



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

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

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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

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 20–24 June 2011

Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: financial resources**

Follow-up to decision RC-4/8 on progress made towards the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. By paragraph 3 of its decision RC-4/8, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention requested the Secretariat to continue working with relevant partners such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in endeavouring to ensure that provisions relevant to the Rotterdam Convention were taken into account in the development of technical assistance projects and activities in follow-up to decision RC-3/5 on the financial mechanism.
2. Detailed information on the Secretariat's continuing cooperation with key partners can be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/19, which describes the Secretariat's technical assistance activities, and also in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/23, which describes other activities by the Secretariat.

I. Cooperation with other bodies

A. Global Environment Facility

3. Collaboration with GEF is continuing with the aim of providing assistance to parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention and against the backdrop of the importance of adopting an integrated approach to chemicals management and the need for synergies with relevant partners and other multilateral environmental agreements at all levels to attain common implementation goals.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/1/Rev.1.

4. The Secretariat held consultations with the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination to discuss possible areas of cooperation, in particular as a follow-up to the GEF Council's decision to broaden its window for chemicals management. That decision was taken during the sixth meeting on the fifth replenishment of GEF resources, on 12 May 2010, at which the Council determined the allocation of funds for initiatives related to chemicals other than persistent organic pollutants and funds for mercury-related projects.

B. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

5. Cooperation with UNITAR is currently under way in the following three areas:

(a) Development of training workshops and guidance materials in relation to resource mobilization for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes;

(b) Facilitating the development of project proposals supporting the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, for submission to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management's Quick Start Programme;

(c) Development of joint capacity-building activities to support the development of a programme related to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

6. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) cooperates with the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention in the implementation of the activities listed in table I of decision RC-4/12. In addition, FAO is in a position to establish trust funds under its new unified budgets that would allow donors to provide funds for activities aimed at achieving the results contemplated in the FAO programme of work for each FAO division and office (referred to as "unit results"), including activities of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat. This development could represent a good opportunity to attract and secure additional funds from FAO donors, especially for technical assistance activities under the Convention.

D. Chemicals and wastes

7. Significant efforts have been made by the Secretariat to ensure that technical assistance activities are carried out in cooperation with relevant organizations, regional networks and institutions. An example is the strategy on industrial chemicals developed in consultation and cooperation with partner organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

8. A consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes was launched during the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in May 2009, by the Executive Director of UNEP. The process was established in response to the need for adequate resources in the field of chemicals and wastes management. The purpose of the consultation is to analyse the current situation with regard to financing for chemicals and wastes management at the national, regional and international levels, including but not limited to the implementation of party obligations under chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements, and to devise strategic, synergistic proposals for improving it. The Secretariat actively supports the implementation of the initiative. Additional information can be found at www.unep.org/dec/Chemical_Financing/index.asp.

E. Ozone Secretariat

9. By paragraph 4 of its decision RC-4/8, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention invited the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to consider the extent to which cooperation between the Montreal Protocol and the Rotterdam Convention could be enhanced. Copies of the correspondence exchanged between the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the Ozone Secretariat in follow-up to decision RC-4/8 can be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/INF/7.

10. The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the Ozone Secretariat have taken steps to identify possible areas of cooperation between the parties to both instruments. On 26 November 2007, the Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention officially communicated decision RC-3/5 to the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat. In response, the Ozone Secretariat transmitted a letter, dated 30 September 2008, informing the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat that decision RC-3/5 would be brought to the attention of the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which met in Doha from 16 to 20 November 2008. Decision RC-3/5 was incorporated into a pre-session document for the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties (UNEP/OzL.Pro.20/INF/5).

11. The Twentieth Meeting of the Parties noted in its decision XX/7 on environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances, among other things, that any project implemented pursuant to the decision should conform with national, regional and international requirements such as those mandated by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Substances and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention.

12. On 13 July 2009, the Ozone Secretariat released a report on funding opportunities for the management and destruction of banks of ozone-depleting substances (UNEP/OzL.Pro/Workshop.3/2/Add.1), which mentioned consultations between the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the Ozone Secretariat, in particular in terms of training for Customs officers. The same report also stated that co-funding opportunities involving Convention donors for activities directly related to ozone-depleting substances could not be identified at that stage, since the Rotterdam Convention had no direct relevance to the issue of banks of ozone-depleting substances.

13. The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat continues to cooperate with the Ozone Secretariat on Customs issues in the context of the Green Customs Initiative, in which both organizations are partners. They are also collaborating in the production of the Green Customs Guide and in the development of an e-learning module for Customs officers.

II. Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

14. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To take note of the actions taken by the Secretariat pursuant to decision RC-3/5;

(b) To request the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with relevant partners such as GEF, GEF implementing agencies and UNITAR in endeavouring to ensure that provisions relevant to the Rotterdam Convention are taken into account in the development of technical assistance projects and activities in follow-up to decision RC-3/5.
