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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 (g) and (h) of the provisional agenda*

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

**Results of the study on improving cooperation
and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel
Convention, the Rotterdam Convention
and the Stockholm Convention**

**Supplementary analysis of the financial
and administrative arrangements which
would be required to implement any changes**

**Enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals
and waste conventions: an overview of events and documents**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to facilitate the work of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention regarding cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Secretariat has prepared a document that summarizes the chronology of events, provides a compilation of the associated decisions and lists the documents available to the meeting on that topic. The summary is annexed to the present note.
2. As a means of ensuring a structured approach to the discussion of the topic, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the following sequence of actions:
 - (a) Briefly review the summary of the chronology of events associated with the discussion regarding cooperation and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions annexed to the present note;

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

(b) Review the information and proposals contained in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/19, the study on cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested in decision SC-1/18;¹ document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/20, the supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements requested in decision RC-2/6;² and document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/10, containing recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies as requested in decision OEWG-V/6³ of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention;

(c) Review decision SC-2/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, taken at its second meeting, on synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, reproduced in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/5, with particular focus on the following elements:

- (i) Establishment of an ad hoc joint working group comprising representatives of the three conventions, with a mandate to prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination between the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels to be forwarded to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to each convention. The terms of reference for the ad hoc joint working group are shown in appendix IV to the annex to the present note. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will consider the same proposals at their eighth meeting, in November 2006;
- (ii) A request to the Parties, through the Bureau, and at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to nominate and mandate 15 representatives, i.e., three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions, to participate on behalf of the Rotterdam Convention in the ad hoc joint working group of the three conventions;
- (iii) A request for the necessary budgetary provisions to be made to ensure the participation of the aforementioned 15 representatives of the Rotterdam Convention in the ad hoc joint working group of the three conventions;
- (iv) A request to the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, supported by the Secretariat, to cooperate with the presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Stockholm and Basel conventions in the intersessional work towards the preparation of the supplementary report on synergies requested in decision SC-2/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention;
- (v) A request to Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat their views on the supplementary report, for circulation to the ad hoc joint working group.

3. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to:

(a) Request the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance cooperation and synergies in the areas of chemicals and hazardous waste management;

(b) Request Parties to coordinate activities at the national and regional levels in the implementation of the three conventions.

¹ The text of decision SC-1/18 is reproduced in appendix I of the annex to the present note.

² The text of decision RC-2/6 is reproduced in appendix II to the annex to the present note.

³ The text of decision OEWG-V/6 is reproduced in appendix III to the annex to the present note.

Annex

Summary of events and relevant documents concerning synergies and cooperation between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

1. Decision RC-2/6, taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its second meeting, welcomed, inter alia, paragraph 3 of decision SC-1/18, taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its first meeting, for its secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a study on improving cooperation and synergies, including consideration of common structures, for the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions, with a view to ensuring maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes.
2. In addition, decision RC-2/6 requested UNEP, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare a supplementary analysis of the financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes which the three convention secretariats and UNEP might propose in the study requested in paragraph 3 of decision SC-1/18. The decision also requested that the supplementary analysis be considered at the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Stockholm and Basel conventions and that both the synergies studies and the supplementary analysis should be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting. The texts of decisions SC-1/18 and RC-2/6 are reproduced in appendices I and II below.
3. Decision OEWG-IV/10 of Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, taken at its fourth session, requested the Basel Convention secretariat to cooperate with the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention secretariats, taking into account decision SC-1/18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, in exploring cooperation and synergies and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting.
4. Decision OEWG-V/6 of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, taken at its fifth session and reproduced in appendix III below, requested the secretariat of the Basel Convention to transmit the annex to its note entitled "Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies" (UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8) to the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions, and to invite them to make the annex available as an information paper for their conferences of the parties.
5. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention considered the matters and document referred to above at its second meeting – i.e., it considered the results of the study on cooperation and synergies; the supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements; and the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention – and it adopted decision SC-2/15 on synergies.
6. The aforementioned documents considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting and the text of decision SC-2/15 have been made available to the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its current meeting in the following documents:
 - (a) The results of the study on cooperation and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are given in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/19;
 - (b) The supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements is given in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/20;
 - (c) The recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies given in the report prepared by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/2/Add.8) are reproduced in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/10;
 - (d) The text of decision SC-2/15 on synergies taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting is given in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/5.

Appendix I

SC-1/18: Enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste issues,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, for a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and the Rotterdam conventions;

2. *Decides* that further possibilities for additional synergies should be explored;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant Secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved, taking into account the special nature of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play;

4. *Decides* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 3 at its second meeting;

5. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting to consider the results of the study;

6. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session to consider the results of the study as well as the considerations and decisions from the above-mentioned bodies;

7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, when making arrangements for the performance of the Secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention, to provide for the future adaptation of these arrangements to any decisions regarding this issue that might be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting;

8. *Invites* contributions from those Parties in a position to contribute to the voluntary trust fund to finance the study.

