. It was agreed that the PEN secretariat would incorporate the comments and then circulate the concept note for a final round of feedback.

1.9. Contributions from the PEN Advisory Committee Members

Next on the agenda were several presentations by PEN Advisory Committee members and the other experts present, covering a range of topics relevant to the environmentally sound management of PCB, including inventories, open applications, storage and disposal.

1.9.1. Claudia Cabal on the Storage Accident in Paraguay

Ms. Cabal briefed the participants on a fire accident that had taken place in October 2015 at the PCB equipment storage site maintained by the National Electricity Administration in San Lorenzo, Paraguay. Large amounts of transformers, capacitors and other PCB containing equipment had caught fire, resulting in large amounts of releases of dioxins and furans. As Ms. Cabal explained, the equipment had not been properly stored and safety measures had not been adequate, including the emergency protocol. Illustrating the incident with a video, Ms. Cabal also noted that the fire brigade had not been adequately informed about relevant health risks.

The participants discussed the incident in some length and emphasized the importance of drawing appropriate lessons. Most importantly, the accident should serve as a strong reminder of the need for appropriate storage arrangements and safety protocols. There was consensus that it was of utmost importance to avoid such incidents from happening in the future. Moreover, there was agreement that the accident should be used in the context of the awareness-raising strategy of the PEN.

1.9.2. Chen Yuan on Activities Undertaken by the Thematic Group on Inventories

On behalf of Mr. Li, Ms. Yuan provided the activity report of the Thematic Group on Inventories of PCB, led by the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC)/ Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific (SCRAP) China. As highlights, the BCRC had:

- provided feedback to the PEN secretariat to finalize the PCB Inventory Guidance;
- attended and contributed to the PCB side event at COP-7;
- contributed to POPs Social by uploading news and recent achievements on PCB;
- established and maintained a regional information exchange platform on PCB; and
- undertook an informal visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Ms. Yuan explained that the DPRK was still producing PCB and that it had communicated the need for technical assistance in order to phase out production and introduce alternatives. The other Advisory Committee members and experts agreed that necessary steps should be taken in order to ensure that no production of PCB was forthcoming and that this issue should be raised at the next COP.

1.9.3. Hugues Levasseur on PCB Disposal in Morocco

Mr. Levasseur briefed the PEN Advisory Committee on UNIDO's GEF-funded project 'Safe PCB Management Programme in Morocco, Pillar II', which aimed to establish the in-the-country capacity to treat and dispose of 3,000 tons of PCB-contaminated oils and 2,000 tons of PCB-contaminated electrical equipment and related PCB wastes.

In cooperation with 'Séché Environnement', the project had been successful in establishing a local large capacity plant for PCB management as a joint venture with a local specialist company. The plant, which went operational in late 2015, also featured a laboratory dedicated to analysis of PCB content and other relevant parameters, a sound storage area, decontamination equipment, a

shipping platform etc. The project followed a mixed approach, whereby PCB wastes with low contamination (less than 50 ppm) were treated locally, while other contaminated material was exported for environmentally sound disposal. Mr. Levasseur emphasized that, in addition to the technology transfer and training, the initiative also offered economic benefits, insofar as a significant share of the equipment would be repaired and refurbished after depollution. Mr. Levasseur also explained the technical aspects of the decontamination of different types of transformers as well as oil treatment in some detail.

Some discussion ensued, whereby the participants emphasized that the project could serve as a good example for other countries to follow in terms of technology transfer, establishment of local capacity etc. The project showed that subject to certain enabling conditions, including financial resources and political will, the technology and the private sector partners needed for successful PCB elimination were readily available. The participants also discussed the question of when dechlorination was the preferred option as compared to destruction, including from an economic point of view. Another topic of concern was the advantages and disadvantages of relying on mobile plants. While these could provide a good short-term solution in many cases, it was noted that there was significant resistance against this solution from a number of stakeholders. A major challenge noted in this context was that there was little economic incentive to dispose of small amounts of PCB waste.

1.9.4. Urs Wagner on Inventories and Progress Towards the 2028 Deadline

Mr. Wagner gave a presentation in which he critically evaluated the status of PCB inventories and progress towards achieving the 2028 objective of the Convention. First, he outlined the various steps to be taken in moving towards the 2025 and 2028 goals in a strategic manner, ranging from preliminary inventories over priority setting to the phase out and environmentally sound management of PCB. He remarked that contrary to a widespread assumption, even the initial stage – the development of PCB inventories during the first NIP phase – had not been completed in many, if not most, countries in a satisfactory manner.

