



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

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

Distr. General
7 April 2011

Original: English

**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 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: organization of work

Scenario note for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat, in consultation with Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi (South Africa), President 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, has prepared the present scenario note to assist representatives in preparing for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties by communicating expectations for the meeting and highlighting key issues. The scenario outlined below suggests one of various possible approaches to the conduct of the meeting and is provided without prejudice to any decision that the Conference may wish to take on how it will organize its work.

2. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place from 20 to 24 June 2011 at the International Conference Centre, 15 rue de Varembe, in Geneva. Invitations for the meeting were sent in December 2010, and documents were posted on the Convention website (www.pic.int) in January and May 2011 in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

A. General objectives of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

3. The overall objective of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is to provide a sound basis for the implementation of the Convention by all parties, emphasizing synergies between the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and for promoting the sound management of chemicals. It is proposed that issues related to the functioning of the Convention be dealt with in two categories: policy issues and operational or implementation issues.

4. The key policy issues to be considered by the Conference of the Parties include:

(a) The further discussion and possible adoption of the procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention, based on the text developed at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

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

(b) The possible inclusion of four new chemicals in Annex III to the Convention and the adoption of the relevant decision guidance documents submitted by the Chemical Review Committee;

(c) A review of the progress made in the implementation by parties of their key obligations under the Convention, considering lessons learned, with a view to providing guidance to the Secretariat and parties on possible future actions. Of particular concern is the process for reaching consensus on listing chemicals in Annex III that have been recommended for inclusion by the Chemical Review Committee;

(d) The review of a set of documents related to cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and consideration of a draft decision on the subject. The documents will already have been submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fifth meeting, in April 2011, and will be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its tenth meeting, in October 2011.

5. The key operational or implementation issues to be considered by the Conference of the Parties include:

(a) The consideration of a report on the outcome of the technical assistance activities undertaken in 2009–2011 and a decision on a technical assistance programme for 2012–2013. The proposed programme has been tailored to meet the needs identified by parties regarding the implementation of the Convention and includes a series of activities to be undertaken jointly with the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;

(b) A review of progress in the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on the financial mechanism. Parties are encouraged to come to the meeting prepared to report on the actions that they have taken to implement this decision;

(c) The election of a new Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, to serve from the end of the current meeting to the end of the sixth meeting as the term of office of the current Bureau will end with the closure of the current meeting. In addition it will be necessary to agree on the 14 parties that will be eligible to designate new experts to the Chemical Review Committee to replace those who were appointed for a four-year term under decision RC-1/6. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure the Conference of the Parties will need to elect a new chair of the Chemical Review Committee. The parties may wish to elect Ms. Hala Sultan Saif Al-Easa (Qatar), who at the seventh meeting of the Chemical Review Committee was selected by the new Bureau of the Committee to serve as acting Chair of the Committee pending the election of a Chair by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting. The Committee may also wish to thank Ms. Marit Randall (Norway) for her diligence as the Chair of the Committee for the past two years. Regional groups are thus encouraged to review, during the course of the meeting, their representation on the Bureau and the Chemical Review Committee;

(d) To approve a programme of work for 2012–2013, including the adoption of a budget for that period, together with a possible decision on ways to reduce exposure to losses arising from currency fluctuations.

6. The Conference of the Parties will also need to review other issues that were scheduled for consideration at the current meeting according to its prior decisions. Details on these items may be found in the documents referred to in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/1/Rev.1/Add.1).

B. Agenda and organization of the meeting

7. The annotations to the provisional agenda identify issues for discussion and the documents related to each agenda item. Most of the documents prepared for the current meeting identify the provisions of the Convention or decisions of the Conference of the Parties that provide mandates for the activities discussed therein. Meeting documents also identify possible actions to be taken by the Conference of the Parties.

8. The meeting will comprise five days of sessions, from 20 to 24 June (Monday to Friday). It is proposed that the Conference of the Parties meet in plenary session twice a day for three hours during each day of the meeting (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.).

9. The meeting will be opened on Monday, 20 June, at 10 a.m. It is proposed that the meeting be conducted in plenary session and that contact and drafting groups be established as needed.

