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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
Fourth meeting**

Rome, 27–31 October 2008

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Convention: status of implementation

**Status of ratification of the Rotterdam Convention as of
2 August 2008**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The text of the Rotterdam Convention was adopted at a conference of plenipotentiaries on 10 September 1998 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In accordance with its Article 24, the Convention was opened for signature by all States and regional economic integration organizations in Rotterdam on 11 September 1998 and subsequently at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 September 1998 to 10 September 1999. As of 11 September 1999, the Convention had received 73 signatures. In accordance with its Article 26, the Convention entered into force on 24 February 2004, on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. According to paragraph 2 of Article 26 of the Convention, “for each State or regional economic integration organization that ratifies, accepts or approves this Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession”.
3. As of 2 August 2008, 123 States and one regional economic integration organization had ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Convention. On the date of the opening of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention will have entered into force for 124 Parties and it will enter into force for two additional Parties: Uganda on 16 November 2008 and Nicaragua on 18 December 2008.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/1.

4. Information on the status of ratification of the Convention is presented in two annexes to the present note. Annex I lists in alphabetical order all Parties to the Convention as of 2 August 2008. Annex II shows the general status of ratification of the Convention. The information presented in the annexes to the present note is based on instruments received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as depositary of the Convention, and information published by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. The information provided in annex II is based on that published by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, without formal editing by the Secretariat.

Annex I

Parties to the Convention as of 2 August 2008

1.	Argentina	47.	Ghana	93.	Philippines
2.	Armenia	48.	Greece	94.	Poland
3.	Australia	49.	Guinea	95.	Portugal
4.	Austria	50.	Guinea-Bissau	96.	Qatar
5.	Belgium	51.	Guyana	97.	Republic of Korea
6.	Belize	52.	Hungary	98.	Republic of Moldova
7.	Benin	53.	India	99.	Romania
8.	Bolivia	54.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	100.	Rwanda
9.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	55.	Ireland	101.	Samoa
10.	Botswana	56.	Italy	102.	Saudi Arabia
11.	Brazil	57.	Jamaica	103.	Senegal
12.	Bulgaria	58.	Japan	104.	Singapore
13.	Burkina Faso	59.	Jordan	105.	Slovakia
14.	Burundi	60.	Kazakhstan	106.	Slovenia
15.	Cameroon	61.	Kenya	107.	South Africa
16.	Canada	62.	Kuwait	108.	Spain
17.	Cape Verde	63.	Kyrgyzstan	109.	Sri Lanka
18.	Chad	64.	Latvia	110.	Sudan
19.	Chile	65.	Lebanon	111.	Suriname
20.	China	66.	Lesotho	112.	Sweden
21.	Congo	67.	Liberia	113.	Switzerland
22.	Cook Islands	68.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	114.	Syrian Arab Republic
23.	Côte d'Ivoire	69.	Liechtenstein	115.	Thailand
24.	Croatia	70.	Lithuania	116.	Togo
25.	Cuba	71.	Luxembourg	117.	Ukraine
26.	Cyprus	72.	Madagascar	118.	United Arab Emirates
27.	Czech Republic	73.	Malaysia	119.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
28.	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	74.	Maldives	120.	United Republic of Tanzania
29.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	75.	Mali	121.	Uruguay
30.	Denmark	76.	Marshall Islands	122.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
31.	Djibouti	77.	Mauritania	123.	Viet Nam
32.	Dominica	78.	Mauritius	124.	Yemen
33.	Dominican Republic	79.	Mexico		
34.	Ecuador	80.	Mongolia		
35.	El Salvador	81.	Namibia		
36.	Equatorial Guinea	82.	Nepal		
37.	Eritrea	83.	Netherlands		
38.	Estonia	84.	New Zealand		
39.	Ethiopia	85.	Niger		
40.	European Community	86.	Nigeria		
41.	Finland	87.	Norway		
42.	France	88.	Oman		
43.	Gabon	89.	Pakistan		
44.	Gambia	90.	Panama		
45.	Germany	91.	Paraguay		
46.	Georgia	92.	Peru		

Annex II

Status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession as of 2 August 2008

Status: signatories: 73; Parties: 124¹

Text: Doc. UNEP/FAO/PIC/CONF/5; C.N.846.2002.TREATIES-8 of 20 August 2002 (proposal of corrections to the original English text of the Convention); C.N.1029.2002.TREATIES-18 of 23 September 2002 (correction to the original English text of the Convention); C.N.10.2005.TREATIES-1 of 11 January 2005 (Adoption of Annex VI); C.N.11.2005.TREATIES-2 of 11 January 2005 (Amendments to Annex III)^{2,3}

