U N I T E D N A T I O N S E N V I R O N M E N T P R O G R A M M E

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

اتفاقية استكهولم بشأن الملوثات العضوية الثابتة • 关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约 • Convention de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes • Стокгольмская конвенция о стойких органических загрязнителях

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PROPOSAL

The preparation of a business plan including compilation of information and the establishment of options to promote a global partnership for the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control

Background

DDT is among one of the twelve man-made chemicals under the Stockholm Convention that is to be eliminated from production and use. It is a persistent organic pollutant that bio-accumulates and is carried through the environment to areas far away from where it is released. This chemical is toxic to humans and wildlife and persists in the environment for several decades. Currently, the Stockholm Convention allows the use of DDT for disease vector control and in particular, to control the mosquito vector that carries the malaria disease. There are now many initiatives being undertaken to develop and deploy alternatives to DDT for disease vector control. These initiatives are being implemented by entities that cut across the spectrum of society. In most instances, these initiatives are driven by the need to reduce the malaria burden in endemic countries. However, there are other initiatives that have as an objective, the reduction on the reliance of DDT for indoor residual spraying (IRS).

The World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the entities at the forefront of the effort to find alternatives to DDT. The WHO has endorsed the use of bednets impregnated with long lasting insecticide as a means of controlling the mosquito vector and continues to promote the other 11 insecticides in the IRS programme. It has implemented projects at the regional level to assess locally appropriate alternatives to DDT.

The chemical industry has presented new formulations of alternate insecticides for use in IRS and for impregnated bednets. The discovery and preparation of new molecules to replace DDT is expected to come from the chemical industry.

Governments have created integrated vector management programmes to reduce the reliance on DDT. Mexico has eliminated the use of DDT through a programme that lasted over 10 years. The President's Malaria Initiative launched by the government of the United States of America expects to spend over USD$1.3 billion to fight malaria including controlling the malaria vector. Fifteen countries in Africa have already been selected for implementation of the programme.

Many non-governmental organizations have sought to examine and introduce control measures for the mosquito vector. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has already provided USD$35 million to the Malaria Control and Evaluation Project in Africa, to demonstrate the enormous potential to save lives with existing malaria control interventions.

There are bilateral collaborative alliances and instances of organizations from various disciplines working together to achieve success in both reducing the reliance on DDT and curbing the spread of the malaria disease. These initiatives, however, are undertaken without an overarching collective understanding of the way forward to achieving success on both fronts.

The use of an integrated vector management approach is generally considered the best platform from which to launch new strategies to reduce the reliance on DDT and concomitantly ease the malaria burden in endemic countries. Cost-effectiveness, social and cultural acceptance, local environmental suitability and sustainability should be the key concerns for any programme.

In order to fully understand the global picture on DDT use, its alternatives, on-going initiatives to develop and deploy alternatives and the barriers and gaps that exist, there is need to gather information within these parameters on a global scale.

There is a need for a global partnership that will encompass all the various initiatives and bring the many entities working in malaria endemic countries under one roof. This partnership would establish a singular approach, a common understanding and a transparency that will foster collaboration, improve efficiency, avoid duplication of effort and enhance a win-win achievement – reduction in DDT use and a concomitant reduction in the malaria burden. Such a partnership must be attractive to all stakeholders. There must be a clear understanding of the problem, commitment by all involved and consensus on the way forward to achieving success. All current efforts must be recognized.

The establishment of options for creating a global partnership is the first step to examine and promote cohesion of all stakeholders to develop and distribute alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT use that are cost-effective and locally appropriate. Any analysis undertaken must have the input of all relevant entities and sectors of society and consensus on the way forward should be the measured conclusion.

Goals and Objectives

A business plan is prepared that includes analysis based on a comprehensive data set on DDT related information and options established to promote a global partnership for the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT for disease vector control. The implementation of one of the options proposed in the business plan for a global partnership involving all stakeholders will encourage the research and development of cost-effective alternatives for the control of the malaria vector, ensure the dissemination and use of these alternatives toward the reduction in the use of DDT and thus also reducing the malaria burden on endemic countries.

Project design and implementation
The following activities are envisaged:

1. Prepare a comprehensive background paper that includes:
   - √ A regional analysis of DDT use for disease vector control;
   - √ An analysis of the current efforts globally to control disease vectors especially the mosquito vector for malaria;
   - √ A compendium of the available alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT use including non-chemical alternatives and the current research work being undertaken to find alternatives;
   - √ Results of consultation with various stakeholders especially relevant organizations in malaria endemic countries that are involved in disease vector control
   - √ A summary of current efforts to combat the malaria vector without the use of DDT;
   - √ A listing of the involvement in disease vector control of the various stakeholders;
   - √ A compilation of the barriers and gaps that exist in developing and deploying alternatives to DDT;
   - √ The results of dialogue with potential donors and funding agencies to identify their suggestions and concerns for supporting the global efforts on malaria vector control;

