



## **Submission on behalf of IPEN and ACAT regarding the Proposal to amend Annex A of the Stockholm Convention to be considered at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

This proposal to open a previous decision by the COP to add a new exemption is unprecedented in the history of the Stockholm Convention. IPEN is very concerned about the implications of this for the integrity of the Convention as described in detail below.

IPEN therefore recommends that the listing of UV-328, as decided by the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in 2023, should not be reopened for new exemptions.

### **Likely consequences of the proposal for the Convention**

The proposal to re-open the listing as decided in 2023 would create a dangerous precedent for the Convention, which may have several significant consequences, including;

- Conveying that no listing can ever be seen as final, weakening the effectiveness of the Convention and creating uncertainty for policymakers, manufacturers, and waste management sectors.
- Increasing administrative burdens on countries that have already included the listed POPs in their National Implementation Plans.
- Disadvantaging companies and countries that have already started or completed phase-in of safer alternatives.
- Disincentivizing companies from developing and advancing safer alternatives.
- Straining the resources of the Convention, including the BRS Secretariat and the POPs Review Committee, and slow down the listing of new chemicals.
- Conveying that new proposed uses of old POPs would be considered.
- Undermining the effective use of project resources such as GEF funding to address POPs and POPs wastes.

In addition, the need to add this specific exemption cannot be considered justified. UV-328 has already been phased-out in some regions and in the European Economic Area, no applications for authorization of uses have been submitted after its inclusion in the REACH Authorisation List (Annex XIV) in 2020. In their screening report from 2023 [ECHA noted that:](#)

“ECHA has not received applications for authorisation for any of these phenolic benzotriazoles. Therefore their use in the EEA will stop by the sunset date of 27 November 2023.”

In addition, several alternatives were available on the market already at the time of adding UV-328 to Annex A, as highlighted in the Risk Management Evaluation prepared by the POPRC.

We also want to highlight that a lot of time and work has gone into evaluating the chemical, allowing parties and observers ample time to submit information to allow for the evaluation of the need for possible narrow, time-limited exemptions. The Aerospace industry has been heavily involved in the review process from the beginning and have had several opportunities to raise these issues, and to do product testing of safer alternatives, along the way.

Overall, weakening the listing with additional exemptions would undermine the objective of the convention to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.