Party	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)		Entry into force
Angola	11 Sep 1998			
Argentina	11 Sep 1998	11 Jun 2004		9 Sep 2004
Armenia	11 Sep 1998	26 Nov 2003		24 Feb 2004
Australia	6 Jul 1999	20 May 2004		18 Aug 2004
Austria	11 Sep 1998	27 Aug 2002		24 Feb 2004
Barbados	11 Sep 1998			
Belgium	11 Sep 1998	23 Oct 2002		24 Feb 2004
Belize		20 Apr 2005	a	19 Jul 2005
Benin	11 Sep 1998	5 Jan 2004		4 Apr 2004
Bolivia		18 Dec 2003	a	17 Mar 2004
Bosnia and Herzegovina		19 Mar 2007	a	17 Jun 2007
Botswana		5 Feb 2008		5 May 2008
Brazil	11 Sep 1998	16 Jun 2004		14 Sep 2004
Bulgaria		25 Jul 2000	a	24 Feb 2004
Burkina Faso	11 Sep 1998	11 Nov 2002		24 Feb 2004
Burundi		23 Sep 2004	a	22 Dec 2005
Cameroon	11 Sep 1998	20 May 2002		24 Feb 2004
Canada		26 Aug 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Cape Verde		1 Mar 2006	A	30 May 2006
Chad	11 Sep 1998	10 Mar 2004		8 Jun 2004
Chile	11 Sep 1998	20 Jan 2005		20 Apr 2005
China ⁴	24 Aug 1999	22 Mar 2005		20 Jun 2005
Colombia	11 Sep 1998			
Congo	11 Sep 1998	13 Jul 2006		11 Oct 2006
Cook Islands		29 Jun 2004	a	27 Sep 2004
Costa Rica	17 Aug 1999			
Côte d'Ivoire	11 Sep 1998	20 Jan 2004		19 Apr 2004
Croatia		16 Nov 2007		14 Feb 2008
Cuba	11 Sep 1998	22 Feb 2008		22 May 2008
Cyprus	11 Sep 1998	17 Dec 2004		17 Mar 2005
Czech Republic	22 Jun 1999	12 Jun 2000		24 Feb 2004
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		6 Feb 2004	a	6 May 2004
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11 Sep 1998	23 Mar 2005		21 Jun 2005
Denmark ⁵	11 Sep 1998	15 Jan 2004		14 Apr 2004
Djibouti		10 Nov 2004	a	10 Feb 2005
Dominica		30 Dec 2005	a	29 Mar 2006
Dominican Republic		23 Mar 2006	a	21 Jun 2006
Ecuador	11 Sep 1998	4 May 2004		2 Aug 2004
El Salvador	16 Feb 1999	8 Sep 1999		24 Feb 2004
Equatorial Guinea		7 Feb 2003	a	24 Feb 2004
Eritrea		10 Mar 2005	a	8 Jun 2005
Estonia		13 Jun 2006	a	11 Sep 2006
Ethiopia		9 Jan 2003	a	24 Feb 2004

