

6 May, 2015

Pesticide Action Network Intervention on Extension of Exemption for India to use DDT to Produce Dicofol

Given by Meriel Watts, PAN Asia and the Pacific

Thank you Madam Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of Pesticide Action Network (PAN).

We urge Parties to, as quickly as possible, eliminate their reliance on all substances with specific exemptions and acceptable purposes, and to introduce safer alternatives in their place. We therefore congratulate China on its notification of no further use of DDT including in closed-loop production of the potential POP dicofol, as well as other parties that have ceased uses of lindane and PFOS.

However, we are particularly concerned by the proposal to prolong the use of DDT for the production of dicofol, for another 10 years. I can only reiterate what a number of delegates have already pointed out - that Paragraph (iii) of part 1 of Annex B, states that the COP should only approve such extensions to use as an intermediate, if the chemical being produced does not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants, according to the Annex D criteria. As the POPRC has already agreed that dicofol clearly does meet the Annex D criteria, we urge the COP to not extend the expiry date for the production and use of DDT as a closed system site-limited intermediate in the production of dicofol. As the POPRC process progresses, safer alternatives will be identified, under the Annex E evaluation, for current uses of dicofol, so its manufacture will be unnecessary.

Additionally, specific exemptions for lindane and PFOS/PFOSF should end in 2015. **There are safer alternatives available and in use.**

Thank you Madam Chair.