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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
Fourth meeting
Rome, 27–31 October 2008**

**Report 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 on the work of its fourth meeting**

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The fourth meeting 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 was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, from 27 to 31 October 2008.
2. Ms. Andrea Repetti (Argentina), President of the Conference, declared the meeting open at 10.25 a.m. on Monday, 27 October 2008.
3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Division of Environmental Law and Conventions; Mr. Modibo Traoré, FAO Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department; Mr. Peter Kenmore, Chief of the FAO Plant Protection Service and Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; and Ms. Repetti.
4. Mr. Kante, welcoming participants on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, expressed his pleasure at attending the current meeting and recalled that he had also had the honour of welcoming participants to the meeting twenty years earlier in Dakar at which the entire process leading up to the signing of the Rotterdam Convention had begun. He stressed that the Convention did not exist to apportion blame but rather to foster cooperation and partnerships. The current meeting was an opportunity to send a strong signal to the world that Governments and institutions were ready to work together to deal with the trade in chemicals. Given that key Millennium Development Goals could not be attained without specific outcomes from the current meeting, he said, participants urgently needed to demonstrate leadership.
5. He highlighted three strategic focal areas: unity, compliance and strategic partnerships. Unity, he said, required leadership given the many challenges to chemicals management that existed.

Compliance represented another challenge, since multilateral environmental agreements could not be implemented without strong compliance mechanisms. In their turn, strategic partnerships were indispensable for forging synergies that would enhance delivery to stakeholders and support for those countries that had the greatest need. Noting that the theme of the current meeting was human health and environment, he said that responsibility was shared by everyone. Achieving results would not be easy but would nonetheless be possible if there were renewed focus on the Convention's goals. UNEP, he pledged, would give the Conference its full assistance.

6. Mr. Traoré, welcoming participants to FAO on behalf of Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, observed that soaring food prices had recently pushed increasing numbers of people into poverty and hunger. Noting the pressures on food production imposed by the rise in the world's population and the consequent predicted rise in pesticide use, he drew attention to problems such as a lack of appropriate regulations and enforcement and the sale in developing countries of pesticides banned in developed countries. He pointed out that crop yields could be boosted without resorting to chemical techniques and cited examples of countries in which pesticide use had fallen. He described some of the efforts FAO had made to assist countries to manage pesticides more effectively and to move towards sustainable agriculture, such as the international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, and referred to the Africa Stockpiles Programme, a multi-agency initiative designed to remove all obsolete pesticides from the African continent and build capacity to improve pesticide management.

7. He said that FAO had shown its commitment to the Rotterdam Convention from its inception. He stressed that the listing of a chemical in Annex III of the Convention was not a recommendation that it be banned or restricted, but rather a mechanism to enable Parties to make fully informed decisions on whether to import it. Paying tribute to all those involved in establishing the Convention, together with the partnership between FAO and UNEP, he called for such synergistic work to continue, particularly with regard to forging greater cooperation between the chemicals conventions.

8. Mr. Kenmore said that the current meeting offered an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned since the Convention had been established and to consider how those lessons could be applied to new challenges. He stressed that representatives should not lose sight of the fact that a key element of the Convention was the sharing of information. In that context he drew attention to the information area set up by the Secretariat within FAO headquarters, designed to familiarize participants with the information on chemicals available under the Convention as well as the status of implementation in individual Parties.

9. Ms. Repetti briefly described the history of the Rotterdam Convention and stressed its significance, pointing out that it marked the first line of defense as a tool to protect countries from unwanted imports of hazardous chemicals. She urged Parties to work together, as part of their shared responsibility, towards the goal of protecting human health and the environment.

II. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

10. Representatives of the following Parties participated in the meeting: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen.

11. In addition, representatives of the following countries attended the meeting as observers: Angola, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Uganda, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

12. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, League of Arab States, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

14. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/18).

B. Officers

15. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau for the current meeting was elected at the third meeting of the Conference and commenced its term at the close of that meeting. The member so elected from Romania, Ms. Daniela Ioana Florea, was unable to complete her term and was replaced by her compatriot Mr. Teodor Ognean in accordance with rule 25 of the rules of procedure. The Bureau for the current meeting was thus constituted as follows:

President:	Ms. Andrea Silvina Repetti (Argentina)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Barry Reville (Australia) Mr. Abdoulaye Traoré (Mali) Mr. Hamood bin Darwish al-Hasani (Oman) Mr. Teodor Ognean (Romania)

Mr. Traoré agreed also to serve as Rapporteur.

C. Adoption of the agenda

16. The Conference adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.
4. Report on the credentials of representatives at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Status of implementation;
 - (b) Confirmation of the appointments of government-designated experts to the Chemical Review Committee;
 - (c) Nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee;
 - (d) Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its third and fourth meetings;
 - (e) Consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention:
 - (i) Chrysotile asbestos;
 - (ii) Tributyltin compounds;
 - (iii) Endosulfan.
6. Issues arising out of previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Non-compliance;
 - (b) Report on the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on financial mechanisms;
 - (c) National and regional delivery of technical assistance;
 - (d) Cooperation with the World Trade Organization;
 - (e) Further study on the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention;
 - (f) Cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions.
- 7. Report on the activities of the Secretariat.
 - 8. Programme of work and consideration of the proposed budget for the biennium 2009–2010.
 - 9. Venue and date of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 - 10. Election of officers for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 - 11. High-level segment.
 - 12. Other matters.
 - 13. Adoption of the report.
 - 14. Closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

17. The Conference had before it document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/2, which contained a scenario note for the meeting prepared by the President of the Conference. The President introduced the document, highlighting the objectives of the meeting and the possible outcomes. She drew attention to the documents for the meeting and outlined a programme of work for the week.

18. The Conference agreed to conduct its business in plenary and to establish such subsidiary groups as it considered necessary to work on particular agenda items during the course of the meeting. Efforts would be made, where possible, to ensure that those groups did not meet simultaneously in order to enable the participation in all groups of representatives of Parties with small delegations.

19. A list of pre-session documents before the Conference at the current meeting is contained in annex II to the present report.

III. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties

20. Under the item, the Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/3) on whether to adopt the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 of the rules of procedure set out in the annex to decision RC-1/1. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the Conference had at its first meeting adopted those rules of procedure in their entirety with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, relating to the adoption of decisions on substantive matters by consensus or by two-thirds majority vote, which had been enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been adopted. The matter had been discussed further by the Conference at its second and third meetings but no formal decision had been taken and the sentence had remained enclosed in square brackets.

21. Following discussion, the Conference agreed that it would again forego taking a formal decision on the item, that the brackets would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.

IV. Report on the credentials of representatives at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

22. The Conference agreed that the Bureau would serve as the credentials committee for the current meeting.

23. The chair of the credentials committee reported that the committee had examined the credentials of Parties participating in the Conference and had found those of the following 92 to be in conformity with the stipulated requirements, as provided for in rule 19 of the rules of procedure: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

24. The following 10 Parties had communicated credentials or information concerning the appointment of representatives by facsimile or in photocopy or in the form of letters or notes verbales from the permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva: Cameroon, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

25. The Conference approved the report of the chair of the credentials committee.

V. Implementation of the Convention

A. Status of implementation

26. The Conference had before it notes by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the Convention by Parties between 1 May 2006 and 30 April 2008 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/4), on implementation issues (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/11), on opportunities for information exchange on chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III by the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/12) and on ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/13). The Conference also had before it information notes on the status of implementation and ratification of the Rotterdam Convention as of 28 July 2008 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/2), on the status of designated national authorities (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/3), on chemicals scheduled for review at the fifth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/4) and on the status of official contact points (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/8). It also had before it a conference-room paper submitted by a Party on the continued effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention.

1. Implementation of the Convention to date

27. Introducing document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/4, the representative of the Secretariat summarized progress in the implementation of the Convention over the period from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2008, reviewing the situation relating, among other things, to Parties and designated national authorities, notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict chemicals, proposals for the inclusion of severely hazardous pesticide formulations, import responses, export notifications, information exchange and technical assistance.

28. The Conference took note of the information set forth in the document. The President invited Parties to report at the next meeting of the Conference on their experiences in using the export notification form for the implementation of Article 12.

29. Another representative of the Secretariat introduced document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/11, which provided the results of an initial review of information collected over the previous 10 years and possible emerging trends over the previous five years in the implementation of the key provisions of the Convention. It was intended to review progress and identify lessons that could be learned with regard to notifications of final regulatory action, severely hazardous pesticide formulations and import responses.

30. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of a regional economic integration organization expressed concern that, while information exchange was at the heart of the Convention, the provisions of Article 14 were not being fully exploited. He encouraged Parties to make full use of the Convention

website and requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve opportunities for information exchange and the website.

31. The Conference agreed that the Secretariat should prepare for its consideration a draft decision on the basis of section IV of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/11.

32. The representative of the Secretariat subsequently presented a conference-room paper containing the text of a possible draft decision based on the points to consider and possible next steps in chapter IV of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/11.

33. Decision RC-4/1, on progress in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Continued effectiveness of the Convention

34. The representative of the Secretariat introduced documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/12 and 13. The former, he said, was a paper prepared by the Secretariat on information exchange in respect of chemicals that had been recommended for listing in Annex III but had not yet been so listed by the Conference of the Parties. The Conference was invited to take note of the paper. The latter document was intended to catalyse discussion on possible ways forward with regard to the lack of consensus by the Conference on chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III to the Convention by the Chemical Review Committee. It described two possible approaches: to amend the existing decision-making process set out in Article 22 for the listing of chemicals in Annex III or to create a new annex to the Convention for those chemicals on which the Conference could not reach consensus.

35. One representative referred again to the conference-room paper on the continued effectiveness of the Convention that he had earlier introduced, which described a number of options, including the adoption of a stand-alone decision with a list of countries for which the entry into force of the listing of a specific chemical in Annex III was delayed and a stand-alone decision on chemicals that the Conference had not yet decided to list in Annex III but for which the prior informed consent procedure could be applied voluntarily on an interim basis.

36. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives noted that information exchange was key to the success of the Convention and said that measures in that regard should be enhanced, particularly with respect to developing countries, which often lacked the information accessible in the developed world. One representative called for more technical and financial resources to be made available, while another suggested that information-exchange networks should be improved and regional groups established using electronic media in furtherance of that goal. A number of representatives spoke against the proposal to include a new annex in the Convention, suggesting that it would undermine it by establishing a two-tier system and could also pose legal and political questions. Several representatives suggested that it might be too early to consider amending the Convention, given that it had entered into force relatively recently, and said that it might be wise to allow more time for developments.

37. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, to be chaired by Ms. Kateřina Šebková (Czech Republic) and Ms. Siti Zaleha Ibrahim (Malaysia), to consider implementation issues using document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/13 and the conference-room paper on the continued effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention as the bases for their discussions.

38. The chair of the contact group later reported on the work of the group, introducing a draft decision on the continued effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention. She said that it had not been possible to reach complete consensus on the matter and that certain text in the draft decision was therefore enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been agreed. In the light of the outcome of the contact group's discussions the Conference agreed to defer further consideration of the sub-item until its next meeting, at which time it would take it up again using the draft decision considered by the contact group, as it stood at the conclusion of the group's deliberations, as the starting point for its work.

39. The draft decision as it so stood is set out in annex III to the present report.

B. Confirmation of the appointment of a government-designated expert to the Chemical Review Committee

40. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on confirmation of the appointments of government-designated experts to serve as members of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/5) and information on the qualifications of the designated experts (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/6). The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents noting that by decision RC-3/2 the Conference had identified 14 Governments that would designate experts to

serve on the Committee for a period of four years commencing on 1 October 2007. The experts designated by those Governments had participated in the fourth meeting of the Committee, in March 2008, pending formal confirmation by the Conference at its fourth meeting.

41. The Conference at its second meeting had confirmed Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland) as chair of the Chemical Review Committee. As her two-year term was to expire in September 2007, the Chemical Review Committee, at its third meeting in March 2007, had agreed that Ms. Hyacinth Chin Sue (Jamaica) would serve as chair of the Committee ad interim, pending confirmation by the Conference at its fourth meeting. Ms. Chin Sue had informed the Committee at its fourth meeting, in March 2008, that she would be unable to continue as a member of the Committee. It was therefore agreed that Ms. Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia) would serve as chair of the Committee at its fifth meeting, subject to confirmation by the Conference at its fourth meeting, until the expiry of her term in September 2009.

42. As proposed by the Chemical Review Committee at its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected Ms. Chin Sue as chair of the Committee for its fourth meeting and Ms. Krajnc as chair of the Committee for its fifth session.

43. Decision RC-4/2, on confirmation of the appointments of members of the Chemical Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

C. Nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee

44. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on the nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/6). The representative of the Secretariat introduced the document, noting that by decision RC-3/2 the Conference had identified the Parties that were eligible to nominate experts to replace those whose two-year terms expired in September 2007. She recalled that for the purpose of the initial appointments of the experts to the Committee, and in order to promote an orderly rotation of membership, half of the experts from each region had been nominated for an initial term of two years and the remaining experts from each region for an initial term of four years, both terms having commenced on 1 October 2005. Given that the fifth meeting of the Conference was scheduled for late 2010, it was necessary for regional groups to identify at the current meeting 17 Parties to be invited to nominate experts to replace those whose terms would expire in September 2009. The nominated experts would participate in the sixth meeting of the Committee, to be held in early 2010, on an interim basis, pending the confirmation of their appointments by the Conference at its next ordinary meeting. .

45. The President invited regional groups to consider the issue and to identify the Governments that would nominate members to the Committee.

46. The Conference agreed that the Secretariat in May 2009 would contact the Parties selected to designate experts to serve as members of the Committee and would invite them to designate their experts.

47. Decision RC-4/3, on the nomination of Governments to designate experts to serve as members of the Chemical Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its third and fourth meetings

48. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat providing the report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its third and fourth meetings (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/7) and an information document on chemicals currently scheduled for review at the fifth meeting of the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/4).

49. Introducing the item, the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Karmen Krajnc, began by outlining the events of the third meeting of the Committee, held in Rome from 20 to 23 March 2007. The Committee had reviewed eight notifications and associated supporting documents for five chemicals. On the basis of the information available, it had concluded that the notifications submitted for two chemicals, endrin and methamidophos, did not meet all the criteria of Annex II and that the chemicals could not therefore be proposed for inclusion in Annex III. For benzidine and its salts and mirex, only one notification had fulfilled all the criteria of Annex II of the Convention. The new notifications available to the Committee

for those two chemicals had not been found to meet the criteria of Annex II. The Committee had also reviewed a notification and supporting documentation concerning endosulfan submitted by the European Community, concluding that the criteria of Annex II had been met, and had prepared a rationale for its conclusion. The Committee had reviewed and finalized the text of the decision guidance documents for tributyltin compounds and endosulfan that had been prepared by the intersessional drafting groups established at the second meeting of the Committee and had agreed to forward them to the Conference of the Parties.

50. She then went on to discuss the fourth meeting of the Committee, held in Geneva from 10 to 13 March 2008. The Committee had reviewed 10 notifications and associated supporting documentation regarding six chemicals. On the basis of the information available, the Committee had concluded that, for one chemical, chrysotile asbestos, the two new notifications before the Committee had not met all the criteria in Annex II. For another three chemicals, carbaryl, methyl parathion and mirex, only one notification had fulfilled all the Annex II criteria. For the remaining two chemicals, aldicarb and alachor, at least two notifications from various prior informed consent regions had been found to meet all of the criteria of Annex II of the Convention. She said that the then Chair, Ms. Chin Sue, had been unable to complete her term on the Committee. As a result, Mr. Mario Yarto (Mexico) had been appointed as the representative on the Bureau for the Latin American and Caribbean Region to replace Ms. Chin Sue and Ms. Krajnc had been nominated as the Chair for the fifth meeting of the Committee.

51. The Conference took note of the report of the Committee.

52. The representative of the Secretariat then introduced document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/4, which provided a brief summary of the status of the notifications for the seven chemicals (five pesticides – azinphos-methyl, methyl parathion, mirex, paraquat and phorate – and two industrial chemicals – hexachlorobutadiene and hexachlorobenzene) that were scheduled for review at the fifth meeting of the Committee, to be held from 23 to 27 March 2009 in Rome. She noted that various calls for information had been made in line with the proposed process for collecting information on international trade.

53. The President thanked the Secretariat for supplying the additional information.

E. Consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention

1. Chrysotile asbestos

54. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on inclusion of the chemical chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/8) and an information note on a report of a World Health Organization (WHO) workshop on mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis and assessment of chrysotile asbestos substitutes (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/14).

55. The President noted that it had not been possible at the third meeting of the Conference to reach consensus on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention. By decision RC-3/3 it had been decided that the agenda for the current meeting would include further consideration of a draft decision to amend Annex III to include chrysotile asbestos.

56. Inviting comments on the item, she drew attention to paragraph 2 of decision RC-3/3, which stated that the requirements for the listing of chemicals in Annex III had been met with respect to chrysotile asbestos.

57. A number of representatives objected to the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III. One cited a national study that had found that strictly controlled use of the substance was not necessarily harmful to health and another asserted that his country currently imported and used the substance and consequently could not support its inclusion in Annex III. Several representatives called for the decision to be postponed until the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to allow time for further research into possible alternatives, and another argued that several issues with regard to the risks of chrysotile asbestos remained unresolved.

58. Many representatives expressed support for the substance's inclusion in Annex III, given that it had met all the criteria of Annex II and that the Chemical Review Committee had recommended its inclusion.

59. It was argued by many representatives that listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III would not constitute a recommendation to national Governments to ban or to severely restrict the substance and that Parties were fully entitled to continue using and producing it if they so wished. Chemicals listed were simply subject to the prior informed consent procedure, under which countries were given advice

and invited to decide whether to allow imports. Several representatives pointed out that listing would help developing countries to manage the trade in and use of chrysotile asbestos.

60. One representative suggested that ministers should discuss the issue of the difficulty of reaching consensus on the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III during the high-level segment of the current meeting.

61. The representative of the World Health Organization, emphasizing that chrysotile asbestos was a human carcinogen, drew attention to the information provided in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/16, which discussed safer alternatives to chrysotile asbestos, and expressed deep concern at the continued use of chrysotile despite the safety risks.

62. The Conference agreed that Mr. Barry Reville (Australia) would hold informal discussions on the issue of chrysotile asbestos and report back to the Conference.

63. Mr. Reville later reported on the result of the consultations, introducing a draft decision on chrysotile asbestos. In the ensuing discussion one representative, asking that his intervention be reflected in the present report, expressed concern that the draft decision did not encourage broad-based scientific debate, founded on scientific research, of different approaches to resolving the problem of chrysotile asbestos.

64. Decision RC-4/4, on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Tributyltin compounds

65. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on inclusion of tributyltin compounds in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/10).

66. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the document, noting that the Chemical Review Committee, following its consideration of tributyltin compounds at its second meeting in February 2006, had decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it list the substance in Annex III.

