



**SECOND SESSION OF THE  
FAO/WHO MEETING ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT  
and  
4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
FAO PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT  
06-08 October 2008  
Geneva**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

*[version as agreed at end of Panel meeting; edited/completed by meeting Secretariat, chair-person and rapporteurs]*

Based on the working documents reviewed, the presentations made and the discussions held during the meeting, the Panel made the following recommendations:

**Highly hazardous pesticides**

1. To make further progress on the initiative for the reduction of risks posed by highly hazardous pesticides, the Panel reviewed the recommendations from its 2007 meeting and **agreed** that these recommendations **be adopted with the modifications** as incorporated in the following text:
2. Highly hazardous pesticides **should be defined** as having one or more of the following characteristics:
  - Pesticide formulations that meet the criteria of classes Ia or Ib of the *WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard*;
  - or
  - Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of carcinogenicity Categories 1A and 1B of the *Globally Harmonized System on Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS);
  - or
  - Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of mutagenicity Categories 1A and 1B of the *Globally Harmonized System on Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS);
  - or
  - Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of reproductive toxicity Categories 1A and 1B of the *Globally Harmonized System on Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS);

or

- Pesticide active ingredients listed by the *Stockholm Convention* in its Annexes A and B, and those meeting all the criteria in paragraph 1 of annex D of the Convention;

or

- Pesticide active ingredients and formulations listed by the *Rotterdam Convention* in its Annex III;

or

- Pesticides listed under the *Montreal Protocol*;

or

- Pesticide active ingredients and formulations that have shown a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health or the environment.

3. The Panel **noted** advancements in the development of harmonized testing guidelines and evaluation criteria for endocrine disrupting chemicals, but felt it was premature to include specific reference to endocrine disruptors as a separate category of highly hazardous pesticides. However, the Panel **recognized** that endocrine disruption can be an important mechanism of pesticide hazard expression. It was **recommended** that the extent to which the existing criteria address endocrine disrupting pesticides be reviewed by the Panel at one of its next sessions.
4. The Panel further **recommended** that WHO, FAO and UNEP develop criteria for determining whether pesticide active ingredients and their formulations have shown a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health or the environment.
5. The Panel discussed how to address the current use of highly hazardous pesticides, and **recommended** that these should not be registered for use unless:
  - a) Governments establish a clear need;
  - b) No alternatives, based on a risk – benefit analysis, are available; and
  - c) Control measures as well as good marketing practices are sufficient to ensure that the product can be handled with acceptable risk to human health and the environment.
6. The Panel discussed priority activities related to risk reduction from highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), including a progressive ban, and **recommended** that:
  - a) FAO and WHO, as a first step, make available to countries information on HHPs based on the criteria above, update it periodically in cooperation with UNEP, and make it widely known;
  - b) FAO, in collaboration with WHO, invite governments and the pesticide industry to develop plans of action to reduce risks from HHPs by taking regulatory or technical action, either at the national or the regional level as appropriate, taking into account the work undertaken in existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention and the Montreal Protocol;

- c) FAO, in collaboration with WHO, collect information on alternatives for HHPs, both reduced risk pesticides and other pest management approaches, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and share experiences among countries;
  - d) FAO, in collaboration with WHO, seek assistance from donors for countries which wish to act to reduce risks from HHPs with the aim of preparing, implementing and enforcing action plans and search for alternatives;
  - e) FAO mobilize internal and external resources in order to implement, as a priority, the recommendations of the FAO Council with respect to HHPs.
7. The Panel further **recommended** that FAO, in collaboration with WHO, invite national governments to ensure that at least the following risk reduction measures for highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) are taken into account:
- a) Identify HHPs with help of the criteria explained above;
  - b) Review the need for the use of HHPs, while simultaneously reviewing use conditions, mitigation measures and comparative risk assessment;
  - c) Where a specific need is identified for a HHP and no viable alternatives are available, governments should be advised to take all the necessary precautions, mitigation measures and apply restrictions, that may include the use only under certain conditions or by specifically certified users, severe restrictions, or a possible phase-out;
  - d) Promote the use of alternative pest management strategies and, in case they are not available, promote research for development of alternative strategies;
  - e) Promote the substitution principle for HHPs;
  - f) Ensure the provision of sufficient advice and information to users.

