



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

Review of the adequacy of the process for the reporting, assessment and the evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) in its decision SC-2/2 item 4, requested the Secretariat to review the adequacy of the process for the reporting assessment and the evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control as contained in the annex to the decision and to propose to the COP at its third meeting any modifications that were deemed necessary.
2. In collaboration with UNEP Chemicals and the World Health Organization, the Secretariat reviewed the process.
3. Annex I to the present note contains the draft review of the process for the reporting, assessment and the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control.

Annex I

Draft review of the adequacy of the process for the reporting, assessment and the evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control

At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) in its decision SC-2/2 item 4, requested the Secretariat to review the adequacy of the process for the reporting assessment and the evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control as contained in the annex to the decision and to propose to the COP at its third meeting any modifications that were deemed necessary. In collaboration with UNEP Chemicals and the World Health Organization, the Secretariat reviewed the process and also incorporated the consideration of certain Parties on the results of the review. The results of the review are presented below.

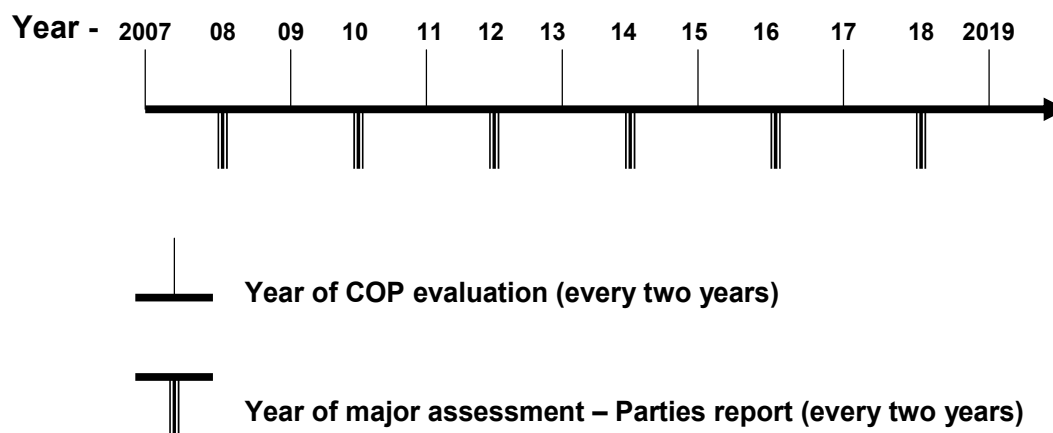
Current reporting and evaluation procedure

The current process for reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control is dictated by various obligations provided in the text of the Stockholm Convention. These obligations include:

- Annex B, Part II, paragraph 6: “...*The Conference of the Parties to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control at least every three years....*”
- Rules of Procedure (Rule 4): “*The second and third ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held yearly and, thereafter, ordinary meetings shall be held every two years*”
- Annex B, Part II, paragraph 4: “*Every three years each Party that uses DDT shall provide to the Secretariat and the World Health Organization information on the amount used....*”

The consequences of these obligations are that firstly, the COP is obliged to evaluate the continued need for DDT at each of its meetings every two years. Secondly, if the COP is to have the benefit of the information from Parties at each evaluation, then the Parties should report every two years rather than every three years. So far, the COP has made an evaluation at its first meeting and will do so again at its third meeting. This is a result of the first three meetings of the COP being held annually. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the COP at its third meeting in 2007, Parties have been asked to report on a two year cycle. If this continues, Parties will report every two years to coincide with the evaluation by the COP at each of its meetings. A representation of this is shown below in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Current schedule for Reporting by Parties, Assessments by the expert group and Evaluations by COP on DDT production and use