67. Inviting comments on the item, the President suggested that, in considering their responses, Parties might wish to satisfy themselves as to four fundamental procedural questions relating to the recommendation from the Chemical Review Committee: first, whether at least one notification from each of two prior informed consent regions had been considered; second, whether the Chemical Review Committee had found that the notifications met the criteria in Annex II and had accordingly recommended that the chemical should be included in Annex III; third, whether the Committee had prepared a draft decision guidance document; and, fourth, whether the recommendation for inclusion had been forwarded to the Conference together with the draft decision guidance document.

68. The Conference agreed that tributyltin compounds met the requirements set out in Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention, including the criteria set out in Annex II, and accordingly agreed to adopt the decision guidance document and to list tributyltin compounds in Annex III of the Convention.

69. Decision RC-4/5, on inclusion of tributyltin in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

3. Endosulfan

70. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on inclusion of the chemical endosulfan in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/9). The representative of the Secretariat, introducing the item, said that endosulfan had been recommended for listing in Annex III based on two notifications of final regulatory action, from the Netherlands and Thailand. It had been concluded, by the Chemical Review Committee at its second meeting that the notifications met all the criteria of Annex II of the Convention; a draft decision guidance document had consequently been developed and circulated among Parties in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention.

71. Inviting comments on the item, the President suggested, as in the case of tributyltin compounds, that Parties might first wish to consider whether four fundamental procedural questions relating to the recommendation from the Chemical Review Committee had been satisfied, namely, that at least one notification from each of two prior informed consent regions had been considered; that the Committee had found that the notifications met the criteria in Annex II and accordingly recommended that the chemical should be made subject to the prior informed consent procedure and included in Annex III; that the Committee had prepared a draft decision guidance document; and that the recommendation of

the Committee for inclusion and the draft decision guidance document had been forwarded to the Conference of the Parties.

72. During the ensuing discussion, some representatives opposed consideration of the possible inclusion of endosulfan in Annex III on the grounds that the notification from Thailand was not acceptable, as it was based on intentional misuse of the chemical. Some discussion followed of the phrase "intentional misuse", as referred to in paragraph (d) of Annex II of the Convention, with opinions differing as to whether clarification or definition of the term was needed before proceeding with discussion of endosulfan and whether it was acceptable, within the terms of the Convention, to examine instances of intentional misuse on a case-by-case basis.

73. The representative who had raised the issue of intentional misuse said that there was insufficient evidence of significant adverse effects of endosulfan on human health in the documentation available to the Chemical Review Committee to justify listing the substance in Annex III. The representative of the Secretariat clarified that, according to the terms of the Convention, a recommendation by the Chemical Review Committee to list a substance could be based on the chemical's adverse effects on either human health or the environment; it was not necessary that there be adverse effects on both. In the case of endosulfan, both notifications had focused on environmental concerns and it was on that basis that the substance had been recommended for listing.

74. Many representatives who spoke supported the listing of endosulfan in Annex III of the Convention, with a number of representatives describing the adverse effects of the chemical on human health and the environment in their countries or regions. A number of representatives said that the chemical clearly met the criteria for inclusion in Annex III, with some remarking that failure to list a chemical recommended by the Chemical Review Committee would undermine the work and status of that committee.

75. Some representatives expressed concern at the lack of viable alternatives to endosulfan and the lack of research into the potential agronomic and environmental benefits and costs of endosulfan and its substitutes.

76. Several representatives recalled that listing a substance in Annex III did not mean that the substance was banned; production, use and trade could still take place within the framework of the prior informed consent procedure, which would allow countries to exercise their sovereign rights to determine what course of action to take regarding the chemical.

77. As with chrysotile asbestos, the Conference agreed that Mr. Barry Reville (Australia) would hold informal discussions on endosulfan and report back to the Conference on the matter. Mr. Reville subsequently reported that efforts to reach consensus on a decision to include endosulfan in Annex III to the Convention had failed. He introduced a conference room paper containing a draft decision on endosulfan, which, among other things, recounted the discussions to date on whether to list the substance in Annex III and provided that the Conference would take up the question again at its next ordinary meeting following efforts by the Secretariat to obtain legal guidance on the application of the "intentional misuse" criterion in paragraph D of Annex II to the Convention. It also called for Parties to make use of all available information on endosulfan in deciding whether to allow imports of the substance and to communicate with others in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention.

78. Considerable debate followed Mr. Reville's report. One representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, urged that the Conference of the Parties consider the meaning of "intentional misuse" at its next meeting. Another urged Parties to supply information on endosulfan, saying that to do so was nothing less than a moral obligation and nothing more than a shared responsibility. The representative of Chile asked that the present report reflect his statement that once the Chemical Review Committee had made its recommendation his country had been unwavering in its support for the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention.

79. Many representatives expressed disappointment at the failure of the Conference to list endosulfan and chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention notwithstanding that the Chemical Review Committee had determined that those substances met the applicable criteria and had recommended that they be listed. The objections of a small number of Parties, they said, had prevented their listing in Annex III.

80. Several representatives urged Parties to make full use of all available information on the two substances, including through the information exchange provisions of Article 14 of the Convention, and to apply the prior informed consent procedure to them on a voluntary basis. The representative of the European Community presented a declaration to that effect, to which a number of other Parties subscribed. The declaration and a list of Parties that supported it are set out in annex IV to the present

report. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the members of a subregional group, announced that their countries would be submitting notifications of final regulatory action with respect to endosulfan and chrysotile asbestos and/or applying the prior informed consent procedure to the two substances on a voluntary basis.

81. Some representatives said that while they shared the concern at the failure to list endosulfan and chrysotile asbestos in Annex III they worried that putting in place a voluntary mechanism alongside the binding procedures of the Convention could undermine the work of the Convention. In that context the representative of Australia read a statement, which was endorsed by the representatives of Brazil and New Zealand. The statement is set out in annex IV to the present report, following the declaration by the European Community and others.

82. Decision RC-4/6, on the inclusion of endosulfan in annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

VI. Issues arising out of previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties

A. Non-compliance

83. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for the treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/14).

84. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that it had been the subject of discussion at the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties. While it had made significant progress, the Conference had not reached agreement on the procedures and mechanisms. The Conference of the Parties at its third meeting had agreed that deliberations on the item would continue at the current meeting. The text of the non-compliance procedures and mechanisms, as it stood at the close of that meeting, was set out in the annex to decision RC-3/4.

85. Following the Secretariat's introduction of the item the Conference agreed that the draft text annexed to decision RC-3/4, which was set out in the note by the Secretariat, should be used as the basis for discussions during the current meeting.

86. In the ensuing discussion many representatives expressed the wish to conclude the preparation of the procedures and mechanisms at the current meeting. A number of representatives argued that the compliance mechanism should take a facilitative and supportive approach rather than a punitive one. Sanctions were not, they said, useful and could even be counter-productive. Stressing the need to motivate and enable Parties to comply with their obligations under the Convention, they called for financial and technical assistance to be provided where needed. Some representatives emphasized the need to provide for other measures in addition to facilitative measures. A few representatives suggested that the Convention would do well to follow the model of the compliance mechanism currently in force under the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

87. Several representatives suggested that, in addition to the "self-trigger" and the "party-to-party trigger", the Secretariat, with its understanding of the challenges that Parties faced in complying with the Convention, would be in a position to draw the attention of the Conference to the difficulties facing certain Parties.

88. Following the discussion the Conference agreed to establish a contact group, to be chaired by Mr. Denis Langlois (Canada), to work further on the draft compliance procedures and mechanisms and to prepare a draft decision on their adoption for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

89. The chair of the contact group later reported on the group's efforts, saying that despite great effort by the many Parties participating in the contact group it had not been possible to reach consensus on the draft compliance procedures and mechanisms. The draft therefore contained square brackets around certain text to indicate that it had not been agreed. He proposed that the Conference take up the issue again at its next ordinary meeting, taking the text as it then stood as the starting point for its work.

90. Following further discussion the Conference agreed with the chair's proposal. One representative, however, said that in his country's view none of the text in the draft procedures and mechanisms had been agreed. He therefore reserved the right to propose amendments to any part of the draft text without regard to whether it was enclosed in square brackets.

91. Decision RC-4/7, on non-compliance, as adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

B. Report on the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on financial mechanisms

92. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat on progress made towards the implementation of decision RC-3/5, providing a study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/15) and an information document containing a compilation of responses relating to decision RC-3/5 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/5).

93. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat reviewed the actions taken by the Secretariat with regard to the implementation of decision RC-3/5.

94. One representative introduced a conference-room paper prepared by his Government on the terms of reference for an assessment of the costs of implementing the Convention for those Parties that were developing countries or countries with economies in transition. The paper suggested the establishment of a team of three independent experts who would work for three months to conduct a thorough assessment of the resources needed and available for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2009–2012 and then submit a report to the Secretariat, which would publish it on its website and make it available to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

95. One representative, speaking on behalf of a regional economic integration organization, underlined the importance of the work done under the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. She said that the programme followed an integrated approach to capacity-building for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals. She stressed the need to determine priorities that should be assigned to the programme of work, taking into account, for example, earlier discussions on the delivery of technical assistance, regional meetings or the exchange of information on documents produced by the Chemical Review Committee. In her view, further information on the costs of implementing the Convention should be gathered before an additional study was undertaken.

96. One representative, drawing attention to the difficulties faced by countries in supplying information on costs pertaining to implementation of the Convention, suggested that the Secretariat could prepare a methodology in order to assist countries to submit the required information in a uniform and transparent manner. Some representatives said that the Secretariat could prepare synthesis reports on the information already collected, which could serve as an input for future meetings of the Conference.

97. A few representatives welcomed the conference-room paper on terms of reference for an assessment of the costs of implementing the Convention, noting that it took into account the concerns of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and proposed a more structured and proactive way of collecting information. Some said that the proposal should be brought to the attention of the contact group set up to discuss budget matters, given the financial implications of preparing the study.

98. The Conference nominated Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile) as facilitator to undertake informal consultations with interested parties and to report back to the Conference with a consensus proposal. Following those consultations Mr. Álvarez reported that it had not been possible to reach consensus on the proposal for a follow-up study contained in the draft decision and that he was therefore putting forth what he said was a less ambitious proposal that would maintain the status quo.

99. Decision RC-4/8, on progress made towards the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

C. National and regional delivery of technical assistance

100. The Conference had before it notes by the Secretariat on the regional and national delivery of technical assistance during 2007–2008 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/16) and a proposed programme for technical assistance for the period 2009–2010 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/17), along with an information note by the Secretariat containing a list of regional, subregional and national meetings held in support of the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention during 2007–2008 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/7).

1. Regional and national delivery of technical assistance

101. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, in its decision RC-3/6 on the regional and national delivery of technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference at the current meeting on the experience gained in implementing the regional delivery of technical assistance to the Parties of the Convention during 2007–2008. He briefly presented the note describing the technical assistance activities that had been undertaken in response to the decision.

102. In the ensuing discussion, there was much favourable comment on the activities undertaken to date. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Secretariat with the support of the regional offices of FAO and UNEP. A number of representatives described the benefits that their countries had derived from the activities, including improved advocacy with Government and other authorities; increased knowledge of all aspects of the Convention, particularly implementation and the development of national plans for implementation; greater potential to raise funding; improved knowledge of how to handle particular chemicals; and better coordination of activities at the national level. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the support of donors, including those that had contributed to the voluntary trust fund.

103. One representative recalled that his Government had provided funding for a programme administered by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to assist countries with the development of their national implementation plans. The programme, he said, had been very effective and should be continued.

104. A number of suggestions were made for strengthening the regional and national delivery of technical assistance. Several representatives stressed the need for continued assistance from donors in order to widen the benefits throughout countries and regions, for example by holding further regional and subregional meetings of designated national authorities. Several representatives said that activities should be tailored to the specific needs and conditions of countries and regions and for more work to be undertaken directly with national experts and designated national authorities.

105. A number of representatives called for improving programmatic synergies at the national and regional levels through enhanced cooperation between the Convention, the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including through greater use of the Basel Convention regional centres, which they said could greatly assist in improving national capacity to manage potentially hazardous chemicals. In that regard, one representative expressed support for the establishment of a joint liaison office for the three conventions at the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City and its possible replication in other regions.

106. Other specific suggestions for future activities included increased technical assistance to build capacity in the handling and management of industrial chemicals and hazardous pesticide formulations; strengthening import controls, including through training of customs officials; greater exchange of experience and information on implementation of the Convention; more training on risk assessment and evaluation; and further awareness-raising on chemicals-related issues.

107. The Conference took note of the progress made by the Secretariat in the implementation of decision RC-3/6, acknowledging the support of those countries that had enabled technical assistance activities to be undertaken through their contributions to the voluntary trust fund.

2. Technical assistance under the Rotterdam Convention

108. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that by its decision RC-3/6, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare a costed programme of activities for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for the biennium 2009–2010. He noted that as the number of Parties had increased so had the diversity of their needs, and several Parties had identified priorities for action that required more targeted or specific assistance. He said that there were four main issues to be considered in relation to the proposed programme of work for 2009–2010: a shift towards the implementation of the overarching United Nations principle of “delivering as one”, including through joint programmatic implementation of key activities with the Stockholm Convention; development of a targeted programme to address the sound management of industrial chemicals; development of programmes of work for technical assistance on legal matters and public awareness; and increased emphasis on regional participation and delivery.

109. Most representatives who took the floor commended the Secretariat on the report and many expressed thanks for the technical assistance received and described the activities that they had undertaken as a result.

110. Outlining their countries' priorities for technical assistance, many representatives advocated the creation of specific pilot projects at the regional and national levels, in consultation with individual countries and stakeholders, to determine the areas in which such projects would be most useful. Many representatives emphasized the importance of developing regional and national infrastructures and building capacities for regulating, monitoring and managing pesticides and industrial chemicals and of training professionals in assessing the risks of chemicals. Many representatives stressed the need to train and to raise awareness among customs officials and to strengthen export procedures. Other priorities included assistance in the development of infrastructures and mechanisms for industrial chemicals management like those for pesticides, promoting the exchange of information among Parties, especially developing countries; encouraging synergies with other conventions and use of regional centres; and raising awareness of the Convention. Other representatives requested assistance in building capacity and in strengthening analytical laboratories at the national and regional levels.

111. Following its discussion, the Conference agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision on the item.

112. Decision RC-4/9, on the national and regional delivery of technical assistance under the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization

113. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat and an information document on cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO) (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/18 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/11, respectively).

114. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat reviewed progress made in the implementation of decision RC-1/15. She noted, among other things, that the Secretariat had been permitted to participate in meetings of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session on an ad hoc basis. The Secretariat had also held an informal consultation with representatives of multilateral environmental agreements, specifically inviting representatives to comment on the issue of information sessions and other forms of information exchange between the agreement secretariats and WTO.

115. The representative of WTO noted that the report by the Chair to the Trade Negotiations Committee contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/11 had been superseded by a more recent meeting report, a copy of which would be given to the Secretariat. She said that the agreement to allow the Convention to participate in meetings on an ad hoc basis was a means to bypass the political deadlock within WTO on that issue.

116. The Conference agreed that the Secretariat should also seek observer status in the regular sessions of the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment, given the relevance of the topics considered in the Committee's regular sessions to the work of the Convention. One representative said, however, that there should be no hierarchy between the Convention and WTO and that the two entities should be mutually supportive. He also said that any disputes arising out of trade obligations under the Convention and WTO should not lead to a binding outcome under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. Instead, a mutually acceptable solution should be found.

117. The President requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision on the issue.

118. Decision RC-4/10, on cooperation with the World Trade Organization, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

E. Further study on the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention

119. The Conference had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a further study on the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/19), which it had undertaken in response to decision RC-3/7. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its third

meeting the Conference had examined an initial study on the matter, undertaken in response to decision RC-1/17. In the light of the views expressed at the third meeting that there were insufficient grounds to change the status quo, the Conference had agreed to defer the issue to the current meeting.

120. She said that the study provided a brief background on the previous discussions, an analysis of the information collected and possible solutions. She noted that the Rotterdam Convention was unusual in that its expenditures were made in two currencies in addition to the United States dollar. UNEP operated in United States dollars and, while half the FAO regular budget was in euros, its base currency was also the United States dollar. FAO had reported that additional work and efforts were required to monitor the two cash flows and that in some cases additional costs had been incurred. UNEP had made several attempts to meet reporting requirements in other currencies but they had always been approximations. UNEP had indicated that an enterprise resource planning system to be introduced at the United Nations to replace the current financial system might cater for a multicurrency situation. The system would not come on line soon, however. She said that there was no experience on split assessments in other multilateral environmental agreements and none in the United Nations on split assessment involving three currencies.

121. In the ensuing discussion it was considered that, in the light of the report presented, there was no need to protect the Rotterdam Convention budget from currency fluctuations and therefore no need to establish a reserve fund for that purpose.

F. Cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions

122. The Conference had before it notes by the Secretariat on progress towards the implementation of decision RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/20 and Add.1), together with information documents on the costs and organizational implications of establishing joint services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as reflected in the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/9) and on a proposal on financing coordinated extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/10).

123. The three co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group, Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), Mr. Yue Ruisheng (China) and Ms. Kerstin Stendahl (Finland), gave a slide presentation on cooperation and coordination, setting out the history and chronology of the Group, the events of its three meetings and their outcomes. They also mentioned the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at which time the Group's recommendation had been adopted as decision IX/10. The co-chairs noted that their recommendation, if implemented by the three conventions, would give the three conventions more visibility and raise their current political profile, in addition to promoting the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels.

124. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that, while synergies were extremely important, it was necessary not to lose sight of activities that were specific to the Rotterdam Convention alone. Another representative said that implementation of the recommendation should lead to improved efficiency and a more effective use of the Secretariat's resources, in terms of both financial and human resources.

125. Several representatives, while supporting the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group, called for due attention to be paid to the financial implications of enhanced synergies between the three conventions. Some suggested that, in the interests of clarity, the matter should be discussed in more detail in the budget contact group.

126. The Conference agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a draft decision, on the basis of the text contained in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/20, and as orally amended at the current meeting, which would be forwarded to the high-level segment for adoption.

127. Decision RC-4/11, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

VII. Report on the activities of the Secretariat

128. The Conference had before it notes by the Secretariat on its activities for the period 1 May 2006–30 April 2008 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/21) and on a financial report for the period 1 January 2006–31 May 2008 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/22), together with an information document containing communications of the Secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/13).
129. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents, drawing attention to their salient points.
130. The Conference took note of the documents and the review of the Secretariat's activities over the reporting period.