### WHO Classification of pesticides by hazard

8. Given the great importance of the *WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard* for various aspects of pesticide management and regulation, including registration, classification and labelling, in particular in many developing countries, the Panel **expressed its concern** that the classifications of the WHO system and of the GHS have not yet been harmonized, which impedes the provision of clear guidance on classification and labelling of pesticides.
9. The Panel therefore **recommended** that WHO, as a matter of urgency, harmonize its criteria on acute toxicity with those of the GHS. The Panel further **recommended** that WHO assess the feasibility to incorporate the GHS criteria on carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and reproductive toxicity, and other relevant endpoints, into its Classification and ensure that all pesticides listed have been evaluated against these criteria.

### Implementation of the Code of Conduct

10. The Panel discussed the need to strengthen the implementation of the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* and **recognized** the importance of

its implementation at, in particular, national and regional levels. The Panel **endorsed** the general concept to develop a programme for implementation of the Code of Conduct as presented, and **recommended** that it include a strategy to involve the food sector as an important stakeholder.

11. The Panel **stressed** the importance of integration with initiatives such as the *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management* (SAICM) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> *International Conference on Chemicals Management* (ICCM-2), with a view to facilitating a more effective implementation of the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, the Panel **recommended** that opportunities be sought to work with organizations which are members of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to strengthen work on training, capacity building and implementation of the Code of Conduct.
12. The Panel **called upon** FAO, WHO, UNEP and other meeting participants to identify sources and secure funds for implementation of the programme. The Panel **recommended** that particular attention be paid to presenting the programme in ways that are attractive to governments and potential donors.
13. The Panel **requested** to be kept informed of developments in the elaboration and implementation of the programme.

### **Guidelines in support of the Code of Conduct**

14. The Panel reviewed the drafting status of a number of guidelines which are being developed in support of the Code of Conduct, and made the following recommendations:
  - a) With respect to the *Guidelines on Resistance Management for Pesticides*, the Panel took note of the ongoing work to develop a new draft of this guideline, along the lines set out during its previous session. The Panel **requested** the Task Group chair and the drafter to finalize the draft by January 2009, to be circulated for review by the full Task Group and independent peer reviewers. The Panel **recommended** that comments received be taken into account in finalizing this draft, and that it subsequently be circulated among Panel members and observers for review, by June 2009. A final version of the guideline should be presented to the Panel for endorsement by October 2009.
  - b) With respect to the *Guidelines on Evaluation of Microbial Pest Control Agents*, the Panel took note of the fact that a draft had been prepared for this document, based on the outline agreed during its previous session. The Panel **requested** that this draft be finalized and reviewed by the Task Group by January 2009, and subsequently be sent for external peer review. The Panel **recommended** that the peer review be taken into account in finalizing this draft, and it be circulated subsequently among Panel members and observers for comments, by May 2009. A new version of the guideline should be presented to the Panel for endorsement, by October 2009.
  - c) With respect to the *Guidance on Pest and Pesticide Management Policy Development*, the Panel noted the status of development of this draft and **requested** that, after internal review by FAO, the draft be circulated and commented on by the Task Group, by January 2009, to assess whether previous comments have been

incorporated in an acceptable manner. The Panel **recommended** that the Task Group consider calling an external independent peer review of the guidance document if certain elements would remain unresolved. The Panel **recommended** that a final draft be circulated among Panel members for endorsement by June 2009 and that FAO, if no major comments were received, finalize the guidance document and subsequently proceed with publication prior to its next session.

