

# Some key features of the Stockholm Convention

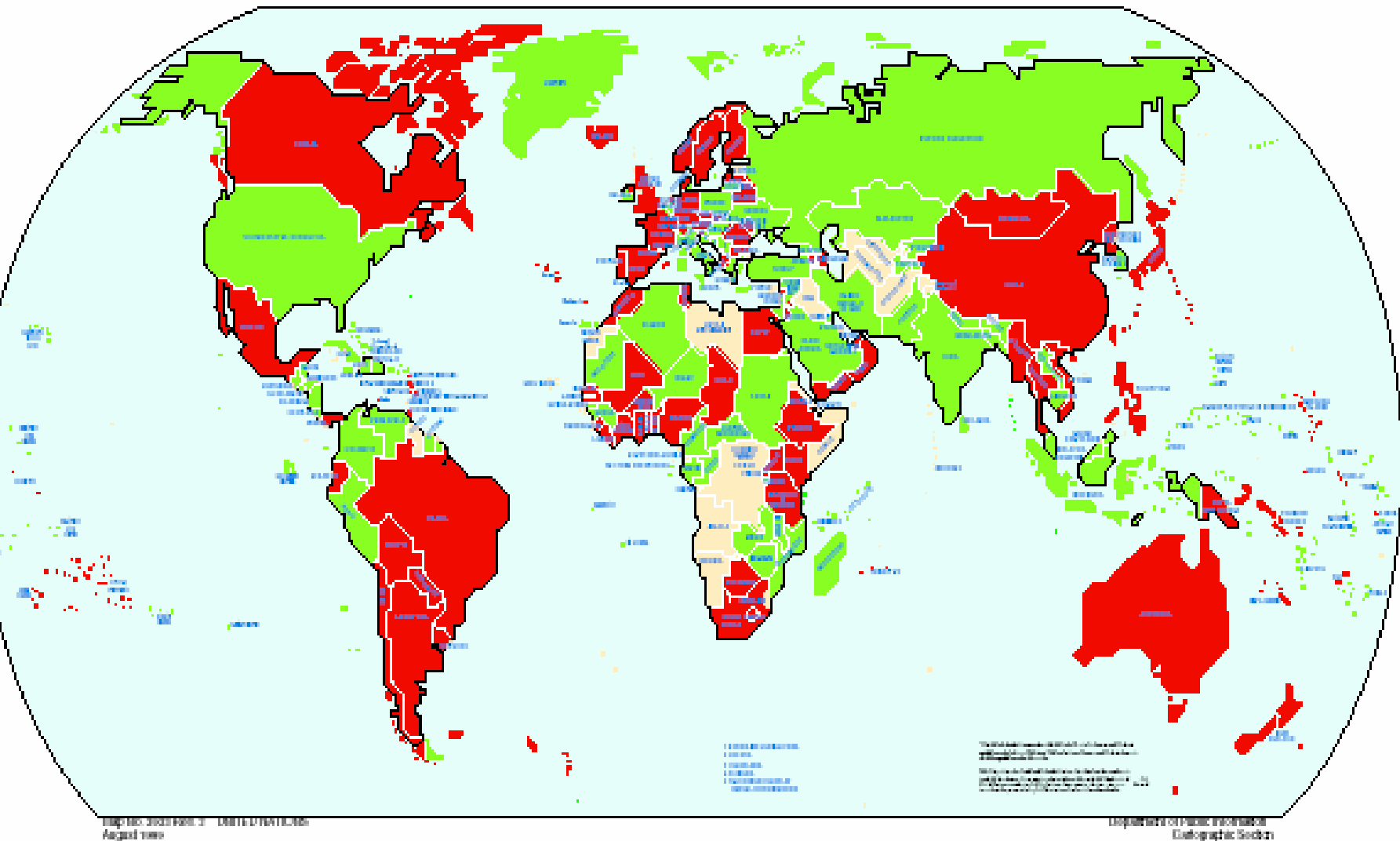
- **Fatoumata Ouane**
- **Workshop on the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention and Synergies with Other Chemicals Related Conventions,**
- **Cairo, Egypt, 21 February 2005**

# The Stockholm Convention

- **Adopted in Stockholm in May, 2001**
- **Seeks to reduce or eliminate releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**
- **Signed by 151 countries and one REIO**
- **Entered into force on 17 May 2004**
- **Ratified by 94 countries**



# Parties: 94 as of 20-02-05



# Status in the sub-region

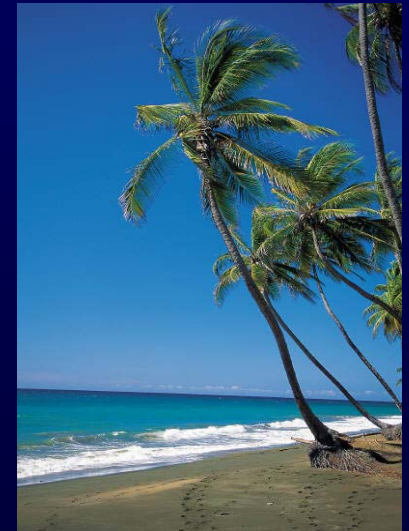
	Participant	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)
1.	Algeria	5 Sep 2001	
2.	Bahrain	22 May 2002	
3.	Egypt	17 May 2002	2 May 2003
4.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	23 May 2001	
5.	Jordan	18 Jan 2002	8 Nov 2004
6.	Kuwait	23 May 2001	
7.	Lebanon	23 May 2001	3 Jan 2003
8.	Mauritania	8 Aug 2001	
9.	Morocco	23 May 2001	15 Jun 2004
10.	Oman	4 Mar 2002	19 Jan 2005
11.	Qatar		10 Dec 2004 a
12.	Saudi Arabia	14 Mar 2002	
13.	Sudan	23 May 2001	
14.	Syrian Arab Republic	15 Feb 2002	
15.	Tunisia	23 May 2001	17 Jun 2004
16.	United Arab Emirates	23 May 2001	11 Jul 2002
17.	Yemen	5 Dec 2001	9 Jan 2004