VIII. Programme of work and consideration of the proposed budget for the biennium 2009–2010

131. The Conference had before it notes by the Secretariat on a draft programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/23 and Add.1), together with an information document containing updated information (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/12).
132. Introducing the item, a representative of the Secretariat remarked that while some Parties remained in arrears three reminder letters had been sent to Parties and the situation had improved significantly. Overall expenditure from the General Trust Fund originating from the 2005–2006 biennium had been less than planned in 2007 but there had unfortunately been a shortfall in contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund. That meant that a number of scheduled activities had had to be curtailed and that it had become necessary to use the fund balance in 2007 from the General Trust Fund to fund participation at the current meeting. All posts in the Secretariat had been filled, while savings made from the General Trust Fund had been used to employ short-term staff.
133. Another representative of the Secretariat set out the three distinct budget scenarios available to the Conference, all of which would require increases in assessed contributions.
134. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Argentina announced that her country had passed a resolution on 8 October 2008 to ensure payment of its outstanding contributions to the Rotterdam Convention. She added that her country would support any initiative to increase the Convention's budget, taking into account the justifications therefore, within the context of current economic austerity policies. She also called for synergies between the chemicals conventions to be taken into consideration when making budgetary allocations.
135. A number of representatives expressed concern with regard to the exchange rate used in the Secretariat's calculations, noting that there had been significant fluctuations since the time of writing of the document that would not necessarily benefit the Convention. One representative noted that increased contributions were difficult to contemplate when government budgets were being subjected to economic belt-tightening policies.
136. Several representatives voiced appreciation for the information provided by the Secretariat on a possible three-year budget to bring the Convention's budget cycle into line with that of the Basel and Stockholm conventions. One representative, however, queried what he called the abrupt move by the Secretariat to table a proposal to migrate from a biennial to a triennial budget cycle. He asked the Secretariat to clarify how such a change might affect the implementation of the Convention by Parties over the next two to three years.
137. One representative, noting the significant arrears outstanding – some even dating back to the time of the first meeting of the Conference – called for additional measures to encourage the payment of outstanding contributions and welcomed the statement made by Argentina in that regard.
138. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, to be chaired by Mr. Paul Garnier (Switzerland) and Mr. Ositadinima Anaedu (Nigeria), to consider the budget and the programme of work.
139. The co-chairs presented a conference-room paper containing the text of a possible draft decision on financing and budget for the triennium 2009–2011.
140. Decision RC-4/12, on financing and budget for the triennium 2009–2011, as adopted by the Conference, is set out in annex I to the present report.

IX. Venue and date of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

141. The representative of the Secretariat said that, given the decision of the Conference to adopt a triennial budget, the fifth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties should take place in 2011. Two possible dates were proposed for the consideration of the Conference: 20–24 June 2011 and 5–9 December 2011. Following discussion the Conference agreed to schedule its next meeting tentatively for 20–24 June. It was agreed, however, that the Secretariat would continue to explore the possibility of holding the meeting earlier in the year, subject to the availability of conference facilities, the dates of other meetings and other considerations. The Conference further agreed that the meeting would take place in Geneva.

X. Election of officers for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

142. According to rule 22 of the rules of procedure, at each ordinary meeting of the Conference following the first meeting the election of officers from among the Parties to serve as the Bureau for the following meeting is to take place before the end of the meeting. The officers elected are to commence their terms of office at the closure of the meeting and serve until the closure of the following ordinary meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

143. Following consultations by the United Nations regional groups, the Conference elected the following Bureau in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure:

President:	Ms. Nolwazi Cobbinah (South Africa)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Kerstin Stendahl (Finland)
	Ms. Rocio Eden Wynter (Mexico)
	Mr. Hamood bin Darwish al-Hasani (Oman)
	Ms. Magdalena Balicka (Poland)

Ms. Stendahl agreed to serve also as Rapporteur.

XI. High-level segment

A. Opening of the segment

144. The high-level segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention was held on Thursday and Friday, 30 and 31 October 2008. The segment was opened at 10.35 a.m. on Thursday, 30 October. Opening statements were made by Ms. Andrea Repetti (Argentina) the President of the Conference, Mr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. James Butler, Deputy Director-General of FAO, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Public Health and Environment Department, the World Health Organization (WHO), and Mr. Paolo Ducci, speaking on behalf of Ms. Stefania Prestigiacomo, Minister of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection of Italy.

145. In her statement the President described the outcomes of the discussions to date, noting that representatives had laid stress on protecting human health and the environment and, in particular, shielding the most vulnerable countries from unwanted imports of chemicals. Parties had also stressed the importance of a facilitative compliance mechanism. She highlighted the repeated calls for technical assistance and capacity-building at the national and regional levels, as well as pilot projects and the necessary funding. Representatives had also stressed the importance of the life-cycle approach to the sound management of chemicals and called for increased synergies in implementing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including through greater use of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres. She noted the problems posed by inadequate management of chemicals for human health and the environment, the solution of which required improved coordination between all relevant stakeholders, strengthened national infrastructures and training for customs officials. Observing that the role of ministers was central to raising awareness of and implementing the Convention and that information exchange was crucial to that task, particularly given that the motto of the Convention was “shared responsibility”, she called for efforts to break down the barriers dividing Governments to enable them to achieve the best solutions for the benefit of all humanity.

146. Mr. Cooper welcomed the representatives to Rome, observing that there the Parties would take important decisions on the future direction of the Convention and how it would be rapidly and effectively implemented. Commending the representatives on the excellent atmosphere in which the negotiations had been conducted, he said that he appreciated all guidance that they could provide and looked forward to the work to be undertaken in the forthcoming budget cycle.

147. Mr. Butler noted that the prior informed consent procedure and the Convention had been established owing to, among other things, the wide marketing in developing countries of many pesticides that had been banned or severely restricted in developed countries. The challenges posed by pesticide use had been further intensified, he said, by the growing food crisis, climate change and the shift in production of chemicals from developed to developing countries, where the ability to regulate chemicals effectively was limited. The Convention alone could not solve those problems; they required global actions that included synergies with the relevant conventions, regional bodies such as the Sahelian Pesticides Committee, non-governmental organizations and the pesticides industry, among others. Such entities provided an excellent framework for partnerships, but partnerships alone could not replace a well-prepared and steadily supported national infrastructure for chemicals management.

148. He explained that FAO had implemented a range of initiatives on risk reduction, integrated pest management and other good agricultural practices, environmentally sound prevention and disposal of stockpiles and capacity-building. Technical assistance provided to Parties facilitated national dialogue, which in turn provided a better understanding of the implementation challenges faced by Parties and identified opportunities to take up some such challenges. While cooperation between the relevant conventions was good, greater benefits could be achieved through a parallel process at the national level between relevant ministries, industry, the private sector and civil society. The current meeting represented a unique opportunity to share experiences on challenges and opportunities in implementing the Convention.

149. Mr. Steiner urged the Parties not to fall into a polarized debate, pointing out that the Convention was predicated on cooperation, shared responsibility and providing support. It was not a question of eliminating the many chemicals that were fuelling economic growth, but rather of facing up to the significant challenges that they posed. With the transition to a greener economy, there came a responsibility to develop and protect society's health, which could be achieved through greater use of synergies. The current meeting, and the Convention as a whole, were ways of sending a clear signal to both industry and consumers on the future pathways that should be chosen for chemicals. With the effects of hazardous chemicals playing no small part in the problems caused by climate change, habitat loss, deforestation, droughts, melting polar ice caps, floods, hurricanes and depleting fossil fuels, it was time for joint action to minimize the world's chemical footprint for the benefit of its children.

150. He welcomed the efforts of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and expressed the full support of UNEP for its work. He noted, however, that the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions needed to be genuinely empowered, lest their promises remain unfulfilled. The synergies process was at a critical stage and he expressed the hope that, like the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would adopt decisions leading to its practical implementation. Setting out recent steps that UNEP had taken to support implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group, he said that, in line with the initiative announced by the United Nations Secretary-General – “delivering as one”, UNEP fully supported, through words, deeds and resources, all efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination at all levels, including with other bodies and initiatives such as FAO, WHO and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

151. Ms. Neira described the problems linked to occupational exposure to asbestos, pointing out that 90,000 people died annually from asbestos-related diseases, with some 125 million people worldwide exposed to that threat in the workplace. The most efficient way to eliminate such diseases, she said, was to stop the use of all types of asbestos. Chemicals-related incidents, such as those in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, represented only the tip of the iceberg when it came to inadequate management of chemicals. She called for the protection of human health to be given precedence over trade and for the Parties to the Convention to uphold that principle by including chemicals under the Convention when the requirements for doing so were met.

152. WHO, she said, was working to raise awareness of public health problems faced in chemicals management and was committed to tackling them. At a recent inter-ministerial conference in Gabon a strategic alliance on health and the environment in Africa had been established, which would lead to a new African network to monitor communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those

with environmental determinants. Ministries of health, she said, were often the first to detect ill health and disease resulting from inadequate chemicals management but required additional financial resources to act. Further, policy was only useful if it was implemented. Enhanced synergies between conventions played a significant role in facilitating cost-effectiveness. Multisectoral engagement between the health, environment and other sectors strengthened all relevant stakeholders in their work to attain the goals of the sound management of chemicals and relieve the burden on public health.

153. Mr. Paolo Ducci, speaking on behalf of Ms. Stefania Prestigiacomo, Minister of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection of Italy, said that although progress in chemicals management had been made the situation was not yet satisfactory. The unregulated production, use and trade of chemicals continued to rise, with significant effects on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which lacked the necessary instruments to monitor such substances. Populations were exposed to extremely serious risks through the contamination of air, land and water, with the most vulnerable populations such as older persons, pregnant women and children facing the gravest dangers. He called, therefore, for enhanced exchange of information to improve decision-making by Governments on the import and export of chemicals and for the adoption of national measures to prevent dangerous effects. He said that enhancing national capacities and restoring contaminated areas should be priority tasks, as should maintaining initiatives and cooperation between the public and private sectors.

B. Statements by ministers and other heads of delegation

154. Following the opening addresses, statements were made by ministers for the environment, health or foreign affairs or their representatives from the following countries and regional integration organizations, listed in the order in which they spoke: Armenia, Chad, Switzerland, Romania, France (speaking on behalf of the European Union), Ghana, Guinea, Malaysia, Hungary, Mauritania, Nepal, Samoa, Sudan, Argentina, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Pakistan, United Republic of Tanzania, China, Germany, India, European Commission, Japan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Panama, Thailand, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Togo, Gabon, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Peru and the Philippines.

155. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following organizations, listed in the order in which they spoke: Rotterdam Convention Alliance, Pesticide Action Network Africa and THANAL.

156. The Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention also made a statement.

157. In his statement, the representative of Japan said that his country had contributed \$400,000 to the voluntary trust fund and would work with the Secretariat on how best to make use of the funds.

C. Panel discussions

158. During the high-level segment, ministers and other high-level meeting participants engaged in three simultaneous panel discussions on the theme of “sound chemicals management: relieving the burden on public health”. The panels considered a number of sub-themes in the context of efforts to achieve the goal agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development that “by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”. Further details on the structure of the discussions are set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/15.

159. At the plenary session held the following morning, Friday, 31 October 2008, Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, summarized the outcomes of the panel discussions. He said that the panellists had demonstrated significant commitment to implementing the Rotterdam Convention, identifying key obstacles and potential solutions at the national, regional and global levels. Governments needed to evaluate the situations in their own countries, identifying priorities and gaps and ensuring that they had sufficient legislation in place and means to monitor cross-border trade. Empowerment and training of customs staff and the judiciary were essential, as was the dissemination of information to consumers through public-awareness campaigns.

160. Panellists had drawn attention to the need for technical assistance to help developing countries to conduct monitoring activities and train staff and to fund the regional cooperation that was crucial to combating illegal trade. They had stressed that synergies were needed between the chemical conventions and that meetings should be streamlined. Two possible solutions proposed at the global level had been increased South-South cooperation and the building of partnerships involving

Governments, the chemicals industry and civil society organizations. They had also drawn attention to the principle of reciprocity, pursuant to which both exporting and importing countries had rights and responsibilities under the Rotterdam Convention.

161. Responding to Mr. Kante's summary, one representative stressed the importance of technical cooperation mechanisms in monitoring cross-border movement of chemicals while another highlighted concerns on the costs of dealing with negative health consequences and damage to the environment, including pollution of water tables and, in the context of capacity-building, the need to set up public health laboratories. He also stressed that the principle of reciprocity should include the shared responsibility of both exporting and importing countries in disposing of expired chemicals and in providing information. The President recalled that in her introduction to the high-level segment she had remarked on the need for laboratories and for information technology capacity. Consideration of possible synergies with the Basel Convention, she said, would include the disposal of expired pesticide stocks.

162. A summary of key messages emerging from the panel discussions is set out in annex V to the present report.

D. Lunchtime meeting on support for the programme of work

163. As described in the information note by the Secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/15), the high-level segment featured a lunchtime meeting on Friday, 31 October, on the subject of support for the programme of work. Following an introduction by Mr. Cooper, Mr. Kante pledged the unequivocal commitment of UNEP to supporting the Rotterdam Convention. Recalling the need for synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, he also stressed the importance of synergies between the work programmes of the Secretariat and of UNEP.

164. Representatives of developing countries described areas in which financial and technical assistance were required as a priority, which included among others the preparation of national inventories and the monitoring of health at the local level. Representatives of donor countries outlined their assistance activities, promising that their support for the Convention would continue. One representative welcomed the adoption of the decision on synergies, saying that it clearly demonstrated that funds were being used effectively and would support the case for continued financial support by Parties. A few representatives noted that identification of priorities in consultation with developing countries greatly facilitated the work of the donor community. Another representative highlighted the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the work undertaken through pilot programmes. The representative of a non-governmental organization urged developing countries to work with her organization on how best to make use of its expertise and resources.

XII. Other matters

165. No other matters were discussed.

XIII. Adoption of the report

166. The Conference adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated during the meeting, as amended, and on the understanding that finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the Secretariat.

XIV. Closure of the meeting

167. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 8.10 p.m. on Friday, 31 October 2008.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting

- RC-4/1: Progress in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-4/2: Confirmation of the appointments of government-designated experts as members of the Chemical Review Committee
- RC-4/3: Nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee
- RC-4/4: Inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention
- RC-4/5: Inclusion of tributyltin compounds in Annex III of the Convention
- RC-4/6: Inclusion of endosulfan in Annex III of the Convention
- RC-4/7: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-4/8: Progress made toward the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms
- RC-4/9: National and regional delivery of technical assistance
- RC-4/10: Cooperation with the World Trade Organization
- RC-4/11: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- RC-4/12: Financing and budget for the triennium 2009–2011

RC-4/1: Progress in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the review of the implementation of key obligations under the Rotterdam Convention set out in the note by the Secretariat,¹

Welcoming the substantial progress made in implementing the provisions of the Convention since its entry into force in 2004,

1. *Acknowledges* the importance of adequate national infrastructure for pesticide and industrial chemicals management in developing countries to the preparation and submission of notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict pesticides and in taking and reporting decisions on the import of chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention;
2. *Takes note of* the substantial number of import responses which indicate consent to continued trade in chemicals listed in Annex III and reaffirms that the listing of a chemical in Annex III does not constitute a recommendation to ban or severely restrict its use;
3. *Also takes note of* the 177 chemicals for each of which at least one complete notification of final regulatory action has been submitted and invites Parties when preparing notifications of final regulatory action to give priority to those chemicals as a means of facilitating the identification of candidate chemicals for listing in Annex III;
4. *Notes* the importance of Parties having adequate capacity to collect information on pesticide poisonings and to make such information available to their designated national authorities;

1 UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/11.

5. *Encourages* Parties to make use of the information on national regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict chemicals available under the Convention and the evaluations of chemicals by the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to strengthen national decision-making on chemicals;
6. *Invites* Parties that have taken final regulatory actions to notify the Secretariat of such actions within the timeframe established by the Convention, if they have not yet done so, given that notifications of final regulatory action are key to the addition of chemicals to Annex III and the continued effectiveness of the prior informed consent procedure and information exchange;
7. *Invites* Parties that have proposed chemicals for inclusion under the Stockholm Convention and have also subjected such chemicals to domestic regulatory action to ban or severely restrict their use to submit notifications of final regulatory action pertaining to such chemicals to the Secretariat in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention;
8. *Invites* Parties to consider the obstacles that prevent the submission of proposals to list severely hazardous pesticide formulations in Annex III of the Convention;
9. *Requests* Parties that have yet to submit import responses for all of the chemicals listed in Annex III, in particular industrial chemicals, to do so in a timely manner as an essential step for the effective operation of the prior informed consent procedure;
10. *Invites* Parties to review and update as necessary their import responses for chemicals listed in Annex III;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake a review of the current regulatory processes for chemicals to determine their relationship to the definitions of banned or severely restricted chemicals in Article 2 of the Convention and to submit the results of its review for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting.

RC-4/2: Confirmation of the appointments of government-designated experts as members of the Chemical Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision RC-1/6, in which it identified 31 Parties to designate formally experts to serve as members of the Chemical Review Committee to serve for periods of two or four years from 1 October 2005 and whose designated experts were confirmed by the Conference of the Parties through decision RC-2/1,

Recalling its decision RC-3/2, in which it identified 14 Parties to designate new experts to serve on the Chemical Review Committee for a period of four years commencing on 1 October 2007, requested those Parties to provide, through the Secretariat, the names and relevant qualifications of those experts by June 2007 and decided that such experts should serve as members of the Chemical Review Committee on an interim basis, pending formal confirmation of their appointment by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session,

Acknowledging with thanks the contributions to the efficient functioning of the Chemical Review Committee of the outgoing experts, especially Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland), who served as chair of the Committee for the second and third meetings of the Committee, and Ms. Hyacinth Chin Sue (Jamaica), who served as chair for the Committee's fourth meeting,

1. *Decides* to appoint the following 15 experts formally designated by the Parties identified in decision RC-3/2 to serve as members of the Chemical Review Committee for a period of four years commencing on 1 October 2007:

African States

Benin	Mr. Mansourou Moudachirou
Gabon	Mr. Hubert Binga
Nigeria	Mr. Idris Adamu Goji
South Africa	Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi

Asian and Pacific States

China	Mr. Shan Zhengjun
India	Mr. Shri Jasbir Singh (served as a designated expert from 1 October 2007 to 1 May 2008) Mr. G. K. Pandey (will serve as a designated expert for the remainder of the term commenced by Mr. Singh)
Japan	Mr. Masayuki Ikeda
Sri Lanka	Mr. Gamini K. Manuweera

Central and Eastern European States

Czech Republic	Ms. Darina Liptakova
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Latin American and Caribbean States

Chile	Mr. Ignacio Figueroa Cornejo
Mexico	Mr. Mario Yarto

Western European and other States

Austria	Ms. Anja Bartels
France	Mr. Mario Nichelatti
Norway	Ms. Marit E. Randall

2. *Decides* to appoint the following two experts formally designated by the Governments identified in decision RC-1/6 to serve for the remainder of the four-year period commencing on 1 October 2005:

Latin American and Caribbean States

Jamaica	Mr. Michael Frank Ramsay
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Western European and other States

Canada	Ms. Hang Tang
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3. *Reaffirms* the provisions of decision RC-1/6 with regard to the duration and terms of service of the experts;

4. *Decides* to elect retroactively elect Ms. Hyacinth Chin Sue as the chair of the Chemical Review Committee for its fourth meeting in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Chemical Review Committee during its third meeting and to elect Ms. Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia) as the chair of the Committee for its fifth meeting, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Chemical Review Committee during its fourth meeting.

