



SC



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Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Expert Group to assess DDT production and use and its alternatives
Second meeting
Geneva, 21-23 November 2006

Report of the DDT Expert Group to the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Draft Outline

1. Background

At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, in its decision SC-2/2: DDT, Item 7, requested 'the Secretariat in collaboration with the World Health Organization to support Parties in undertaking data collection and reporting activities and to carry out activities related to the process for evaluating the continued need for DDT and to provide guidance for the Conference of the Parties to make an evaluation at its third meeting.' Also at that second meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted on an interim basis the process for the reporting assessment and the evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control contained in the annex to that decision. The process for assessment includes the establishment of an expert group. The expert group is to address the issues outlined in paragraphs 2-8 of decision SC-2/2 on DDT taken at the second Conference of the Parties and specifically will:

- (a) undertake a situational analysis on the production and use of DDT and the conditions for such use, including a review of the responses by countries to the questionnaire;
- (b) evaluate the availability, suitability and implementation of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT;
- (c) evaluate progress in strengthening the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on such alternatives, based on a review of the opportunities and needs in countries for sustainable transition;
- (d) make recommendations on the evaluation and reporting mechanisms as relating to paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part II of Annex B;
- (e) consider and assess the actions being taken by Parties to accomplish the following:
 - (i) Development of regulatory and other mechanisms to ensure that DDT use is restricted to disease vector control;

- (ii) Implementation of suitable alternative products, methods and strategies, including resistance management strategies to ensure the continuing effectiveness of these alternatives;
- (iii) Measures to strengthen health care and to reduce the incidence of the disease;
- (iv) Promotion of research and development of safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products, methods and strategies for Parties using DDT, relevant to the conditions of those countries and with the goal of decreasing the human and economic burden of disease. Factors to be promoted when considering alternatives or combinations of alternatives shall include the human health risks and environmental implications of such alternatives. Viable alternatives to DDT shall pose less risk to human health and the environment, be suitable for disease control based on conditions in the Parties in question and be supported by monitoring data.

In preparation for the expert group meeting, the Secretariat, as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, distributed the electronic format of the DDT questionnaire to Party States and non-Party States alike and also made the questionnaire available on the Convention website.

The expert group meeting was subsequently called by the Secretariat in collaboration with WHO with the overall objective to prepare a report to assist in the evaluation of the continued need for DDT by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting in May 2007.

Participants attending the expert group meeting included experts from The Gambia, South Africa, the USA, representatives from WHO, UNEP Chemicals, and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

During its deliberations, the expert group considered the issues that were outlined by the Conference of the Parties and provides a report within the following format:

- Situation analysis of the production and use of DDT
 - Availability, relevance, cost-effectiveness and deployment of chemical and non- chemical alternatives
 - Analysis of country capacity to transfer safely to reliance on alternatives
 - Assessment of actions by Parties to control and reduce release of DDT
 - Review of the information collection and assessment processes including responses from countries to the Questionnaire on DDT and its alternatives
 - Current WHO Policies and Guidelines and activities regarding DDT and disease vector control
 - Conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group
- 2. Situation analysis of the production and use of DDT**
- 1.1 Production trends and new developments
 - 1.2 Use patterns and trends
 - 1.3 Vector resistance to DDT
 - 1.4 Regulation and enforcement for the control of DDT use
- 3. Availability, relevance, cost-effectiveness and deployment of chemical and non-chemical alternatives**
- 2.1 Alternative chemicals in use
 - 2.2 Alternative non-chemical strategies employed
 - 2.3 Research on alternatives

4. Analysis of country capacity to transfer safely to reliance on alternatives

- 3.1 Status of capacities of countries to implement alternatives
- 3.2 Case studies on successful elimination of DDT use
- 3.3 Requirements for reducing reliance on DDT

5. Assessment of actions by Parties to control and reduce release of DDT

- 4.1 Development of regulatory and enforcement mechanisms to restrict DDT use
- 4.2 Implementation of alternative strategies with vector resistance management
- 4.3 Measures to strengthen health care
- 4.4 Promotion of research and development of alternatives
- 4.5 Environmentally sound storage and destruction of DDT stockpiles

6. Review of the information collection and assessment processes including the DDT Questionnaire and the corresponding responses from countries and the criteria for formation and mandate of the expert group

- 2.1 Responses to the questionnaire
- 2.2 Revision of the questionnaire
- 2.3 Active data collection
- 2.4 Sources and quality of data
- 2.5 Reporting and assessment processes

7. Current WHO Policies and Guidelines and activities regarding DDT and disease vector control

8. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Expert Group