

African NGOs and CSOs Statement on the continuous use of DDT for malaria control at the Ordinary and Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Geneva, 28 April - 10 May, 2013

We the undersigned NGOs and CSOs *gathered in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania, from 10 – 12 December 2012* wish to bring the following issues to the attention of the delegates attending the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the EXCOP.

Recalling that, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants went into effect, in 2004 with a clarion call for the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT and set conditions for continued use with a view to ultimately eliminate DDT:

Concerned that, the use of DDT has not gone down significantly leading to higher accumulation of DDT and its metabolites in the environment and the biota and; the low level interest of national vector control managers to incorporate and integrate non-chemical alternatives into their vector control strategies and methods;

Worried about the slowing of the momentum of the Global Alliance on DDT Alternatives due to transition (from Stockholm Convention Secretariat to UNEP Chemicals) administrative changes and financial challenges, notwithstanding the excellent work of the Alliance Secretariat;

Calling attention of the Parties to the rising disease vector resistance and the serious and inevitable cross resistance to other vector control products, and that, 13 African countries have had a permanent presence in the DDT register signaling their continued use of the product;

Noting with satisfaction that subsequent Conferences of Parties have established a framework for accelerating the development and deployment of the alternatives through the Global Alliance on DDT Alternatives;

Applauding the decision by the People's Republic of China to cease production of DDT by 2015, but saddened by the unjustifiable decisions of some Parties to re-introduce DDT when they are already controlling malaria successfully with other methods;

Encouraged by the success of the project on "Demonstrating and Scaling up of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT" and the finalization of the AFRO II GEF funded project and other GEF funded single and multi-country projects of DDT alternatives;

We therefore;

1. Congratulate those Parties that have taken the courageous steps to get out of the DDT register and urge African countries and other- countries registered for exemption to move away from using DDT and embrace non-chemical alternatives.

2. Urge the Stockholm Convention Secretariat to finalize the process of implementing the” *Demonstrating and Scaling up of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT*” (DSSA) AFRO II project. This project meant for 14 African countries provides an opportunity to reduce the release of DDT into the environment from Africa. *We also demand that NGOs and CSOs be part of the implementation of the project as was initially planned.*
3. Call upon the COP to prevail on the South East Asian and African countries that are responsible for the more than 80% of DDT use globally to reduce its use while providing a road map for introducing alternatives and finally eliminating DDT use.
4. Welcome the decision by China to stop DDT production and urge India and Ethiopia to do the same. We are also urging delegates to the COP to support the proposal by the EEU countries to set a timeline of 2020 for the eventual elimination of DDT.
5. Note the excellent work being done by the Alliance Secretariat but urge them to step-up support for activities of the Alliance’s drivers providing effective coordination and to constantly communicate with Alliance members. We further urge for increased funding for the activities of the Alliance’s thematic groups, particularly the Non-Chemical Group, whose activities are currently on hold due to lack of funds.
6. Call upon the donor community to redouble funding levels so as to sustain the recent gains in malaria control without DDT but with sustainable alternatives. We are making this call based on recent media reports which indicated “critically reduced funding levels for the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.” The fund received \$1.6 billion which is equivalent to 25% of the fund’s requirement for effective work. It was further reported that, the fund was urging countries not to submit funding requests as it was offering a "transitional funding mechanism," which would allow countries to ask for money to cover essential needs especially in the period of 2011 to 2013. This critical fund starvation will not only negatively impact on TBs, HIV/AIDS and Malaria but might roll back the gains that have been achieved in malaria control in many countries.
7. Urge development partners to provide technical, financial and other assistance to developing countries, least developed countries, Small Island developing States and countries with economies in transition to put in place / strengthen their institutional capacity for research on and implementation of existing non-chemical methods.

8. Support the invitation to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial resources to support the work of the Global Alliance on DDT Alternatives.

Endorsements

S/N	Endorsing organization	Country
1	AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA)	Tanzania
2	Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR-Kenya)	Kenya
3	Institute for Zero Waste in Africa (IZWA)	South Africa
4	Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (UNETMAC)	Uganda
5	Earthlife Africa – Cape Town	South Africa
6	Pesticide Action Nexus (PAN) Ethiopia	Ethiopia
7	Research and Education Center for Development (CREPD)	Cameroon
8	iLima Organization	Kenya
9	National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)	Uganda
10	Propreté, Environnement et Santé (PES)	Burundi
11	Environment, Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (ENVIROCARE)	Tanzania
12	Pro-Biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOUG)	Uganda
13	Ecological Restorations	Ghana
14	Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE)	Malawi
15	Entomological Society of Zambia	Zambia
16	Journalist Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET)	Tanzania
17	Rwandese Association of Ecologist (ARECO) RWANDA NZIZA)	Rwanda
18	Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev)	Nigeria
19	EcoEthics International - Kenya	Kenya
20	Irrigation Training and Economic Empowerment Organization (IRTECO)	Tanzania
21	Pesticide Action Network, Mauritius (PANeM)	Mauritius
22	Tanzania Association of Public, Occupational and Environmental Health Experts (TAPOHE)	Tanzania
23	Gender and Environmental Right Initiative (GERI)	Nigeria
24	Indigenous Information Network	Kenya
25	Pollution Control Association of Liberia (POCAL)	Liberia

