



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

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Chemical Review Committee
Sixth meeting
Geneva, 15–19 March 2010
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Organization of work

**Scenario note for the sixth meeting of the Chemical Review
Committee**

Note from the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Chemical Review Committee, in the annex to the present note, information for the sixth meeting of the Committee prepared by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Marit Randall (Norway).

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.6/1.

Annex

Scenario note for the sixth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

1. As the new Chair of the Committee, I have prepared the present scenario note for the sixth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee to communicate my plans and general expectations to participants and assist them in preparing for the meeting.
2. The documents for the sixth meeting of the Committee were sent to all Committee members and posted on the Rotterdam Convention website (www.pic.int) on 18 January 2010.
3. For up to 19 new members, the sixth meeting of the Committee will be their first. I would therefore like to spend most of the first day of the meeting (Monday, 15 March) on a review and discussion of the work of the Committee. I propose that we begin our review of the candidate chemicals on Tuesday with a view to concluding substantive discussion of them by the end of the day Thursday. I foresee concluding the meeting and adopting the report of the meeting on Friday afternoon (19 March 2010).
4. In consultation with the Bureau, I have identified experts from among the Committee members to work in intersessional task groups, each of which is responsible for the preliminary assessment of one of the five chemicals scheduled for review during the sixth meeting. Each task group will prepare a report that includes a review of the notifications and supporting documentation pertaining to the chemical at issue in the light of the requirements of the Convention. The task group reports will be posted on the Convention website two weeks prior to the meeting. Task groups will have an opportunity to meet on Sunday, 14 March. The task groups will present the results of their preliminary assessment to the full Committee for its consideration.
5. I propose to begin the technical segment of the meeting with a number of introductory presentations. First there will be a presentation on the role and mandate of the Committee and a review of the key elements of the Rotterdam Convention, in particular the prior informed consent procedure and the role and purpose of decision guidance documents. There will then follow a brief report on activities undertaken to encourage the effective participation of Committee members and parties in the Committee's work. Finally, there will then be a brief report on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and on the outcome of the first simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions. The goal of these introductory presentations is to help ensure a common understanding among Committee members of the role and mandate of the Committee and to provide a context for its work prior to embarking on a detailed consideration of operational procedures and reviewing candidate chemicals.
6. Following the presentations I would like to review briefly the operational procedures developed by the Committee, in particular the work of the intersessional task groups, the working paper on the application of criterion (b) of Annex II of the Convention and the working procedures and policy guidance developed by the Committee to facilitate its work. In this context there will be a brief presentation, in line with decision RC-4/6, on a legal opinion prepared by the legal office of the United Nations Environment Programme on the intentional misuse of chemicals. This review will provide an opportunity for members of the Committee to ask questions and share experiences to ensure a common understanding of the work we are to undertake.
7. Turning to its substantive work, the Committee will finalize the draft decision guidance document on endosulfan developed by the intersessional drafting group.
8. The Committee will also review new notifications of final regulatory action for four chemicals (amitraz, azinphos methyl, endosulfan and methyl bromide). On the basis of its review the Committee will recommend whether one or more of the chemicals should be included in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. The Committee will establish drafting groups to prepare decision guidance documents for those chemicals that it recommends including in Annex III of the Convention. The Committee will also revisit the notification of final regulatory action for paraquat reviewed at its fifth session as additional information has been provided by the notifying Party.

9. In addition the Committee will revisit the notification of final regulatory action on endosulfan submitted by Thailand in the light of the abovementioned legal opinion on intentional misuse. The Committee considered this notification at its second meeting, at which time it agreed that the notification met the requirements of the Convention.

B. Possible outcomes

10. The following is a list of the expectations that I have for the outcomes of the meeting:

(a) Familiarization of the new Committee members with the operation of the Committee, leading to their full participation in the discussions of the Committee and any intersessional work that may be required;

(b) Determination of whether the outstanding questions raised at the Committee's fifth meeting concerning the notifications on endosulfan have been addressed and, as appropriate, finalization of the associated draft decision guidance document. If it finalizes the draft decision guidance document the Committee will, in line with decision RC-2/2, forward the draft decision guidance document to the Conference of the Parties for decision along with the Committee's rationale as to how the criteria listed in Annex II of the Convention have been met and a tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the process for developing decision guidance documents, including how those comments were taken into account;

(c) Determination of whether any of the submitted notifications for the five candidate chemicals, amitraz, azinphos methyl, endosulfan, methyl bromide and paraquat, meet the requirements of Annex II of the Convention and, for those notifications that do meet the criteria, the preparation of rationales explaining how;

(d) For those chemicals for which there are notifications from at least two PIC regions that meet the criteria of Annex II, the preparation of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to list those chemicals in Annex III of the Convention and the establishment of intersessional drafting groups and work plans for preparing decision guidance documents;

(e) Determination regarding the application of criterion (d) of Annex II, relating to intentional misuse, to the notification of final regulatory action on endosulfan submitted by Thailand;

(f) Review and amendment as necessary of the policy guidance and working procedures that guide the work of the Committee, in particular the guidance concerning the intersessional task group work and the working paper on the application of criterion (b) of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention.