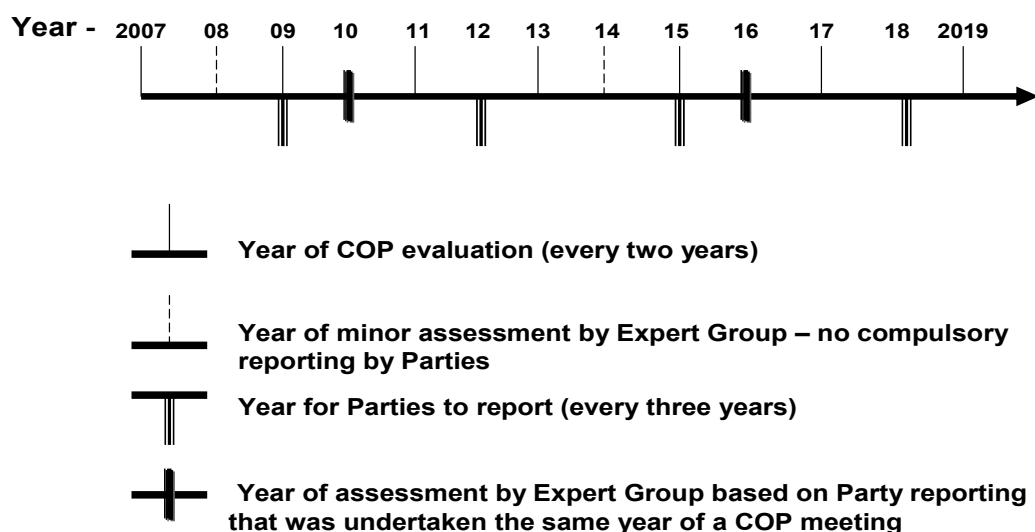
Alternative reporting and evaluation procedure

In order to reconcile the inconsistency in reporting and evaluation periods and the timing of the meetings of the COP that are provided in the Convention, the following is proposed:

- The COP continues to do an evaluation every two years to coincide with each meeting.
- The Parties report every three years to reflect precisely their obligations under the Convention.
- Once every six years (or every third COP), there is a minor assessment undertaken by the expert group that includes information provided voluntarily by Parties.

A graphic presentation of the sequence of events is shown below in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Proposed schedule for Reporting by Parties, Assessments by the Expert Group (EG) and Evaluations by COP on DDT production and use



This schedule would be in compliance with the Convention regarding the reporting and evaluation of DDT for disease vector control. However, it would also mean that once every six years starting from the COP in 2011, the evaluation would be based on information that is collected from Parties two years previously during the year of a COP meeting (year 2009). The assessment by the expert group on information collected from Parties in 2009 would be made in 2010, that is, the year prior to the next COP meeting. Additionally, once every six years, starting in 2008, an assessment would be undertaken by the expert group without the benefit of the information from the comprehensive, mandatory reporting by Parties. This minor assessment would be made by the expert group with a request for information to be provided by Parties on a voluntary basis only.

This schedule would save the COP approximately USD\$150,000 every six years and maintain the exact obligations of reporting and evaluation as read under the Convention.

Reporting, Assessment and Evaluation schedule

The sequence of events leading up to an evaluation by the COP on the continued need for DDT use in disease vector control will require approximately 13 months and include: distribution and completion of the questionnaire; analysis of data; expert group review of the analysis and development of recommendations; completion and translation of the expert group report; distribution of the report at least six weeks in advance of the meeting of the COP; and the eventual evaluation by the COP at its meeting. For these activities, the schedule for timely completion is given below.

Table 1. Schedule for completing a cycle for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of DDT for disease vector control.

| Event | Timing |
|--|----------------------|
| Distribute questionnaire | April Year 1 |
| Parties complete questionnaire (or report voluntarily) | May-September Year 1 |
| Analysis of data | October Year 1 |
| Expert group meeting | November Year 1 |
| Complete expert group report | December Year 1 |
| Translation and distribution of expert group report | February Year 2 |
| Evaluation by the COP | May Year 2 |

Reporting procedure

The format for reporting and the questionnaire for additional information on DDT were adopted by the COP at its first meeting. Parties are expected to complete these for each reporting cycle. The electronic version of the questionnaire and the reporting format provides an opportunity for data to be collected, collated and analyzed electronically. Additionally, active data collection from other sources will be undertaken and crosschecked with the data from Parties to avoid duplication and to validate data collected.

