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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  
Second meeting**

Rome, 27–30 September 2005

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: organization of work**

**Scenario note for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
to the Rotterdam Convention**

**Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Conference of the Parties, in an annex to the present note, information for the second meeting of the Conference prepared by the secretariat in consultation with its President, Mr. Philippe Roch (Switzerland).

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\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/1.

## Annex

### Scenario note for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. The secretariat, in consultation with the President of the Conference, has prepared the present scenario note for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to communicate its plans and general expectations to all participants and to assist them in preparing for the meeting. The documents for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties were distributed by the end of July 2005, and were posted on the Rotterdam Convention website ([www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int)).
2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to convene an open-ended ad hoc working group on non-compliance immediately prior to its second meeting, with a view to preparing for and carrying forward deliberations on the issue (decision RC-1/10). The meeting of that working group will take place on 26 September and on the morning of 27 September 2005. The working group meeting will be opened on 26 September 2005 at 10 a.m. and will operate in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).
3. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be opened on 27 September 2005 at 3 p.m. The meeting will conduct its work in plenary, establishing contact and drafting groups on individual agenda items as needed; no high-level or ministerial segment is planned. The working languages of the meeting will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

#### A. General objectives of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

4. The overall goals of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties are to review the status of implementation of the Convention and progress made since the first meeting of the Conference, held in September 2004, to agree to a programme of work for 2006 and to adopt the indicative operational budget for 2006 which was approved at its first meeting. Some of the principal issues to be considered with respect to the operation of the Rotterdam Convention are as follows:
  - (a) The note by the secretariat on the status of implementation of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/6), considered under item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda, draws the attention of the Conference to the fact that, as of 30 April 2005, only two new candidate chemicals have been identified for consideration by the Chemical Review Committee at its second meeting and that no proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations have been submitted. The Conference may also wish to consider the extent to which countries are implementing or benefiting from the provisions of the Convention concerning export notification or information exchange;
  - (b) Under agenda item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda, the Conference may wish to confirm the appointment of the members of the Chemical Review Committee and elect a chair of the Committee. In addition, the outcome of the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee includes three proposals concerning working procedures and policy guidance relevant to the effective operation of the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/9). The Conference is invited to consider these proposals, in particular a possible decision on the process for drafting decision guidance documents. A further three issues which the Committee agreed should be brought to the attention of the Conference have been proposed for consideration under agenda item 5 (c).
  - (c) The topics included under agenda item 6 build on the discussions of the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. Some of the topics before the meeting include:
    - (i) Resolving the outstanding issues concerning non-compliance following a review of the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-compliance, which met immediately prior to the present meeting.
    - (ii) Review the outcome of the study, prepared by the secretariat in response to the request in decision RC-1/5, of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms which would enable developing countries to implement adequately the provision of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10);

- (iii) The Conference will review the report of the secretariat on the progress made in operationalizing the regional delivery of technical assistance in accordance with decision RC.1/14 and consider the costed programme of activities for 2006 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/12). Parties, donors, international organizations and other actors will also be invited to report on their progress in ensuring better integration of chemicals management into their development cooperation policies and programmes and the extent to which they have taken into account the needs and interests of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their chemicals and pesticides strategies;
- (iv) The Conference will have the opportunity to consider the arrangements between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO for the performance of secretariat functions;
- (v) The Conference will also have an opportunity to reflect on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting, on the co-financing of a joint head of the secretariats for both the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and on the preparation of a study by the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, on how the cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play. It is proposed that the results of this study should be considered by the Conference at its third meeting.

5. As the Convention has entered into force and the location of the secretariat has been confirmed, actions are under way to streamline communications between the secretariat, Governments and observers. Under agenda item 7, the Conference will consider a proposal for the identification of official contact points for Governments and observers.

6. Agenda item 8 includes a review of the activities of the secretariat and financial reporting for 2005. The report of the activities of the secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/4) might be linked with the discussion on the status of implementation of the Convention and should also be taken into account when reviewing the programme of work and adopting the indicative operational budget for 2006 under agenda item 9.

7. As the term of office for the present Bureau will end with the closure of the present meeting, the Conference will need to elect a new Bureau in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure to serve from the end of the present meeting until the end of the next meeting of the Conference. Regional groups are thus encouraged, during the course of the meeting, to elect officers to a new Bureau.

## **B. Possible outcomes of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

8. The following is a list of expectations for the possible outcomes of the meeting:

- (a) A commitment to continue to fund the operation of the Rotterdam Convention and the adoption of the programme of work and the budget for 2006;
- (b) The basis for a decision on non-compliance to be taken at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (c) Confirmation of the membership of the Chemical Review Committee, election of a chair and, as appropriate, agreement as to the operational procedures of the Committee;
- (d) A clear understanding of the options and guidance to the secretariat on further work, if any, on lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms which will enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement adequately the provisions of the Convention;
- (e) Understanding of progress on the part of the secretariat and others in the regional delivery of technical assistance, and adoption of the programme of work for 2006 in line with available financial resources;

(f) Finalization of the arrangements between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO for the provision of the secretariat to the Rotterdam Convention;

(g) Agreement that the secretariat will participate in the preparation of a study on cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and that the results of that study will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(h) Election of the Bureau for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

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