

16/5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN PESTICIDES AND OTHER BIOCIDES

AWARE of the harmful effects of certain pesticides and other biocides on human health and the environment;

HAVING REGARD to new information about exposure to pesticides, including recent incidents of groundwater contamination and the discovery of low-level but long-lived residues of pesticides, such as ethyl dibromide (EDB), which had previously been assumed to dissipate quickly;

OBSERVING that consumers are being exposed to potentially harmful pesticide residues in and on foods;

INFORMED that the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific recently estimated that approximately two million people per year are poisoned by pesticides, thousands fatally, particularly in developing countries; CONCERNED about the long-term detrimental effects of intensive use of these substances on ecosystems through destruction of non-target species, particularly predators, and contamination of food chains;

ALSO CONCERNED about the growing resistance of numerous target species of pests to these substances;

NOTING that hazardous substances, many of which are restricted or banned in their country of origin for health and environmental reasons, have been exported for several years to developing countries which lack information on their effects and the capacity to enforce adequate controls on their use;

RECALLING the adoption of Resolution 15/15 by the General Assembly of IUCN at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1981; and

HAVING REGARD to actions which have occurred since 1981, including:

- (a) the adoption in May 1984 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of a Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals;
- (b) the passage in 1983 by the European Parliament of a Resolution calling for the prohibition of the export of certain banned and severely restricted pesticides without the express consent of the importing country;
- (c) the passage in December 1982 of a Resolution by the General Assembly of the United Nations calling for the compilation of a worldwide list of banned, severely restricted and non-approved products; and
- (d) the publication in December 1983 of the first edition of this worldwide list;

RECOGNIZING that pesticide misuse and abuse are international problems;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

1. RECOMMENDS that:

- (a) all Governments limit the use of pesticides to the least hazardous and minimum necessary amounts having in mind possible socio-economic consequences;
- (b) all Governments promote research, education and training, and technical and material support for more rational pest management based on careful consideration of alternatives, especially techniques associated with environmentally sound integrated pest management, with due consideration of the socio-cultural context;
- (c) pesticide exporting countries, when asked:
 - (i) provide to importing countries information on medical and biological research;
 - (ii) assist developing countries in initiating training and monitoring programmes; and
 - (iii) aid developing countries in formulating rules, regulations, and standards for the use of pesticides;
- (d) non-governmental members of IUCN:
 - (i) promote dissemination of information on less hazardous pesticides and alternatives which can reduce pesticide use; and
 - (ii) collaborate locally in education and training for the safe use of pesticides and alternative pest

control methods;

2. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that:
 - (a) all Governments provide notification and reasons for action to all other Governments when regulating any pesticide, and at a minimum implement promptly the UNEP Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals;
 - (b) all Governments cooperate with the United Nations in providing updated information for the list of banned, severely restricted and non-approved products; and allow the export of any domestically banned, restricted, voluntarily withdrawn or never registered pesticide only under the following conditions:
 - (i) following appropriate prior notification by the exporting country of the health and environmental consequences of the product; and
 - (ii) at the explicit consent of the government of the importing country;
3. CALLS UPON national non-governmental organization members of IUCN to encourage their competent national authorities to implement the provisional notification scheme for banned and severely restricted chemicals as adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its Twelfth Session in May 1984, Nairobi, Kenya.