RC-4/3: Nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision RC-1/6 on the establishment of the Chemical Review Committee,

1. *Decides* that each of the following Parties shall designate an expert to serve on the Chemical Review Committee for a period of four years commencing on 1 October 2009 pending the formal confirmation of the experts by the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting:

African States: Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Sudan

Asian and Pacific States:	Iran, Pakistan, Qatar, Yemen
Central and Eastern European States:	Armenia, Poland
Latin American and Caribbean States:	Ecuador, Jamaica, Peru
Western European and other States:	Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain

2. *Requests* each Party named in paragraph 1 to provide through the Secretariat the name and relevant qualifications of its designated expert to the Parties by May 2009.

RC-4/4: Inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision RC-3/3 on chrysotile asbestos,

Taking into account that the Conference of the Parties is not yet able to reach consensus on whether to list chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention,

Aware that failure to reach consensus so far has created concerns in many Parties,

1. *Decides* that the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall include further consideration of the draft decision to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to include the following chemical:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Chrysotile asbestos	12001–29–5	Industrial

2. *Encourages* Parties to make use of all available information on chrysotile asbestos to assist others, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to make informed decisions regarding the import and management of chrysotile asbestos and to inform other Parties of those decisions using the information exchange provisions laid down in Article 14 of the Convention.

RC-4/5: Inclusion of tributyltin compounds in Annex III of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make tributyltin compounds subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list them in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention,

Satisfied that all the requirements for listing in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention have been met with respect to tributyltin compounds,

1. *Decides* to amend Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention to list the following chemicals in the three columns after the entry for “Toxaphene”:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
All tributyltin compounds including:		Pesticide
Tributyltin oxide	CAS 56-35-9	
Tributyltin fluoride	CAS 1983-10-4	
Tributyltin methacrylate	CAS 2155-70-6	
Tributyltin benzoate	CAS 4342-36-3	
Tributyltin chloride	CAS 1461-22-9	
Tributyltin linoleate	CAS 24124-25-2	
Tributyltin naphthenate	CAS 85409-17-2	

2. *Decides* that this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 1 February 2009.

RC-4/6: Inclusion of endosulfan in Annex III of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging the importance of not undermining human health and the environment in different regions of the world,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee in its consideration of endosulfan, in particular the technical quality and comprehensiveness of the draft decision guidance document,

Considering that the draft decision guidance document should be used for information exchange purposes,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make endosulfan subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list it in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention,

Taking into account that the Conference of the Parties is not yet able to reach consensus on whether to list endosulfan in Annex III to the Convention,

Aware that the failure to reach consensus so far has created concerns in all Parties,

Taking into account that a small number of Parties consider that criterion d in Annex II of the Convention has not been applied correctly,

Acknowledging that the Chemical Review Committee sought and acted upon guidance from the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting which said that Committee was to continue to consider notifications involving intentional misuse on a case-by-case basis, but that a legal opinion from the UNEP legal office should be obtained to clarify the meaning of "intentional misuse" and be made available to the Committee to inform future discussion,

1. *Requests* that Parties and interested observers provide to the Secretariat within six months of the date of the present decision their considered views on the application of criterion (d) in Annex II of the Convention;

2. *Requests* that the Secretariat provide the views submitted in accordance with the preceding paragraph to the United Nations Environment Programme legal office for it to review its previous advice to the Chemical Review Committee contained in the information document on the subject provided to the Committee for its third meeting regarding clarification of the meaning of “intentional misuse” and the application of criterion (d) in Annex II of the Convention;²
3. *Requests* that the Secretariat provide the opinion referred to in the previous paragraph when completed to the Chemical Review Committee and to all Parties and interested observers;
4. *Requests* that the Chemical Review Committee take the legal opinion into account when considering the application of criterion (d) of Annex II of the Convention;
5. *Decides* that the agenda for its next ordinary meeting shall include further consideration of a draft decision to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to include the following chemical:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Endosulfan	115-29-7	Pesticides

6. *Encourages* Parties to make use of all available information on endosulfan, including the draft decision guidance document, to assist others, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to make informed decisions regarding the import and management of endosulfan and to inform other Parties of those decisions using the information exchange provisions laid down in Article 14.

RC-4/7: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 17 of the Rotterdam Convention,

Mindful that the procedures and mechanisms called for under article 17 will help address issues of non-compliance, including by facilitating assistance and providing advice to Parties facing compliance issues,

1. *Decides* to consider further at its next ordinary meeting for adoption the procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance required under article 17 of the Convention;
2. *Decides* also that the draft text contained in the annex to the present decision shall be the basis for its further work on the procedures and institutional mechanisms at its fifth meeting.

Annex to decision RC-4/7

Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention: draft text reflecting the deliberations of the contact group

1. A compliance committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) is hereby established.

Members

2. The Committee shall consist of 15 members. Members shall be nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations.
3. Members shall have expertise and specific qualifications in the subject matter covered by the Convention. They shall serve objectively and in the best interests of the Convention.

² (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.3/INF/7).

Election of members

4. At the meeting at which the Committee is established, the Conference of the Parties shall elect eight members of the Committee for one term and seven members for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, elect for two full terms new members to replace those members whose period of office has expired or is about to expire. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. For the purpose of the present decision, "term" shall mean the period that begins at the end of one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ends at the end of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. If a member of the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term of office or to perform his or her functions, the Party who nominated that member shall nominate an alternate to serve for the remainder of the term.

Officers

6. The Committee shall elect its own Chair. A vice-chair and a rapporteur shall be elected, on a rotating basis, by the Committee in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Meetings

7. The Committee shall hold meetings as necessary and wherever possible in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties or other Convention bodies.

8. Subject to paragraph 9 below, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and the public unless the Committee decides otherwise.

When the Committee is dealing with submissions [or referrals] pursuant to paragraph 12 [or XXX], the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and closed to the public unless the Party whose compliance is in question agrees otherwise.

The Parties or observers to whom the meeting is open shall not have a right to participate in the meeting unless the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question agree otherwise.

9. Where a submission [or referral] is made with respect to the possible non-compliance of a Party, it shall be invited to participate in the consideration of the submission [or referral] by the Committee. Such a Party, however, may not take part in the elaboration and adoption of a recommendation or conclusion of the Committee.

10/11. The Committee shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. [Where this is not possible, the report shall reflect the views of all the Committee members. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, any decision shall, as a last resort be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting or by 8 members, whichever is greater.] 10 members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

12. Submissions may be made in writing, through the secretariat where subparagraph[s] (a) [and (b)] appl[y][ies], by:

(a) A Party which believes that, despite its best endeavours, it is, or will be, unable to comply with certain obligations under the Convention. Such a submission should include details as to which specific obligations are concerned and an assessment of the reason why the Party may be unable to meet those obligations. Where possible, substantiating information, or advice as to where such substantiating information may be found, may be provided. The submission may include suggestions for solutions which the Party considers may be most appropriate to its particular needs;

[(b) A Party that is directly affected or likely to be directly affected by another Party's alleged failure to comply with the obligations of the Convention. A Party intending to make a submission under this subparagraph should before so doing undertake consultations with the Party whose compliance is in question. The submission should include details as to which specific obligations are concerned, and information substantiating the submission, including how the Party is affected or likely to be affected;]

[new paragraph after 12: XXX If the secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under [articles 4, 5(4)], and 10 of] the Convention, becomes aware of possible difficulties for any Party in complying with its obligations under [articles 4, 5(4)], and 10 of] the Convention provided that the matter has not been resolved within three months by consultation with the Party concerned, the

Secretariat shall refer the matter to the Committee[.][which, if appropriate, shall consider the matter at the Committee's next meeting].

13. The secretariat shall forward submissions made under subparagraph 12 (a) above, within two weeks of receiving such submissions, to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

14. [The secretariat shall, within two weeks of its receiving any submission made under subparagraph 12 (b) [or referring a matter under paragraph XXX above], send a copy to the Party whose compliance with the Convention is in question and to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.]

15. Parties whose compliance is in question may present responses or comments at every step of the proceedings described in the present decision.

16. Without prejudice to paragraph 15 above, additional information, provided by a Party whose compliance is in question in response to a submission [or referral], should be forwarded to the secretariat within three months of the date of receipt of the submission [or referral] by that Party, unless the circumstances of a particular case require an extended period of time. Such information shall be immediately transmitted to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting. [Where a submission has been made pursuant to subparagraph 12 (b) above, the information shall be forwarded by the secretariat also to the Party that made the submission.]

17. The Committee may decide not to proceed with submissions [or referrals] which it considers to be:

- (a) De minimis;
- (b) Manifestly ill-founded.

Facilitation

18. The Committee shall consider any submission [or referral] made to it in accordance with paragraph 12 [or XXX] above with a view to establishing the facts and the root causes of the matter of concern, and to assisting in its resolution. To that end, the Committee may provide a Party with:

- (a) Advice;
- (b) Non-binding recommendations;
- (c) Any further information required to assist the Party in developing a compliance plan, including timelines and targets.

Possible measures to address compliance issues

19. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 18 above and taking into account the cause, type, degree and frequency of compliance difficulties, including financial and technical capacities of the Parties whose compliance is in question, the Committee considers it necessary to propose further measures to address a Party's compliance problems, it may recommend to the Conference of the Parties [, bearing in mind its ability under Article 18 (5) (c) of the Convention,] that it consider the following measures, to be taken in accordance with international law, to attain compliance, [including]:

- (a) Further support under the Convention for the Party concerned, including facilitation, as appropriate, of access to financial resources, technical assistance and capacity-building;
- (b) Providing advice regarding future compliance in order to help Parties to implement the provisions of the Convention and to promote cooperation between all Parties;
- (c) Issuing a statement of concern regarding possible future non-compliance;
- (d) Issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance;
- (e) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public cases of non-compliance

[(f) The Conference of the Parties considers and undertakes any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention under Article 18 (5) (c)]

- (g) Recommending that a non-compliant situation be addressed by the non-compliant Party with the aim of resolving the situation.

Handling of information

21. (1) The Committee may [only] receive relevant information, through the secretariat, from:
- (a) The Parties
 - (b) [Any relevant sources[, [including the secretariat,] as it considers necessary and appropriate, either with the consent of the Party concerned or as directed by the Conference of the Parties].]

[21 (2). The Committee may also request information from the secretariat, where appropriate in the form of a report, on matters under the Committee's consideration.]

22. For the purposes of examining systemic issues of general compliance under paragraph 25, the Committee may:

- (a) Request information from all Parties;
- (b) In accordance with relevant guidance by the Conference of the Parties, request relevant information from any reliable sources and outside experts; and
- (c) Consult with the secretariat and draw upon its experience and knowledge base.

23. Subject to article 14 of the Convention, the Committee, any Party and any person involved in the deliberations of the Committee shall protect the confidentiality of information received in confidence.

Monitoring

24. The Compliance Committee should monitor the consequences of action taken in pursuance of paragraphs 18 or 19 above.

General compliance issues

25. The Compliance Committee may examine systemic issues of general compliance of interest to all Parties where:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties so requests;
- (b) The Committee, on the basis of information obtained by the secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, from Parties and submitted to the Committee by the secretariat, decides that there is a need for an issue of general non-compliance to be examined and for a report on it to be made to the Conference of the Parties.

Reports to the Conference of the Parties

26. The Committee shall submit a report to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties reflecting:

- (a) The work that the Committee has undertaken;
- (b) The conclusions or recommendations of the Committee;
- (c) The future programme of work of the Committee, including the schedule of expected meetings which it considers necessary for the fulfilment of its programme of work, for the consideration and approval of the Conference of the Parties.

Other subsidiary bodies

27. Where the activities of the Committee with respect to particular issues overlap with the responsibilities of another Rotterdam Convention body, the Conference of the Parties may direct the Committee to consult with that body.

Information sharing with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements

28. Where relevant, the Committee may solicit specific information, upon request by the Conference of the Parties, or directly, from compliance committees dealing with hazardous substances and wastes under the auspices of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and report on these activities to the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the compliance mechanism

29. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation of the procedures and mechanisms set forth in the present decision.

Relationship with settlement of disputes

30. These procedures and mechanisms shall be without prejudice to article 20 of the Convention.

RC-4/8: Progress made toward the implementation of decision RC-3/5 on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision RC-3/5 on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms,

1. *Welcomes* the information received from Parties on the issue of the cost of implementing the Convention over the period 2007–2008;
2. *Invites* Parties and other bodies to provide relevant information which can assist in assessing the implementation costs referred to in the preceding paragraph;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue working with relevant partners such as the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in endeavouring to ensure that provisions relevant to the Rotterdam Convention are taken into account when developing technical assistance projects and activities in follow-up to decision RC-3/5;
4. *Invites* 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 Protocol and the Rotterdam Convention can be enhanced.

RC-4/9: National and regional delivery of technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the comprehensive proposal for the regional delivery of technical assistance considered at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and reflected in decisions RC-1/14, RC-2/4 and RC-3/6 on technical assistance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first, second and third meetings, respectively,

Also recalling the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention on technical assistance, especially its Article 16,

Noting that the hazardous chemicals and pesticides covered by the Convention contribute to poverty through their adverse effects on human health and environmental resources and that effective implementation of the Convention contributes to attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

Considering that in many countries regulatory infrastructure for managing industrial chemicals seems to be insufficient to implement the Convention,

Stressing the importance of technical assistance in enabling Parties, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, and countries with economies in transition, to implement the Convention and to manage industrial chemicals and pesticides effectively,

Emphasizing the need to promote coordination and cooperation in the provision of technical assistance among international organizations, conventions and programmes, in particular the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as well as among Parties, designated national authorities, customs services and other relevant organizations,

Recalling the role of the Secretariat of the Convention as laid down in Article 19 of the Convention,

Emphasizing the need to achieve effective and coordinated delivery of technical assistance on targeted thematic issues, which could include pilot projects,

Recognizing the need to ensure national practices for retaining required expertise for designated national authorities,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Secretariat and other partners in the implementation of decision RC-3/6 on technical assistance as outlined in the note by the Secretariat on the subject,³

1. *Requests* Parties that are in a position to do so to contribute to the Convention's Voluntary Special Trust Fund in support of technical assistance activities;

2. *Takes note of* the programme for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for 2009–2011 contained in the annex to the Secretariat note on technical assistance under the Rotterdam Convention⁴ and requests the secretariat to support the activities contained therein as available resources allow and in accordance with decision RC-4/12 on financing and budget for the triennium 2009–2011;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of its technical assistance in line with Article 19 of the Convention and to focus the programme of work on issues and needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to pay particular attention to the needs of Parties in meeting the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention;

4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting on the experience gained in the regional and national delivery of technical assistance, taking into account among other things the activities of donors and implementing organizations, information exchange on technical assistance activities and opportunities for joint activities with the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to prepare a detailed costed programme of activities for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance, based on the level of resources likely to be available from all sources, for the biennium 2012–2013 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next regular meeting, taking into account the findings concerning activities of other donors in order to enable closer cooperation between the Secretariat and other donors.

RC-4/10: Cooperation with the World Trade Organization

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of progress made toward the implementation of decision RC-1/15 on cooperation between the secretariat and the World Trade Organization,

Requests the secretariat, while continuing to follow up the request for observer status in the World Trade Organization's Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session, to seek observer status in the Organization's Committee on Trade and Environment, as that Committee is the standing body of the World Trade Organization mandated to discuss trade and environment issues in regular sessions, and to inform Parties when the request has been submitted and when it has been granted.

RC-4/11: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision SC-2/15 adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its second meeting, decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade at its third meeting and decision VIII/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its eighth meeting, by which the conferences of the Parties established the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and mandated it to prepare joint recommendations on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of each of the three conventions,

3 UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/16.

4 UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/17 and Corr.1.

Recognizing the broad scope of the Rotterdam Convention,

Welcoming the ongoing commitment of all Parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the Rotterdam Convention,

Looking forward to the follow-up on the development of managerial issues arising through closer cooperation between the three conventions,

Noting United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, the Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities and the 2005 World Summit Outcome calling for reduced fragmentation on environmental issues,

Recognizing that the overarching goal of the three conventions is the protection of human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development and that the objective of enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions is to contribute to the achievement of that goal,

Convinced that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Noting that processes for enhancing cooperation and coordination are driven by Parties, should take into account global concerns and should respond to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Believing that institutional structures should be defined by functions that are identified before such structures are established,

Welcoming the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting to adopt the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

2. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting to consider adopting the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

3. *Adopts* the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group and, subject to the recommendation being adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, thereby:

I. Organizational issues in the field

A. Coordination at the national level

1. *Invites* Parties to establish or strengthen, as necessary, national processes or mechanisms for coordinating:

(a) Activities to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions, in particular activities of the focal points and designated national authorities for the three conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and other relevant policy frameworks, as appropriate;

(b) Preparation for convention meetings;

2. *Invites* Parties to provide, through the joint information service referred to in section II, paragraph 4, below, models of such coordination mechanisms as well as examples of good coordination practices from countries;

3. *Recommends* that Parties, when implementing the three conventions, including through capacity-building and technical assistance, ensure close cooperation and coordination among relevant sectors, ministries or programmes at the national level with respect to, among other things, the following:

- (a) Protection of human health and the environment from the harmful impacts or adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes;
- (b) Prevention of accidents and emergency response in case of accidents;
- (c) Combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
- (d) Information generation and access;
- (e) Technology transfer and transfer of know-how;
- (f) Preparation of national positions for meetings of the Conferences of the Parties and other bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
- (g) Development cooperation;

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies such as the member organizations of the Intergovernmental Organization for the Sound Management of Chemicals and regional centres, to collaborate on the dissemination of good practices and, if necessary, the elaboration of guidance and training in the areas referred to in the preceding paragraph;

5. *Invites* United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Industrial Development Organization cleaner production centres to contribute to the national implementation of the three conventions;

B. Programmatic cooperation in the field

6. *Invites* Parties to promote cooperative activities at the national and regional levels as far as possible;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working together with other bodies of the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, multilateral environmental agreements, and other international bodies, to develop programmatic cooperation in the field that would support implementation of the three conventions in areas of common concern such as sustainable development, trade, customs (for example through the Green Customs Initiative), transport, public health, labour, environment, agriculture and industry;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization to include such cooperation in their biennial work programmes;

