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

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

**Matters for consideration of 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 alternative strategies to replace DDT\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Background**

1. Paragraph 6 of Part II of Annex B of the Stockholm Convention states:  
“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 [...]”
2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision SC-1/25, concluded that countries that are currently using DDT for disease vector control may need to continue such use until locally appropriate and cost-effective alternatives are available for sustainable transition away from DDT.
3. Also in decision SC-1/25, the Conference of the Parties adopted the format for reporting by each Party that uses DDT for disease vector control pursuant to paragraph 4 of Part II of Annex B of the Stockholm Convention and questionnaire for reporting other information relevant to the evaluation of

\* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

\*\* 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, and on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/2.

the continued need for DDT for disease vector control set out in annex III of the decision. The Conference requested the Secretariat to keep under regular review the adequacy of information required under sections A, B, C and D of the format and questionnaire and propose to the Conference of the Parties any modifications that are deemed essential.

4. In the same decision, the Conference requested the financial mechanism of the Convention, and invited other international financial institutions, to support ongoing processes to develop global partnerships on long-term strategies for developing and deploying cost-effective alternatives to DDT and requested the Secretariat to work closely with the World Health Organization to provide global leadership for those partnerships.

5. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision SC-2/2, adopted on an interim basis the process for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control set out in the annex to that decision. In the same decision, the Conference requested the Secretariat in collaboration with the World Health Organization to support Parties in undertaking data collection and reporting activities related to the evaluation process and to provide guidance for the Conference of the Parties to make an evaluation at its third meeting. It also requested the Secretariat to review the adequacy of the process and propose to the Conference of the Parties any modifications that are deemed necessary.

6. Furthermore, decision SC-2/2 among other things requested the Secretariat to make publicly available the electronic format of the questionnaire and the accompanying guidance document for reporting other information relevant to the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and urged Parties to use the format when completing the questionnaire.

#### **A. Review of the adequacy of information required under the format and questionnaire on DDT**

7. The format for reporting by Parties and the accompanying questionnaire on additional information on DDT and its alternatives was reviewed by the Secretariat in terms of its relevance to the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and for its simplicity. The Secretariat found that a number of questions on the original questionnaire provided information that was not relevant to the assessment or evaluation of DDT for disease vector control and those questions were therefore removed. The questionnaire was simplified further in response to comments received from Parties. The revised questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat, as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/2, was considered and endorsed by the expert group established pursuant to decision SC-2/2 to assess the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control at its meeting in Geneva from 21 to 23 November 2006. The report of that meeting is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/24. The revised questionnaire was also considered and endorsed by the World Health Organization.

#### **B. Business plan to promote global partnerships to develop and deploy DDT alternatives**

8. In order to facilitate the identification and establishment of partnerships for developing and deploying cost-effective alternatives to DDT, the Secretariat proposes that a business plan be developed in close cooperation with the World Organization to serve as a tool with which to promote these partnerships. If approved, the activity would take place from August 2007 to March 2008 at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

#### **C. Assessment of the continued need of DDT for disease vector control**

9. The Secretariat collected the questionnaires on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives that were completed by Parties and submitted them for consideration by the expert group which had been established to assess the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control. The expert group's report, which also contains the group's analysis of the revised questionnaire and revised assessment and evaluation process prepared by the Secretariat, is available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/24. It was the recommendation of the expert group that, based on the available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting may conclude that there is a continued need for DDT for disease vector control in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines.

## **D. Review of the adequacy of the process to assess and evaluate the continued need for DDT**

10. The timing of the process for reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control is determined by certain provisions of the Convention and the terms of reference of the Conference of the Parties. For example:

(a) Under paragraph 6 of Part II of Annex B of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties is required, commencing at its first meeting and at least every three years thereafter, to evaluate the continued need for DDT in disease vector control;

(b) Under paragraph 4 of Part II of Annex B of the Convention, each Party that uses DDT is required every three years to provide to the Secretariat and the World Health Organization information on the amount used, the conditions of such use and its relevance to the Party's disease management strategy in a format to be decided by the Conference of the Parties;

(c) According to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, 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.

11. Given the provisions of paragraph 6 of Part II of Annex B of the Convention and the timing of the second and the third ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the process for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued use of DDT for disease vector control adopted on an interim basis by the Conference in its decision SC-2/2 and as set out in the annex to that decision stipulated that it would be necessary for the Conference to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control at each of its ordinary meetings beginning with its third meeting, in 2007. For evaluations to take place at least every three years, the Conference of the Parties will carry out an evaluation at each subsequent ordinary meeting.

12. As Parties reported in 2006 on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control, the next reports will be due in 2009. This means that, at its fourth meeting, in 2009, the Conference of the Parties will have to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control without the benefit of information from reporting Parties. This situation will arise at meetings every six years.