Annex to decision SC-1/18

Excerpts from important relevant decisions on synergies between chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement secretariats

United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance (February 2002)

“In particular, there is support for enhancing collaboration among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats in specific areas where common issues arise, such as current work among the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats and including the interim Secretariats”.

Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties decision RC-1/17 on financing and budget for the biennium 2005–2006 (September 2004)

“Invites the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting to consider, if feasible and appropriate, co-financing in 2006 the position of a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions at the level of D-1.”

United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 23/9 on chemicals management (February 2005)

“1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen support, within available resources, for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

“2. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes;

“3. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals;

“4. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote full cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals;

“5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, as it relates to cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session”.

Appendix II

RC-2/6: Enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste management, and in order to achieve economies of scale including by sharing resources,

1. *Recalls* the proposal made in its decision RC-1/17 for a joint head of the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention;
2. *Welcomes* decision SC-1/18 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention for its secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on improving cooperation and synergies, including consideration of common structures, for the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, with a view to ensuring maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes;
3. *Welcomes* also the recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention made at its fourth session requesting the secretariat of the Basel Convention to cooperate with the secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions in preparation of the study on cooperation and synergies referred to in paragraph 2 above;
4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to join this work by contributing to the study on cooperation and synergies with the Basel and Stockholm convention secretariats;
5. *Considers* that to enable the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions to take any decisions which they may deem appropriate at their next meetings, they will require in addition to the above-mentioned study a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme may propose. In addition, such supplementary analysis should identify any financial savings that might accrue, as well as any implications for adjustments to secretariat expenditures on United Nations administrative fees;
6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare the supplementary analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above and to make it available for consideration at the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions;
7. *Agrees* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 2 above and the analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above at its third meeting.

Appendix III

Decision OEWG-V/6: Synergies

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling its decision OEWG-IV/10 in which it requested the Secretariat to cooperate with the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in exploring cooperation and synergies, taking into account decision SC-1/18 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting,

Recognizing that there is further need for consideration of the substance of the proposals contained in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on improving cooperation and synergies,⁴ as well as the study prepared by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention⁵ and the supplementary financial analysis prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to decision RC-2/6 of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention,⁶

Noting the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Noting also the need carefully to take into account the autonomy of conferences of the parties in any decisions on synergies,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to send the annex to the note by the Secretariat,⁷ which contains useful preliminary information that has not yet been fully considered by the Open-ended Working Group, to the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and to invite them to make the document available as an information paper to their respective conferences of the parties and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Invites* Parties to transmit to the Secretariat comments and proposals on the annex to the Secretariat's note⁸ by 31 July 2006;

3. *Directs* the Secretariat to compile the comments and proposals it receives pursuant to paragraph 2 above for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to transmit to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighth meeting the annex to the Secretariat's note,⁹ the Stockholm Secretariat study¹⁰ and the United Nations Environment Programme supplementary financial analysis,¹¹ as well as any relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting and the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting and the final recommendations requested in decision OEWG-IV/10;

5. *Invites* the Secretariats of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance cooperation on a mutually inclusive basis on synergies across the three Conventions;

6. *Invites* Parties to coordinate fully at the national level on cooperation and synergies so that the Conferences of the Parties of the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions can take harmonized complementary decisions.

⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/2/Add.8.

⁵ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/17 (incorporating UNEP/POPS/COP.2/25 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12).

⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18.

⁷ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/2/Add.8.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/17 (incorporating UNEP/POPS/COP.2/25 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12).

¹¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18.

Appendix IV

Terms of reference for the ad hoc joint working group, derived from Stockholm Convention decision SC-2/15

1. The ad hoc joint working group should prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels to be forwarded to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to each convention.
 2. In developing such joint recommendations, the ad hoc joint working group should consider:
 - (a) The supplementary report prepared pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision SC-2/15 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in annex 2;
 - (b) The views on the supplementary report submitted by Parties and observers to the three conventions.
 3. The ad hoc joint working group may also consider other relevant information, documents and reports, including the reports contained in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/19, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/20, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/10.
 4. The ad hoc joint working group shall consist of 45 representatives. Each convention shall nominate 15 representatives selected from amongst the Parties to that convention, to participate in the ad hoc joint working group, giving due consideration to the five United Nations regions. Other Parties and observers may participate as observers in the discussions of the ad hoc joint working group. Each convention shall be responsible for meeting the costs of participation of its representatives who are from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition.
 5. The secretariat services for the meetings of the ad hoc joint working Group shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, except for administrative arrangements relating to participation of representatives of the Basel Convention to the ad hoc joint working group which shall be undertaken by the Basel Convention Secretariat.
 6. The ad hoc joint working group shall determine its own procedures.
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