

Article 15 in Practice: National Reporting and ERS Guidance

02 October 2025



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Overview

National reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention is a fundamental obligation for Parties to demonstrate their progress in implementation and to facilitate the evaluation of the Convention's overall effectiveness. Parties are required to submit national reports every four years through the Electronic Reporting System (ERS). The deadline for the fifth reporting cycle was 31 August 2022, and the next reporting cycle is approaching in 2026. All national reports submitted by Parties are publicly available on the [Stockholm Convention website](#).

With the 2026 reporting cycle approaching, it is timely to revisit the Parties' obligations under Article 15 and the practical steps for preparing and submitting reports through the ERS. Importantly, some of the data required for Article 15 reporting overlaps with information used to develop and update National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under Article 7. Leveraging this overlap allows countries to streamline their reporting processes, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance data consistency across their Stockholm Convention obligations.

Against this backdrop, the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) convened a virtual workshop in collaboration with UNEP's Chemicals and Health Branch (Knowledge and Risk Unit) and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, as part of the GEF-funded and UNEP-led Global NIP Update project (GEF 10785). The workshop, held on 2 October 2025, was led by Lina Fortelius, Programme Officer at the BRS Secretariat, and Mihaela Claudia Paun, Programme Management Officer at UNEP.

Countries participating in the GEF 10785 Global NIP Update project continue to develop persistent organic pollutants (POPs) inventories and update NIPs. This workshop provided project countries with an opportunity to strengthen their capacities, prepare for the upcoming reporting cycle, better utilize data from NIPs in national reports, and contribute to the efficient implementation of the Convention.

During the workshop, speakers refreshed Parties' understanding of obligations under Article 15 and demonstrated step-by-step how to prepare and submit reports in the ERS. The workshop also highlighted synergies between Articles 7 and 15, showing how data collected for NIPs can be utilized for Article 15 reporting, and created space for peer exchange, where participants shared practical experiences, lessons learned and suggestions for improving report preparation and submission.

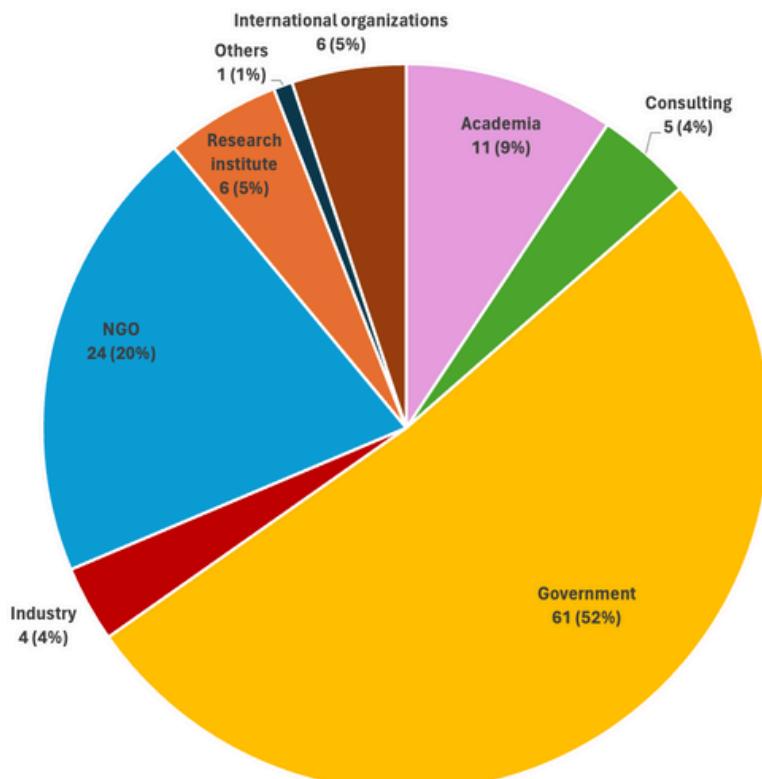
Registration and attendance

Number of registrants: 238 / total attendance: 118
(Approx. 54% female, 45% male, 1% prefer not to answer)

Participants by country

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
Senegal	6	South Africa	2	Mauritius	1
Nigeria	5	United Republic of Tanzania	2	Mozambique	1
Barbados	5	Uganda	2	Congo	1
Suriname	5	United States of America	2	Niger	1
Bahamas	4	Zambia	2	Jamaica	1
Trinidad and Tobago	4	Argentina	2	Republic of Moldova	1
Ghana	3	Mexico	2	Canada	1
Guinea	3	Madagascar	2	Colombia	1
Myanmar	3	Dominica	2	Eswatini	1
Switzerland	3	Cambodia	2	Venezuela	1
Thailand	3	Dominican Republic	2	Togo	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3	Albania	1	China	1
Uruguay	3	Armenia	1	Bulgaria	1
Italy	3	Burkina Faso	1	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Bangladesh	2	Côte d'Ivoire	1	Kazakhstan	1
Costa Rica	2	Ethiopia	1	Benin	1
India	2	Hungary	1	Peru	1
Indonesia	2	Japan	1	Ukraine	1
Portugal	2	Kenya	1	Romania	1
Sierra Leone	2	Republic of Korea	1		
Slovakia	2	Maldives	1		

Participants by sector



Discussion

Article 15 requirements and their importance

Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention establishes the legal obligation for every Party to periodically report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the measures taken to implement the Convention and on the effectiveness of those measures in meeting its objectives. Each Party must provide the Secretariat with statistical data on its total quantities of production, import and export of each chemical listed in Annexes A and B (or a reasonable estimate), and a list of the States from which it has imported or to which it has exported those substances to the extent practicable.