2. Develop a business plan that analyses the options for a global partnership that:
   - Uses the information gathered from activity 1;
   - Establishes at least three options for having a global partnership for developing and deploying alternatives to DDT and how such a partnership could be created;
   - Includes a set of milestones through which monitoring of the implementation of the options in the business plan may be undertaken;
   - Includes a process for stakeholders to interface and continue collaboration over a given time period in the future;
   - Includes the roles of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the plan;
   - Analyses the relative costs involved in implementing each option;
   - Seeks comments from all stakeholders on the drafted plan;
   - Finalise the draft paper after consultation with the WHO and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention with due consideration of the comments received;

3. Convene a meeting of representatives of all stakeholders that:
   - ∗ Includes approximately 60 participants;
   - ∗ Includes representation from Industry, Governments including malaria endemic countries, Researchers, Inter-governmental Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations, and relevant Multi-lateral Agreements;
   - ∗ Is held in November, 2008;
   - ∗ Is held with translation into French and Spanish;
   - ∗ Provides support for participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and non-government organization representatives.

Budget

Costs: EURO 300,000.00 for undertaking the activities outlined above and within the budget specified in the workplan in Table 1 below including:

- Research on information pertaining to DDT use and alternative products, methods and strategies;
- Meetings with key representatives of all stakeholders to obtain their input;
- Regular weekly consultation with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the World Health Organization.

Table 1

Budget and workplan for the preparation of a business plan including the compilation of information and the establishment of options to promote a global partnership for the development and deployment of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT.

Activity	Cost (EURO)	Deadlines
1. Preparation of a background paper on DDT		
* Employ a professional	120,000	31/02/08
* Compile information though consultation	20,000	31/06/08
2. Preparation of the business plan with options for a global partnership	50,000	31/09/08
4. A meeting among global stakeholders to consider the analyses undertaken (60 persons)	100,000	31/11/08
3. Administrative expenses and incidentals	10,000	
TOTAL	**300,000**	

Time: The execution of Activities 1 and 2 above will be from March, 2008 to July, 2008 with delivery of the plan expected on or before August 30, 2008.

It is envisaged that a cross-section of stakeholders will fund the implementation of the activities listed. This will allow buy-in by all the key stakeholders for a global partnership even at this initial stage of the preparation of background information and the business plan with proposals for such a partnership. Financing is expected as follows:

Governments	EURO 210,000.00
Inter-governmental Organizations	EURO 30,000.00
Non-governmental Organizations	EURO 30,000.00
Industry	EURO 30,000.00

Expected outputs

Two comprehensive documents that contain the following:

1. Background information on DDT use and its alternatives, ongoing initiatives to develop and deploy alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT use, the barriers and gaps to such development and the results of consultation with funding agencies and donors;
2. A business plan that contains up to three options for having a global partnership for developing and deploying alternatives to DDT and how such a partnership could be created and what are the costs involved to implement each option.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention will spearhead the process and, along with the WHO, will monitor the progress being made and evaluate the preparation of the papers at each stage as shown in the design and implementation plan. Additionally, all stakeholders will be kept informed through a dedicated section on the Stockholm Convention web page and will be asked to provide comments and input to the analyses and the development of options for establishing a global partnership.

Organizational Capacity

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention works closely with the WHO in supporting Parties to the Stockholm Convention that are using DDT for disease vector control. Currently, the Stockholm Convention includes 146 Party States across the globe. The Secretariat is housed at the United Nations Environment Programme office in Geneva and facilitates and coordinates the work earmarked by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

At its third meeting in Dakar, Senegal in early May, 2007, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to collaborate with the WHO in facilitating the preparation of a business plan for promoting a global partnership to develop and deploy alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT use in disease vector control. The Secretariat has seven professional staff with several years of experience working in the international arena on hazardous chemicals through its history with United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals Branch.

The WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. More than 8000 people from more than 150 countries work for the Organization in 147 country offices, six regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to medical doctors, public health specialists, scientists and epidemiologists, WHO staff include people trained to manage administrative, financial, and information systems, as well as experts in the fields of health statistics, economics and emergency relief.

These two organizations together have extended expertise in establishing and implementing global partnerships and in working with countries that are endemic for the malaria disease. The intention is for both organizations to work with a global, independent, financial consultancy firm to prepare the analyses required.

Required expertise for implementation

There is requirement for a professional to support the compilation of background information and to assist in the bureaucratic process for the preparation of the business plan. This person should have extended knowledge of DDT use, have experience in compiling and collating data on chemicals and have a background grounded in chemistry. Preferably, the person should be fluent in English and be competent in the use of the French language. Being able to communicate in Swahili would be an asset.

An international consultancy organization is required to undertake the preparation of the business plan. This organization should be global in outlook; have expertise and experience in undertaking the task; be an independent body; have the confidence of all stakeholders; be knowledgeable on the use of DDT and on disease vector control; and, be capable of producing a comprehensive paper for providing options for a global partnership.

The consultant organization should have extensive experience in the preparation of strategic plans on a global scale. The consultant organization should have technical expertise in chemicals, disease vector control and on DDT in particular. The consultant organization should be competent in undertaking analyses on complex issues and have wide acceptability and confidence by all sectors of society including the main, relevant players in governments, industry, research, NGOs and IGOs. The consultant organization should have successful experience in convening international meetings and be fully competent in the use of the English language.