



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

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English only

Chemical Review Committee

Seventh meeting

Rome, 28 March–1 April 2011

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Organization of work

Scenario note for the seventh meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

Note by the Chair

1. As the Chair of the Chemical Review Committee, I have prepared the present scenario note for the Committee's seventh meeting to communicate my plans and general expectations to participants on how the meeting will proceed and to assist them in their preparations.
2. The documents for the meeting were posted on the website of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (www.pic.int) in February 2011 and made available to the Committee members.

A. Objectives and possible outcomes

3. The general objective of the meeting is to ensure that the Committee undertakes the work assigned to it by the Convention and the Conference of the Parties. To that end the tasks of the Committee at the current meeting are:

(a) To finalize the draft decision guidance document for azinphos-methyl, to forward to the Conference of the Parties the recommendation to list the chemical in Annex III to the Convention and to adopt the accompanying draft decision guidance document. The recommendation will have supporting documentation, including a summary of the Committee's deliberations and the rationale for its recommendation based on the criteria listed in Annex II to the Convention, in addition to a tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the process adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting in decision RC-2/2 for developing decision guidance documents, including how the comments were addressed;

(b) To determine whether the criteria of Annex II to the Convention are satisfied by the notifications of final regulatory action, and to prepare a rationale for its conclusions for each notification found to satisfy those criteria, for the following seven chemicals:

- (i) Amitraz;
- (ii) Carbaryl;
- (iii) Endosulfan;
- (iv) Perfluorooctane sulfonate, its salts and precursors;
- (v) Pentabromodiphenyl ether commercial mixtures;
- (vi) Pentachlorobenzene;

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.7/1.

(vii) Octabromodiphenyl ether commercial mixtures;

(c) To prepare recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the listing of the above chemicals in Annex III to the Convention and to establish intersessional drafting groups and workplans for preparing decision guidance documents for those chemicals for which notifications of final regulatory action from at least two prior informed consent regions meet the criteria of Annex II to the Convention;

(d) To determine whether the proposal for Gramoxone Super as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation meets the criteria of part 3 of Annex IV to the Convention and, if it does, to prepare a rationale for its conclusion, to prepare a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties to list Gramoxone Super in Annex III to the Convention and to establish an intersessional drafting group and a workplan for preparing a decision guidance document for the substance;

(e) To review and amend, as necessary, the Committee's policy guidance and working procedures.

B. Meeting agenda

4. The annotated agenda for the meeting lists the matters for discussion and information on the documents pertaining to each matter. Committee members are invited to notify the Secretariat before the Committee considers the agenda of any other matter that should be included.

C. Organization of work

5. The first plenary session of the meeting will begin with opening remarks. The Committee will then consider item 2, "Organizational matters". Under this item, the Committee will adopt its agenda with any amendments and agree upon the organization of work for the week.

6. The Committee will then proceed to item 3, "Operational issues". The representative of the Secretariat will provide information on the rotation of the membership that will take place in October 2011. A brief presentation will be given on activities undertaken or planned in support of the effective participation of members and parties in the Committee's work.

7. The Committee will then undertake a brief review of the policy guidance and working procedures developed to facilitate its work, including in particular the working paper on the application of criteria (b) of Annex II to the Convention and the guidance to the intersessional task groups to ensure a common understanding of the Committee's work.

8. Turning to its work on chemicals, the Committee will take up agenda item 4 (b) and consider the draft decision guidance document on azinphos-methyl with a view to finalizing it.

9. The Committee will consider the remainder of agenda item 4 by reviewing notifications of final regulatory action for seven candidate chemicals, or groups of chemicals, which include three pesticides and four industrial chemicals and in some cases their mixtures, salts or precursors, in addition to a proposal for a severely hazardous pesticide formulation.

10. Following consultations between the Bureau and the Secretariat, Committee members have been selected to work in intersessional task groups from 7 February to 27 March 2011. Each group is responsible for undertaking a preliminary assessment of one of the chemicals scheduled for review. Based on the criteria set forth in the Convention, each task group will prepare a report that includes a review of the notification or proposal and the supporting documentation for the chemical under review. The task group reports will be posted on the Convention website two weeks before the meeting. Task groups will have an opportunity to meet on Sunday, 27 March, before the meeting begins. The task groups will present the results of their preliminary assessments to the Committee for its consideration.

11. On the basis of its review, the Committee will decide whether to recommend the listing of one or more of the chemicals in Annex III to the Convention and will establish drafting groups to prepare decision guidance documents for those whose listing is recommended.

12. As decided at its sixth meeting, the Committee will revisit a notification on endosulfan submitted by New Zealand to reach a conclusion on whether that notification meets the criteria of Annex II to the Convention.

13. Four of the chemicals on the agenda are already listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. To benefit from the work undertaken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention, relevant scientific reports resulting from their reviews have been made available to the Committee as meeting documents. The Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee will give a presentation on the experiences of that committee in reviewing the same industrial chemicals now before the Chemical Review Committee.
 14. The report of the meeting is expected to be adopted during the afternoon of Friday, 1 April 2011, and the meeting concluded shortly thereafter.
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