

## NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS FOR BRAZIL

Carvalho LR<sup>1\*</sup>, Rocha Neto A<sup>1</sup>, Almeida MPT<sup>1</sup>, Marcondes CP<sup>1</sup>, Alves PAT<sup>1</sup>, Boechat CA<sup>1</sup>, Maioli OLG<sup>1</sup>, De Assuncao JV<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Environmental Quality, Ministry of Environment, SEPN 505 Bloco B, Edf. Marie Prendi Cruz, Térreo, Sala T-20 - CEP: 70730-542, Brasília-DF, Brazil

<sup>2</sup>School of Public Health, University of Sao Paulo. Avenida Doutor Arnaldo 715, São Paulo, Brazil

### Introduction

The National Implementation Plan - NIP was developed by the Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with several national institutions and stakeholders from government, industry associations, civil society and academia, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and administration by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The NIP presents the findings of an initial investigation of the status of implementation of the Convention in Brazil, the uses of these chemicals in the country, the management of their wastes and stockpiles, POP-contaminated sites, as well as installed national capacity. It identifies the legislative and administrative measures already underway to protect human health and the environment from the effects of POPs and points to gaps that must be overcome. Lastly, it provides an Action Plan that allows Brazil to meet its obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

### Materials and methods

The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinate the Convention's implementation plan with the participation of several of the country's institutions within the framework of their respective competences.

The initial Seminar of NIP took place in March 2010 in São Paulo. When the NIP began to be developed, only the 12 initially listed POPs were addressed, but with the inclusion of new substances to the Convention Annexes, it became necessary to include the new POPs in project activities and generate an updated NIP. The process for developing the current NIP followed the guidelines<sup>1,2</sup> and included the following stages:

- Stage 1: Establishment of the mechanisms for process coordination and organization;
- Stage 2: Development of POP inventories and analysis of national infrastructure and capacity;
- Stage 3: Establishment of priorities and objectives;
- Stage 4: Formulation of the National Implementation Plan and the specific POP Action Plans;
- Stage 5: Endorsement of the NIP by stakeholders.

The Ministry of the Environment acted as the project's executing agency, coordinating the development of the plan, using the expertise of its technical staff and hiring consultants. The NIP was developed in consultation with the National Chemical Safety Commission (CONASQ), coordinated by the Ministry of Environment. CONASQ was established in 2000 as an intersectoral coordination mechanism for integrating efforts and creating opportunities to strengthen, disseminate and develop intersectoral actions related to chemical safety. CONASQ consists of 21 institutions from the public and private sectors, academia and organized civil society.

In order for CONASQ's participation in the development of the NIP to be more objective, a National Coordinating Group (NIP-GNC) was established under the Commission. This group constituted a consultative mechanism designed to follow the development plan. Its members were the CONASQ representatives of government environment, health, labour and industry bodies; and non-governmental representatives from the private sector, workers and environmental protection organizations.

The GNC was responsible for fostering the coordination among sectoral stakeholders and promoting their inclusion in the development of the Plan and the dissemination of its results. It provided guidance and validated progress reports as well as maintained CONASQ informed on the progress of the Plan development efforts.

In addition to the GNC, Interinstitutional Technical Groups (GTIs) were created. GTIs had an operational role and aimed to contribute technical expertise to the development of the inventories and Action Plans that make up the NIP, providing commentaries and suggestions to improve documents. Their composition varied according to the content and needs. As part of the methodology for carrying out the studies used as a basis for the Action Plans, meetings of the GTIs were held to discuss the technical aspects of the results of the inventories and information surveys. Throughout the process, several government institutions and bodies, private sector organizations and NGOs collaborated in the GTIs in an integrated effort to build this National Plan. We would like to highlight CETESB's - the environmental body of the State of São Paulo - participation. CETESB is the Stockholm Convention's Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to the GTIs, the Ministry of Environment held one-to-one meetings with specific sectors of the industry, which enabled greater proximity and cooperation in adjusting and defining actions and tangible goals. Meetings with civil society, which allowed the gathering of points of views, also confirmed the democratic character of the process. To support the drafting of the NIP, the following studies and inventories were carried out, consolidating important information on the POP situation in Brazil

- a) National inventory of sources and estimates of unintentional POPs emissions
- b) National inventory of Polychlorinated Biphenyls;
- c) National inventory of stockpiles and waste of POPs used as pesticides and for other uses;
- d) National inventory of POPs contaminated sites;
- e) National inventory of industrial POPs, and
- f) Review and analysis of Brazilian legislation on POPs.
- g) Socioeconomic study on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention

#### **Results and discussion:**

Studies and inventories were carried out according to the guidance and methodologies contained in the Convention guides. Based on the information gathered in each inventory, actions and priorities were discussed and made up 5 Action Plans:

- Action Plan for the management of stockpiles and waste of POPs used as pesticides and for other uses;
- Action Plan for the management of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB);
- Action Plan for the management of New Industrial POPs;
- Action Plan for the management of sites contaminated by Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); and,
- Action Plan for the Progressive Reduction of unintentional releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants.

In addition to those Plans, measures to promote the following actions were also planned:

- 1) Strengthen the institutional capacity and legislative framework for the management of POPs;
- 2) disseminate information, raise public awareness and educate the public;
- 3) expand the national analytical capacity, monitor POPs, and
- 4) promote research, development and innovation.

Each Action Plan comprises the activities and strategies that should be carried out (or that are already in practice) in order to meet the Convention's obligations, with implementation schedules and appointment of people in charge. By consolidating the collected information, this National Implementation Plan provides an overview of the POPs situation in Brazil and, based on its findings and identified critical points, indicates the main challenges and priorities that should be considered for the efficient implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the country. As part of the set of actions for sound chemical management of chemicals in Brazil, the development of the National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention aims to:

- 1) Meet the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;
- 2) Reduce risks to human health and the environment caused by Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- 3) Contribute to improving chemicals management in Brazil, establishing broad governance on the issue;
- 4) Strengthen and expand the capacities of institutions for chemical management and pollution control;
- 5) Raise public awareness and educate the population on the harmful effects and risks associated to chemicals so that it too can be a part of management improvement process.

The NIP-Brazil was agreed between national stakeholders through a broad process of consultation carried out remotely and in person between 2013 and 2014 and endorsed by CONASQ. It contains a series of actions to be executed by several government institutions, within their scope, and by the private sector. This National Implementation Plan expresses the commitment of the Brazilian Government to meeting the obligations under the Stockholm Convention, incorporating them to the national strategies for improving chemical management. This is a dynamic document, which should be reviewed and updated every 5 years and as needed to reflect the decisions made by the Conference of the Parties and by the Brazilian Government in the context of improving national environmental policies.

NIP contains the following Measures and Action Plans:

- 1) Measures to strengthen the national institutional capacity and the legal framework for POPs management;
- 2) Action Plan for managing wastes and stockpiles of POPs used as pesticides and others;
- 3) Action Plan for managing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB);
- 4) Action Plan for new industrial POPs;
- 5) Action Plan for managing POPs contaminated sites;
- 6) Action Plan for the progressive reduction of unintentional POPs releases;
- 7) Measures to disseminate information, raise public awareness and educate the population; and
- 8) Measures to improve the national analytical capacity, POPs monitoring, research, development and innovation.

The need for technical and financial assistance for the implementation of actions was noted in the action plans, identifying potential sources of those resources.

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#### **References:**

<sup>1</sup> White, S. S., and Birnbaum, L. S. (2009) *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part C* 27, 197-211.