# What are POPs?

- **POPs are organic compounds (*i.e.*, carbon-based)**
  - natural or anthropogenic origin
- **unique combination of physical & chemical properties:**
  - resist degradation in environment (*i.e.*, persistent)
  - low, but significant, vapor pressure (“semi-volatile”) leads to distribution in all environmental media
  - low water solubility + high fat solubility
- **regional and global distribution by air, water, wildlife**
- **long-term exposure to humans and wildlife**
- **bioaccumulation in fatty tissues of living organisms**
- **acute and chronic toxic effects on humans & wildlife**

# Stockholm

- **Stop production of POPs**
- **Replace POPs in use**
- **Manage POPs waste in an environmentally sound manner**
- **Prevent production of by-product POPs**
- **Hazard communication**



# What does the Convention Do?

- **Objective = protection of health and environment**
- **Main provisions:**
  - **control measures**
    - **intentionally produced POPs (Article 3/Annex A, B)**
    - **unintentionally produced POPs (Article 5/Annex C)**
    - **stockpiles and wastes (Article 6)**
  - **addition of new chemicals (Article 8/Annex D)**
  - **general obligations**
  - **financial and technical assistance**
  - **implementation aspects**

# General Obligations

- Develop, implement and update an implementation plan
- Designate a National Focal Point
- Promote and facilitate a wide range of public information, awareness and education measures
- Encourage/undertake research, development, monitoring and cooperation on all aspects of POPs and their alternatives
- Report to the COP on:
  - measures taken by Party and their effectiveness
  - data/estimates for total quantities of POPs in Annex A and B that are traded, and list of States involved

# Life Cycle Coverage

- Production (by-products & intentional)      Art  
3(1)+5
- Storage (stockpiles)      Art 6
- Transport (Import/Export)      Art  
3(2)+6
- Processing (Unintentional)      Art  
3(1)+5
- Final use      Art 3(1)+5
- Recycling      Art  
3(1)+5
- Waste      Art 6

# Adding New POPs

- Agreed process will be used to evaluate candidates nominated by Parties
- application of scientific criteria
- “precaution” is incorporated
- all Parties have the opportunity for full hearing on any nominated candidate
  - Transparent process.

# Exemptions

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- Intentionally produced POPs
- Article 3
- Annexes A and B

# Exemptions

- Specific Exemptions:
  - production and/or use of 8 (of 10) chemicals
  - register established for Annex A&B chemicals
  - a State on becoming a Party may register by informing secretariat (public register of countries)
  - duration = 5 years, unless Party specifies an earlier date
  - extension = 5 years, if Party requests and COP approves
  - may be withdrawn by a Party at any time
- Parties using “specific exemptions” or “acceptable purposes” provisions must take measures to prevent or minimize human exposure and releases to the environment

# Precaution captured

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- **Four explicit references to Precaution**
- **The spirit of Precaution flows through the treaty**

# Explicit References to “Precaution” (1)

- Preamble:
- “Acknowledging that **precaution** underlies the concerns of all the Parties and is embedded within this Convention,”

# Explicit References to “Precaution” (2)

- Article 1 – Objective
- “Mindful of the **precautionary** approach as set forth in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the objective of this Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.”

# Explicit References to “Precaution” (3)

- Article 8 - Listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and C (paragraph 9)
- ”The Conference of the Parties, taking due account of the recommendations of the Committee, including any scientific uncertainty, shall decide, in a **precautionary manner**, whether to list the chemical, and specify its related control measures, in Annexes A, B and/or C.”

# Explicit References to “Precaution” (4)

- Annex C (Article 5)
- “In determining best available techniques, special consideration should be given, generally or in specific cases, to the following factors, bearing in mind the likely costs and benefits of a measure and consideration of **precaution** and prevention...”

# The spirit of Precaution (1)

- Preventing “new POPs” (Article 3)
- regulatory and assessment schemes for new pesticides or new industrial chemicals take measures to regulate with the aim of preventing the production and use of new pesticides or new industrial chemicals ....”

# Implementing the Convention

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- **Shared but differentiated responsibility**
- **Technical and financial assistance**

# Financial & Technical Assistance

- Developing countries and countries with economies in transition will need technical and financial assistance
  - Developed countries have undertaken to provide technical assistance and new and additional financial resources to meet agreed full incremental implementation costs
  - Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been named as the principal entity of the interim financial mechanism to fund capacity building and other related activities

# Article 12: Technical Assistance

- recognizes the importance of technical assistance

## The Convention identifies

- who is to receive technical assistance:
  - developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition (paragraph 2)
- who is to provide technical assistance:
  - developed country Parties and other Parties in accordance with their capabilities (paragraph 3)
- the type of technical assistance to be provided:
  - technical assistance for capacity-building relating to implementation of the SC (paragraph 3)
- further guidance is to be developed by the COP.

# Article 13: Financial Resources

- Establishes a financial mechanism and requires developed Parties to provide new & additional resources ... to meet agreed **full incremental costs**
- Encourages developed Parties to assist through bilateral and other channels
- COP to provide guidance to the FM and to define its operational structure

# Article 14:

## Interim financial arrangements

### Global Environment Facility

- To serve, on an interim basis, as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention
  - until the COP decides on the institutional structure of the permanent financial mechanism
- Has established a focal area for POPs
  - Widening to chemicals management
- Has established Operational Programme OP14
  - Has approved a large number of NIP and demonstration projects
- Has allocated US \$ 250 m for this replenishment