Analysis of data

A joint web-based WHO/UNEP/Secretariat information clearing house on the use of DDT and its alternatives in disease vector control will document lessons learned and best practices on integrated vector management. It will facilitate timely access of Parties to a single point of relevant global information, promote the exchange of experiences by Parties and assist the COP evaluation processes. The information will enable comparisons and assessment of trends among others.

A consultant will be contracted by the Secretariat after seeking the advice of the World Health Organization. The consultant will analyze the information presented by Parties on DDT production and use and any other pertinent and credible information that is available. The consultant will prepare a preliminary report to the expert group for assessment based on this analysis.

Expert Group for assessment

An expert group will assess the information collected from individual Parties and other sources and submit their conclusions and recommendations to the COP through the Secretariat. Currently, the expert group comprises of fifteen members (15) selected by the World Health Organization.

This selection process does not give the Parties an opportunity to review the selection of experts. The following modification is proposed for the selection and composition of the expert group:

There will be a total of eighteen (18) experts selected as follows:

- Ten (10) experts nominated by each of two selected Parties aligned to each of the five regions of the globe. The selection of Parties to provide the nomination of experts will be undertaken on a regional basis at each alternative meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Parties selected are to name their nominees to the Secretariat not later than June 30 of the following year to facilitate the next assessment of DDT for disease vector control. Such nominated experts shall serve for at least two sets of assessments. If a nominated expert is unable to complete the term of two sets of assessments, the Party nominating that expert shall, in consultation with the Secretariat and the World Health Organization, declare another expert to complete the term. If the replacement expert originates from another Party within that region, such a selection shall be endorsed by that Party before the selection can be considered confirmed.
- Five (5) experts nominated by the World Health Organization. If any nominee is from a Party to the Convention, endorsement of that nominee shall be obtained from the Party through its Stockholm Convention Focal Point.

- Three (3) representatives from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals combined. This will include the consultant that will analyze the information collected and who will prepare a preliminary report for the Expert Group.

This Expert Group will meet approximately 6 months before the meeting of each Conference of the Parties.

The expert group will specifically:

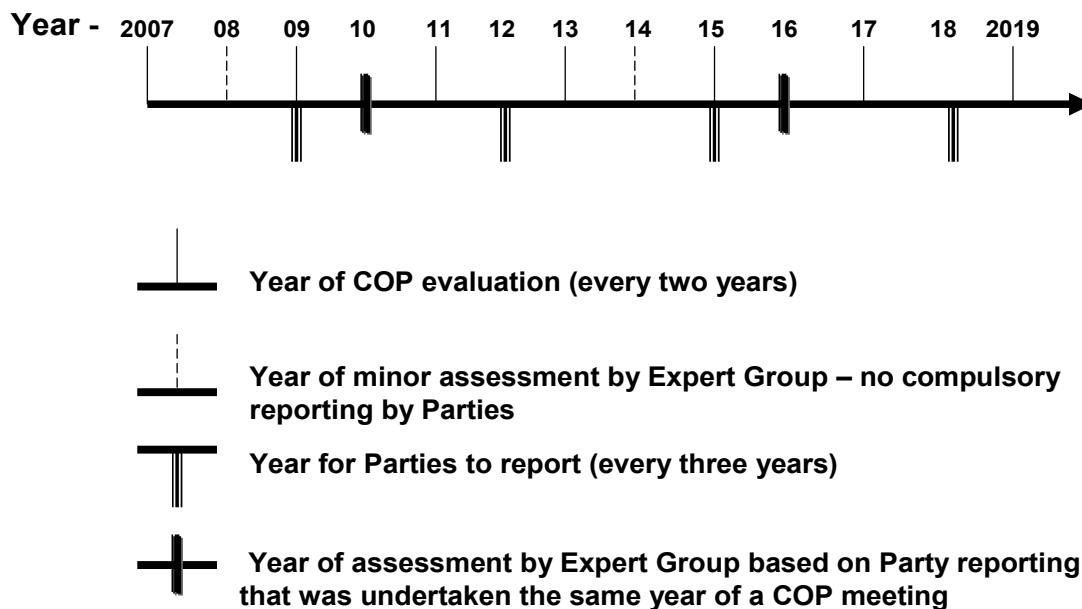
- (a) Undertake a situational analysis on the production and use of DDT and the conditions for such use, including a review of the responses by countries to the questionnaire;
- (b) Evaluate the availability, suitability and implementation of alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT;
- (c) Evaluate progress in strengthening the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on suitable alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT, 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;
 - (v) Destruction of stockpiles of DDT in an environmentally sound manner and the storage of remaining stockpiles in a manner that does not present a serious risk to human health and the environment;
 - (vi) Make recommendation to the subsequent Conference of the Parties on the continued need of DDT for disease vector control and of any actions deemed necessary to reduce the reliance on DDT given the assessments undertaken in items (a) through (e) above.

