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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain  
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in  
International Trade**

**Conference of the Parties  
Third meeting**

Geneva, 9–13 October 2006

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Issues arising out of previous meetings  
of the Conference of the Parties:**

**Cooperation with the World Trade Organization**

## **Cooperation with the World Trade Organization**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The annex to the present note contains a note by the secretariat reporting the progress made in the actions requested of the secretariat in decision RC-1/15, on cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO), taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.
2. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of the progress made towards the implementation of the decision.

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\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/1.

## Annex

1. At its first meeting, in decision RC-1/15 on cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade requested the Secretariat to take the following actions:
  - (a) To seek observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session of the World Trade Organization and inform Parties when the request had been submitted and when it had been granted;
  - (b) To report to the Conference of the Parties on any WTO meetings that it attended, any substantive contacts that it had with the WTO secretariat and any general or factual information provided to or any other information requested by the WTO secretariat or any other body of that organization;
  - (c) To ensure that at no time did it provide an interpretation of the provisions of the Convention;
  - (d) To monitor developments in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session and report on such developments to the Conference of the Parties; and
  - (e) To reflect on ways of enhancing information flows on matters of common interest with WTO.
2. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report prepared by the Secretariat and agreed to support the efforts of the secretariat to promote further cooperation with WTO.<sup>1</sup>
3. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of the following points describing progress made towards the implementation of the aforementioned decision.
  - (a) Further to the Secretariat's letter of 17 December 2004 requesting observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session and to the response received by the Secretariat from the Chair of that body (17 January 2005), no progress has been made and therefore the requested observer status has not yet been granted;
  - (b) At the invitation of WTO, the Secretariat participated as an ad hoc observer in the special session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment held on 14 October 2005 and on 21 and 22 February 2006. The relevant report<sup>2</sup> (21–22 February 2006) by the Chair of the special session of the Committee on Trade and Environment to the Trade Negotiations Committee is reproduced in the annex to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/8.
  - (c) The Secretariat contributed factual information relevant to the trade-related provisions of the Convention to a document prepared by the UNEP Economics and Trade branch entitled "Trade-related measures and multilateral environmental agreements".<sup>3</sup> That document contains factual information on trade provisions relevant to a number of environmental multilateral environmental agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/19, para. 92.

<sup>2</sup> WTO document TN/TE/15.

<sup>3</sup> Available through [www.unep.ch/etb/areas/promMEAimp.php](http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/promMEAimp.php).