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## DDT Production Facilities

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Whereas the Fiftieth World Health Assembly meeting in MAY 1997 passed Resolution 50.13 concerning the **Promotion of Chemical Safety, with special attention to Persistent Organic Pollutants** called upon Member States:

to ensure that the use of DDT is authorized by governments for public health purposes only, and that, in those instances, such use is limited to government-authorized programmes that take an integrated approach and that strong steps are taken to ensure that there is no diversion of DDT to entities in the private sector.

And requested the Director-General:

to continue efforts to enhance technical cooperation with Member States for the determination of their capability-building needs, and for the implementation of programmes for the management of chemicals risk, in collaboration with participants in the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and with other organizations;

And whereas WHO subsequently developed an action plan to assist Member States in their efforts to reduce their reliance on DDT use for public health purposes without jeopardizing the level of protection offered by their vector control programmes.

And whereas WFPHA observed in a resolution passed in 1999 that despite the seemingly contradictory goals of DDT elimination and the World Health Organization's Rollback Malaria Campaign, the international Persistent Organic Pollutants treaty negotiations can act together to strengthen the goals of both;

And Whereas therefore the World Federation of Public Health Associations:

Called upon governments and aid organizations to commit to improving malarial risk management while moving away from the use of DDT;

Encouraged the continued assessment of the efficacy, cost, and acceptability of varying vector control methodologies and integrated public health and education programs;

And whereas there are only two remaining plants currently producing DDT for malarial control purposes, one in China and one in India;

And whereas the Indian plant, Hindustan Insecticides, LTD of Udyogmanadal Industrial Estate, Kochi, Kerala, India, has been the subject of repeated complaints from local and international NGO's concerning exposure of workers and community residents to toxins from this production process;

And whereas as this production is primarily for public health purposes within WHO guidelines, WHO has particular responsibilities to advise production methodologies that are protective of worker and community resident health



## World Federation of Public Health Associations

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Be it resolved that the WFPHA calls upon the WHO to organize a small delegation of experts in Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety to visit these production plants to report, and make suggestions if appropriate, with respect to the working conditions within the plants and the exposures to workers and community residents;

And be it further resolved that the WFPHA commits itself, within its capabilities, to such an investigation as well.