13. In view of the timing issues referred to above and taking into consideration comments from the expert group, the Secretariat reviewed the process for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control which was adopted on an interim basis by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting. It determined that the process could be improved:

(a) By conducting one in every three of the evaluations undertaken by the Conference without mandatory reporting by Parties;

(b) By expanding the membership of the DDT expert group to include two representatives of Parties from each United Nations region;

(c) By having the electronic questionnaire translated into the six official United Nations languages;

(d) By requesting the World Health Organization to provide a comprehensive report on DDT use and its alternatives for disease vector control to support each assessment by the expert group.

14. Accordingly, the Secretariat prepared the outline of a draft revised process for reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control. The revised process, which was considered by the expert group, is set out in annex I to the present note.

## **E. Strengthen the capacities of Parties to report on DDT**

15. The Secretariat will undertake, in collaboration with the World Health Organization,<sup>1</sup> activities to improve the capacity of Parties to complete the questionnaire in order to fulfil their reporting requirements pursuant to paragraph 4 of Part II of Annex B of the Convention. These activities include:

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<sup>1</sup> This collaboration is undertaken as part of a memorandum between the Secretariat and the World Health Organization.

- (a) Visiting selected Parties to assess data gathering procedures and to assess areas that require capacity-building for future data collection and reporting on DDT;
- (b) Coordinating and facilitating a meeting between the Stockholm Convention information focal points and the national malaria vector control focal points to establish data collection and reporting responsibilities for DDT under the Stockholm Convention;
- (c) Coordinating the implementation of national meetings in selected Parties, with the involvement of representatives of relevant government sectors, to determine the division of responsibilities for data collection and reporting systems for DDT;
- (d) Completing a comprehensive report by the end of 2007 evaluating the usefulness of the activities and making recommendations for future work to further strengthen the capacity of Parties to report on DDT. This report would be made available, funds permitting, at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. A project proposal prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the establishment of efficient and effective data collection and reporting procedures for evaluating the continued need of DDT for disease vector control has been presented to the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility. The executing agency for the project would be the World Health Organization. The proposal, which has an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, includes the following components:

- (a) Training of spray team leaders and regional support teams on field data collection and reporting;
- (b) Follow-up activities to institutionalize training activities as routine in-service training within national vector control programmes;
- (c) Training in resistance monitoring activities and establishing monitoring infrastructure;
- (d) Development of efficient institutional infrastructure for implementing reporting procedures;
- (e) Establishment of cross-sectoral partnerships and implementation of guidelines for data collection and sharing between relevant government and non-government agencies.

## **F. Electronic format of the questionnaire and the accompanying guidance document**

17. The electronic format of the questionnaire on DDT and the reporting format for Parties that produce and use DDT for disease vector control were divided into sections to facilitate further distribution by the Stockholm Convention information exchange focal points to other relevant agencies and institutions that may have information on DDT. The questionnaire and the format for reporting was distributed in English only and placed on the Convention website ([www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)). Hard copies of the questionnaire were made available in the six United Nations languages.

## **G. Work plan for activities in support of the reporting, assessment and evaluation of DDT**

18. To support the Conference of the Parties' evaluation at its fourth meeting in 2009 of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, the Secretariat has prepared the draft workplan set out in annex II to the present note.

## **II. Possible action by the Conference of Parties**

19. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

- (a) To endorse the revised questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat and request the Secretariat to translate it into the six United Nations languages and make it available in an electronic format to facilitate its completion by Parties reporting on the production and use of DDT for disease vector control;
- (b) To adopt the reporting, assessment and evaluation process set forth in annex I to the present note and request the Secretariat to support the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, to be held in 2009;

- (c) 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;
- (d) To conclude that countries that are currently using DDT for disease vector control may need to continue such use until locally appropriate and cost-effective alternatives are available for sustainable transition away from DDT;
- (e) 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 and request the financial mechanism of the Convention to support this work financially and invite other financial institutions and countries to do the same;
- (f) To urge the Global Environment Facility and the World Health Organization to consider and support the proposal prepared by UNEP to strengthen the capacity of Parties to collect information on DDT and to report on its production and use;
- (g) To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to develop a business plan for promoting a global partnership on the development and deployment of new alternative products to DDT and encourage the Global Environment Facility to support the process for promoting this partnership financially;
- (h) 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;
- (i) To encourage countries and international financial institutions to provide financial and other resources to support the work of the Secretariat to strengthen the capacity of Parties to report on the production and use of DDT and to reduce reliance on the use of DDT for disease vector control.

## **Annex I**

### **Draft revised process for the reporting, assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control**

#### **I. Evaluation and reporting cycles**

1. Parties that use DDT are required by the Convention to submit reports to the Secretariat and the World Health Organization on the amount used, the conditions of its use and its relevance to their disease management strategies every three years (as set out in paragraph 4 of part II of Annex B). A report is due before or on 16 May 2006 and subsequent reports are due before or on 16 May every three years thereafter.
2. As set out in paragraph 6 of part II of Annex B of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties is required to evaluate the continued need for disease vector control at its first meeting and at least every three year thereafter. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies indicates that after the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ordinary meetings shall be held every two years. Therefore, the Conference of the Parties shall undertake the evaluation at its third meeting and at each future ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
3. As a result of the requirements set out in the two preceding paragraphs, at one in three of its meetings, the Conference of Parties will be required to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control in the absence of new reporting data from Parties that use DDT. On these occasions, the Conference of the Parties may wish to undertake a less detailed evaluation.