Even where preliminary inventories were available, these had many shortcomings. Most importantly, only fractions of existing equipment had been randomly sampled, screened and analyzed, with total PCB quantities often calculated based on incomplete data. As regards the screening and analysis, a common mistake was the use of rapid screening kits absent subsequent laboratory analysis using appropriate instruments. In this context, Mr. Wagner and several of the other participants emphasized that rapid screening tests could only determine chlorine content, rather than PCB content, resulting in a potentially large number of 'false positives'. Another fundamental shortcoming was that typically important sectors with PCB equipment were not considered, such as the army, the shipbuilding industries, railways and commercial buildings. In almost all cases, open applications were also not considered. Mr. Wagner emphasized the resulting need for updated and harmonized guidance and protocols, implemented by dedicated and well-trained experts.

As regards the treatment and disposal of PCB equipment, the expert noted that approved technologies were commercially available at reasonable costs. The challenge, however, could be found in high transport costs and bureaucratic hurdles for transboundary movement of PCB wastes, as also evidence in the GEF-funded project implemented in Kazakhstan. Each country would therefore have to find targeted solutions against the specific domestic background. Concerning the export of PCB wastes, it was noted that illegal trafficking was still a common phenomenon, including from developed to developing countries. Furthermore, Mr. Wagner emphasized the importance of delivering well-structured training using modern methodologies. He also explained why investments in best available practices (BEP) and best available techniques (BAT) were critical and would result in

significant cost-savings. As the recent accident in Paraguay showed, prevention was technically speaking easier and cheaper than remediation.

In closing, Mr. Wagner summarized some key findings and lessons learned, including the following:

- Reliable inventories are the basis for every disposal and treatment decision, but in most countries it seems too late to re-do national inventories. Thus, each PCB project should include a PCB assessment as a first component;
- It is essential to know the extent of a specific PCB problem in order to choose appropriate BATs/BEPs and disposal options;
- PCB Inventory proceedings must be globally harmonized worldwide – county reports must, if necessary, be re-submitted; and
- Another priority is the availability of environmentally sound management options, including interim storage.

1.9.5. Urs Wagner on Open Applications

Turning towards the issue of open applications, Mr. Wagner first provided a quick recap of the relevant provisions under the Stockholm Convention. Next, he explained the different types of open applications (for example cable sheaths, caulks/sealants and paints) and noted their widespread use in a wide range of structures and buildings, including residential and commercial ones. Contrary to a widespread assumption, open applications containing PCB were not only an important issue in developed countries, but also in the developing world. Neither had sufficiently addressed open applications; in fact, almost no countries had initiated appropriate strategies. This was despite the very significant health risks from open applications, with the PCB easily being diffused. He noted that due to cross-contamination of the surrounding structures, remediation and disposal costs were very high.

Having provided an introduction to the challenge of open applications, Mr. Wagner proceeded to propose adequate steps and solutions to address open applications, including their identification. In this context, he also referred to the planned project on open applications. He explained that decontamination would be a more appropriate solution for large volumes with low concentrations of PCB, while disposal was the preferred option for small volumes at large concentration. To illustrate the way forward, some pilot projects were discussed. These were used to illustrate some consideration steps, for example for the decontamination of anti-corrosion coatings containing PCB on machinery and pipelines:

- define appropriate and environmentally sound decontamination methods;
- take measures to protect personnel and the environment and monitor regularly;
- check the effectiveness of the decontamination; and
- dispose sludge and paint particles as PCB waste.

1.9.6. Aloys Kamatari on CB Management and Disposal in Rwanda

Mr. Kamatari presented the GEF-funded 'Management and Disposal of PCB' project that is currently being undertaken in Rwanda. He noted that the objective of the project was to introduce cost-effective solutions for the environmentally sound management of PCB oils, equipment and wastes held by electrical utilities in the country. For this purpose, the project partners worked to:

- regularly update the existing PCB inventory;
- establish a sound regulatory framework;
- build capacity for environmentally sound handling and storage of obsolete equipment; and

- dispose equipment, oil and waste material in an environmentally sound manner.