9. *Recommends* that Parties incorporate in their national development plans and strategies measures to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in order to ensure coherence in their national priority setting and to facilitate the provision of aid by donors in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and in response to country and regional demand;

10. *Requests* the secretariats of the three conventions, in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and taking into account the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to initiate joint collaboration to promote the effective implementation of the decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and their work programmes in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building;

11. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen capacity-building and technical support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for coordinated national implementation;

12. *Encourages* Parties to promote coordination between bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure consistent and non-duplicative assistance to Parties in their implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;

13. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to promote programmatic cooperation on cross-cutting issues, including in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building, in the development of their respective work programmes and to report thereon to the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;

C. Coordinated use of regional offices and centres

14. *Acknowledges* the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions in supporting Parties;

15. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions and to promote coherent chemicals and waste management, bearing in mind the existing and ongoing work of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions. This work should promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycles and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment;

16. *Recommends* that a limited number of regional “focal centres”, with the responsibility to facilitate coordinated activities in the regions covering both chemicals and waste management, be selected from among the existing regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. These focal centres will be designated following regional agreement and in accordance with the relevant procedural provisions of the respective conventions. These focal centres should:

(a) Ensure that the regional centres deliver their work in accordance with defined priorities and serve as an entry point for countries needing assistance or guidance on which centre in a region could provide assistance for a specific purpose;

(b) Strengthen regional centres to enable them to exercise a more synergistic approach as delivery mechanisms under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;

(c) Play a special role in providing an overview of their activities and results to the conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as examples of lessons learned on enhanced practical implementation of the conventions;

17. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to initiate pilot projects on the coordinated use of regional centres, such projects to be undertaken by the regional centres and build on lessons learned;

18. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the regional centres to exchange information about their capacities and work programmes;

19. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, other relevant international financial institutions and instruments, the regional centre host countries and others from the donor community to provide financial support necessary for the regional centres to carry out projects aimed at cooperation and coordination in support of implementation of the three conventions;

II. Technical issues

A. National reporting

1. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to prepare, for consideration by their respective Conferences of the Parties, proposals:

(a) To synchronize the submission of Party reports under the two conventions in those years when the Parties to both conventions are to submit such reports;

(b) To develop joint capacity-building activities to assist Parties in coordinated data and information collection and management at the national level, including quality control, to enable them to fulfil their reporting obligations;

(c) To streamline their respective reporting formats and processes with a view to alleviating the burden of reporting, taking into account relevant activities by other bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme;

B. Compliance/Non-compliance mechanisms

2. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, once compliance/non-compliance mechanisms are established under all three conventions, to prepare proposals for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties to the three conventions exploring the possibilities for enhancing coordination among the agreed mechanisms to facilitate compliance by, for example, provision of joint secretariat support for the committees, the attendance of the chairs of the three committees at each others' meetings or encouraging the appointment of members to the committees who have experience with other compliance mechanisms;

3. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to exchange information on progress made on the operation or establishment of the compliance/non-compliance mechanisms established or under negotiation under the three conventions;

C. Cooperation on technical and scientific issues

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to facilitate the exchange of relevant information between the technical and scientific bodies of the three conventions through the sharing of information with one another, with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management and with other relevant intergovernmental bodies concerning the procedures developed and the chemicals being discussed under the three conventions;

5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to maintain or establish cooperation on technical issues that relate to more than one of the three conventions, involving other bodies and institutions beyond the three conventions as appropriate;

III. Information management and public awareness issues

A. Joint outreach and public awareness

1. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to develop a common approach to awareness-raising and outreach activities among the three conventions;

2. *Also requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to make full use of and build on existing information and outreach mechanisms and tools;

B. Information exchange/clearing-house mechanism on health and environmental impacts

3. *Invites* Parties to consider establishing common websites and documentation centres at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels, containing available information on human health and environmental impacts relevant to the three conventions;

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to develop systems of information exchange on health and environmental impacts, including a clearing-house mechanism, with the aim of these systems serving all three conventions;

C. Joint input into other processes

5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, whenever feasible, to act jointly in participating in other related processes and in providing information to other related bodies, organizations, institutions and processes;

IV. Administrative issues

1. *Recommends* that possible cost savings gained through these more efficient administrative arrangements be used to support implementation of the three conventions;

A. Joint managerial functions

2. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to establish joint management involving the Executive Secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for joint services and joint activities through, for example, a system of rotating management or the assignment of individual joint services to a particular convention;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to explore and assess the feasibility and cost implications of establishing joint coordination or a joint head of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for consideration at the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

B. Resource mobilization

4. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, to establish, on an interim basis, through the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions, a joint resource mobilization service within the secretariats in Geneva. The service should support the implementation of the three conventions beyond that achievable through separate action by:

- (a) Strengthening mobilization of resources through the development of a joint resource mobilization strategy for the short, medium and long term;
- (b) Avoiding competitive and uncoordinated resource demands to donors;
- (c) Prioritizing coordinated efforts to explore new, innovative and adequate sources of funding, including for national implementation;
- (d) Promoting resource mobilization for a life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management;
- (e) Mobilizing financial resources and technical assistance for programmes delivered through regional centres;
- (f) Developing joint strategy options on what countries can do at the national level to generate funds and better to gain access to international and bilateral financing;
- (g) Facilitating the exchange of experiences in mobilizing resources for national implementation;
- (h) Building on available methodologies, guidance and case studies that have been developed by other institutions;

5. *Decides* that the final decision regarding the above-named joint service shall be taken at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties;

6. *Encourages* representatives of Parties to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages from the conferences of the Parties of each convention to the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions/ instruments on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the implementation of the conventions;

C. Financial management and audit functions

7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, to establish, on an interim basis, through the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions, a joint financial and administrative support service, within the secretariats in Geneva, taking into account relevant support services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, to prepare a proposal for joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;

D. Joint services

9. *Welcomes* the support provided by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization to the work of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and encourages the continuation of such support;

10. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, in addition to the joint resource mobilization service and the joint financial and administrative support service referred to in section IV, paragraphs 4 and 7, above, respectively, to establish through the Executive Secretaries of the three Conventions, within the secretariats in Geneva and with the aim of improving the level and efficiency of delivery of services, on an interim basis:

- (a) A joint legal service;
- (b) A joint information technology service;
- (c) A joint information service;

11. *Decides* that a final decision regarding the joint services referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be taken at the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

12. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to provide further information on the costs and organizational implications of establishing the joint services identified in section IV, paragraph 10, above, to be presented prior to the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

V. Decision making

A. Coordinated meetings

1. *Decides* that the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions should be held in a coordinated manner and requests the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions to schedule such meetings in a way that facilitates such coordination;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries to schedule joint meetings of the bureaus of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, as appropriate;

B. Extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties

3. *Decides* to convene simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to organize the meetings in coordination with the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme. At these simultaneous meetings, which are aimed at giving high-level political support to the process of enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions, the Conferences of the Parties would consider:

- (a) Decisions on joint activities;
- (b) Decisions on joint managerial functions;
- (c) Final decisions on joint services established on an interim basis;
- (d) Decisions on synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions;
- (e) Decisions on joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;
- (f) Decisions on a review mechanism and follow up of the work on enhancing coordination and cooperation processes between the three conventions;

(g) Reports or information received from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the three conventions on any other activity or proposed joint institution resulting from the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to prepare proposals for the extraordinary meetings referred to in the preceding paragraph on:

(a) A common arrangement for staffing and financing joint services of the three conventions, including financing shared posts;

(b) Synchronizing the budget cycles of the three conventions as soon as possible to facilitate coordinated activities and joint services, bearing in mind the implications for the timing of future meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of the three conventions and for facilitating auditing;

5. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide financing to support the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to prepare proposals for financing the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above with a view to decisions being taken by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting, by Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting;

C. Review arrangement

7. *Decides* that a mechanism and timetable for reviewing the arrangements adopted pursuant to the present decision shall be determined by the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above;

8. *Requests* Parties and secretariats and other bodies, as appropriate and within available resources, to take such actions as are necessary to implement the present decision.

RC-4/12: Financing and budget for the triennium 2009–2011

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat adopted in its decision RC-1/4,

Recalling its decision RC-3/9 on financing and budget for the biennium 2007–2008,

1. *Decides*, notwithstanding paragraph two of the financial rules set out in its decision RC-1/4, to adopt as an extraordinary one-time measure a three-year budget cycle for the period 2009–2011 in order to facilitate synchronization of the budget cycle of the Rotterdam Convention with the budget cycles of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in accordance with the recommendation on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted in its decision RC-4/11 and in the light of its agreement, as set out in chapter IX of the report of its fourth meeting, on the date and venue of its fifth meeting;

2. *Approves* the programme activities and the operational programme budget for the triennium 2009–2011 of 3,811,611 United States dollars for 2009, 3,917,706 United States dollars for 2010 and 3,984,882 United States dollars for 2011 for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision, which is presented by budget code line in table 2;

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretaries to make commitments up to the level of the approved operational budget, drawing on available cash resources;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretaries to make transfers of up to 20 per cent of one main appropriation line of the approved budget to other main appropriation lines;

5. *Invites* the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue their financial and other support for the operation of the Convention and its Secretariat in 2009–2011;
6. *Welcomes* the annual contribution of 1.2 million euros pledged for 2009, 2010 and 2011 by the host Governments of the Convention Secretariat to offset planned expenditures;
7. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for the apportionment of expenses for 2009–2011 set out in table 3 of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretaries, in keeping with the financial rules, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2009 for 2009, before 1 January 2010 for 2010 and before 1 January 2011 for 2011;
8. *Decides* to set the level of the working capital reserve at 15 per cent of the average annual operational budgets for 2009–2011;
9. *Approves* the staffing table of the Convention Secretariat for the operational budget for 2009–2011 set out in table 4 of the present decision;
10. *Welcomes* the establishment of four posts for chemicals and waste cluster officials funded by the United Nations Environment Programme, noting that they will serve the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
11. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider funding an officer to manage joint support services for the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions;
12. *Confirms* the transfer of the amount of 375,000 United States dollars less pledges for participation in the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties currently being processed from the General Trust Fund balance of the 2005–2006 period to cover costs of participant travel to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
13. *Notes* that the transfer referred to in the previous paragraph was based on a discussion within the Bureau of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,⁵ but also notes that the financial rules set out in decision RC-1/4 do not give delegated authority to the Bureau to take budget decisions nor to the Executive Secretaries to request transfers from one trust fund to another;
14. *Decides* therefore that actions of the kind described in the preceding two paragraphs should not be taken in the future without the prior authorization of the Conference of the Parties;
15. *Reaffirms* nevertheless the importance of full and effective participation of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, and requests the Secretariat to remind Parties of the need for contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund at least six months prior to the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, reflecting on the financial need, and urges Parties in a position to do so to ensure that any contributions are paid at least three months before the Conference of the Parties meets;
16. *Endorses* the procedure set out in the annex to the present decision for the allocation of funding from the Voluntary Special Trust Fund (RV) for facilitating participation of Parties in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and requests the Executive Secretaries to enter into consultation with the executive secretaries of the Rio conventions on their experience in facilitating party participation;
17. *Notes* with concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the operational budgets for 2007 and 2008, which were expected on 1 January 2007 and 1 January 2008, respectively, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules;
18. *Invites* the President of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretaries to write to the relevant Parties impressing upon them the importance of paying their respective arrears for prior periods;

⁵ During that discussion the Secretariat was requested to ensure that the transfer referred to in paragraph 12 would not contravene the financial rules of the Convention or any other applicable financial regulation.

19. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretaries to agree with any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years a payment schedule to permit such Party to clear all outstanding arrears within six years, depending on the financial circumstances of the Party, and to pay future contributions by their due dates, and requests the Executive Secretaries to report on progress under any such schedule to the Bureau and to the Conference of the Parties at their next meetings;

20. *Decides* that with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2009 onward, Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States and whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years will be subject to effective measures to be decided by the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting;

21. *Invites* Parties to note that contributions to the operational budget for a calendar year are expected on 1 January of that year and urges Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions promptly and in full and, in this regard, requests that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions for a given year by 15 October of the previous year;

22. *Welcomes* the work done by the Convention Secretariat in keeping up-to-date information on the Convention website on the status of assessed contributions;

23. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for activities under the Voluntary Special Trust Fund of the Convention included in table 5 of the present decision and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to contribute and where possible increase their contributions to the Voluntary Special Trust Fund, especially for the priorities set in the programme activities in the field of technical assistance;

24. *Decides* that the trust funds for the Convention shall be further continued until 31 December 2011 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the two trust funds of the Convention for 2009–2011, subject to the approval of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries to further enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in accordance with the priorities set by the Conference of the Parties and to report on the outcome of their efforts;

26. *Welcomes* the new programmatic format of the budget and requests the Executive Secretaries to continue to prepare the operational budget on the basis of that format and to reflect expenditures for the 2009–2011 period in the same format while also presenting such expenditures by budget code lines;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries to prepare a budget for the biennium 2012–2013 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting and to explain the key principles and assumptions on which the budget is based;

28. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing the Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of different options and, to that end, requests the Executive Secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2012–2013 three alternative funding scenarios based on:

(a) Their assessment of the required growth of the operational budget to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budget implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2009–2011 level in nominal terms;

(c) Increasing the operational budget from the 2009–2011 level by 10 per cent in nominal terms;

29. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries, in accordance with paragraph 20 of decision RC1/4, to arrange for the conduct of regular audits by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and to request, when appropriate, reports from the United Nations Board of Auditors and to submit any such reports to the Conference of the Parties, together with the Secretariat's responses.

Table 1

Programme activities and operational programme budget for the triennium 2009–2011

Preparation and delivery of Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies(A. Ensure effective functioning of the COP and its subsidiary bodies)Mandate

The Secretariat's functions as mandated by Article 19 paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, the rules of procedures and subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Objectives

To ensure effective preparation, delivery and follow-up of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

Indicator of achievement

1. Adequate meeting facilities and services are provided.
2. Meeting documents are made available to Parties in all United Nations languages within established timelines.
3. Efficient and effective logistical and substantive support is provided to meetings.
4. Adequate participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is ensured at meetings (subject to availability of funding).

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
1	<u>Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-5)</u> ; invitations; organization of travel of sponsored delegates; preparation, translation and publication of all meeting documents; support for the President before and during the meeting; registration of participants and observers; logistical support including meeting rooms interpretation, security, etc; support to the Conference and its working groups during and between meetings. Duration: five days.	A successfully organized meeting of the Conference of the Parties; documentation for the meeting in the six official United Nations languages.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 30,000), salaries/travel of conference staff, translation, logistics (USD 625,000) and participation of sponsored delegates at COP-5 (USD 500,000).	—	160 000	160 000	160 000	—	—	240 000	240 000	240 000	—	316 633	755 000	1 071 633	571 633	500 000
2	<u>Fifth, sixth and seventh meetings of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC)</u> ; logistical arrangements; invitations; work with Bureau for preliminary review and priority setting for candidate chemicals, support intersessional task groups and drafting groups; preparation and publication of all related documents; organize travel of sponsored experts, registration of participants and observers; support for the Chairman before and during the meeting; arrange for nomination/designation of new members for CRC-6. Duration: each 5 days for	Successfully organized meetings of the Chemical Review Committee; Effective operation of intersessional task groups and drafting groups as appropriate.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 52,500), salaries/travel of conference staff, translation, logistics (USD 330,000) and participation of sponsored delegates and experts at CRC-5 and CRC-6 (USD 270,000).	182 966	217 500	400 466	400 466	—	190 284	217 500	407 784	407 784	—	197 896	217 500	415 396	415 396	—

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
	CRC-5 in Rome, CRC-6 in Geneva and CRC-7 in Rome.																	
3	Annual meetings of the Bureau; arrange for venue, travel of bureau members, logistics and documentation for each meeting. An additional bureau meeting is foreseen back-to-back with COP.5 in 2010; one meeting in 2009 (Geneva), one meeting in 2010 (Rome) and two meetings in 2011 (Rome and Geneva).	Successfully organized meetings of the Bureau; Documentation for meetings in English only.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 20,000) and logistics and travel of the Bureau (USD 50,000).	54 890	17 500	72 390	72 390	—	57 085	17 500	74 585	74 585	—	59 369	35 000	94 369	94 369	—
4	Organize and support the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties jointly with Basel and Stockholm Conventions (February 2010); organization of travel of sponsored delegates; preparation, translation and publication of all related documents; support for the President before and during the meeting; registration of participants and observers; shared logistical support including interpretation and security.	A successfully organized extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties; Documentation for the meeting in the six official United Nations languages	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 10,000). External (funded via separate trust fund); translation, logistics and participation of sponsored delegates at extraordinary COP meeting in February 2010.	—	—	—	—	—	63 428	10 000	73 428	73 428	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Subtotal:		237 855	395 000	632 855	632 855	—	310 798	485 000	795 798	795 798	—	573 897	1 007 500	1 581 397	1 081 397	500 000

Programme and cross-cutting support**(B. Outreach and assistance to Parties in the implementation of the Convention)****I. Legal Support****Mandate:**

Secretariat's functions as mandated by Article 19, paragraph 2 (b) and (d), of the Convention

Objectives:

1. To facilitate the operation of the Rotterdam Convention, its Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Convention
2. To facilitate assistance to Parties on request in implementation of the Convention
3. To enhance compliance with the obligations of the Convention by Parties
4. To ensure compatibility of decisions and actions with United Nations regulations

Indicator of achievement:

Legal guidance in implementing the Convention and legal advice are promptly and appropriately provided to individual Parties, the Secretariat and the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation on internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
5	<u>Provide general and legal policy advice:</u> respond to Parties' queries relating to the implementation of and compliance with the Convention(s).	Advice on general legal and/or policy questions provided to Parties and the Secretariat as needed	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 11,500)	12 198	2 500	14 698	14 698	—	12 686	4 500	17 186	17 186	—	13 193	4 500	17 693	17 693	—
6	<u>Develop technical assistance programme for Parties to ensure an effective legal basis for the implementation of the Convention:</u> facilitate the development of national capacity including personnel and infrastructure to implement the legal obligations of the Convention and to develop new and innovative mechanisms for delivering the information and assistance package to Parties upon request.	The production of legal information and assistance tools to facilitate national program implementation	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 15,000) and consultant for the development of materials (USD 15,000).	18 297	12 500	30 797	30 797	—	19 028	12 500	31 528	31 528	—	19 790	5 000	24 790	24 790	—
7P	<u>Develop a legal and administrative framework in support of the sound management of Industrial Chemicals:</u> to complement the agricultural chemicals management programmes in effect in most Parties.	Parties are better able to benefit from the provisions under the Rotterdam Convention; promote a synergistic approach to the activities relevant to industrial chemicals under other agreements, including the Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention and SAICM.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 15,000) and consultant for the development of materials (USD 45,000).	23 887	27 500	51 387	51 387	—	19 028	27 500	46 528	46 528	—	19 790	5 000	24 790	24 790	—
		Subtotal:		54 381	42 500	96 881	96 881	—	50 742	44 500	95 242	95 242	—	52 772	14 500	67 272	67 272	—

II. Regional and national delivery of technical assistance

Mandate:

The Secretariat functions as mandated by Article 19 paragraph 2 (b) and decisions of the Conference of Parties regarding regional and national delivery of technical assistance.

