



# United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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26 August 2004

**To:** Stockholm Convention Focal Points  
POPs INC- 7 Heads of Delegation  
UNEP Official Points of Contact

**Subject:** Evaluation of the continued need for DDT use in disease vector control

Dear Colleagues,

The Stockholm Convention requires that each Party that uses DDT for disease vector control provides to the Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) information on the amount used, the conditions of such use and its relevance to that Party's disease management strategy in a format to be decided by the Conference of the Parties in consultation with the WHO (Paragraph 4 of Annex B of the Convention).

The Stockholm Convention further requires that the Conference of the Parties, commencing at its first meeting and at least every three years thereafter, evaluates in consultation with the WHO, the continued need for DDT in disease vector control. The evaluation should be made on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including production and use of DDT; availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives to DDT; and progress in strengthening the capacity of countries to transfer to reliance on such alternatives (Paragraph 6 of Annex B of the Convention).

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, requested at its 6<sup>th</sup> session in June 2002 that the Secretariat in cooperation with WHO prepare a report on a possible format for the reporting by Parties using DDT. A proposed format for a questionnaire on DDT and alternatives was considered at the 7<sup>th</sup> session of INC and in its decision INC7-2 on DDT, the INC requested that:

- field testing of the draft format of the questionnaire be carried out in countries using DDT for disease vector control for reporting by Parties that use, produce, import and export DDT for disease vector control;
- experts in forms design be consulted regarding how the format and the questionnaire could be modified to be more efficient and effective in collecting the required information;
- a modified format and questionnaire be developed taking into account the results of the field testing and the expert consultation;
- The modified format and questionnaire be submitted to the first meeting of the Conference of Parties for its consideration and possible adoption, with any amendments.

The INC further invited Parties that use, produce, import, export and/or maintain stocks of DDT to provide information on such activities using the draft format and questionnaire to the Secretariat not later than 6 months before the first meeting of the Conference of Parties.

Field testing of the draft format and questionnaire has taken place with the support of the Regional Offices of WHO for Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, South East Asia and the Americas.

A meeting with experts and representatives from selected countries that took part in the field-testing was subsequently convened jointly by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and WHO from 19-20 August 2004 in Geneva with the objective to evaluate the results of the field testing of the draft format and questionnaire on DDT and to develop a modified version for consideration by the Conference of Parties at its first meeting in May 2005.

Enclosed is this revised version, which presently is only available in the English language. We kindly request countries (both Parties and non-Parties) that produce and/or use DDT or maintain stocks of DDT for disease vector control to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention **not later than 22 October 2004**.

The information obtained through this questionnaire will ensure critical input from countries for the report that will be developed by WHO to assist the Conference of Parties in its evaluation of the continued need for DDT in disease vector control at the first meeting in May 2005. To enable WHO to prepare a timely report for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it would be highly appreciated if the responses to the questionnaire could be provided in the English language.

Please also find enclosed additional instructions for completing the questionnaire.

A copy of the present letter will be sent by WHO to national malaria/vector control programmes at the ministries of health and you are kindly requested to coordinate with the same office in your country to ensure a timely and adequate input.

Please submit completed questionnaires to:

James B. Willis, Executive Secretary  
**Attn.: DDT format and questionnaire**  
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
United Nations Environment Programme  
11-13 chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
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**E-mail:** [ssc@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:ssc@chemicals.unep.ch)

**Submissions by e-mail are preferred.**

If E-mail response is possible, please copy your response to Jacob Williams, WHO, at: [williamsj@who.int](mailto:williamsj@who.int) and Agneta Sunden-Bylehn at: [asunden@unep.ch](mailto:asunden@unep.ch). If not, the Secretariat will forward a copy of your response to WHO. If you have any questions, please contact Jacob (tel.: +41-22-791-2632) or Agneta (tel.: +41-22-917-8193).

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

James B. Willis  
Executive Secretary