Fortelius emphasized that reporting is not only a compliance requirement, but also a reflection of national progress. She added that national reporting strengthens coordination among ministries and helps countries identify gaps in data, legislation and institutional arrangements while contributing to global assessments of progress towards eliminating POPs.

Types of data and information to include

Parties are expected to submit both quantitative and qualitative data covering the entire lifecycle of POPs.

Quantitative information should include updated inventories, release estimates, production, use, import and export figures for Annex A and B chemicals, source inventories for Annex C chemicals (PCDD/PCDF, PCBs, HCB, PeCB, PCN, HCBD), data on PCB equipment and waste, and figures on PFOS production, waste destruction and transboundary movements.

Qualitative information may cover legislation, monitoring programmes and capacity-building activities. Sources of information can include NIPs, national statistics, annual ministerial reports, industry surveys, research studies and expert interviews. Fortelius reminded participants to try to respond to every question – even partial answers contribute to understanding the Convention's implementation globally.

The Electronic Reporting System (ERS)

The ERS is an online platform developed by the BRS Secretariat to help Parties submit their national reports under Article 15. Built on the same technology as the Basel Convention's system, it has been streamlined to make reporting more intuitive and efficient. Each Party receives two user accounts to access the system. Only the Official Contact Point (OCP) can formally submit the report, but other users can download and review Word or Excel versions offline to coordinate inputs across ministries.

The ERS operates in six UN languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish – and features built-in validation tools that help check for missing information or inconsistencies. Crucially, the ERS is pre-filled with data from previous reporting rounds, allowing countries to build on past submissions. Updated inventory data or revised emission factors can be used to correct earlier entries and improve accuracy. Parties can also use the comment fields to add explanations, references, or links to national sources.

Discussion

Connection to National Implementation Plans (NIPs)

Articles 7 and 15 of the Stockholm Convention are closely linked, as most data required for reporting on POPs inventories, regulatory updates and monitoring programmes is generated through the NIP process. Paun explained that approximately 90 percent of the data needed for Article 15 reporting can be derived directly from the NIP update.

The NIP provides a foundation for both quantitative and qualitative information, but reporting often helps reveal missing elements, from inventory gaps to incomplete legislation or data-sharing arrangements. Identifying these gaps through reporting enables countries to incorporate them into future NIP updates. Thus, reporting and NIP development form a continuous cycle of learning and improvement that strengthens national chemicals governance.

Next reporting cycle

Under Decision SC-1/22, national reports are required **every four years**, with the **sixth reporting cycle due 31 August 2026 via the ERS**. The Secretariat updates the questionnaire each time the COP adds a new chemical to Annexes A, B, or C to ensure Parties report on the most recent obligations. Some substances, such as DDT, also have individual questionnaires and shorter reporting intervals (every three years). Fortelius encouraged Parties to begin data collection early and to leverage ongoing NIP update processes to reduce duplication of effort. Early coordination among national focal points, technical agencies and ministries ensures a smoother review and quality control process before final submission through the ERS.

Project guidance for data collection and quality check

The project Guidance on Supporting the Process of Data Collection, National Reporting and Modality for Final Quality Check serves as a key reference tool for Parties organizing and validating data. It provides a step-by-step approach for coordinating data collection, aligning datasets and conducting quality checks before submission to the Secretariat. Its annexes offer practical resources: Annex I lists common source categories of POPs, mercury and greenhouse gas emissions to highlight data overlaps; Annex II presents comparisons between qualitative and quantitative information in NIPs and Article 15 reports and outlines overlaps with other international reporting obligations. It offers a harmonized framework that helps countries translate the data they already have into the format required for Article 15 reporting.

Using the ERS dashboard and other tools

The Reports Dashboard for the Stockholm Convention mirrors the ERS structure and allows users to visualize submitted data across reporting cycles. Parties can filter by region, question, or specific chemical and download customized Excel datasets. The Dashboard supports benchmarking and peer learning, enabling Parties to compare approaches and monitor progress over time. This open-access platform enhances transparency and feeds directly into the Convention's effectiveness evaluation process, helping Parties and the international community assess measures to reduce and eliminate POPs.

Resources

- The concept note and video recording in English of the webinar are available on the Global NIP Update platform: <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/webinar/article-15-practice-national-reporting-and-ers-guidance>

Article 15 in Practice: National Reporting and ERS Guidance

GLOBAL WORKSHOP Share

2 October 2025, Online (Zoom)

14:30- 16:00 PM (CEST, GMT +2)

Article 15 in Practice:
National Reporting and ERS Guidance
REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/Article15ERS>

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- **How to use the ERS to submit national reports under Article 15**
 - User manual for the Electronic Reporting System (ERS) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- **How to complete national reports under Article 15**
 - Manual for national reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention
- **How NIPs and national reporting are interlinked**
 - Guidance on Supporting the Process of Data Collection, National Reporting and Modality for Final Quality Check
- **Stockholm Convention Reports Dashboard**
 - Reports Dashboard for the Stockholm Convention
- **Useful links**
 - Ask the Expert: Understanding National Reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the GGKP team.

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