

Statement by Dr Meriel Watts of Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia and the Pacific speaking on behalf of PAN International

Thank you Mr President.

PAN welcomes the proposal to list endosulfan under the convention at this fifth Conference of the Parties. This is an historic occasion. Endosulfan is an antiquated chemical whose time has come.

There is no shadow of a doubt that endosulfan is a Persistent Organic Pollutant. The science is substantial, and we support the findings of the POPs Review Committee.

Additionally, endosulfan's toxicity is demonstrated by the hundreds of farmers who have died during or after using it in Africa, Latin America and Asia; and by the many thousands of people suffering birth defects, cancer, neurological damage and/or endocrine effects.

Endosulfan's long-range transport and persistence are demonstrated by its presence in the environmental media and the food chain throughout the Arctic, and now also in the Antarctic. Bioaccumulation is demonstrated and/or modelled for marine and terrestrial food chains. There is no further discussion necessary about endosulfan's POPs characteristics.

We come now to its listing under the convention. We believe that it should be listed under Annex A with no exemptions. There are ample chemical and/or non-chemical alternatives available for all known uses of endosulfan. We do recognise that some countries will need financial and technical assistance in order to implement these, especially the non-chemical alternatives. This does not mean that exemptions are needed.

However should a country still be determined to seek exemptions we are of the view that those exemptions should be for a specific pest species on a particular crop species. We do not see how a country can claim that endosulfan is necessary if it is not able to identify the pest species that is problematic. Likewise, naming specific crop-pest complexes will greatly aid in the identification of alternatives to endosulfan. PAN and our NGO partners will gladly offer our technical assistance to Parties in transitioning to non-chemical alternatives, but in order to do so we need to know the specific crop-pest complexes for which Parties need help.

On the subject of alternatives, a significant amount of information was provided to the POPRC and further information will be made available today at the side event on new POPs at 2 o'clock. And at the Annex A café booth in the foyer, delegates will find copies of a CD from PAN containing information on alternatives. Please take copies.

Thank you.