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## GREENPEACE CALLS FOR GLOBAL DIOXIN ELIMINATION

2 September 1999

Amsterdam -- Greenpeace today urged delegates to the United Nations negotiations on toxic chemicals to agree to eliminate dioxins at their sources, rather than concentrating on expensive schemes to reduce dioxin emissions into the environment. The negotiations will resume next week in Geneva, Switzerland.

Strategies for dioxin elimination can be found in a new Greenpeace report called, "[Dioxin Elimination: A Global Imperative](#)" which was released today.

From September 6-11, United Nations negotiators will resume talks on a treaty to control a group of toxic chemicals known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs, which include the notorious dioxins, can travel far from their sources to contaminate people and the environment around the world and have been found in pristine areas as remote as the Arctic.

"Given the global dispersal of dioxin, and the dangers to human health and future generations, we are urging the treaty negotiators to agree that elimination of all POPs, including dioxin, is imperative," said Juan Lopez de Uralde, Greenpeace International Toxics Campaign Coordinator. "A decision to merely reduce these super toxics is a decision to accept the risks posed by these chemicals and allows the chemical industry a free hand to continue to pollute the environment and endanger human health," Lopez de Uralde added.

Dioxins and furans are a group of very toxic and persistent substances, meaning that very small amounts may lead to toxic effects. Dioxin is associated with health hazards ranging from reproductive problems to cancer, and other illnesses. Once released into the environment, they persist for a very long time. Because dioxin is cancerous and can disrupt the hormone system, there is no safe level of dioxin.

Dioxin and furan contamination cases have occurred in many places such as Love Canal and Times Beach in the US to Seveso in Italy, and Homebush Bay, part of the Olympic site in Sydney, Australia. Only this year, dioxin contamination of animal fodder in Belgium has led to import bans around the world of Belgium food products. Both poisons are produced as unintentional by-products of many manufacturing and combustion processes, especially processes that use, produce or dispose of chlorine or chlorine-derived chemicals.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

- [Click here](#) to download the report - Juan Lopez de Uralde, Greenpeace International coordinator on +34 609 46 89 54 (mobile)
  - Wytze van der Naald, Greenpeace toxic campaigner on +31 20 5236 209 or +31 6 212 96 916 (mobile)
  - Holger Roenitz, Press Officer, +31 20 5249 545 or +31 6 5350 4701 (mobile)
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