



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

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

Distr.: General
7 December 2007

English only

**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed
Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Chemical Review Committee**

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 10–13 March 2008

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1. The fourth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, to be held from 10 to 13 March 2008, at the Varembe Conference Centre, 9 rue Varembe, Geneva, Switzerland, will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 10 March 2008.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be delivered by Mr. Donald Cooper and Mr. Peter Kenmore, Co-Executive Secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.

Item 2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

3. The Committee may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/1.

(b) Organization of work

4. Upon commencement of the meeting, the Committee will need to agree on suitable working hours. The Committee may wish to agree to meet each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments, as appropriate.
5. It is anticipated that the operational procedures of the Committee and the working procedures and policy guidance will be considered on Monday. The six candidate chemicals will be considered on

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

Tuesday and Wednesday with the goal of concluding the meeting and adopting the report on Thursday morning.

Item 3. Review of the role and mandate of the Chemical Review Committee

6. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat that provides an overview of the role and mandate of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/4). The note describes the functions entrusted to the Chemical Review Committee by the Convention and the establishment, composition, organization and operation of the Chemical Review Committee.

7. There will be a presentation on the role and mandate of the Chemical Review Committee and on the operation of the prior informed consent procedure under the Rotterdam Convention, with an emphasis on elements directly related to the work of the Committee. There will be opportunities for discussion of these practical issues during the first day of the meeting, particularly to ensure a common knowledge base for all members.

Item 4. Introduction to the operation of the Chemical Review Committee

(a) Intersessional work of the Committee

8. The Secretariat will make a presentation on the key elements of the intersessional work of the Chemical Review Committee. The presentation will focus on three elements of the Committee's working procedures:

(a) Preliminary review of notifications and proposed priorities for chemicals scheduled for review by the Chemical Review Committee;

(b) Guidance to intersessional task groups on reviewing notifications of final regulatory actions and supporting documentation for chemicals scheduled for consideration by the Chemical Review Committee;

(c) Process for drafting decision guidance documents.

9. The full text of the working procedures will be available to the Committee in an information document (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/INF/3).

(b) Working papers and policy guidance

10. The Committee will have before it an information document (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/INF/3) which is a compilation of the working procedures and policy guidance developed by the Committee. The individual papers contained in that information document will be introduced in order to assist the new members to understand the Committee's work. There will be opportunities for discussion of these practical issues during the first day of the meeting in order to ensure a common understanding of the work of the Committee among the members.

Item 5. Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

(a) Report of the Bureau on the preliminary review of notifications and proposed priorities for chemicals scheduled for review by the Chemical Review Committee

11. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat that sets out the results of the preliminary review of notifications undertaken by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and the proposed priorities for intersessional work on the chemicals scheduled for review by the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/3). The Committee may wish to consider the notifications before it in the context of the priorities suggested in the note.

(b) Review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict chemicals

(i) Alachlor

12. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing one verified notification from each of two prior informed consent (PIC) regions relating to alachlor (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/8). One notification comes from Europe and was submitted by the European Community; the other comes from North America and was submitted by Canada.

13. At its second meeting, the Committee considered the notification for alachlor from Canada. It agreed that the notification from Canada met all of the requirements of Annex I and Annex II to the Convention. The supporting documentation provided by Canada was presented to the Chemical Review Committee in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/10/Add.1. The rationale for the Committee's conclusion that the notification met the requirements of the Convention is set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/8/Add.1.

14. The supporting documentation provided by the European Community is available in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/8/Add.2.

(ii) Aldicarb

15. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to aldicarb (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/10). One notification comes from Europe and was submitted by the European Community; the other comes from Latin America and the Caribbean and was submitted by Jamaica.

16. The supporting documentation provided by the European Community and Jamaica is set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/10/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/10/Add.2, respectively.

(iii) Carbaryl

17. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to carbaryl (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/9). One notification comes from Europe and was submitted by the European Community; the other comes from the Near East and was submitted by Jordan.

18. The supporting documentation provided by Jordan and the European Community is set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/9/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/9/Add.2, respectively.

(iv) Methyl parathion

19. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing three verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to methyl parathion (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/6). One notification comes from Europe and was submitted by the European Community and has been considered previously; the others come from Latin America and the Caribbean and were submitted by the Dominican Republic and Guyana.

20. At its first meeting, the Committee considered the notification for methyl parathion from the European Community. It agreed that the notification met the requirements of the Convention. The supporting documentation provided by the European Community was presented to the Chemical Review Committee in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/19/Add.4. The rationale for the Committee's conclusion that the notification met the requirements of the Convention is available document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/6/Add.1.

21. Where available, the supporting documentation provided by the Dominican Republic and Guyana is set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/6/Add.2 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/6/Add.3, respectively.

(v) Mirex

22. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to mirex (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/7). One notification comes from North America and was submitted by Canada and has been considered previously; the other comes from Latin America and the Caribbean and was submitted by Guyana.

23. At its second meeting, the Committee considered the notification for mirex from Canada. It agreed that the notification met the requirements of the Convention. The supporting documentation provided by Canada was presented to the Chemical Review Committee in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/16/Add.1. The rationale for the Committee's conclusion that the notification met the requirements of the Convention is set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/7/Add.1.

24. The supporting documentation provided by Guyana is set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/6/Add.2,

(vi) Chrysotile asbestos

25. The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to chrysotile asbestos (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/5). One notification comes from Europe and was submitted by Bulgaria; the other comes from Asia and was submitted by Japan.

26. In both cases the notifications state that the final regulatory actions were not based on a hazard or risk evaluation. In the light of this, these notifications cannot meet criteria (b) of Annex II and the Committee may wish to assign lower priority to their consideration.

27. Where available, the additional information provided by the Bulgaria and Japan is set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/5/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/5/Add.2, respectively.

Item 6. Other matters

28. At the time of preparing the present annotated agenda, no other matters had been identified for discussion by the Committee.

Item 7. Adoption of the report

29. The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report on the work of its fourth meeting, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting

30. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by the Chair no later than 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, 13 March 2008.