Recommendation

Based on the review conducted above, the following recommendations are provided for the implementation of the reporting, assessment and evaluation of DDT for disease vector control by the Conference of the Parties:

1. The evaluation on the continued need for DDT for disease vector control is undertaken every two years at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties as shown in Figure 2 below;

Figure 2. Proposed schedule for Reporting by Parties, Assessments by the Expert Group (EG) and Evaluations by COP on DDT production and use



2. The timing for reporting on DDT production and use by Parties is every three years (see figure 2 above);
3. Every six years, an assessment by the expert group is undertaken that includes only voluntary information from Parties (e.g. year 2008). The subsequent evaluation by the Conference of the Parties (year 2009) is undertaken based on this minor assessment;
4. Every six years, Parties will report on DDT production and use during the same year as a COP meeting (e.g. year 2009). The assessment by the expert group on this information from the Parties will be undertaken during the following year (year 2010). The evaluation by the COP from this assessment will be during the next COP meeting slated for the following year (Year 2011);
5. The expert group will comprise eighteen (18) persons. The selection of the expert group is as follows:
 - i. Ten (10) experts nominated by each of two selected Parties aligned to each of the five regions of the globe. The selection of Parties to provide the nomination of experts will be undertaken on a regional basis at each alternative meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Parties selected are to name their nominees to the Secretariat not later than June 30 of the following year to facilitate the next assessment of DDT for disease vector control. Such nominated experts shall serve for at least two sets of assessments. If a nominated expert is unable to complete the term of two sets of assessments, the Party nominating that expert shall, in consultation with the Secretariat and the World Health Organization, declare another expert to complete the term. If the replacement expert originates from another Party within that region, such a selection shall be endorsed by that Party before the selection can be considered confirmed;
 - ii. Five (5) experts selected by the World Health Organization. If any nominee is from a Party to the Convention, endorsement of that nominee shall be obtained from the Party through its Stockholm Convention Focal Point.
 - iii. Three (3) experts including representatives from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, UNEP Chemicals and the consultant that undertakes the analysis of the information collected.
6. The Expert Group will meet approximately 6 months before the meeting of each Conference of the Parties. The expert group will specifically:

- (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 suitable alternative products, methods and strategies to DDT, 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.
 - v. Destruction of stockpiles of DDT in an environmentally sound manner and the storage of remaining stockpiles in a manner that does not present a serious risk to human health and the environment.
 - vi. Make recommendation to the subsequent Conference of the Parties on the continued need of DDT for disease vector control and of any actions deemed necessary to reduce the reliance on DDT given the assessments undertaken in items (a) through (e) above.