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Ref: SADC/8/006/1/3/1

05 April 2011

Achim Steiner
Executive Director, UNEP
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552, 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Mr Steiner

NOTIFICATION OF SADC COUNTRIES RESPECTING DDT USE AND PRODUCTION

The Southern Africa Development Community wishes to notify the Secretariat of the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* and the Director-General World Health Organization (copied on this letter) of the intent of the SADC Member States to continue use and establish the production of DDT (1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethane) for malaria control and elimination within the SADC Region. On behalf of the SADC Member States, kindly accept this letter as notification of that fact for the purposes of Paragraph 1 of Part II of Annex B of the *Stockholm Convention*.

The SADC Member States do not take this step lightly. Given resource limitations and the unusual aggressiveness of malaria and goals of malaria elimination in the SADC Region, the majority of SADC Member States will find it very challenging to attain the Millennium Development Goals for malaria and related Goals such as for child and maternal mortality. Several Member States have made progress thanks to the judicious and responsible use of DDT indoor residual spraying, among other interventions, and the integrity of their malaria control and elimination programs depends on a predictable and accessible supply of DDT. As the SADC Health Ministers concluded in their meeting of 10-12 November 2010:

Member States:

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Angola | Lesotho | Malawi | Namibia | Swaziland |
| Botswana | Madagascar | Mauritius | Seycheles | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Democratic Republique Democratique du Congo | Mozambique | South Africa | Zambia | Zimbabwe |

All correspondence should be addressed to the Executive Secretary.

“Ministers reiterated their earlier policy position that the main strategy for malaria control in SADC is IRS using DDT. To this end, Ministers agreed that there was need for the region to explore a possibility of increasing access to DDT either through local manufacturing in the region or through pooled procurement.”

Accordingly and after careful deliberation, the SADC Member States, while in no way repudiating the *Stockholm Convention*, consider that it would be infeasible and highly irresponsible to abandon the use of DDT at any foreseeable date.

The SADC Member States consider that the need for DDT appears to be ongoing and not time-limited. There is unfortunately no technological breakthrough now on the horizon which promises to render DDT unnecessary. The SADC Member States therefore reject as premature the efforts of the Secretariat to eliminate DDT production by 2020, or any other arbitrary deadline, and strenuously protest that the Secretariat undertook this initiative without an express consensus of *Stockholm Convention* Parties.

Further, the SADC Member States remind the Secretariat of the importance of consistency with other United Nations and international processes. At the 31 January 2011 meeting of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) attended by several African heads of state and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, it was decided that *“The ALMA heads of state and government have endorsed [indoor residual spraying] and promote the use of DDT in IRS.”* Considerable strain could be placed on the otherwise good relationship between the SADC and other AU Member States and UNEP, by the Secretariat’s continued efforts to eliminate DDT production when that insecticide is endorsed in the outcome of a meeting attended by the UN Special Envoy for malaria and UN Secretary-General. It is therefore SADC Member States’ firm insistence that the Secretariat suspend all efforts to eliminate DDT production and use.

Concerning the SADC Member States intent to produce DDT for disease vector control in the Region, all SADC Member States share the desire to achieve this goal with the greatest possible safety for human health and the environment. Accordingly, SADC requests the Secretariat to arrange technical assistance to establish state-of-the-art, bio-secure and eco-secure DDT synthesis and formulating factories in the Region. This request is fully consistent with the letter of *Stockholm Convention*. Under Article 3:1(b) of the *Stockholm Convention*, Parties reserve the right to manufacture and use DDT for disease vector control. Article 12:4 of the *Stockholm Convention* further spells out the right of developing country Parties to technical assistance, including *“for the purpose of ... promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties.”* It is the responsibility of the Secretariat under Article 20:2(b) *“To facilitate assistance to the Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of this Convention.”*

Member States:

Angola
Botswana
Republique Democratique du Congo

Lesotho
Madagascar

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Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique

Namibia
Seycheles
South Africa

Swaziland
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia Zimbabwe



The SADC Member States look forward to contact from the Secretariat on how it can assist the Region to establish DDT manufacturing for disease vector control. As a first step in that discussion, the Secretariat is requested to furnish a copy of this letter to Parties at COP5 as a Conference Room Paper.

Yours sincerely



Tomaz Augusto Salomão

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

cc: Dr Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization
Dr Awa Coll Seck, Executive Director, Roll Back Malaria Partnership
Dr Ray Chamber, UN malaria Envoy
Dr Joy Phumaphi, Executive director ALMA
Dr Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director, Global Fund

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3
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