Objectives:

Ensure that the technical assistance needs of Parties are addressed in order that they might fully benefit from the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention.

Indicator of achievement:

1. Technical assistance and advice are promptly provided to Parties in response to their identified needs.
2. Parties' understanding of the benefits of the Convention and ability to comply with its provisions are strengthened.

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
A. Resource Kit																		
8P	<u>Resource kit</u> : review and update existing documents as necessary including translation into all six official United Nations languages; print and disseminate to regional offices and partners and use in the regional and national delivery of technical assistance to Parties and at events.	Existing documents, tools and guidance reviewed, updated, translated as necessary and disseminated (total of 600 kits per year; 400 under RO and 200 under RV trust funds)	Internal; funds for developing electronic learning tools, translation and reproduction (USD 165,000) and consultant (USD 40,000).	54 381	70 000	124 381	104 381	20 000	50 742	75 000	125 742	100 742	25 000	72 562	55 000	127 562	112 562	15 000
Subtotal:				54 381	70 000	124 381	104 381	20 000	50 742	75 000	125 742	100 742	25 000	72 562	55 000	127 562	112 562	15 000
B. National and subregional meetings																		
<u>1. Subregional training and awareness-raising meetings</u>																		
9P	<u>Subregional awareness-raising and training meetings</u> : Focus on Parties that are having difficulty in meeting their basic obligations of the Convention; meetings will provide practical training in meeting the operational elements of the Convention, including training in the use of existing decision guidance documents in national decision-making, provide opportunity for countries to share experiences (4 subregional meetings, 5 countries each and 25 participants per workshop). In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions*.	Support to countries in meeting their obligations under the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions provided	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 240,000).	60 480	60 000	120 480	60 480	60 000	88 799	120 000	208 799	88 799	120 000	79 158	60 000	139 158	79 158	60 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
	<u>2. National and subregional planning meetings</u>																	
10	<u>Assist Parties to identify elements of national action plans or strategies for the implementation of the Convention and as appropriate national follow-seminars: arrange 6 national meetings, 6 subregional meetings (max. 3 countries and 15 participants) and 24 national follow-up seminars. In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions*.</u>	Technical and scientific advice provided	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 642,000).	79 285	214 000	293 285	79 285	214 000	82 456	214 000	296 456	82 456	214 000	79 158	214 000	293 158	79 158	214 000
	<u>3. Thematic meetings</u>																	
	<u>a) Thematic meetings - specific issues</u>																	
11P	<u>Trade-related issues: National training sessions focused on exporting countries and their export obligations (2 national trade meetings); and trade partner meetings involving exporting country and key trade partners (2 meetings involving 4 trade partners).</u>	Parties enabled to meet their obligations related to export of chemicals	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 240,000).	23 887	120 000	143 887	23 887	120 000	19 028	120 000	139 028	19 028	120 000	—	—	—	—	—
12P	<u>Develop monitoring programme on severely hazardous pesticide formulation (SHPF): arrange 4 monitoring progress meetings on SHPF and 4 programmes on SHPFs.</u>	Parties monitoring health and environmental effects of pesticides	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 280 000).	42 183	70 000	112 183	42 183	70 000	57 085	140 000	197 085	57 085	140 000	46 176	70 000	116 176	46 176	70 000
13P	<u>Resource mobilization: develop and implement a programme to facilitate improved access to financial and other resources to assist Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention (4 subregional meetings on project proposal development). In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions*.</u>	Support to countries in meeting their obligations under the Rotterdam Convention provided	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 200 000).	42 183	50 000	92 183	42 183	50 000	50 742	100 000	150 742	50 742	100 000	52 772	50 000	102 772	52 772	50 000
14P	<u>Preparation of notifications of final regulatory action (FRA): build the capacity of developing country Parties to prepare and submit complete notifications of final regulatory action that pass the scrutiny of the Chemical Review Committee (3 subregional meetings to support the preparation of notifications, each including 3 countries and 15 participants).</u>	Parties submitting notifications of final regulatory action.	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 150,000).	17 788	50 000	67 788	17 788	50 000	12 686	50 000	62 686	12 686	50 000	13 193	50 000	63 193	13 193	50 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
15	<u>Programme for Parties who wish to review their chemicals listings under the Convention</u> : develop a programme of assistance for Parties who wish to review their chemicals listings under the Convention to maximize their benefits at the national level (3 meetings each including 10 countries and 20 participants).	Parties review chemicals listings.	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 240,000).	60 989	80 000	140 989	60 989	80 000	44 400	80 000	124 400	44 400	80 000	59 369	80 000	139 369	59 369	80 000
	<u>b) Joint delivery with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention</u>																	
16	<u>Public awareness meetings</u> : to address the specific issue of public awareness; meetings would focus on health and environment issues relevant to the chemicals covered by the two conventions, stressing the life-cycle approach, and involve a broader audience, i.e., the public and private sectors (4 meetings each including 5 countries). In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions*.	Increased awareness of the Convention at national level	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 160,000).	24 395	40 000	64 395	24 395	40 000	25 371	80 000	105 371	25 371	80 000	26 386	40 000	66 386	26 386	40 000
17P	<u>Customs training activities</u> : Customs training activities for both importing and exporting partners: working with the Green Customs Initiative in providing support to Parties on facilitating the implementation of the obligations under the Conventions (4 meetings each including 5 countries). In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions*.	Customs officers trained	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 300,000)	29 985	75 000	104 985	29 985	75 000	38 057	150 000	188 057	38 057	150 000	26 386	75 000	101 386	26 386	75 000
18P	<u>Develop and implement a programme</u> to increase the capacity of Parties to access and utilize the clearing-house mechanism. In cooperation with the Stockholm and Basel Conventions*. (Four meetings each including 5 countries)	Information on chemicals provided	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 160,000)	60 480	40 000	100 480	60 480	40 000	57 085	80 000	137 085	57 085	80 000	59 369	40 000	99 369	59 369	40 000
19	<u>Develop and implement a component of the technical assistance package</u> to facilitate the delivery of legal and related service information and projects to Parties at the regional and national levels: arrange for 4 meetings each including 5 countries).	Increased legal assistance provided	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 200,000).\	30 494	50 000	80 494	30 494	50 000	19 028	100 000	119 028	19 028	100 000	19 790	50 000	69 790	19 790	50 000

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
	4. Fostering cooperation																	
20	<u>Fostering cooperation among designated national authorities:</u> include the cooperation with technical focal points from related MEAs and other agreements as well as UNEP and FAO by continuing the meetings in each of the seven PIC regions (8 subregional meetings for DNAs, each including 10 countries and 25 participants).	Support for cooperation among national authorities provided	Internal; funds for workshops/ meetings (USD 400,000)	54 890	100 000	154 890	54 890	100 000	63 428	200 000	263 428	63 428	200 000	52 772	100 000	152 772	52 772	100 000
21	<u>Regional and subregional meetings of DNAs and focal points of the Stockholm Convention:</u> arrange for 4 subregional meetings for DNAs and Stockholm Convention focal points (each including 10 countries and 25 participants) in 2010. In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions*.	Progress towards joint implementation at national level	Internal; funds for workshops/ meetings (USD 260,000)	—	—	—	—	—	38 057	260 000	298 057	38 057	260 000	—	—	—	—	—
22	<u>Cooperation with SAICM, the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention and the Rotterdam Convention contact points:</u> arrange for 10 meetings where the RC contributes an extra day for participants to discuss Rotterdam Convention issues.	Progress towards cooperation among MEAs and other organizations	Internal; funds for workshops/ meetings (USD 180,000)	12 198	54 000	66 198	12 198	54 000	12 686	90 000	102 686	12 686	90 000	13 193	36 000	49 193	13 193	36 000
Subtotal:				539 236	1 003 000	1 542 236	539 236	1 003 000	608 909	1 784 000	2 392 909	608 909	1 784 000	527 722	865 000	1 392 722	527 722	865 000
C. Working directly with individual countries on specific issues																		
23P	<u>Develop programmes to assist Parties on specific issues upon requests:</u> through integration with activities under way in the country or at the regional level including training in the use of existing DGDs in national decision-making.	Support on specific issues provided	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 100,000)	11 689	30 000	41 689	11 689	30 000	6 343	40 000	46 343	6 343	40 000	6 597	30 000	36 597	6 597	30 000
Subtotal:				11 689	30 000	41 689	11 689	30 000	6 343	40 000	46 343	6 343	40 000	6 597	30 000	36 597	6 597	30 000
D. Working on industrial chemicals																		
24P	<u>Develop programme on industrial chemicals:</u> to establish or increase the capacity of Parties to manage industrial chemicals on a national level, the programme should complement the facilities available nationally for the management of agricultural chemicals and should include the legal, administrative and financial components required as well as training and other capacity-building initiatives to bring the programme into effect (6 meetings each including 6 countries	Capacity to manage industrial chemicals increased. Para 65 in TA.	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 420,000)	158 068	140 000	298 068	158 068	140 000	152 227	210 000	362 227	152 227	210 000	118 737	70 000	188 737	118 737	70 000

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Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
	and 20 participants).																	
Subtotal:				158 068	140 000	298 068	158 068	140 000	152 227	210 000	362 227	152 227	210 000	118 737	70 000	188 737	118 737	70 000
E. Partners in the regional delivery of technical assistance																		
25	Facilitate annual meetings with representatives of the FAO and UNEP regional offices: arrange for up to two meetings per year (5 UNEP and 14 FAO including 9 subregional offices).	Cooperation and lessons learned on providing technical assistance. Para 71 in TA	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 140,000)	30 494	70 000	100 494	30 494	70 000	38 057	70 000	108 057	38 057	70 000	32 983	70 000	102 983	32 983	70 000
26	Facilitate annual meetings with the group of regional experts: arrange for up to one meeting per year for an estimated 20 representatives.	Cooperation among Parties within and between subregions promoted. Para 74 in TA	Internal; funds for workshops/meetings (USD 100,000)	24 395	50 000	74 395	24 395	50 000	25 371	50 000	75 371	25 371	50 000	19 790	50 000	69 790	19 790	50 000
27	Working with regional liaison offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe in collaboration with key partners: Coordinate the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes at the regional and national levels. This is to ensure the maximum use of resources to benefit the Parties and to arrange for a synergistic approach to chemicals management at the national level. The programme will be done in conjunction with UNEP and the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and will be coordinated through chemicals waste cluster managers to be placed in the regional offices of UNEP.	Coordination of the delivery of technical assistance at regional and national provided	External; funded via UNEP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28	Participate in the 26th session of Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC): promote integration with work on Rotterdam Convention; participate in one meeting during 2009 with regional experts.	Inclusion of the Rotterdam Convention in APPPC work plan promoted. Para 75 in TA	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 18,000)	6 099	18 000	24 099	24 099	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal:				60 989	138 000	198 989	78 989	120 000	63 428	120 000	183 428	63 428	120 000	52 772	120 000	172 772	52 772	120 000
F. Measuring progress																		
29	Continue to develop long-term indicators to measure success	Quantitative indicators developed. Para 78 in TA	Internal; funds for consultant and travel of consultant (USD 20,000)	60 989	20 000	80 989	60 989	20 000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal:				60 989	20 000	80 989	60 989	20 000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

III. Outreach, publications and public awareness**Mandate:**

As mandated by Article 19, paragraph 2 (b), facilitate implementation of the Convention by Parties and subsequent decisions of the COP.

Objectives:

Develop, maintain and distribute comprehensive information on the Rotterdam Convention targeted at a broad range of end-users, including the general public designated national authorities and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention. Maintain and distribute key technical guidelines, guidance and training materials to facilitate implementation of the Convention by Parties.

Indicator of achievement:

1. Increased awareness and understanding by Parties, media, NGOs, donors and the public of the objectives and key provisions of the Rotterdam Convention
2. Quantified and qualified overall client satisfaction through feedback to the Secretariat regarding SRC publications

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation on internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
30	<u>Develop and implement communication strategy</u> : promote public awareness and information about the Convention, its activities and meetings; produce press releases, manage press relations for major SRC meetings, monitor media coverage for increased visibility among media community.	Integration of the communication strategy into work done by SRC and Parties, greater awareness of the Rotterdam Convention among all target audiences achieved through production and dissemination of posters, exhibitions, leaflets, brochures, photo archive and Rotterdam Convention Bulletin. Information provided to media, press briefings and releases.	Internal; funds for consultant to design, translation, printing, producing and distributing products (USD 45,000).	103 680	15 000	118 680	118 680	—	107 828	15 000	122 828	122 828	—	72 562	15 000	87 562	87 562	—
31	<u>Reprinting of key technical publications</u> : maintain sufficient number of publications for dissemination at meetings and other events.	Availability of electronic and printed versions of key technical publications aimed at DNAs, e.g., text of the Convention, DNA guidance, legal guide to the Convention, guide to the PIC Circular, etc.	Internal; funds reprinting and reproduction of publications (USD 120,000).	48 791	40 000	88 791	88 791	—	50 742	40 000	90 742	90 742	—	52 772	40 000	92 772	92 772	—
32	<u>Development of new publications</u> : identify need for and produce new publications, both technical and non-technical, in support of resource kit and communication strategy.	Availability of electronic and printed versions of new publications in minimum of three languages (English, French and Spanish).	Internal; funds translation and reproduction of publications (USD 120,000).	48 791	40 000	88 791	88 791	—	50 742	40 000	90 742	90 742	—	65 965	40 000	105 965	105 965	—
		Subtotal:		201 262	95 000	296 262	296 262	—	209 313	95 000	304 313	304 313	—	191 299	95 000	286 299	286 299	—

Knowledge and Information management

(D. Other Secretariat functions as specified by the Convention and determined by the Conference of the Parties)

Management and circulation of information submitted by Parties in accordance with their obligations under the Convention

Mandate:

The relevant COP decisions: Article 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 21 and 22 of the Convention

Objectives:

Develop and implement effective and timely processes for the submission, review and dissemination of information relevant to the operation of the PIC procedure.

Ensure that Parties and relevant stakeholders have ready and reliable access to information on all chemicals subject to the Convention.

Indicator of achievement:

1. PIC Circulars are prepared and published twice a year in three languages.
2. Decision guidance documents are drafted and forwarded to the Conference of the Parties in six languages.
3. Parties have reliable access to the information on chemicals subject to the Convention contained in the PIC database.
4. Improved accessibility to data and information on the operation of the Convention through the Convention website

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation on internal/external	Year 2009						Year 2010						Year 2011					
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding			Amount (USD)			Source of funding			Amount (USD)			Source of funding		
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund			
33	<u>Review of information submitted and liaison with Parties concerning:</u> i) nomination and changes of designated national authorities and official contact points, ii) notification of final regulatory actions, ii) severely hazardous pesticide formulations; iii) importing country responses.	Accurate and timely processing of submitted information to support operation of the PIC procedure and information exchange provisions of the Convention.	Internal	121 977	—	121 977	121 977	—	120 513	—	120 513	120 513	—	118 737	—	118 737	118 737	—			
34	<u>PIC database:</u> Data entry and maintenance of the PIC database in English, French and Spanish; basis for generating reports including country reports on status of implementation, archiving of correspondence with countries, maintenance and upgrading as necessary.	Accurate and up-to-date information available through the PIC database which meets requirements of the Parties and provides useful information to other stakeholders.	Internal; funds for consultant for design (USD 30,000)	85 384	10 000	95 384	95 384	—	82 456	10 000	92 456	92 456	—	92 351	10 000	102 351	102 351	—			
35	<u>PIC Circular:</u> Preparation in English, French and Spanish, publication on CD ROM every six months, posted on Convention website and sent to all Parties.	Timely publication and distribution of PIC Circular in support of the PIC procedure and information exchange provisions of the Convention.	Internal; funds for printing and translation (USD 90,000)	103 680	30 000	133 680	133 680	—	95 142	30 000	125 142	125 142	—	98 948	30 000	128 948	128 948	—			

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation on internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
36	<u>Decision guidance documents:</u> Translation into all six official United Nations languages, printing and distribution to all DNAs and posting on the Convention website	Transparent and reliable process for the preparation of DGDs in line with the timeline/workplans established by the CRC and forwarding of draft DGDs to COP for consideration.	Internal; funds for printing and translation (USD 15,000)	24 395	5 000	29 395	29 395	—	25 371	5 000	30 371	30 371	—	26 386	5 000	31 386	31 386	—
37	<u>Rotterdam Convention website:</u> maintenance and continuing development of the Convention website, dissemination of meeting documents, official reference materials, comprehensive information on all SRC programmes and activities, updated technical data and access to guidance documents, publications and the PIC database in three languages (English, French and Spanish).	A constantly improving SRC website which meets the requirements of the Parties and provides useful information to other audiences.	Internal; funds for consultant (USD 45,000) and translation (USD 15,000)	60 989	20 000	80 989	80 989	—	57 085	20 000	77 085	77 085	—	59 369	20 000	79 369	79 369	—
38P	<u>Clearing-house mechanism:</u> establishing in cooperation with Basel and Stockholm conventions a clearing-house mechanism that would provide online access to information and facilities that would assist parties to implement the Convention.	Increased access to electronic information and information-exchange mechanism.	Internal; funds for consultant (USD 200,000)	23 887	100 000	123 887	23 887	100 000	12 686	50 000	62 686	12 686	50 000	13 193	50 000	63 193	13 193	50 000
Subtotal:				420 312	165 000	585 312	485 312	100 000	393 254	115 000	508 254	458 254	50 000	408 984	115 000	523 984	473 984	50 000

Executive direction, management and strategic planning
(C. Coordination with secretariats of other international bodies)
(E. Core Secretariat costs)

Mandate:

The Secretariat's functions as mandated by Article 19 of the Rotterdam Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties

Objectives:

1. To ensure an efficient, effective and timely delivery of the programme of work for 2009–2010
2. Increased positive feedback from Parties and others on the substance and organizational support provided by the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention
3. To ensure the provision of sufficient resources to the voluntary trust fund of the Rotterdam Convention to support the technical assistance programme adopted by the COP and travel of eligible participants to meetings of the COP

Indicator of achievement:

1. Procedures and resources are in place to ensure the implementation of the Secretariat's programme of work in a cost efficient and timely manner
2. Financial resources are sufficient to carry out the programme of work approved by the Conference of Parties at its 4th meeting.
3. Improved capacity of Parties and Rotterdam Convention Secretariat to mobilize required financial resources