10. After the opening formalities on Monday morning (item 1 of the provisional agenda), the Conference of the Parties will adopt the agenda for the meeting, amended as appropriate (item 2 of the provisional agenda).
11. The Conference of the Parties will agree on organizational matters (item 3 of the provisional agenda), and may wish to elect the officers for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This would allow for a joint meeting of the Bureau of the fifth meeting and the newly elected Bureau, which as discussed above will take office immediately following the close of the current meeting, to facilitate the transition.
12. The Conference of the Parties may then consider the credentials of representatives. The Secretariat will introduce the matter to the Conference of the Parties and, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau will examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference of the Parties thereon later in the week.
13. The Conference of the Parties will consider its rules of procedure (item 4 of the provisional agenda). The rules of procedure were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, except for the text in square brackets in paragraph 1 of rule 45. The Conference of the Parties may wish to discuss that text with the aim of resolving its status.
14. Before turning to matters related to the implementation of the Convention (item 5 of the provisional agenda), the Conference of the Parties may wish to review the items on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (item 6 of the provisional agenda), on the report on activities by the Secretariat and on the programme of work, and to consider the proposed budget and staffing situation for the biennium 2012–2013 (item 7 of the provisional agenda). This would provide an opportunity for the Secretariat to make an initial presentation and for a budget contact group to be established to prepare a draft decision on financing and budget for the biennium 2012–2013, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties later in the week. In addition, the Conference of the Parties may wish to mandate the budget group to begin its work following initial discussions in plenary session of issues with budgetary implications (such as technical assistance and enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions).
15. The Conference of the Parties may then consider matters related to the implementation of the Convention (item 5 of the provisional agenda). Discussion of those items is expected to begin on Monday afternoon and continue until Thursday.
16. On Friday, the Conference of the Parties will have the opportunity to take decisions on the basis of draft decisions submitted by contact or drafting groups, or by the Secretariat, at the request of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties may wish to decide on the venue and date of its sixth meeting (item 8 of the provisional agenda) and to consider any other matters raised during the meeting (item 9 of the provisional agenda).
17. It is expected that the Conference of the Parties will adopt the report of the meeting on Friday afternoon (item 10 of the provisional agenda). In accordance with its usual practice, the Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt those sections of the report that describe the conduct of the meeting up until the end of the day on Thursday, with any amendments that it deems necessary. Also in accordance with its usual practice, the Conference of the Parties may wish to agree that those sections of the report describing the Friday plenary sessions will be prepared by the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated into the final report under the authority of the President.

C. Possible outcomes of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

18. The following is a list of expectations for the possible outcomes of the meeting:
- (a) Confirmation of the membership of the Chemical Review Committee, agreement on a process and schedule for nominating new members and, as appropriate, the noting of the outcome of the Committee's fifth, sixth and seventh meetings;
 - (b) Election of the Bureau for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure;
 - (c) Agreement on the procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention;
 - (d) Agreement on a possible approach for dealing with chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III by the Chemical Review Committee but on which the Conference of the Parties is unable to reach consensus;

- (e) Guidance to parties and the Secretariat on possible actions to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Convention;
 - (f) Decisions on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos, endosulfan, alachlor and aldicarb in Annex III to the Convention and adoption of the associated decision guidance documents;
 - (g) Adoption of a strategic plan related to industrial chemicals;
 - (h) Agreement to follow up on the work of the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session and the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization;
 - (i) Adoption of a strategic plan for establishing procedures for the operation of the Rotterdam Convention components of the joint clearing-house mechanism;
 - (j) Request to continue collaboration with relevant partners related to the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on the financial mechanism;
 - (k) Adoption of a decision regarding enhanced cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions relating to joint activities, joint managerial functions, joint services, synchronization of budget cycles, joint audits and review arrangements;
 - (l) Agreement on a programme of work for technical assistance for 2012–2013;
 - (m) Commitment to continue to fund the operation of the Convention, a decision on ways to reduce the exposure of the budget to losses arising from currency fluctuations and adoption of the programme of work and budget for 2012–2013.
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