15. The Panel reviewed the draft outline of one guideline which is being developed in support of the Code of Conduct, and made the following recommendations:
  - a) With respect to the outline for the *Guidelines on Retail Establishments for Pesticides*, the Panel **underlined** the importance of proper regulation of retail outlets, and **recommended** drafting a guideline focused on providing advice to the governments in the establishment of a proper system of sale of pesticides within the country, including public health and household pesticides. The Panel **provided** several **suggestions** on its content, which included taking into account different types of retail establishments which may sell pesticides; addressing in sufficient detail elements on labelling, packaging, storage and disposal; and stressing the need to avoid food contamination during storage. The Panel **requested** that FAO and WHO prepare a detailed annotated table of contents for this guideline by March 2009, and circulate it among Panel members and observers for comments. The Panel further **recommended** that the development of the guideline be initiated as soon as possible afterwards, so that a complete draft can be distributed for discussion at its next Session.
16. The Panel reviewed a number of draft guidelines that were developed in support of the Code of Conduct, and made the following recommendations:
  - a) With respect to the *Guidelines on the Development of a Reporting System for Health and Environmental Incidents Resulting from Exposure to Pesticides*, the Panel **recognized** the importance of having a feedback system on possible adverse impact of pesticides within the country as a basis for effective interventions through policy and other options. The Panel **endorsed in principle** the present version of the guideline, but requested that a number of clarifications be made to certain sections of the text. The Panel **requested** that a definitive draft be circulated to its members for final endorsement by November 2008, and that FAO and WHO, after formatting and editing, proceed with publication of the guideline not later than March 2009.
  - b) With respect to the *Guidelines on Registration of Pesticides*, the Panel **stressed** that an effective pesticide registration system is a vital element for sound management of pesticides in a country, and requires a multi-disciplinary approach in implementation. The Panel **made suggestions** for improvements to various sections of the draft, including the responsibilities of various actors for pesticide registration; the issue of data protection, transparency and public information; registration by equivalence; comparative risk assessment and the substitution principle. The Panel **recommended** to extend the commenting period until 31 December 2008, after which a new draft should be prepared and circulated among Panel members for endorsement, not later than March 2009. The Panel **requested** that, if no major comments are received, FAO and WHO, after formatting and editing, proceed with publication of the guideline.

- c) With respect to the *Guidelines on Pesticide Advertising*, the Panel took note of the new draft which had been prepared by the Task Group chair and the comments provided on this document. The Panel **recommended** that the provisions of Article 11 in the Code would need to apply to all forms of advertising. The Panel further discussed the issue of inappropriate incentives and **concluded** that a list of examples should be provided in the guideline, taking into account the comments made. The Panel **recommended** that the Task Group prepare a new draft of the document by January 2009, for subsequent circulation by among the Panel members for endorsement. The Panel **requested** that, if no major comments are received, FAO and WHO, after formatting and editing, proceed with publication of the guideline not later than June 2009.
17. The Panel reviewed a number of draft guidelines which had been proposed for updating, and made the following recommendations:
- a) With respect to *Guidelines on Pesticide Legislation*, the Panel took note of the *FAO Legislative Study on Designing National Pesticide Legislation* and **commended** its quality. The Panel **underlined** that existing FAO guidelines on pesticide legislation are outdated and do not cover all pesticide uses addressed in the Code of Conduct. The Panel discussed in which ways the study could be used as a basis for the elaboration of a new guideline on pesticide legislation, covering all areas of pesticide use, including public health and domestic uses. The Panel **recommended** that FAO and WHO initiate the development of an outline for a new guideline on pesticide legislation, to be presented for consideration by the Panel at its next session.
  - b) With respect to the *Guidelines on Good Labelling Practice for Pesticides*, the Panel took note of the status of updating this document. The Panel **stressed** the importance of effective labelling of pesticides as a prime tool for communication with the user. The Panel **agreed** that clear advice on labelling needs to be provided to countries, and that parallel presentations of the WHO and GHS classifications for pesticides in the same guideline should be avoided. The Panel **recommended** that the guideline be updated, taking into account the GHS but ensuring that the existing guideline is not changed more than absolutely necessary, and that a first draft be circulated among Panel members and observers by January 2009.

## Review of Code of Conduct

18. The Panel discussed the scope and objectives of the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* and **noted** that, while these clearly address all pesticides, the provisions of the Code of Conduct and the included references appear to lean to the management of agricultural pesticides. The Panel therefore **recommended** that FAO and WHO start the process to ensure that the Code of Conduct, and its implementation tools, adequately addresses all pesticides, and in particular public health pesticides.