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## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DDT USE UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

**The following will apply to all Parties<sup>1</sup> when the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) comes into force:**

- 1** DDT may be produced and used only for disease vector control and according to the recommendations and guidelines of the World Health Organization. DDT will be used when safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not locally available in a country.
- 2** The World Health Organization recommends only **indoor residual spraying** (spraying only on the inside walls of buildings) of DDT for disease vector control.
- 3** A country that decides to produce and/or use DDT for disease vector control is required to notify the Convention Secretariat and the World Health Organization. All countries that so notify the Secretariat will be entered in a public register (established for the purpose).
- 4** Any country that uses DDT for disease vector control and is not listed in the register will be required to notify the Convention Secretariat as soon as possible, in order to have its name added. The country is also required to notify the World Health Organization at the same time.
- 5** Every three years, each country that uses DDT will be required to provide to the Convention Secretariat and the World Health Organization information on the amount of DDT used, the conditions under which it is being used, and how such use relates to the country's disease management strategy. The reporting will be carried out in a format to be determined by the Conference of the Parties<sup>2</sup> in consultation with the World Health Organization.
- 6** Countries using DDT will be supported and encouraged to strengthen their vector control programmes. The intention is to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of DDT over time, by making such use unnecessary. In this connection, each country will be assisted to develop a national action plan that will include:
  - (i) The development of regulatory and other mechanisms to ensure that DDT is used **only** for disease vector control.
  - (ii) The implementation of alternative products, methods and strategies, including vector resistance management strategies to ensure that the DDT alternatives remain effective.
  - (iii) Actions to strengthen health care and reduce disease incidence.

<sup>1</sup> "Party": a State (country) or regional economic integration organization that has agreed to be bound by the Stockholm Convention, and for which the Convention is in force.

<sup>2</sup> "Conference of the Parties": a formal meeting of Parties to the Convention.

**7** Appropriate research will be promoted to develop safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products, methods and strategies that are relevant to the conditions in those countries using DDT, with the goal of reducing the human and economic burden of disease.

**8** In developing such DDT alternatives, adequate consideration will be given to ensuring that viable alternatives present less risk to human health and the environment, and also that the alternatives are suitable for disease control within the particular context of each country.

**9** 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 whether there is still a need for using DDT for disease vector control. This evaluation will be based on the available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including:

- (i) the production and conditions under which DDT is being used;
- (ii) the availability, suitability and implementation of DDT alternatives; and
- (iii) progress that has been made in strengthening the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on such alternatives.

**10** A country may withdraw its name from the DDT registry at any time, following a written notification to the Convention Secretariat. The withdrawal will take effect on the date specified in the notification.

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#### Reference

United Nations Environment Programme (2001). *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*. UNEP/Chemicals/2001/3. 50p. (Document also accessible at: [www.pop.int](http://www.pop.int)).

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