



United Nations Environment Programme

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ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

PRESS RELEASE

Governments reinforce global regime for reducing DDT, dioxins and other persistent organic pollutants

Geneva, 5 May 2006 – Some 120 governments have concluded a one-week conference on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) with practical decisions that will strengthen the regime for ridding the world of some of the most hazardous chemicals known to humankind.

A process has now been put in place under which countries can report on their continued need for DDT to control mosquitoes. These reports will be evaluated at next year's conference. While DDT is targeted for eventual elimination, the Convention recognizes that some countries will continue to use this pesticide to protect their citizens from malaria and other diseases.

The conference also established a process for evaluating the Convention's effectiveness in reducing POPs over time. A global monitoring programme building on various national and regional monitoring systems will produce a worldwide picture of trends in the quantity and types of POPs in the environment and in the human body.

Progress was also made on developing a non-compliance regime to assist governments when they have difficulty meeting their treaty commitments, ensuring collaboration and synergies between the Stockholm Convention and its sister conventions on hazardous chemicals and wastes, and financing projects and activities for reducing POPs.

The second edition of a "toolkit" for assessing the sources of harmful dioxins and furans (which are produced unintentionally as result of combustion and other processes) was reviewed and agreement was reached on its continuing development.

The Stockholm Convention, targets 12 hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals that can kill people, damage the nervous and immune systems, cause cancer and reproductive disorders and interfere with normal infant and child development.

The 12 initial POPs covered by the Convention include nine pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex and toxaphene); two industrial chemicals (PCBs as well as hexachlorobenzene, also used as a pesticide); and unintentional by-products, most importantly dioxins and furans.

Governments will add more chemicals to this list over the coming years; the first round of five proposed new chemicals is currently undergoing a technical review and will be ready for a final decision in two or three years.

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