

Stockholm Convention COP 5, Geneva, Switzerland April 25-30, on 2011
Pesticide Action Network Statement for the Opening Session
Presented by Dr. Abou Thiam, Pesticide Action Network Africa, Dakar (Senegal)
April 25, on 2011

During several decades, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) has worked in particular with small producers and marginalized peoples throughout the world on the effects of pesticides on health and the environment.

Today, April 25th, is the World Malaria Day. Progress has been made by several African countries in the control of malaria. However, some people continue to promote the use of DDT in the fight against malaria, despite available alternatives and appropriate strategies for malaria control. We applaud the initiative taken in the establishment of the Global Alliance for Alternatives to DDT in the control of vectors of diseases. We hope that it will make rapid advancement as part of its mandate.

PAN has also worked with farmers and communities in research and implementation of sound and more efficient alternatives to chemicals in agriculture. Our work has shown that there are enough alternative solutions for all uses of endosulfan.

We congratulate the 80 countries that have banned or adopted progressive measures to ban endosulfan. These countries recognize the effects on public health and the numerous problems generated by this chemical product and have implemented measures to protect their populations.

The POPRC has established that endosulfan is a Persistent Organic Pollutant that justifies a global action. It's time for the Conference of Parties to accept

conclusions of these experts, and to take measures at the global level to prevent any new contamination by the endosulfan insecticide.

The special report of the United Nations on the Right to Food, and the report of the International Assessment of Knowledge, Sciences and Technology indicate that the best way to feed the world is to go beyond intensive chemical agriculture and to rapidly develop an agriculture system with few external inputs . We demand the Conference of Parties to add endosulfan to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention. Our monitoring shows that exemptions aren't necessary, because there are efficient and appropriate alternatives to the insecticide.

Finally, PAN and IPEN invite all delegates to visit our exhibition in the hall called "Annex A Café." They will find samples of organic coffee, chocolate, cashews and other products coming from different regions of the world.

Thank you for your attention.