



**United Nations  
Environment Programme**

**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

Distr.: General  
6 July 2006

English only

**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**

**Decisions originating from the second meeting of the Conference  
of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, held from 1 to 5 May 2006 in Geneva, considered three documents on cooperation and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions: the results of the study on cooperation and synergies requested in decision SC-1/18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention; the supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements requested in decision RC-2/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; and the annex to the note by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention entitled "Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies" (UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8) transmitted pursuant to decision OEWG-V/6.
2. Following its consideration of those documents, at its second meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted decision SC-2/15 on synergies. The text of that decision is reproduced in the annex to the present note.

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

## Annex

### Decision SC-2/15: Synergies<sup>1</sup>

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision SC-1/18 and welcoming decision RC-2/6 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 and decisions OEWG-IV/10 and OEWG-V/6 of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,

*Mindful* of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management<sup>2</sup> and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

*Taking note* of the information in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.2/25, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/19,<sup>3</sup> as well as the provisions of Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention,

*Believing* that the issue of synergies and cooperation should be subject to a process that is transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

1. *Calls for* further improved cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
2. *Requests* the President, supported by the Secretariat and in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and Secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, to ensure that the reports contained in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/19 are supplemented by a further report exploring the specific areas in which cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the programmatic level would be to the mutual advantage of all three conventions and without prejudice to their autonomy;
3. *Also requests* that the supplementary report to be prepared pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision be submitted to the ad hoc joint working group referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision and that it explore the following areas, *inter alia*: joint training activities; joint field activities and capacity-building; the use of regional centres as well as other centres of excellence; joint planning and joint implementation of activities; exchange of information; organization of joint meetings of subsidiary bodies and working groups and back-to-back conferences of the parties;
4. *Further requests* that the supplementary report analyse the advantages, relevant considerations and possible disadvantages of each specific area of coordination and cooperation, and reflect the outcomes of the consultative process outlined in paragraph 2 of the present decision;
5. *Requests* that the supplementary report outline any other improvements in any administrative or organizational matter that may be required in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency and to implement programme synergies identified pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision, including analysis of the need for and implications of a possible joint head of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, taking into account the special nature of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, 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;
6. *Decides* to make available the supplementary report to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions as soon as available and suggests the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group as a possible way forward and invites the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions to consider that option and, in the event of their endorsement, agrees to its establishment. It is suggested that the working group consider the supplementary report referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I–III.

<sup>3</sup> Incorporating document UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8.

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;

7. *Requests* that the supplementary report be made available to Parties and observers to the three conventions through their respective Secretariats and invites Parties and observers to the three conventions to submit their views on the supplementary report through their respective Secretariats to the ad hoc joint working group proposed in paragraph 6 of the present decision;

8. *Decides*, in the event of the establishment of such an ad hoc joint working group, that the Parties, through the Bureau, shall nominate by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties fifteen representatives, i.e., three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions, to participate in an ad hoc joint working group of the three conventions;

9. *Invites* the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions each to nominate fifteen representatives, giving due consideration to the five United Nations regions;

10. *Invites* Parties and others to make contributions through the special trust fund to ensure the participation of representatives of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the ad hoc joint working group;

11. *Also invites* Parties to coordinate fully at the national and regional levels on enhancing cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the three conventions and encourages them to share experiences in that regard;

12. *Encourages* the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to continue to enhance synergies with other relevant international institutions and organizations and requests that experience gained in this regard be reported to the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, mindful of the present decision, to staff without delay the previously approved position of joint head of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and all other positions in the Stockholm Convention Secretariat approved at the first and second meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Persistent Organic Pollutants.

---