



**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants**

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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Fourth meeting**

Geneva, 4–8 May 2009

Item 5 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:
measures to reduce or eliminate releases
from intentional production and use: DDT**

**Evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control
and alternatives to DDT****

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. Paragraph 6 of part II of Annex II of the Stockholm Convention states that commencing at its first meeting and at least every three years thereafter the Conference of the Parties shall, in consultation with the World Health Organization, evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information. The Conference of the Parties now has ordinary meetings every two years. In the light of that fact the Conference of the Parties provided in paragraph 2 of the revised process for DDT reporting, assessment and evaluation contained in annex I to decision SC-3/2 that the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control would be undertaken at each ordinary meeting.
2. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties concluded in paragraph 2 of decision SC-3/2 that countries that were currently using DDT for disease vector control might need to continue such use until locally appropriate and cost-effective alternatives were available for sustainable transition away from DDT.
3. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision SC-3/2 the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised process for DDT reporting, assessment and evaluation and the revised format and questionnaire for Parties to report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control set out in annex II to the decision. The Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to undertake the translation of the electronic format of the questionnaire into the six official United Nations languages.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

** Mandate for the action described in the present note contained in: Stockholm Convention, Article 3 and Annex B, Part II; reports of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/25, on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/2, and on the work of its third meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30), annex I, decision 3/2.

4. In paragraph 5 of decision SC-3/2, the Conference of the Parties reminded Parties using and/or producing DDT that had not notified and reported on such use or production to do so.

5. In paragraphs 6, 8, 9 and 10 of decision SC-3/2, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization:

(a) To undertake data collection, data analysis and assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control established in the process for reporting on and evaluation of DDT and provide guidance for the Conference of the Parties to make an evaluation at its fourth meeting;

(b) To continue the activities being undertaken to strengthen the capacity of countries to report on the production and use of DDT for disease vector control;

(c) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting on the status of the implementation of integrated vector management;

(d) To develop a business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies that can be used as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control.

A. Data collection, data analysis and assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control

6. To facilitate Party reporting on DDT, the Secretariat is preparing an interactive electronic version of the questionnaire that will be available in 2009.

7. Paragraph 10 of the process for the reporting on and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease control states that the DDT expert group that was established to assess the information collected on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control is to comprise ten members nominated by Parties (two from each United Nations region), five invited experts selected by the World Health Organization and three experts selected by the Secretariat.

8. Since Parties were not selected at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to nominate experts, the Secretariat requested all Parties to submit nominations, following which the members of the Bureau selected the members of the expert group for their respective regions from among the nominated experts. Two experts were selected from each region with the exception of the Latin America and Caribbean region, from which no experts were nominated from any of the States that are Parties to the Stockholm Convention in that region. Five experts were nominated by the World Health Organization and three experts by the Secretariat. The current list of members of the DDT expert group is provided in the annex to the present note.

9. The DDT expert group met from 18 to 20 November 2008 to assess the continued need for DDT for disease vector control. The report of the meeting is available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/5. Among other things, the expert group recommended, based on the available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, that the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting conclude that there is a continued need for DDT for disease vector control in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT.

B. Strengthening the capacities of Parties to report on DDT

10. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, carried out four workshops to support Parties in their efforts to report on DDT production and use. The workshops were held from 10 to 14 March 2008 in Rabat, Morocco, from 24 to 26 October 2007 in Piggs Peak, Swaziland, from 3 to 7 May 2008 in Sana'a, and from 22 to 24 July 2008 in Bangkok.

C. Status of the implementation of integrated vector management

11. In response to the request of the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 9 of decision SC-3/2, the World Health Organization prepared a paper on the global status of the implementation of integrated vector management. That paper is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/3.

D. Related activities that are funded by the Global Environment Facility and co-financers

12. The Council of the Global Environment Facility at its meeting from 22 to 25 April 2008 endorsed the objectives of a programmatic approach to demonstrating and scaling up sustainable alternatives to DDT in vector management, under which full-sized projects are to be financed. This

includes projects endorsed by the Council to demonstrate the effectiveness of alternatives to DDT for disease vector control in Africa and in North Africa and the Mediterranean respectively. There is a similar proposal being evaluated by the Global Environment Facility for work to be undertaken in South-East Asia. The implementing agency for these projects is the United Nations Environment Programme and the executing agency is the World Health Organization.

E. Preparation of a business plan to promote global partnerships to develop and deploy DDT alternatives

13. To develop the business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies that can serve as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control the Secretariat, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, undertook a consultative process that included two meetings and regular interaction with stakeholders. The first meeting, which was held on 11 October 2007 in Geneva, involved a small selected group of representatives from key sectors who were convened to consider the process for preparing the business plan. The report of the meeting, which includes a list of participants, is available on the Stockholm Convention website (www.pops.int) under "Programmes/DDT/Projects and plans". Based on the recommendations made at the meeting, the Secretariat prepared a background paper on the global status of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control, which was peer-reviewed by scientific experts from various related sectors concerned with DDT use. The paper is reproduced in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/28.

14. The Secretariat commissioned an independent consultant agency, Dalberg-Global Development Advisors, to prepare a draft of the business plan in consultation with all stakeholders concerned with the production and use of DDT and with the development of alternatives.

15. The Secretariat convened a second stakeholders' meeting from 1 to 3 November 2008 in Geneva to consider the interim report prepared by the consulting firm. Meeting participants included representatives from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, international donor agencies and industry. The report of the meeting, including a list of participants, is available on the Stockholm Convention website under "Programmes/DDT/Projects and plans". The final preparation of the business plan took into consideration the comments made at the meeting. The business plan is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/6. Supporting information for the business plan and related reference material is provided in information document UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/2.

II. Possible action by the Conference of Parties

16. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To take note of the report by the DDT expert group on the assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, including the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

(b) To evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including that provided by the DDT expert group;

(c) To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to continue the activities being undertaken to strengthen the capacity of countries to report on the production and use of DDT for disease vector control;

(d) To request the financial mechanism of the Convention to support the work referred to in the previous subparagraph financially and to invite other financial institutions and countries to do the same;

(e) To take note of the report on the global status of the implementation of integrated vector management and to express appreciation for the work of the World Health Organization to prepare the report;

(f) To endorse the business plan prepared by the Secretariat through the consultative process described above;

(g) To request the Secretariat to initiate the implementation of the business plan with a view to launching the global partnership for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies that can serve as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control;

- (h) To invite the Global Environment Facility and other international financial institutions to support efforts to implement the business plan;
- (i) To invite all stakeholders to participate actively in the global partnership;
- (j) To invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial resources to support the work to be undertaken through the global partnership;
- (k) To invite the World Health Organization to participate actively in the work referred to above and in any other manner that may support the Conference of Parties in future evaluations of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and in identifying suitable alternatives to DDT for disease vector control.

Annex

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September 2007–2011

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