1.10. Workplan and Future Strategy of the PEN

Next, the Advisory Committee discussed the budget and workplan of the PEN, thereby taking the workplan and budget agreed upon during the fifth meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee as a basis. Ms. Alvarez explained that funds from the Governments of Sweden and Finland had already been used in previous years and that very little funding (ca. USD 7,000) was currently available. It was therefore not possible to fully implement the already less ambitious workplan for 2014-2017 (planned budget: USD 457,650). Against this background, the participants discussed possible strategies to address the gap in funding. In terms of fundraising, the PEN Advisory Committee shared some concrete ideas and decided to follow up on these after the meeting.

As at the prior meeting, the participants decided to increase their in-kind contributions, to focus on no-cost activities and to seek synergies with existing projects and initiatives. For example, existing guidance documents could be translated, webinars on open applications and inventories could be delivered, good practices and lessons learned could be compiled etc.

The Committee members also decided to initiate a PCB awareness raising campaign with the objective of placing PCB high on the international agenda in the lead up to COP-8, scheduled for spring 2017. There was consensus that this campaign would constitute the focus of the PEN's activities over the next year. The group engaged in a brainstorming session on potential slogans for the campaign and decided on 'PCB: The Forgotten Legacy'. This slogan would convey the observation that while PCB, one of the initial twelve POPs, had initially received widespread attention, including in the media and among policy-makers, attention had now shifted to other issues, notwithstanding that the issue was still far from having been resolved. Other slogans were also proposed and discussed.

As part of the campaign, it was decided that the Committee members would each make a contribution, including a number of PCB stories on selected topics, for example on contaminated sites (during the meeting, Mr. Petrlik reference and provided materials on this topic developed by IPEN), on PCB levels in human milk, on the establishment of a plant in Morocco (see above), on a recent accident in Paraguay (see above) etc. The campaign would also feature publications of other outreach materials, including brochures, factsheets, interactive info-graphics and, subject to available funding, a video. Moreover, there was consensus that existing workshops and conferences should be used to promote the PCB agenda. The participants agreed on a timeline for the deliverables and the distribution of work. The detailed revised workplan is attached as Annex C³.

Some general discussion on communication challenges and opportunities also ensued. For example, it was noted that journalists would also need to be trained in order to be capable of understanding the issue and translating it for a wider audience. For such purposes, as well as for fundraising, it was key to link the PCB issue with topics such as climate change or electronic waste. Moreover, if wider benefits, including socio-economic ones would be highlighted, proposals had a higher chance of being accepted. Thus, PCB management should not be viewed in isolation, but rather seen as one element of a wider hazardous waste management strategy. The PEN would need to increasingly convey these messages and focus its activities accordingly.

As regards COP-8, the participants explored potential outcomes and how to best achieve them. As at COP-7, it was expected that the COP would again take note of the PEN progress report and the

³ The workplan has been adapted during the drafting of this meeting report to account for changes in the timeline.

consolidated assessment. However, the participants agreed that more was needed in order to create renewed commitment and efforts. Among others, the following was considered as potentially desired decisions: The COP could

- acknowledge the need to take immediate action to meet the 2025 and 2028 deadlines;
- request regular updates of the consolidated assessment;
- include activities related to PCB in the regular budget; and
- request the development and/or implementation of a roadmap towards the elimination of PCB.

It was decided to explore this in more depth in the course of 2016.

Follow-up and Closure of the Meetings

Before closing, the group discussed the next steps and immediate follow-up to the meetings. It was decided that all potential channels should be used to disseminate the messages discussed during the meeting. For this purpose, the Stockholm Convention Focal Points would need to be directly contacted and involved as much as possible, in particular in the months prior to COP-8. The Advisory Committee Members as well as the PCB experts present would also use their own personal networks to communicate as widely as possible.

In terms of concrete outputs, the PEN secretariat and the BRS Secretariat would work closely to prepare a final draft of the Consolidated Assessment, which would then be circulated for a final round of comments. Subsequently, it would be submitted to the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee. Moreover, throughout 2016, awareness-raising materials would be prepared and the campaign implemented as foreseen in the revised workplan. The participants also agreed to further work on the idea of developing a PCB Roadmap.

Ms. Ohno, on behalf of the BRS Secretariat, Ms. Alvarez, on behalf of UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, and Ms. Sebkova, on behalf of RECETOX thanked the participants for their active participation and useful contributions. After the usual exchange of courtesies, the PCB Expert Meeting and the Advisory Committee Meeting were closed at 17:30 p.m. on Wednesday , 16 December 2015. The participants then had an opportunity to visit the facilities of RECETOX.

