



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



41st DIRECTING COUNCIL

51st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 27 September-1 October 1999

RESOLUTION

CD41.R11

PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

THE 41ST DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the report of the Director on persistent organic pollutants (Document CD41/12), including the proposal to assist Member States in their efforts towards their safe management, decrease, and elimination; and

Recalling Resolution WHA50.13 of the World Health Assembly (May 1997) on the promotion of chemical safety, with special attention to persistent organic pollutants, in which participation of national health agencies is encouraged for their safe management, as well as Resolution CSP23.R11 of the 23rd Pan American Sanitary Conference concerning the establishment of the Regional Program on Chemical Safety,

RESOLVES

1. To endorse the initiative to assist Member States to deal with the problems associated with persistent organic pollutants in the environment, especially in relation to the negative effects on health and the environment.
2. To call upon Member States to:

(a) 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 programs 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;

(b) take steps to reduce reliance on insecticides for the control of vectorborne diseases through promotion of integrated pest management approaches;

(c) identify existing uses and stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants, particularly of DDT, determine essential needs for the control of disease vectors, and elaborate a plan for their safe use in the protection of human health and the environment;

(d) develop and apply appropriate alternatives, in accord with the particular epidemiological situation in the respective countries, to control vector-transmitted diseases, including cost effectiveness studies and following published WHO guidelines;

(e) support PAHO efforts-especially those Member States with experience and appropriate technology-with technical and financial resources to promote and conduct evaluations of the long-term effects of persistent organic pollutants on human health, especially of the most affected population groups in Latin American and the Caribbean.

3. To recommend that the Director:

(a) incorporate in the REPIDISCA information system of the PAHO Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Services (CEPIS), technical and scientific information on persistent organic pollutants, giving special attention to the effects on human health, including gathering information on current levels of persistent organic pollutants in human blood to identify populations at greatest risk, and to disseminate such information to Member States;

(b) take the necessary steps to reinforce PAHO's capacity to develop a regional safe management strategy for persistent organic pollutants based on the assessment of risk of these substances, giving particular attention to DDT, and including application of the WHO guidelines for the control of disease vectors;

(c) cooperate with ministries of health and environment in their efforts to identify, characterize, evaluate, monitor, control and gradually eliminate persistent organic pollutants that may have adverse effects on human health;

(d) organize and maintain a Regional database of indicators of health and environment related to persistent organic pollutants, with the cooperation of Member States which have already made significant progress in the field, and to expand it to incorporate other Member States;

(e) stimulate intercountry cooperation, particularly for the tackling of problems of health and environment associated with persistent organic pollutants.

(Seventh meeting, 30 September 1999)