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**United Nations  
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Programme**

**Workshop on continuing PCB management in Latin American and  
Caribbean Countries**

11 and 12 February 2008  
Panama City, Panama

**Discussion points for workshop sessions**

The present document suggests a number of issues that could be discussed during the workshop on continuing PCB management in Latin American and Caribbean Countries scheduled to take place on 11 and 12 February 2008 in Panama City, Panama. The issues listed here are meant as suggestions by the secretariat and participants may wish to discuss other issues in lieu of or in addition to them.

**Workshop session on PCB inventories and planning of phase-out operations for  
PCBs and PCB-containing equipment**

1. What are the difficulties that have been encountered to date with planning and carrying out equipment inventories? What practical solutions have been applied to overcome or ameliorate these difficulties?
2. What assumptions have been made in preparing inventories? Are they in line with countries' experiences? Can their validity be verified?
3. Are there systematic procedures in place to ensure that PCBs are identified during all maintenance operations (in-field and in-shop)? What capacities are required to put such procedures in place?
4. What methodologies have been employed to plan and prioritize PCB management actions (normal maintenance, planned replacement schedules, risk- and liability-based methodologies, etc.)?
5. What are the basic infrastructure requirements for effective planning of PCB phase-out operations?
6. How should stakeholders be involved during the phase-out planning stage?

### **Workshop session on the operations phase of PCB remediation**

1. What elements are required for pre-disposal operations? Such elements might include transport operator certification, tracking of equipment and suitable storage facilities.
2. What elements are required for disposal operations? Such elements might include establishment and licensing of approved facilities within a country or arrangements for shipping PCBs or PCB-containing equipment for disposal outside of a country.
3. What stakeholder involvement should there be in pre-disposal and disposal operations? What public-awareness information should be disseminated with regard to such operations?
4. What unforeseen issues have arisen during past remediation operations and how have they been solved?
5. What has the experience been with regard to cost?

### **Workshop session on legislative and institutional elements required for effective PCB-remediation guidance and oversight**

1. To what extent are PCB or persistent organic pollutant owners involved in the drafting of legislation? To what extent is their input sought and taken into account?
  2. What information do policymakers require to develop effective legislation on PCBs and persistent organic pollutants (e.g., international norms and standards, estimated personnel needs and costs of enforcement, guidance, etc.)?
  3. What legislative elements are required to clearly define the requirements of the various stages of PCB management (e.g., inventories, transport, maintenance, storage, disposal)?
  4. Can general persistent organic pollutants legislation sufficiently cover the requirements of PCB remediation?
  5. Are there examples of public-private partnerships or voluntary initiatives which have been formed to address PCB-related or similar types of problems? Have they been successful? Why or why not?
  6. What institutional resources and preparations are needed for the various legislative options (e.g., command-and-control, voluntary initiatives)?
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