Annex A –Agenda

Time slot	Item	Lead
Day 1: Monday, 14 December 2015		
8:30-9:00	<i>Registration</i>	
09:00-09:15	Opening remarks: The Stockholm Convention and PCB	Kei Ohno
09:15-09:30	Round of self-introduction	All
09:30-10:00	Overview: effectiveness evaluation on PCB	Kei Ohno
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:30-11:45	Detailed presentation of the Consolidated PCB Assessment	Jost Dittkrist
11:45-12:30	Initial discussion and feedback on the Consolidated Assessment	All
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30-14:30	Theme 1 of the Consolidated Assessment	All
14:30-15:30	Theme 2 of the Consolidated Assessment	All
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00-17:30	Theme 3 of the Consolidated Assessment	All
17:30	<i>End of day 1</i>	
Day 2: Tuesday, 15 December 2015		
09:00-09:15	Recap of day 1 and structure of day 2	Kei Ohno
09:15-10:30	Theme 4 of the Consolidated Assessment	All
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00-12:30	Theme 5 of the Consolidated Assessment	All
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30-15:30	Wrap up of the Consolidated Assessment: Conclusions, recommendations and next steps	All
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00-16:30	Outlook on PCB Management in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region	Maksim Surkov
16:30-17:30	Proposal for a road map towards the elimination of PCB	Jost Dittkrist
17:30	<i>End of day 2</i>	
Day 3: Wednesday, 16 December 2015		
09:00-09:15	Recap of day 2 and structure of day 3	Jacqueline Alvarez
09:15-10:30	Open discussion on a road map towards the elimination of PCB and drafting of its key elements	All
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00-12:00	Open discussion on a road map towards the elimination of PCB and drafting of its key elements (continued)	All
12:00-12:30	Update from the secretariat of the PEN: SC COP7, status of the workplan, budget etc.	Jacqueline Alvarez Jost Dittkrist
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30-14:30	Reports from the members of the Advisory Committee on activities carried out since last AC meeting	PEN AC Members
14:30-15:30	Open discussion on the strategy of the PEN; review of the workplan and budget	All
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00-17:00	Next steps for the PEN, the assessment and the road map	Jacqueline Alvarez
17:00-17:30	Recap and final remarks	Kei Ohno and Jacqueline Alvarez
17:30	<i>End of meetings</i>	

Annex B –List of Participants

#	Country/ Organization	Name	Institution	Status
1	China	Mr. Jinhui Li	Department of Environmental Science and Engineering , Tsinghua University (China)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – Asia-Pacific
2	Costa Rica	Ms. Anna Ortiz	Ministry of Environment and Energy (Costa Rica)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – GRULAC
3	Ghana	Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi	Chemicals Control and Management Centre, Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana)	PCB Expert – Africa
4	Moldova	Mr. Ion Barabasa	Procurement Office, POPS Sustainable Management Office, Ministry of Environment (Moldova)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – CEE
5	Rwanda	Mr. Aloys Kamatari	Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Education of KIBUNGO (INATEK), Faculty of Rural Development, Department of Agricultural Engineering (Rwanda)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – Africa
6	Uruguay	Ms. Claudia Cabal	(Uruguay)	PCB Expert – GRULAC
7	ETI Umwelttechnik AG	Mr. Urs Wagner	ETI Umwelttechnik AG (Switzerland)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – Expert
8	IPEN	Mr. Jindrich Petrlik	IPEN (Czech Republic)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – NGO
9	RECETOX	Ms. Ivan Holoubek	Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment	Host and OCB Expert
10	RECETOX	Ms. Katerina Sebkova	Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment	Host and PCB Expert
11	Tredi (Industry)	Mr. Hugues Levasseur	Hazardous Waste Europe (France)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – Industry
12	UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch	Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez	Science and Risk Team, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch (Switzerland)	PEN secretariat
13	UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch	Mr. Jost Dittkrist	Science and Risk Team, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch (Switzerland)	PEN secretariat
14	BRS Secretariat	Ms. Kei Ohno Woodall	Conventions Operations Branch and Scientific Support Branch, BRS Secretariat (Switzerland)	PEN Advisory Committee Member – BRS Secretariat

