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| SC BW NOTEXT | **Stockholm Convention  on Persistent Organic  Pollutants** | Distr.: General 29 November 2016  Original: English |

**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm   
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

Item 5 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:  
measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional   
production and use: DDT**

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

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of part II of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and in line with the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control set out in annex I to decision SC-3/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention undertakes an evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control at each of its ordinary meetings.
2. In paragraph 2 of decision SC-7/2, on DDT, the Conference of the Parties concluded that countries that were relying on indoor residual spraying for disease vector control might need DDT for such uses in specific settings where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives were still lacking for a sustainable transition away from DDT.
3. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted a list of Parties to be invited to nominate experts to serve as members of the DDT expert group for terms of office of four years commencing on 1 September 2015.
4. In paragraphs 6 and 11 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue to support the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, to assist Parties to promote locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives for a sustainable transition away from DDT and to continue to participate in the activities of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control.
5. In paragraphs 9 and 10 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the key elements of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/5), invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to lead the implementation of the road map in consultation with the World Health Organization (WHO), the DDT expert group and the Secretariat and invited UNEP to report on progress in the implementation of the road map and of the Global Alliance to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

**II. Implementation**

A. Assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control by the DDT expert group

1. A list of the members of the DDT expert group nominated by the Parties listed in the annex to decision SC-7/2 with terms of office commencing on 1 September 2015 is set out in annex II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/6.
2. In accordance with the process set out in annex I to decision SC-3/2, on 31 January 2015 the Secretariat circulated to Parties the DDT questionnaire for reporting by each Party on the production and use of DDT for disease vector control and for reporting other information relevant to the evaluation of the continued need for DDT. The information collected through the DDT questionnaire for the period 2012–2014 was included in a preliminary report that was used by the DDT expert group as a working document for its assessment.
3. In order to facilitate the work of the DDT expert group intersessionally, online meetings of the group were convened on 9 and 24 June 2016 to identify key elements of the assessment and possible intersessional activities to be undertaken.
4. The DDT expert group met in person from 7 to 9 November 2016 to assess the continued need for DDT for disease vector control (UNEP/POPS/DDT-EG.6/2).A report of the expert group on the assessment of the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control, with recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/6. The conclusions and recommendations of the DDT expert group flowing from the assessment are reproduced in the annex to the present note. In addition to its own assessment, in finalizing its recommendations the DDT expert group also considered the conclusions and recommendations pertaining to DDT resulting from the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention pursuant to Article 16.
5. A report by WHO pertaining to the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/7.

B. Reporting of information on the use of DDT and alternatives for disease vector control

1. To assist Parties to promote locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives for a sustainable transition away from DDT, the Secretariat, thanks to generous financial support provided by the Government of France, developed a toolkit for the sound management of DDT for disease vector control with the aim of providing user-friendly access to information and resources pertaining to the life-cycle management of DDT in the context of the chemicals and wastes conventions.[[2]](#footnote-2)

C. Road map for the development of alternatives to DDT

1. The Chemicals and Wastes Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics led the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT in consultation with WHO, the DDT expert group and the Secretariat.
2. Two reports by UNEP, on the implementation of the road map and on progress in the implementation of the Global Alliance, are presented in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/8 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/9, respectively.
3. The Secretariat has continued to collaborate with UNEP on activities related to DDT.

D. Effectiveness evaluation pertaining to DDT

1. The main findings, conclusions and recommendations pertaining to DDT may be found in paragraphs 55–64 of the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1).