Party	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)		Entry into force
European Community	11 Sep 1998	20 Dec 2002	AA	24 Feb 2004
Finland	11 Sep 1998	4 Jun 2004	A	2 Sep 2004
France	11 Sep 1998	17 Feb 2004	AA	17 May 2004
Gabon		18 Dec 2003	a	17 Mar 2004
Gambia		26 Feb 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Georgia		27 Feb 2007	a	28 May 2007
Germany	11 Sep 1998	11 Jan 2001		24 Feb 2004
Ghana	11 Sep 1998	30 May 2003		24 Feb 2004
Greece	11 Sep 1998	23 Dec 2003		22 Mar 2004
Guinea		7 Sep 2000	a	24 Feb 2004
Guinea-Bissau	10 Sep 1999			
Guyana		25 Jun 2007	a	23 Sep 2007
Hungary	10 Sep 1999	31 Oct 2000		24 Feb 2004
India		24 May 2005	a	22 Aug 2005
Indonesia	11 Sep 1998			
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	17 Feb 1999	26 Aug 2004		24 Nov 2004
Ireland		10 Jun 2005	a	8 Sep 2005
Israel	20 May 1999			
Italy	11 Sep 1998	27 Aug 2002		24 Feb 2004
Jamaica		20 Aug 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Japan	31 Aug 1999	15 Jun 2004	A	13 Sep 2004
Jordan		22 Jul 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Kazakhstan		1 Nov 2007	a	30 Jan 2008
Kenya	11 Sep 1998	3 Feb 2005		4 May 2005
Kuwait	11 Sep 1998	12 May 2006		26 Aug 2006
Kyrgyzstan	11 Aug 1999	25 May 2000		24 Feb 2004
Latvia		23 Apr 2003	a	24 Feb 2004
Liberia		22 Sep 2004	a	22 Dec 2004
Lebanon		13 Nov 2006		11 Feb 2007
Lesotho		30 May 2008	a	28 Aug 2008
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		9 Jul 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Liechtenstein		18 Jun 2004	a	16 Sep 2004
Lithuania		17 Mar 2004	a	15 Jun 2004
Luxembourg	11 Sep 1998	28 Aug 2002		24 Feb 2004
Madagascar	8 Dec 1998	22 Sep 2004		21 Dec 2004
Malaysia		4 Sep 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Maldives		17 Oct 2006	a	15 Jan 2007
Mali	11 Sep 1998	5 Jun 2003		24 Feb 2004
Marshall Islands		27 Jan 2003	a	24 Feb 2004
Mauritania	1 Sep 1999	22 Jul 2005		20 Oct 2005
Mauritius		8 Aug 2005	a	3 Nov 2005
Mongolia	11 Sep 1998	8 Mar 2001		24 Feb 2004
Mexico		4 May 2005	a	2 Aug 2005
Namibia	11 Sep 1998	24 Jun 2005		22 Sep 2005
Nepal		9 Feb 2007	a	6 May 2007
Netherlands ⁶	11 Sep 1998	20 Apr 2000	A	24 Feb 2004
New Zealand ⁷	11 Sep 1998	23 Sep 2003		24 Feb 2004
Niger		16 Feb 2006	a	7 May 2006
Nigeria		28 Jun 2001	a	24 Feb 2004
Norway	11 Sep 1998	25 Oct 2001	A	24 Feb 2004
Oman		31 Jan. 2000	a	24 Feb 2004
Pakistan	9 Sep 1999	14 Jul 2005		12 Oct 2005
Panama	11 Sep 1998	18 Aug 2000		24 Feb 2004
Paraguay	11 Sep 1998	18 Aug 2003		24 Feb 2004
Peru	11 Sep 1998	14 Sep 2005		13 Dec 2005
Philippines	11 Sep 1998	31 July 2006		29 Oct 2006
Poland		14 Sep 2005	a	13 Dec 2005
Portugal	11 Sep 1998	16 Feb 2005	AA	17 May 2005
Qatar		10 Dec 2004	a	10 Mar 2005
Republic of Korea	7 Sep 1999	11 Aug 2003		24 Feb 2004
Republic of Moldova		27 Jan 2005	a	27 Apr 2005

Party	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)		Entry into force
Romania		2 Sep 2003	a	24 Feb 2004
Rwanda		7 Jan 2004	a	6 Apr 2004
Saint Lucia	25 Jan 1999			
Samoa		30 May 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Saudi Arabia		7 Sep 2000	a	24 Feb 2004
Senegal	11 Sep 1998	20 Jul 2001		24 Feb 2004
Seychelles	11 Sep 1998			
Singapore		24 May 2005	a	22 Aug 2005
Slovakia		26 Jan 2007	a	26 April 2007
Slovenia	11 Sep 1998	17 Nov 1999		24 Feb 2004
South Africa		4 Sep 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Spain	11 Sep 1998	2 Mar 2004		31 May 2004
Sri Lanka		19 Jan 2006	a	19 April 2006
Sudan		17 Feb 2005	a	18 May 2005
Suriname		30 May 2000	a	24 Feb 2004
Sweden	11 Sep 1998	10 Oct 2003		24 Feb 2004
Switzerland	11 Sep 1998	10 Jan 2002		24 Feb 2004
Syrian Arab Republic	11 Sep 1998	24 Sep 2003		24 Feb 2004
Tajikistan	28 Sep 1998			
Thailand		19 Feb 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
Togo	9 Sep 1999	23 Jun 2004		21 Sep 2004
Tunisia	11 Sep 1998			
Turkey	11 Sep 1998			
Ukraine		6 Dec 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
United Arab Emirates		10 Sep 2002	a	24 Feb 2004
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11 Sep 1998	17 Jun 2004		15 Sep 2004
United Republic of Tanzania	11 Sep 1998	26 Aug 2002		24 Feb 2004
United States of America	11 Sep 1998			
Uruguay	11 Sep 1998	4 Mar 2003		24 Feb 2004
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		19 Apr 2005	a	18 Jul 2005
Viet Nam		7 May 2007	a	5 Aug 2007
Yemen		4 Feb 2006	a	5 May 2006

Notes

1. In accordance with article 26, paragraph 3, of the Convention, any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of that organization.

