



BRS Treaties • Stockholm Convention

Key provisions of the Stockholm Convention

Objective

Article 1: the objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

The main provisions setting out Party Obligations include:

Article 3: Prohibit and / or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention. The import and export of chemicals listed in Annexes A and B can take place under specific restrictive conditions, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 3. Article 3 also restricts the production and use, as well as the import and export of intentionally produced POPs listed in Annex B

Annex A (and Article 4): allows for the registration of specific exemptions for the production or use of listed POPs, in accordance with that Annex and Article 4, bearing in mind that special rules apply to PCBs.

Annex B (and Article 4): allows for the registration of acceptable purposes for the production and use of the listed POPs, in accordance with that Annex, and for the registration of specific exemptions for the production and use of the listed POPs, in accordance with that Annex and Article 4.

Article 5: Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention, promoting the use of best available techniques and best environmental practices for preventing releases of POPs into the environment.

Article 6: Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner. The Convention requires that such stockpiles and wastes be identified and managed to reduce or eliminate POPs releases from these sources. The Convention also requires that wastes containing POPs are transported across international boundaries taking into account relevant international rules, standards and guidelines.

Article 8: Target additional POPs. The Convention provides for detailed procedures for the listing of new POPs in Annexes A, B and / or C. A Committee composed of experts in chemical assessment or management - the Persistent Organic Pollutants review Committee, is established to examine proposals for the listing of chemicals, in accordance with the process set out in Article 8 and the information requirements specified in Annexes D, E and F of the Convention.

A summary of other articles, includes:

- **Article 7:** Relating to the development of implementation plans.
- **Article 9:** Relating to information exchange
- **Article 10:** Relating to public information, awareness and education
- **Article 11:** On research, development and monitoring
- **Article 12:** On technical assistance
- **Article 13:** On financial resources and mechanisms
- **Article 15:** On reporting
- **Article 16:** On effectiveness evaluation
- **Article 17:** On non-compliance

Ratifying the Stockholm Convention: reservations and declarations

Reservations upon ratification or accession to the Basel Convention are not provided for – however, under international law, a country ratifying or acceding to a treaty may make a declaration where they express their understanding of some matter or the interpretation of a particular provision.

Unlike reservations, declarations merely clarify the country's position and do not modify the legal effect of a treaty. Usually, declarations are made at the time of ratification or signature.

This factsheet on **The Chemicals Treaties (BRS Treaties): Stockholm Convention** is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 30–33.