III. Proposed action

1. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the needs recognized in decision SC-8/[…] on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to DDT,

1. *Takes 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;[[3]](#footnote-3)
2. *Concludes* that countries that rely on indoor residual spraying for disease vector control may need DDT for that purpose in specific settings where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are still lacking for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
3. *Notes* the necessity of providing technical, financial and other assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for a transition away from reliance on DDT for disease vector control, with due priority accorded to:

(a) Reporting on DDT by Parties to enable adequate assessment under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including in particular the mechanism for reporting on use, import and export and stockpiles of DDT and the use of other chemicals for indoor residual spraying;

(b) Ensuring adequate national capacity for research, resistance monitoring and implementation for pilot testing and scaling up of existing alternatives to DDT;

1. *Urges* Parties to seek guidance from the World Health Organization before considering DDT for the control of vectors of arboviruses;
2. *Decides* to evaluate at its ninth meeting the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of the available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including that provided by the DDT expert group, with the objective of accelerating the identification and development of locally appropriate, cost‑effective and safe alternatives;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to support the process set out in annex I to decision SC-3/2 and to assist Parties to promote locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
4. *Takes note* of:

(a) The report by the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT[[4]](#footnote-4) and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to lead the implementation of the road map, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the DDT expert group, the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control and the Secretariat, and to report on progress in the implementation of the road map to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(b) The report by the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control[[5]](#footnote-5) and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to report on progress in the implementation of the activities of the Global Alliance towards achieving its goals to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(c) The information reported by the World Health Organization on the use of DDT and DDT alternatives in disease vector control[[6]](#footnote-6) and welcomes the existing collaboration with the World Health Organization and invites its continued collaboration in the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control referred to in paragraph 6 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 promoting suitable alternatives to DDT for disease vector control;

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to participate in the activities of the Global Alliance;
2. *Invites* Parties and others to continue to provide technical and financial resources to support the implementation of the activities of the Global Alliance, including the activities set out in the road map.

Annex

Conclusions and recommendations in the report of the expert group on the assessment of the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control[[7]](#footnote-7)1

Concluding summary

1. Reducing disease burden is a primary objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to socioeconomic and agricultural development, urbanization, forced displacement and climate change. Every year, vector borne diseases account for more than 17% of the global burden of infectious diseases. Control of these diseases depends upon suppression of vector populations using insecticides and other methods. A number of countries consider DDT an important element of their vector borne disease control and elimination efforts. Under the Stockholm Convention, DDT use is restricted to appropriate disease vector control.
2. Thirty countries, out of 178 Parties to the Stockholm Convention, responded to the 2012–2014 DDT questionnaire administered by the Secretariat. Currently 17 Parties are listed in the DDT Register; of those only 10 have responded out of which three reported use of DDT for disease vector control. However, information provided by exporters indicated that at least five other countries in addition to these have imported DDT during the reporting period. The assessment of the continued need for DDT is limited by the poor response rate by Parties and poor quality and inconsistency of information provided through the DDT questionnaire and other information channels.
3. Global annual DDT production remained mostly unchanged compared to the 2009–2011 reporting cycle, approximately 3,300 metric tons of the active ingredient. In the current reporting cycle, India was the only producer of DDT, 91% of which was for domestic use; and the remainder was exported. Of the three Parties reporting use of DDT, a modest decline was reported in India, a substantial reduction in South Africa and a 10 fold increase in Mozambique. In India, the use of DDT has substantially shifted from malaria to leishmaniasis control. None of the 30 responding Parties reported using DDT for purposes other than disease vector control.
4. 26 out of 30 responding Parties reported the existence of national laws and regulations on DDT. Among the four remaining countries, one reported using DDT for vector control. India has developed and implemented a plan for sound management of pesticide products used in Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS).
5. The ongoing disposal of obsolete DDT stocks was coordinated by several organizations. However, the inventory of DDT stockpiles is far from complete and therefore remains a global challenge for safe management and disposal. Information in the DDT questionnaire and that contained in the Road Map for the Development of Alternatives to DDT and other sources of information show significant discrepancies in stock quantities. This Road Map is seeking to accelerate the management of stockpiles and also the promotion of alternatives within its framework.
6. Effective vector control and disease elimination are threatened by inadequate human capacity and infrastructure in vector control programmes, the spread of insecticide resistance, outdoor biting by malaria vectors, and poor coordination between the relevant ministries, research institutions and other stakeholders. Many vector control programmes are heavily dependent on external funding which undermines their long-term sustainability.
7. Adoption of Integrated Vector Management and insecticide resistance management into control programmes are progressing slowly. Insecticide resistance in vector populations is widespread and is increasing. Training tools and guidelines are available for use of alternative insecticides and non‑chemical methods. A draft strategic Global Vector Control Response 2017–2030 being developed by WHO, which will be considered for endorsement by World Health Assembly in May 2017, will highlight the importance of vector control in line with goal 3.3 of SDG.
8. The use of alternative chemicals for IRS is constrained by factors such as insecticide resistance, cost, efficacy, toxicity and duration of insecticidal effect. An alternative approach to the large scale use of DDT may include the targeted use of IRS with more costly insecticides in low transmission settings; this approach requires robust surveillance. Several countries have moved towards targeted IRS, thereby reducing the amounts of insecticides used.
9. There are a number of existing and potential alternatives to DDT. Long-lasting Insecticidal Nets for malaria vector control are highly effective in certain ecological and community settings. Larval source management is an effective supplemental intervention in particular settings. Appropriate house improvements and insecticide-treated curtains have been shown to reduce exposure to malaria vectors. Personal protection methods with niche applications include use of topical repellents, insecticide treated clothing and blankets/hammocks.
10. In addition, there is an extensive research and development pipeline of novel vector control tools relying on a variety of approaches, including new molecule and repurposed chemicals; bacterial, physical and genetic manipulation of vectors; vector baiting and trapping techniques; new generation LLINs including the use of synergists to restore susceptibility to pyrethroids; insect growth regulators; and fungal IRS. However, none of these new vector control approaches are currently backed by sufficient evidence of epidemiological efficacy, safe use and efficient operational delivery to be considered for public health interventions. In some cases, insufficient funding has led to slow development of new tools.