Annex C – Revised Workplan 2014-2017

Activities	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
I. Thematic Group on Inventories			
1. Revise and finalize the guidance on PCB inventory including standardized inventory procedures based on compilation of experiences, lessons learned, and existing guidelines on PCB inventories, taking into account regional variations (60 p.)	1. Develop a revised draft based on comments	Chairs, PEN Secretariat	Completed
	2. Invite comments from the Committee members	PEN Secretariat	Completed
	3. Finalize a draft based on comments for presentation to the next meeting of the PEN and the next SC COP.	Chairs	Completed
	4. Translate into UN languages. Make the final document available online	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	December 2016
	5. Draft and disseminate an executive summary of the inventory guidance	Jinhui Li / Chen Yuan	October/November 2016
2. Develop a factsheet on information requirements to support information management and the reporting process under paragraph (g), Part II, Annex A	1. Develop a first draft of the factsheet	Chairs	Completed
	2. Invite comments from the Committee members	PEN Secretariat	Completed
	3. Finalize the document	Chairs	Completed
	4. Translate into UN languages. Make the final document available online	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	December 2016
3. Identify the needs of the Stockholm Convention Parties in the development of PCB inventories and information processing	1. Identify the parties that require assistance with PCB inventories and processing of the information on PCB	BRS Secretariat	February 2017
4. Based on the needs assessment, use the guidance documents on PCB inventories in technical assistance activities	1. Organize webinars on specific sections of the guidance in the language of the target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee in cooperation with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	November – December 2016
	2. Facilitate exchange of lessons learned between countries with “good” and “bad” inventories	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee	January 2017 onwards
6. Set up a help desk to assist in and promote national reporting	1. Develop TORs	PEN Secretariat and BRS Secretariat	November 2016
	2. Establish and maintain the help desk	PEN Secretariat and BRS Secretariat	March 2017 onwards
	3. Engage in outreach to inform relevant stakeholders about the help desk	PEN Advisory Committee Members, PEN Secretariat, BRS Secretariat	March 2017 onwards

II. Thematic Group on Maintenance, Handling, and Interim Storage of Equipment Containing PCB			
1. Revise and finalize the guidance on maintenance, handling and interim storage of equipment containing PCB	1. Develop a revised draft based on comments	Chairs, PEN Secretariat	Completed
	2. Invite comments from Advisory Committee members	PEN Secretariat	Completed
	3. Finalize draft based on comments	Chairs	Completed
	4. Translate into UN languages (30 p.), make final document available online	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	February 2017
	5. Draft and disseminate an executive summary of the maintenance guidance	Anna Ortiz	February 2016
2. Use the guidance documents on PCB maintenance in technical assistance activities	1. Organize webinars on specific sections of the guidance in the language of target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	Completed
	2. Organize additional webinars on specific sections of the guidance in the language of the target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee in cooperation with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	2016-2017
III. Thematic Group on Disposal of PCB and Remediation of Contaminated Sites			
1. Assessment of the need for guidance material in the identification and assessment of sites contaminated by PCB	1. Review of existing UNIDO guidelines on assessment of contaminated sites relevant to PCB	Chairs	March 2017
2. Encourage information exchange on the amount of PCB disposed of and methods used in PCB disposal, experiences and lessons learned	1. Initiate discussions on POPs Social to exchange information on the amount of PCB disposed of and methods used in PCB disposal, experience and lessons learned by stakeholders (developed and developing countries, industry, NGOs, etc.)	Lead by Advisory Committee member (Mr. Barbarasa)	Completed
	2. Request GEF PEN Secretariat to make available PCB projects mid-term and final evaluations	PEN Secretariat	November 2016
	3. Prepare and translate factsheets on lesson learned for PCB projects	Chairs together with Regional Centers	April 2017