2. By decision RC-1/11 of 24 September 2004, adopted at its first meeting, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention adopted Annex VI, setting out the arbitration procedure for purposes of paragraph 2 (a) of article 20 of the Convention and the conciliation procedure for purposes of paragraph 6 of article 20 of the Convention.

In accordance with paragraph 3 (b) of article 22 of the Convention, any Party that is unable to accept an additional annex shall so notify the Depositary, in writing, within one year from the date of communication of the adoption of the additional annex by the Depositary. The Depositary shall without delay notify all Parties of any such notification received. A Party may at any time withdraw a previous notification of non-acceptance in respect of an additional annex and the annex shall thereupon enter into force for that Party subject to paragraph 3 (c) of the same article. In accordance with paragraph 3 (c), on the expiry of one year from the date of the communication by the Depositary of its adoption, Annex VI shall enter into force for all Parties that have not submitted a notification in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 (b).

3. By decision RC-1/3 of 24 September 2004, adopted at its first meeting, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention adopted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 8 and paragraph 5 of article 22 of the Convention, the amendments to Annex III.

In accordance with paragraph 5 (c) of article 22 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in the same decision, decided that “all the amendments shall enter into force on 1 February 2005, except for the amendments made by subparagraph 1 (a) and (b) of the annex to the ... decision, which shall enter into force on 1 January 2006”.

4. With the following declaration:

“In accordance with the provision of article 138 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and article 153 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, the Government of the People’s Republic of China decides that the Convention shall apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China; it shall not apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China until the Government of China notifies otherwise.”

5. With a territorial exclusion in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

6. For the Kingdom in Europe.

7. With the following territorial exclusion:

“... consistent with the constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account the commitment of the Government of New Zealand to the development of self-government for Tokelau through an act of self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations, this ratification shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a Declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the Depositary on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory.”

Declarations and reservations (unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and reservations were made upon ratification, acceptance, approval or accession)

Austria

Declaration:

“The Republic of Austria declares in accordance with Article 20 (2) of the Convention that it accepts both of the means of dispute settlement mentioned in Paragraph 2 as compulsory in relation to any party accepting a an obligation concerning one or both of these means of dispute.”

European Community

Declaration:

“The European Community declares that, in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175 (l) thereof, it is competent to enter into international agreements, and to implement the obligations resulting therefrom, which contribute to the pursuit of the following objectives:

preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment;

protecting human health;

prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources;

promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems.

Moreover, the European Community declares that it has already adopted legal instruments, including a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals, binding on its Member States, covering matters governed by this Convention, and will submit and update, as appropriate, a list of those legal instruments to the Secretariat of the Convention.

The European Community is responsible for the performance of those obligations resulting from the Convention which are covered by Community law in force.

The exercise of Community competence is, by its nature, subject to continuous development.”

Norway

Declaration:

“In accordance with article 20 (2), [Norway declares that], with respect to any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, it recognizes (b) Submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.”

Republic of Moldova

Declaration:

According to article 20 of the Convention, the Republic of Moldova declares that [it] accepts both means of dispute settlement, mentioned in paragraph 2 of the article, as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation.

Syrian Arab Republic

Declaration:

“The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has reviewed the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which was signed in 1998. Having given it thorough consideration:

It declares that it has already ratified the above-mentioned Convention by virtue of legislative decree No. 35 of 13 July 2003, and that it will fully comply with and respect all its provisions, while confirming that the ratification of this Convention by the Syrian Arab Republic does not in any way constitute a recognition of Israel, and that the provisions of the Convention do not imply that the Syrian Arab Republic has to deal with that State.”

Objections (unless otherwise indicated, the objections were received upon ratification, acceptance, approval, accession or succession)

Israel

With regard to the declaration made by the Syrian Arab Republic upon ratification:

“The Government of the State of Israel has noted that the instrument of ratification of the Syrian Arab Republic to the abovementioned Convention contains a declaration with respect to the State of Israel. The Government of the State of Israel considers that such declaration, which is explicitly of a political nature, is incompatible with the purposes and objectives of the Convention.

The Government of the State of Israel therefore objects to the aforesaid declaration made by the Syrian Arab Republic.”