Recommendations

1. The DDT Expert Group reaffirms that there is a continued need for DDT for IRS in specific settings for disease vector control where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are still lacking, and agreed to the following recommendations:
   1. Reporting on DDT by Parties should be significantly improved to undertake adequate assessments under the Convention, particularly the mechanism for reporting on use, import and export, and stockpiles of DDT, including the use of other chemicals for IRS;
   2. Coordination between the entities that collect relevant information on DDT including the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, UNEP monitoring programme and the WHO’s reporting system on public health pesticides should be further enhanced;
   3. Further support for the identification and safe disposal of obsolete DDT stockpiles should be further strengthened with the aim of complete removal of the obsolete stocks;
   4. Use of DDT for leishmaniasis vector control should only be considered if safe, effective and affordable alternatives to DDT are not available;
   5. Countries should seek WHO guidance before considering DDT for the control of vectors of arboviruses;
   6. To ensure judicious use of resources, including DDT, countries in low or medium transmission settings should endeavour to adopt a targeted approach to IRS which must be based on an adequate surveillance system;
   7. National capacity for research, resistance monitoring and implementation should be increased for pilot testing and up-scaling of existing alternatives to DDT by relevant national and international bodies within the framework of the proposed WHO Global Vector Control Response and the Roadmap for the Development of alternatives to DDT;
   8. There is an urgent need for funding at the global level for research and development into new vector control tools, aiming to generate evidence that would meet the requirements for policy recommendations on alternatives to DDT by WHO;
   9. The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention should continue to facilitate activities on strengthening capacity to transition away from the reliance on DDT for disease vector control.

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1. \* UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Available at http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/DDT/DDTToolkit/tabid/5080/Default.aspx. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/6, annex I; UNEP/POPS/COP.8/5, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/8. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/9. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/7. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 1 See UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/6. The conclusions and recommendations are reproduced as set out in the report, without formal editing. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)