IV. Thematic Group on Open Applications			
1. Revise and finalize the awareness raising materials (1 photo booklet, 2 fact sheets and the presentation)	1. Revise the awareness raising materials based on comments and include the criteria above in the material	Chairs	Completed
	2. Invite second comments and additional input from the AC and PEN members on the photo booklet	PEN Secretariat	Completed
	3. Finalize awareness raising materials based on comments and additional information and publication	Chairs, PEN Secretariat	Completed
	4. Translate the materials into UN languages	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	March 2017
2. Awareness raising activities, communicate the message to the stakeholders	1. Organize webinars on PCB in open applications in the language of the target region/subregion	PEN Secretariat with Advisory Committee in cooperation with BRS Secretariat and support of Regional Centers	2016 - 2017
3. Compile information to evaluate further needs for guidance and/or activities to assist parties in implementing paragraph (f) of Part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention	1. Request from implementing agencies to consider the assessment of open applications in NIP update projects and make available guidelines materials	PEN Secretariat	October 2016
	2. Information analysis and response to request from the implementing agencies	Chairs and AC	February 2017
4. Develop a GEF-funded project on open applications	1. Develop a concept note	PEN secretariat, UNITAR, Ion Barbarasa and Mihaela Paun	Completed
	2. Develop a project proposal	PEN secretariat, UNITAR, PEN AC members	December 2016
	3. Submit project proposal	PEN secretariat, UNITAR, PEN AC members	Early 2017
Core and Overarching Activities of the Advisory Committee			
1. Develop outreach materials on the Advisory Committee outputs	Electronic material, posters, videos, etc.	PEN Secretariat in cooperation with Chairs of Thematic Groups	2014-2017
2. PEN participation in implementing agency regional PCBs workshops	Each workshop for 5 days (4 UN regions)	PEN Secretariat with Chairs of Thematic Groups, Regional Centers	2014-2017
3. Compile lessons learned and good practices (bi-ennially)	Put compilation report on the website and present it to the PEN and COP	PEN Secretariat with Chairs of Thematic Groups	December 2015 December 2017
4. Prepare progress report on an annual basis	Put progress report on the website and present it to the PEN and COP	PEN Secretariat in cooperation with the Advisory Committee	January 2015 January 2016 January 2017 January 2018
5. Undertake assessment of PCB implementation activities to support other evaluation processes	Review of documents and AC participation and conduct surveys	PEN Secretariat in cooperation with chairs of Thematic Groups, and Regional Centers	2014-2017
6. Review, revise the guidance documents and fact	Update the guidance documents and fact sheets, publish on the	PEN Secretariat with Chairs of	2014-2017

sheets every 3-4 years	web, make available to the PEN	Thematic Groups	
7. Hold annual Advisory Committee meetings (preferential face-to-face)	Hold the meetings in 2015, 2016, 2017	PEN Secretariat to organize the meetings, AC	2015 - 2017
8. Every second year hold the PEN/PCB information meeting in association with the SC COPs	Hold the meeting at the same time as the SC COP	PEN Secretariat to organize the meetings, AC	May 2015 May 2017
9. Review the TORs of PEN and make recommendations to the next meeting of the PEN	PEN Secretariat with PEN Chair, AC to review, PEN Secretariat to finalize	PEN Secretariat with the members of the AC	Completed
10. Establish a technical assistance platform in Regional Centres to respond on PCB matters for implementation of the SC	Regional Centres and PEN Secretariat	PEN Secretariat with Regional Centers	December 2016
11. Propose the concept note for a GEF project on open applications	Prepare the concept document	Ion Barbarasa and Mihaela Paun, Urs and UNEP	January 2016
12. Outreach through forums such as the clearinghouse mechanism of BRS, including interviews with key experts		BRS, Regional Centres and UNEP, IPEN	Ongoing
13. Newsletters/materials (focusing on different themes) (explore if it can be coupled to the BRS newsletter and other existing newsletters) and awareness raising campaign vis a vis 2025/2028		BRS, Regional Centres and UNEP, IPEN	Ongoing
14. Implement the PCB awareness-raising campaign on PCB – The Forgotten Legacy	1. Story on how ESM of PCB translates into decreased levels of PCB in human milk	Katerina Sebkova	October/November 2016
	2. Draft and disseminate a story on challenges vis a vis PCB in developing countries	Sam Adu-Kumi	October/November 2016
	3. Draft a story on the PCB storage accident in Paraguay	Claudia Cabal	October/November 2016
	4. Draft a story on the PCB management plant in Morocco	Hugues Levasseur	October/November 2016
	5. Draft a story on the PCB inventory in Rwanda	Aloys Kamatari	October/November 2016
	6. Draft a story on contaminated sites	Jindrich Petrlik	October/November 2016
	7. Develop and publish an electronic publication to promote awareness of 2025/2028	Anna Ortiz, supported by the PEN Advisory Committee members	October/November 2016
	8. Develop a video on PCB	PEN Secretariat, UNITAR, Advisory Committee members	October/November 2016
	9. Develop an outreach brochure on PCB and the PEN	PEN Secretariat, UNITAR, Advisory Committee members	March 2016