



UPDATE ON POLICY RESOLUTION ON DDT

WFPHA
33rd ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 17, 1999

The World Federation of Public Health Associations,

Since WFPHA adopted the resolution "Improving the Control of Malaria While Instituting Alternatives to DDT," at its last Annual Meeting in May 1999, a number of activities and policy advances have occurred that include the WFPHA's principles as set out in the resolution.

The World Health Organization's Roll Back Malaria Campaign has held three partnership meetings with malaria endemic countries, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental funding organizations. At the February 2000, third meeting of Global Partnership Meeting to Roll Back Malaria, the body agreed on four priorities that included "access to insecticide treated materials (especially mosquito nets) for people at risk, and relevant vector control strategies." At the February 2000 regional consultation in Harare, Zimbabwe to prepare African countries towards reduction of reliance on DDT for malaria control, participating countries agreed to support proposed mechanisms within the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Treaty to assure that "technical assistance and adequate financial resources are available to countries for action to reduce and/or eliminate reliance on DDT."

The third and fourth negotiating sessions on the POPs Treaty made progress on the specific provisions dealing with DDT and malaria control. South Africa, at the May negotiating session, proposed language that would prohibit the use of DDT for agricultural purposes, set up a joint process between the Secretariat of the Treaty and the WHO to review and approve malaria control programs with an emphasis on incorporating non-DDT methods. Debate continues on the appropriate and acceptable language to provide an opportunity for countries not identified as DDT users to be approved for DDT use when public health emergencies exist. At this negotiating session, WHO announced the following position: "A universal ban on DDT now must include time-limited exemptions for its production and use in malaria control."

Malaria control and DDT were also front and center in other forums:

In Germany, Physicians for Social Responsibility honored WHO's Roll Back Malaria Campaign and efforts to reduce reliance on DDT with an award presented at a POPs Negotiations delegates reception prior to the start of the negotiations.

In the US, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held a seminar at their February annual meeting where the Malaria Foundation International, the POPs Treaty Secretariat, the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) presented information on their activities.

DDT and Malaria was the subject of a session at the WFPHA's 9th International Congress in Beijing in September 2000 with Dr. Kilama, Past President of WFPHA, Dr. Boss, Coordinator of the development of the WHO action plan, Dr. De Rosa, Director of the Toxicology Branch of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the US Public Health Service, and Dr. Zheng, from the Institute of Parasitic Diseases and Preventive Medicine Peoples Republic of China.