

POPRC-8/7: Assessment of alternatives to DDT

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,

Recalling decision SC-5/6, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requested the Committee, beginning at its eighth meeting, to assess alternatives to DDT in accordance with the general guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for listed persistent organic pollutants and candidate chemicals¹ on the basis of factual information provided by parties and observers,

Recognizing that the DDT expert group established under the Stockholm Convention assesses information on the production and use of DDT and its alternatives to facilitate evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control by the Conference of the Parties in consultation with the World Health Organization,

Having reviewed the information provided in the report on the assessment of chemical alternatives to DDT² and the fact sheets on chemical alternatives to DDT,³

1. *Decides* to forward the documents mentioned in the paragraph above to the Conference of the Parties for information;
2. *Decides* to submit the summary report on the assessment of alternatives to DDT set out in the annex to the present decision to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixth meeting.

Annex to decision POPRC-8/7

Summary report on the assessment of chemical alternatives to DDT

A. Introduction

1. This is a summary report on the assessment of chemical alternatives to dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) conducted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee pursuant to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in decision SC 5/6.
2. The substances recommended by the World Health Organization for disease vector control in indoor residual spraying as alternatives to DDT were assessed for persistent organic pollutant characteristics.
3. To facilitate the work of the DDT Expert Group without duplicating it, the Committee focused on the scientific and technical work relating to persistent organic pollutant characteristics of the alternatives assessed. The Committee did not evaluate economic information on alternatives to DDT, including information on the availability and accessibility of alternatives to DDT relating to the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control.
4. A full report on the assessment can be found in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/30. In addition, fact sheets that include information relating to 11 chemical alternatives to DDT are set out in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/31.

B. Assessment of chemical alternatives to DDT

5. A total of 11 chemical alternatives to DDT were assessed for persistent organic pollutant properties.
6. The outcome of the assessment of the alternatives to DDT is presented in annex IV to the full report. In summary, the alternatives were classified as follows:

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/10/Add.1.

² UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/30.

³ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/31.

Class 1: substances that the committee considered met all Annex D criteria

None

Class 2: substances that the committee considered might meet all Annex D criteria but remained undetermined due to equivocal or insufficient data

Bifenthrin

Class 3. substances that the committee considered not likely to fulfil the criteria in Annex D

Alpha-cypermethrin, bendiocarb, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, deltamethrin, etofenprox, fenitrothion, malathion, pirimiphos-methyl and propoxur

7. It is important to note that the assessment of the persistent organic pollutant characteristics of the alternatives should not be seen as a comprehensive and detailed assessment of all available information, because only a limited number of databases have been consulted, as indicated in the full report. The fact sheets on which the assessment is based provide an analysis on a screening level as to whether a substance meets the numerical thresholds in Annex D to the Stockholm Convention, but contain no analysis of monitoring data or other evidence as provided for in Annex D. Therefore, failure to meet the thresholds should not be taken as evidence that the substance is not a persistent organic pollutant. In addition, substances that according to this report are not likely to fulfil the criteria in Annex D may still exhibit hazardous characteristics that should be assessed by parties and observers before considering such substances to be suitable alternatives to DDT.

C. Information gaps

8. Bifenthrin was assessed in the assessment and might meet all of the Annex D criteria but this remains undetermined due to equivocal or insufficient data. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider whether further work should be undertaken on this substance.