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
39	<u>Provide overall management of the Secretariat</u> ; oversight of the implementation of the programme of work and budget adopted by COP, organize and convene Secretariat meetings every quarter and staff exchanges as needed and work planning and supervision of staff.	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs set out in its programme of work for 2009–2010.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 105,000)	115 878	71 600	187 478	187 478	—	120 513	71 600	192 113	192 113	—	125 334	71 600	196 934	196 934	—
40	<u>Financial management and administration of the Secretariat</u> ; monitoring and follow-up of budget income and expenditures including contributions from Parties and donors; development of letters of agreement and memorandums of understanding; preparation of travel for Secretariat; filing of correspondence; hiring of new staff.	Effective and efficient delivery of the financial and administrative functions of the Secretariat	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 27,000) and consultant to develop database (USD 20,000)	67 087	17 000	84 087	84 087	—	69 771	18 000	87 771	87 771	—	65 965	12 000	77 965	77 965	0
41	<u>Cooperation and coordination with partners including other MEAs and intergovernmental organizations</u> ; for example Secretariats of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions as well as the WTO, Green Customs Initiative; World Customs Organization; SAICM etc, as needed on issues of common concern.	Effective and collaborative relationships are established with partner institutions in order to ensure the coordinated and complementary development and delivery of technical assistance to Parties on common issues.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 45,000)	67 087	15 000	82 087	82 087	—	69 771	15 000	84 771	84 771	—	52 772	15 000	67 772	67 772	—

Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
42	<u>Follow-up to recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Joint Working Group (AHJWG):</u> specific activities resulting from the COP-4 review and endorsement of the recommendations of the AHJWG.	Decisions of COP-4 on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions requiring actions from the Secretariat are implemented.	Internal	24 395	—	24 395	24 395	—	50 742	—	50 742	50 742	—	26 386	—	26 386	26 386	—
43	<u>Contribute to related activities on chemicals in FAO and UNEP,</u> including those on United Nations system coherence, Bali Strategic Plan, etc, participate where appropriate at meetings of relevant bodies, e.g., COPs of related MEAs, the Governing Council of UNEP and FAO.	Increased integration of the work of the Rotterdam Convention with relevant activities on chemicals and pesticides within UNEP and FAO	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 45,000)	121 977	15 000	136 977	136 977	—	139 542	15 000	154 542	154 542	—	118 737	15 000	133 737	133 737	—
44	<u>Raise funds for activities under the voluntary trust fund (RV):</u> including technical assistance activities, participants travel to COP.	Increase in secured funding for planned programmes within the biennium.	Internal; funds for staff travel (USD 50,000) and hospitality (USD 15,000)	67 087	25 000	92 087	92 087	—	44 400	20 000	64 400	64 400	—	59 369	20 000	79 369	79 369	—
Subtotal:				463 513	143 600	607 113	607 113	—	494 739	139 600	634 339	634 339	—	448 563	133 600	582 163	582 163	—

Office equipment, supplies and services				E. Core Secretariat cost														
Activity number	Activities	Expected outputs	Method of implementation internal/external	Year 2009					Year 2010					Year 2011				
				Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding		Amount (USD)			Source of funding	
				Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total costs	RO Trust Fund	RV Trust Fund
45	<u>Procurement of expandable equipment, office supplies, toner and stationery</u>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2009-2011	Internal; funds for expandable equipment (USD 72,000)	30 494	24 000	54 494	54 494	—	38 057	24 000	62 057	62 057	—	32 983	24 000	56 983	56 983	—
46	<u>Procurement of non-expandable office equipment including computer software and hardware, required licenses and furniture</u>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2009-2011	Internal; funds for non-expandable equipment (USD 143,000)	18 297	54 000	72 297	72 297	—	25 371	54 000	79 371	79 371	—	13 193	35 000	48 193	48 193	—
47	<u>Rental and maintenance of equipment, communication, mail, postage and rental of dedicated line with Rome.</u>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2009-2011	Internal; funds for rental and maintenance (USD 132,000)	6 099	44 000	50 099	50 099	—	6 343	44 000	50 343	50 343	—	6 597	44 000	50 597	50 597	—
48	<u>Rental of office space, electricity and cleaning.</u>	Effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of the outputs envisaged under its programme of work for 2009-2011	Internal; funds for rental (USD 124,000)	—	39 700	39 700	39 700	—	—	39 700	39 700	39 700	—	—	44 600	44 600	44 600	—
Subtotal:				54 890	161 700	216 590	216 590	—	69 771	161 700	231 471	231 471	—	52 772	147 600	200 372	200 372	—
Grand-Total:				2 317 564	2 403 800	4 721 364	3 288 364	1 433 000	2 410 267	3 269 800	5 680 067	3 451 067	2 229 000	2 506 677	2 653 200	5 159 877	3 509 877	1 650 000

Table 2

**Operational budget by budget code lines for the triennium 2009–2011
(in United States dollars)**

			RO Budget 2007	RO Budget 2008	Total biennium 2007–2008	RO Budget 2009	RO Budget 2010	RO Budget 2011	Total triennium 2009–2011
10 PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT									
11	Project Personnel	w/m							
	1101 Executive Secretary D-1	3	59 025	60 796	119 821	58 975	61 334	63 787	184 096
	1102 Senior Scientific Advisor P.5	12	207 800	214 034	421 834	208 899	217 255	225 945	652 099
	1103 Programme Officer P-4	12	179 800	185 194	364 994	180 400	187 616	195 121	563 137
	OTL Administrative Officer P-4 (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1104 Programme Officer P-3	12	149 100	153 573	302 673	151 800	157 872	164 187	473 859
	1105 Programme Officer P-3	12	74 550	153 573	228 123	151 800	157 872	164 187	473 859
	1106 Programme Officer/Public Awareness Officer P-3	12	149 100	153 573	302 673	151 800	157 872	164 187	473 859
	1107 Programme Officer P-2	12	119 600	123 188	242 788	127 000	132 080	137 363	396 443
	1108 Programme Officer P-3	12	74 550	-	74 550	151 800	157 872	164 187	473 859
UNEP	Cluster Chemical Officer in Eastern Europe P-4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNEP	Cluster Chemical Officer in GRULAC (Panama) P-4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNEP	Cluster Chemical Officer in Africa (Nairobi) P-4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNEP	Cluster Chemical Officer in Asia (Bangkok) P-4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1111 Executive Secretary D-1 (in kind by FAO)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1112 Senior Programme Officer P-5 (in kind by FAO)	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1113 Programme Officer P-4	12	153 540	158 146	311 686	184 824	192 217	199 906	576 947
	1114 Programme Officer P-3 (in kind by FAO)	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1115 Programme Officer P-4	12	30 936	31 864	62 800	-	-	-	-
	1116 Programme Officer P-3	12	122 604	126 282	248 886	150 216	156 225	162 474	468 914
	1117 Programme Officer P-3	12	122 604	126 282	248 886	150 216	156 225	162 474	468 914
	1118 Programme Officer P-2	12	96 852	99 758	196 610	127 956	133 074	138 397	399 427
	1199 Total		1 540 061	1 586 263	3 126 324	1 795 686	1 867 513	1 942 214	5 605 413

			RO Budget 2007	RO Budget 2008	Total biennium 2007–2008	RO Budget 2009	RO Budget 2010	RO Budget 2011	Total triennium 2009–2011	
12	Consultants									
	1201	Outreach in Implementation of Convention (Ass. To Parties)		- 12 000	12 000	-	-	-	-	
	1202	Core Secretariat Costs Consultants	7 500	7 500	15 000	90 000	85 000	45 000	220 000	
	1203	Consultant Currencies Studies	50 000	-	50 000	-	-	-	-	
	1211	Outreach in Implementation of Convention (Ass. To Parties)	35 000	23 000	58 000	-	-	-	-	
	1212	Outreach in Implementation of Convention (Website development)	10 000	10 000	20 000	-	-	-	-	
	1213	Other Secretariat Functions (Translation of PIC Circulars)	20 000	20 000	40 000	-	-	-	-	
	1214	Core Secretariat Costs Consultants	7 500	7 500	15 000	-	-	-	-	
	1299	Total	130 000	80 000	210 000	90 000	85 000	45 000	220 000	
13	Administrative support									
				w/m						
	1301	Legal Assistant	6	49 500	50 985	100 485	51 250	53 300	55 432	159 982
	1302	Information Assistant	12	99 000	101 970	200 970	102 500	106 600	110 864	319 964
	1303	Secretary	3	24 750	25 493	50 243	25 625	26 650	27 716	79 991
	1304	Programme Assistant	12	99 000	101 970	200 970	102 500	106 600	110 864	319 964
	OTL	Finance & Budget Assistant (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	OTL	Administrative Assistant HR (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	OTL	IT/Database Assistant (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	OTL	Publication Clerk (to be covered by UNEP OTL)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1311	Secretary (in kind by FAO)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1312	Secretary	3	15 111	15 564	30 675	26 667	27 734	28 843	83 244
	1313	Secretary	12	60 444	62 257	122 701	106 668	110 935	115 372	332 975
	1314	Secretary	12	60 444	62 257	122 701	106 668	110 935	115 372	332 975
	1305	Conference Services COP		312 500	312 500	625 000	150 000	230 000	245 000	625 000
	1331	Conference Services CRC		115 000	120 000	235 000	110 000	110 000	110 000	330 000
	1399	Total		835 749	852 996	1 688 745	781 878	882 753	919 463	2 584 094
16	Travel on official business									
	1601	Travel on official business		160 000	160 000	320 000	155 000	150 000	139 000	444,000
	1699	Total		160 000	160 000	320 000	155 000	150 000	139 000	444,000
1999	Component total		2,665,810	2 679 259	5 345 069	2 822 564	2 985 267	3 045 677	8 853 508	

		RO Budget 2007	RO Budget 2008	Total biennium 2007–2008	RO Budget 2009	RO Budget 2010	RO Budget 2011	Total triennium 2009–2011
20	SUBCONTRACT COMPONENT							
23	Subcontracts with commercial companies							
	2311 Core Secretariat costs dedicated line	75 000	75 000	150 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	60,000
	2399 Total	75 000	75 000	150 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	60,000
2999	Component total	75 000	75 000	150 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT							
33	Meetings/conferences							
	3301 Participants travel (Bureau Meeting)	50 000	50 000	100 000	12 500	12 500	25 000	50,000
	3302 CRC experts travel	80 000	80 000	160 000	90 000	90 000	90 000	270,000
	3303 Meetings/Workshops (working group on synergies)	37 500	37 500	75 000	-	-	-	-
	3304 Participants travel (Compliance Committee)	-	-	-	36 600	36 600	36 600	109,800
	3399 Total	167 500	167 500	335 000	139 100	139 100	151 600	429,800
3999	Component total	167 500	167 500	335 000	139 100	139 100	151 600	429 800
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT							
41	Expendable equipment							
	4101 Office equipment; paper, toner, diskettes, CD-ROMS	-	-	-	24 000	24 000	24 000	72,000
	4199 Total	-	-	-	24 000	24 000	24 000	72,000
42	Non-expendable equipment							
	4201 Core secretariat costs computer hardware and software	50 000	50 000	100 000	54 000	54 000	35 000	143,000
	4299 Total	50 000	50 000	100 000	54 000	54 000	35 000	143,000
43	Premises							
	4301 Office rental /Premises	20 000	20 000	40 000	39 700	39 700	44 600	124,000
	4399 Total	20 000	20 000	40 000	39 700	39 700	44 600	124,000
4999	Component total	70 000	70 000	140 000	17 700	117 700	103 600	339 000
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT							
52	Reporting costs							
	5201 Other Secretariat functions (printing of DGDs in language)	15 000	15 000	30 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	15,000
	5211 Outreach in implementation of Convention (resource kit)	60 000	70 000	130 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	120,000
	5212 Other Secretariat functions (translation/printing of PIC Circulars)	15 000	15 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	90,000
	5214 Other printing (reprinting and new publications)	-	-	-	85 000	85 000	85 000	255 000
	5299 Total	90 000	100 000	190 000	160 000	160 000	160 000	480,000

	RO Budget 2007	RO Budget 2008	Total biennium 2007–2008	RO Budget 2009	RO Budget 2010	RO Budget 2011	Total triennium 2009–2011
53 Sundry							
5301 Core Secretariat costs communications , postage, etc.	48 000	48 000	96 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	72,000
5399 Total	48 000	48 000	96 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	72,000
54 Hospitality							
5401 Hospitality	-	-	-	5 000	5 000	5 000	15,000
5499 Total	-	-	-	5 000	5 000	5 000	15,000
5999 Component total	138 000	148 000	286 000	189 000	189 000	189 000	567 000
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET		3 139 759	6 256 069	3 288 364	3 451 067	3 509 877	10 249 308
UNEP Programme support costs 13%	405 120	408 169	813 289	427 487	448 639	456 284	1 332 410
UNEP Programme support costs 7% on FAO LoA		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET	3 521 430	3 547 928	7 069 358	3 715 851	3 899 705	3 966 161	11 581 718
Increment to the working capital reserve (15 %)	(26 332)		(26 332)	48 884			48 884
Increment to the special contingency reserve (indexed to fluctuations in salary scales)		11 742	23 142	46 876	18 001	18 721	83 597
GRAND TOTAL	3 506 498	3 559 670	7 066 168	3 811 611	3 917 706	3 984 882	11 714 199
Percentage increase from year to year	-5.5%	1.5%	-4.2%	7.1%	2.8%	1.7%	
Deduction from the reserve and fund balance		-	-	-	-	-	
Host country contribution*	1 522 843	1 522 843	3 045 686	1 752 000	1 752 000	1 752 000	5 256 000
Usage of fund balance	-	-	-	25 000	75 000	50 000	150 000
COVERED BY PARTIES	1 983 655	2 036 827	4 020 482	2 034 611	2 090 706	2 182 882	6 308 199
Percentage increase from year to year	-12%	2.7%	-10%	-0.1%	2.8%	4.4%	

* EUR 1,200,000 equal to USD 1,522,843 for 2007–2008 at United Nations rate of 1.27 as at 1 July 2006 and USD 1,752,000 for 2009–2011 at United Nations rate of 1.46 as at 1 October 2008.

Table 3

**Indicative scale of contribution for the operational budget (RO) for the triennium 2009–2011
(in United States dollars)**

Portion of operational budget to be covered by assessed contributions:	2009	2,034,611
	2010	2,090,706
	2011	2,182,882

				2009	2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessment 2009**	Scale for the Trust Fund with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties
No.	Parties	Percentage	Percentage	US dollars	US dollars	US dollars
1	Argentina	0.325	0.418	8 502	8 736	9 121
2	Armenia	0.002	0.010	203	209	218
3	Australia	1.787	2.298	46 747	48 036	50 154
4	Austria	0.887	1.140	23 204	23 843	24 894
5	Belgium	1.102	1.417	28 828	29 623	30 929
6	Belize	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
7	Benin	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
8	Bolivia	0.006	0.010	203	209	218
9	Bosnia & Herzegovina*	0.006	0.010	203	209	218
10	Brazil	0.876	1.126	22 916	23 548	24 586
11	Bulgaria	0.020	0.026	523	538	561
12	Burkina Faso	0.002	0.010	203	209	218
13	Burundi	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
14	Cameroon	0.009	0.010	203	209	218
15	Canada	2.977	3.828	77 877	80 024	83 552
16	Cape Verde	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
17	Chad	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
18	Chile	0.161	0.207	4 212	4 328	4 519
19	China	2.667	3.429	69 767	71 691	74 852
20	Congo	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
21	Cook Islands	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
22	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.010	203	209	218
23	Cuba*	0.054	0.069	1 413	1 452	1 516
24	Cyprus	0.044	0.057	1 151	1 183	1 235
25	Czech Republic	0.281	0.361	7 351	7 553	7 887
26	Democratic People's Republic of	0.007	0.010	203	209	218
27	Democratic Republic of Congo	0.003	0.010	203	209	218
28	Denmark	0.739	0.950	19 332	19 865	20 741
29	Djibouti	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
30	Dominican Republic	0.024	0.031	628	645	674
31	Dominica	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
32	Ecuador	0.021	0.027	549	564	589
33	El Salvador	0.020	0.026	523	538	561
34	Equatorial Guinea	0.002	0.010	203	209	218
35	Eritrea	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
36	Estonia	0.016	0.021	419	430	449
37	Ethiopia	0.003	0.010	203	209	218
38	European Community	2.500	2.500	50 865	52 268	54 572
39	Finland	0.564	0.725	14 754	15 161	15 829
40	France	6.301	8.101	164 831	169 376	176 843
41	Gabon	0.008	0.010	203	209	218

				2009	2010	2011
		United Nations Scale of assessment 2009**	Scale for the Trust Fund with 22% ceiling and 0.01% base	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties
No.	Parties	Percentage	Percentage	US dollars	US dollars	US dollars
42	Gambia	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
43	Georgia*	0.003	0.010	203	209	218
44	Germany	8.577	11.028	224 370	230 556	240 721
45	Ghana	0.004	0.010	203	209	218
46	Greece	0.596	0.766	15 591	16 021	16 727
47	Guinea	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
48	Guyana*	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
49	Hungary	0.244	0.314	6 383	6 559	6 848
50	India	0.450	0.579	11 772	12 096	12 630
51	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.180	0.231	4 709	4 839	5 052
52	Ireland	0.445	0.572	11 641	11 962	12 489
53	Italy	5.079	6.530	132 864	136 527	142 547
54	Jamaica	0.010	0.013	262	269	281
55	Japan	16.624	22.000	447 614	459 955	480 234
56	Jordan	0.012	0.015	314	323	337
57	Kazakhstan*	0.029	0.037	759	780	814
58	Kenya	0.010	0.013	262	269	281
59	Kuwait	0.182	0.234	4 761	4 892	5 108
60	Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
61	Latvia	0.018	0.023	471	484	505
62	Lebanon*	0.034	0.044	889	914	954
63	Lesotho*	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
64	Liberia	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
65	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.062	0.080	1 622	1 667	1 740
66	Liechtenstein	0.010	0.010	203	209	218
67	Lithuania	0.031	0.040	811	833	870
68	Luxembourg	0.085	0.109	2 224	2 285	2 386
69	Madagascar	0.002	0.010	203	209	218
70	Malaysia	0.190	0.244	4 970	5 107	5 333
71	Maldives*	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
72	Mali	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
73	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
74	Mauritania	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
75	Mauritius	0.011	0.014	288	296	309
76	Mexico	2.257	2.902	59 042	60 670	63 345
77	Moldova	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
78	Mongolia	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
79	Namibia	0.006	0.010	203	209	218
80	Nepal*	0.003	0.010	203	209	218
81	Netherlands	1.873	2.408	48 997	50 348	52 567
82	New Zealand	0.256	0.329	6 697	6 881	7 185
83	Niger	0.001	0.010	203	209	218
84	Nigeria	0.048	0.062	1 256	1 290	1 347
85	Norway	0.782	1.005	20 457	21 021	21 948
86	Oman	0.073	0.094	1 910	1 962	2 049
87	Pakistan	0.059	0.076	1 543	1 586	1 656
88	Panama	0.023	0.030	602	618	646
89	Paraguay	0.005	0.010	203	209	218
90	Peru	0.078	0.100	2 040	2 097	2 189
91	Philippines	0.078	0.100	2 040	2 097	2 189
92	Poland	0.501	0.644	13 106	13 467	14 061
93	Portugal	0.527	0.678	13 786	14 166	14 791

Table 4**Staffing table of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat for the operational budget for 2009–2011**

Staff category and level	Approved	Proposed				Remarks
	2007–2008 Staffing	2009–2011 Staffing	FAO 2009–2011	UNEP 2009–2011	Total 2009–2011	
A. Professional category						
D-1	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.50	note 1, 2
P-5	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	note 1
P-4	3.00	2.50	1.00	1.50	2.50	note 2
P-3	6.00	7.00	3.00	4.00	7.00	note 1, 3
P-2	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	
Subtotal	13.50	14.00	6.25	7.75	14.00	
B. General Service category						
GS	5.25	7.25	2.50	4.75	7.25	note 1, 4
TOTAL (A+B)	18.75	21.25	8.75	12.50	21.25	

Note 1. FAO includes 0.25 D-1, one P-5, one P-3 and 0.25 General Service posts provided in kind by FAO

Note 2. UNEP includes 0.25 D-1 which is co-financed between the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and 0.50 Administrative Officer funded from programme support costs.