#### **II. Format and questionnaire for reporting collation and validation of data**

4. The revised format for reporting and the revised questionnaire for additional information on DDT were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.
5. Parties that use DDT should use the format for reporting set out in paragraph 4 of part II of Annex B of the Convention and make use of the electronic format developed for this purpose, which is available in the six official United Nations languages.
6. Parties are requested to complete the questionnaire for reporting information relevant to the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control according to the schedule contained in this document and make use of the electronic format developed for this purpose, which is available in the six official United Nations languages.

#### **III. Analysis of data**

7. A joint web-based World Health Organization/United Nations Environment Programme/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 Parties' timely access to a single point of relevant global information, promote the exchange of experiences by Parties and assist the Conference of the Parties evaluation processes. Amongst other things, the information will enable comparisons and assessment of trends.
8. The Secretariat will contract a consultant after seeking the advice of the World Health Organization. The consultant will analyse the information presented by Parties on DDT production and use, the report developed by the World Health Organization and any other pertinent and credible information that is available. The consultant will prepare a preliminary report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for use by the DDT expert group (see below) in its assessment.
9. Prior to the analysis of data for each assessment by the DDT expert group, the World Health Organization will provide a comprehensive report on the status of DDT use and its alternatives to complement the information obtained from the questionnaires completed by Parties when reporting on DDT production and use. The information from the questionnaires and the data from the World Health Organization will be analysed and a preliminary report on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives made available to the DDT expert group prior to each of its meetings.

## IV. Assessment of data

10. An expert group is established to assess the information that is collected on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control. The DDT expert group comprises eighteen persons, as follows:

(a) Ten experts shall be nominated by Parties, with two from each of the five United Nations regions to serve as members of the expert group. Parties selected at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to nominate a representative to the Secretariat should do so not later than 30 June in the same year. Members shall serve terms of office of four years with the first set of terms commencing on 1 September 2007. If a member is unable to complete their term of office, the Party nominating that member shall nominate another person to complete the term;

(b) Five invited experts shall be 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 official contact point.

(c) Three invited experts shall be selected by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in consultation with UNEP Chemicals. They will include a consultant who will analyse the information collected and will prepare a preliminary report for the DDT expert group. If any nominee is from a Party to the Convention, endorsement of that nominee shall be obtained from the Party through its Stockholm Convention official contact point.

11. The DDT expert group will meet approximately six months before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. The DDT expert group shall:

(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 shift in a safe fashion to a 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 set out in paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part II of Annex B of the Convention;

(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 being controlled with DDT;

(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.

(f) Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and on any actions deemed necessary to reduce the reliance on DDT in the light of the assessments undertaken pursuant to subparagraphs (a) to (e) above.

## V. Schedule for evaluation

13. In order to provide the Conference of the Parties with the information on which to base its evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, the following standard schedule is proposed with “year 1” referring to the first year of a budget biennium and “year 2” referring to the second:

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

<b>Event</b>	<b>Timing</b>
*Distribute questionnaire	31 January, year 1
*Parties complete questionnaire	30 June, year 1
Analysis of data complete	31 September, year 1
Expert group meeting	November, year 1
Complete expert group report	31 December, year 1
Translation and distribution of expert group report	February–March, year 2
Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties	May, year 2

\* As noted in paragraph 3 above, there will be no mandatory reporting by Parties on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives prior to one out of every three evaluations undertaken by the Conference of the Parties, due to differences between the schedule for Parties to report on the production and use of DDT and the schedule for the Conference of the Parties to undertake evaluations.

## Annex II

**Workplan for the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting of the continued need for the use of DDT in disease vector control**

Activity	Time frame	Estimated costs in United States dollars
Prepare for and conduct an expert review and assessment of the continued need for DDT to assist the Conference of the Parties in its third evaluation of the continued need for DDT in disease vector control:		
1. Collect information from countries that produce, use, export, import and/or maintain stocks of DDT.	February 2008–June 2008	25,000
2. Collect complementary information needed for the evaluation.	April 2008–July 2008	15,000
3. Develop database to store and analyse information.	August 2007–January 2008	45,000
4. Process and analyse country information and identify data gaps.	July 2008–October 2008	10,000
5. Conduct meeting of experts for review and assessment of DDT.	November 2008	85,000
6. Complete unedited English version of meeting report.	December 2008	Staff time
7. Distribute final edited report in United Nations languages	Mid-March 2009	16,900
8. Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting	May 2009	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>196,900</b>