Note 3. UNEP includes one new Programme Officer.

Note 4. UNEP includes four 50 per cent finance/budget, administrative, database and publication assistants funded from programme support costs

Table 5

Estimates for activities for the triennium 2009–2011 funded via the voluntary special trust fund (RV)

(in United States dollars)

		RV budget 2007	RV budget 2008	Total biennium 2007–2008	RV budget 2009	RV budget 2010	RV budget 2011	Total biennium 2009–2011
10 PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT								
12	Consultants							
1202	Core Secretariat costs consultants	-	-	-	10 000	10 000	-	20 000
1212	Outreach in implementation of Convention (website development)	-	-	-	100 000	50 000	50 000	200 000
1215	Technical assistance measuring success work on indicators	20 000	-	20 000	20 000	-	-	20 000
1299	Total	20 000	-	20 000	130 000	60 000	50 000	240 000
1999	Component total	20 000	-	20 000	130 000	60 000	50 000	240 000
30 TRAINING COMPONENT								
33	Meetings/conferences							
3303	Meetings/Workshops	984 000	1 069 000	2 053 000	1 293 000	2 154 000	1 085 000	4 532 000
3311	Participants travel (COP)	-	-	-	-	-	500 000	500 000
3312	Participants travel (Bureau meeting)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3399	Total	984 000	1 069 000	2 053 000	1 293 000	2 154 000	1 585 000	5 032 000
3999	Component total	984 000	1 069 000	2 053 000	1 293 000	2 154 000	1 585 000	5 032 000
52 Reporting costs								
5213	Technical assistance Resource Kit	80 000	50 000	130 000	10 000	15 000	15 000	40 000
5299	Total	80 000	50 000	130 000	10 000	15 000	15 000	40 000
5999	Component total	80 000	50 000	130 000	10 000	15 000	15 000	40 000

	RV budget 2007	RV budget 2008	Total biennium 2007–2008	RV budget 2009	RV budget 2010	RV budget 2011	Total biennium 2009–2011
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET	1 084 000	1 119 000	2 203 000	1 433 000	2 229 000	1 650 000	5 312 000
UNEP Programme support costs 13%	140 920	145 470	286 390	186 290	289 770	214 500	690 560
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET	1 224 920	1 264 470	2 489 390	1 619 290	2 518 770	1 864 500	4 138 060
GRAND TOTAL	1 224 920	1 264 470	2 489 390	1 619 290	2 518 770	1 864 500	6 002 560
Percentage increase from year to year	-3.3%	3.2%	23.7%	28.1%	55.5%	-26.0%	
Deduction from the reserve and fund balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Host country contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	
COVERED BY PARTIES	1 224 920	1 264 470	2 489 390	1 619 290	2 518 770	1 864 500	6 002 560
Percentage increase from year to year	-3.3%	3.2%	23.7%	28.1%	55.5%	-26.0%	

Annex

Procedure for the allocation of funding from the Voluntary Special Trust Fund (RV) for facilitating the participation of Parties in meetings of the Conference of the Parties

1. The procedure described herein for the participation of eligible representatives in meetings under the Convention should aim at the full and active participation of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition in the activities of the Convention to improve the legitimacy of Convention decisions and encourage the implementation of the Convention at the local, national, regional and international levels.
2. The procedure should give priority to least developed countries and small island developing States and thereafter aim at ensuring adequate representation of all eligible country Parties. It should continue to be guided by established United Nations practice.
3. The Secretariat should notify Parties as soon as possible and preferably six months in advance of the dates and venue of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Following the dispatch of such notice, eligible Parties should be invited to inform, through official channels of communication, the Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than three months before the meeting whether funding for participation in the meeting is requested.
5. Based on the availability of financial resources and the number of requests received, the Secretariat shall prepare a list of sponsored representatives. The list shall be established in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above with a view to ensuring adequate geographical representation of eligible regions, with priority given to least developed countries and small island developing States.
6. The Secretariat should, four weeks in advance, notify any eligible countries that will not be sponsored, inviting them to seek other alternative sources of funding.
7. The Executive Secretaries are invited to liaise with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with a view to ensuring a waiver of the 13 percent programme support costs on the contributions to the voluntary trust fund (RV) for participation of representatives from developing countries with the understanding that the money thus saved will be used to enhance the representation of eligible parties.

Annex II

List of pre-session documents for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Agenda item	Document number	Title
2 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/1	Provisional agenda
2 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
2 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/2	Scenario note for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
3	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/3	Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: note by the Secretariat
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/4	Status of implementation of the Convention: note by the Secretariat
5 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/5	Confirmation of the appointments of government-designated experts for the Chemical Review Committee: note by the Secretariat
5 (c)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/6	Nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee: note by the Secretariat
5 (d)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/7	Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its third and fourth meetings: note by the Secretariat
5 (e)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/8	Inclusion of the chemical chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
5 (e)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/9	Inclusion of the chemical endosulfan in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
5 (e)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/10	Inclusion of tributyltin compounds in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/11	Review of the implementation of key obligations under the Rotterdam Convention: Lessons learned and points to consider: note by the Secretariat
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/12	Opportunities for information exchange on chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III by the Chemical Review Committee: note by the Secretariat
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/13	Ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
6 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/14	Non-compliance: Procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for the treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance: note by the Secretariat
6 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/15	Progress made towards the implementation of decision RC-3/5: Study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms: note by the Secretariat
6 (c)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/16	Regional and national delivery of technical assistance: note by the Secretariat
6 (c)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/17	Technical assistance under the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
6 (d)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/18	Cooperation with the World Trade Organization: note by the Secretariat
6 (e)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/19	Further study of the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention: note by the Secretariat
6 (f)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/20	Progress made towards the implementation of decision RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions: note by the Secretariat

Agenda item	Document number	Title
6 (f)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/20/Add.1	Progress made towards the implementation of decision RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm conventions: note by the Secretariat (Addendum)
7	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/21	Activities of the Secretariat: note by the Secretariat
8	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/22	Financial report and review of the staffing situation in the Secretariat: note by the Secretariat
8	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/23	Programme of work and proposed budget for the biennium 2009–2010: note by the Secretariat
8	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/23/Add.1	Programme of work and proposed budget for the biennium 2009–2010: note by the Secretariat (Addendum)
2 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/1	Provisional list of meeting documents organized by agenda item
2 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/1/Rev.1	Provisional list of meeting documents organized by agenda item (revised)
2 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/1/Add.1	Provisional list of meeting documents organized by document number
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/2	Status of ratification of the Rotterdam Convention as of 2 August 2008: note by the Secretariat
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/3	Status of designated national authorities: note by the Secretariat
5 (d)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF.4	Chemicals scheduled for review at the fifth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee: note by the Secretariat
6 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/5	Communication of the Secretariat on the study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms: note by the Secretariat
5 (b)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/6	Qualification of experts of the Chemical Review Committee: note by the Secretariat
6 (c)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/7	List of regional, subregional and national meetings undertaken in support of the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention: note by the Secretariat
5 (a)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/8	Status of official contact points: note by the Secretariat
6 (f)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/9	Information on the costs and organizational implications of establishing joint services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as reflected in the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions: note by the Secretariat
6 (f)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/10	Proposal on financing coordinated extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions: note by the Secretariat
6 (d)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/11	Cooperation with the World Trade Organization: note by the Secretariat
8	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/12	Updated information on expenditures, contributions pledged or received and staffing situation: note by the Secretariat
7	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/13	Communications of the Secretariat: note by the Secretariat
12	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/14	Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood: note by the Secretariat
11	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/15	Information on the high-level segment: note by the Secretariat
5 (e)	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/16	Report of the World Health Organization workshop on mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis and assessment of chrysotile asbestos substitutes: note by the Secretariat
12	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/17	List of new observers
12	UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/INF/18/Rev.1	List of registered participants

Annex III

Draft decision on continued effectiveness of the convention

RC-4/[]: Continued effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging the objective of the Convention and the need to enhance and make full use of information exchange

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemicals Review Committee.

Recognizing the concerns raised, both at the third and fourth Conferences of the Parties, about those chemical(s) recommended by the CRC for inclusion in annex III of the Convention, but for which consensus could not yet be reached by the Conference;

Further acknowledging that every effort should be made to [enable Parties to join] [achieve] consensus required for the listing of all chemicals in Annex III recommended by the Chemicals Review Committee

Recognising the needs of developing countries for enhanced in-depth information exchange, strengthened technical assistance and capacity building, *Further recognising* the need to address the challenges to achieve consensus required for the listing of all substances recommended by the Chemicals Review Committee

[Decides to invite] [Recommends that] [invites the Parties to consider][decides that][decides to]:

1. For the intersessional period between the COP that was not able to reach consensus and the next ordinary meeting of COP only the [Parties be invited to consider applying PIC procedure on a voluntary interim basis to chemicals recommended by the Chemicals Review Committee for listing in Annex III, but have not yet reached consensus by the Conference of the Parties.]

2. [To consider enhancing exchange of information on chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III by the CRC including results of the risk evaluation and regulatory information.]

[To consider enhancing the exchange of regulatory information and risk management action including sound management practices in relation to chemicals recommended for listing by the CRC in Annex III.]

[Request the Secretariat to make available the draft DGDs and the relevant extract of the COP report to all Parties on the special section of the website, in order to enhance in-depth information exchange.]

[Further request the Secretariat to circulate, through a formal note to all Parties, the draft DGDs and the extract of the Conference meeting report relevant to that chemical and publish import decisions [through the PIC circulars and] on the special section of the website, in order to enhance in-depth information exchange.]

[3. Developed Parties be called on to provide [necessary] technical and financial assistance to developing country Parties to enhance their capacity in using DGDs for national decision making within available resources.]

Annex IV

Declaration by the European Community and others and statement by Australia under agenda item 5 (e)

Declaration by the European Community, its member States and others

The European Community and its 27 member States,⁶ Belize, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Mauritania (on behalf of the nine member States of the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel⁷), Norway, the Republic of Croatia, Thailand and Togo;

Express deep concern with the fact that Parties have not yet reached agreement on listing endosulfan and chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention despite the fact that technical requirements for listing have been fulfilled;

Stress that Parties have the right to apply the prior informed consent procedure on a voluntary basis;

Call on Parties to apply the prior informed consent procedure to endosulfan and chrysotile asbestos on a voluntary basis until the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties when these chemicals will be further considered for listing in Annex III.

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the decision by the Conference of the Parties to include tributyltin in Annex III, given the important role of Annex III listing in helping countries decide whether, or under what conditions, they wish to import hazardous chemicals.

However, we share the deep concern of many Parties that it is proving so difficult to agree on the inclusion of some other chemicals in Annex III such as chrysotile asbestos and endosulfan.

We believe that this does have the capacity to undermine the effectiveness of the Convention.

It is particularly worrying that substances such as chrysotile asbestos have not been listed, despite there being a consensus decision by the Conference of the Parties that it meets all the criteria for listing in Annex III.

There has been great effort at this meeting by some Parties to develop mechanisms to avoid or alleviate this problem in future; however, we are doubtful that a solution will be found unless we know the underlying reason for the lack of consensus.

In the meantime, we agree that Parties should ensure that full information is provided to countries that may be considering importing hazardous chemicals to enable them to make appropriate management decisions. This should be done in a way that does not change or undermine the Convention.

6 The member States of the European Union are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

7 Burkina Faso, Chad, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

Annex V

Key messages emerging from the ministerial panel discussions

Introduction

1. On Thursday, 30 October 2008, ministers and vice-ministers met in three panels to consider the theme “Sound chemicals management: relieving the burden on public health”. One panel held its discussions in English, one in French and one in Spanish.
2. The panellists began by sharing practical experiences from their own countries, identifying the challenges and possible solutions to implementing the Rotterdam Convention. Their deliberations were summarized from national, regional and global perspectives.

A. National perspective

1. Regulation and enforcement

3. The panellists agreed on the need to bring national legislation into line with convention requirements. Some countries had framework laws but still had problems with conflicting sectoral regulations: the problem of conflicting interests, the priorities of different ministries and the relatively weak position of the environmental ministry in the hierarchy were highlighted.
4. There was strong agreement that there should be dialogue with all stakeholders, especially the industry, government agencies and non-governmental organizations, to ensure their inclusion in the implementation process. Panellists highlighted their countries’ difficulties in controlling porous borders and, as a consequence, recognized the importance of strengthening customs and the judiciary and combating corruption.

2. Stockpiles, disposal and remediation

5. Panellists from countries that had banned particular substances highlighted the resulting problem of disposing of stockpiles of toxic material; there was a need to deal with contaminated resources and to prevent the dumping of e-waste.

3. Production and consumption

6. Panellists emphasized that manufacturers should be held liable for the quality of their products; efforts to control consumption would ultimately fail so long as production continued. In addition, they stressed the need to carry out chemicals inventories – especially in view of the emergence of new substances, to set baselines and set up licensing systems.

4. Information

7. There was wide agreement among panellists that it was crucial to have better information, especially for end-users, on the health risks and threat to biodiversity and the environment. Public information campaigns were advocated. They also highlighted the need to quantify the environmental impact of chemicals in order to demonstrate both the positive and negative effects on national economies: there were costs not only in terms of health care, but also for compensation claims and other legal costs

5. Technical assistance

8. Panellists from developing countries identified the need to build the capacity of trade regulators, law-enforcement and customs, especially to detect hazardous chemicals, for which they would need high-technology assistance from developed countries; specialized laboratories and suitably trained personnel were also lacking.

6. Substitutes

9. It was widely agreed that consumers needed safe substitutes: if they were available, countries would have no need or desire to continue their use of hazardous chemicals.

7. Ethical dimension

10. Panellists from both developed and developing countries identified ethical behaviour and a willingness to engage in discussion as key indicators for success: dialogue was needed with all participants, including polluting countries, and they should be prepared to address the issues of responsibility and transparency (the Rotterdam Convention would only be effective if all countries implemented it).

B. Regional perspective**1. Existing structures**

11. Panellists gave examples of regional measures and entities and their involvement in chemicals management.

2. Legislation

12. With porous and, in the case of the European Union, disappearing borders, panellists recognized that legislation would have to be harmonized across regions to stem cross-border trade.

3. Information

13. It was pointed out by panellists that information exchange would also play a key role within regions: not just between Governments, but also among the public in affected areas close to the borders without necessarily waiting for government response; better information exchange was required all round to prevent illegal trade.

4. Funding

14. Panellists acknowledged that sustainable and long-term arrangements for funding chemicals management at the regional level would be essential and suggested that the Global Environment Fund could be a catalyst for that investment; they also agreed that innovative arrangements should be explored.

5. Cross-border movement

15. The problem of illegal trade and the need for a mechanism to establish the liability of the manufacturer and the exporting country were highlighted by panellists; in addition, the question of officials who turned a blind eye had to be tackled. Compounding the difficulties in tracing, some chemicals, such as POPs, moved naturally across borders; their movement could not be controlled but only be halted by stopping production.

6. Disposal and destruction

16. Panellists reported on the problems experienced by their countries in disposing of banned or expired products and it was suggested that such products should be returned to and destroyed by producer countries. They also pointed out that countries lacked proper incineration facilities and sufficiently sensitive equipment for detection purposes.

7. Synergies and coordination

17. There was a strong feeling among panellists that, by concentrating resources and expertise in regions, cash-strapped developing countries could build the critical mass which they found hard to achieve at the national level. It was agreed that regions should first set priorities which would then be taken up at the national level. Regional and subregional action plans would help countries to implement the Rotterdam Convention. It was planned that a regional network for Latin America would be formalized at a meeting, the first international seminar on strategies for the sound management of chemicals and wastes (“Primer Seminario Internacional: Estrategias para el Manejo Racional de Químicos y Residuos”), which was planned to be held in Viña del Mar, Chile, in December 2008.

C. Global perspective

1. Need for effective control and prevention

18. Illegal chemicals trade was cited by one panellist as the fourth biggest illegal revenue earner in Europe: accordingly there was a need to make the trade-related chemicals conventions (the Basel Convention and the Rotterdam Convention) work to maximum effect and, in that context, to combat corruption of officials. Panellists also highlighted the need for effective tracing systems to ensure that the origin of imported products could be identified

2. Synergies

19. Panellists pointed out that consolidating the three conventions would promote efforts to control illegal trade; they argued that cross-cutting areas should also involve the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other multilateral agreements. Better coordination between the three conventions would improve their “packaging” and visibility and help get their message across: distinctions between them were often not understood and impeded their effectiveness.

3. Streamlining of meetings

20. Panellists stressed that meeting schedules should be rationalized and better coordinated, given the proliferation of meetings, leading to clashes and duplication and imposing an added burden on developing countries with limited budgets. Such rationalization and coordination efforts were, they maintained, the responsibility of the United Nations.

4. Millennium Development Goals

21. All the panellists recognized the need for total commitment from countries, pointing out that, if they were all committed to the goals, it made no sense that some continued to produce hazardous chemicals. There were plenty of initiatives already on the table: what was needed now was commitment, integration and coordination – and, above all, necessary funding for implementation.

5. Partnerships

22. Panellists noted that public-private partnerships (along the lines of those set up to fund and support implementation of the Basel Convention) between Governments, industry and civil society were essential and could provide a long-term solution. In that context, they suggested that experienced countries should provide assistance to those countries still in the process of developing national plans and policies; South-South cooperation could play a significant role in that regard.

6. Reciprocity

23. Panellists underscored the principle that both exporter and consumer countries had rights and responsibilities.