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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, 26–30 September 2005

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters recommended by the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
for action by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting:
Cooperation with the World Trade Organization**

Cooperation with the World Trade Organization

Note by the secretariat

1. At its first meeting, in decision RC-1/15 on cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade requested the secretariat to take the following actions:

- (a) To seek observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session of the World Trade Organization and inform Parties when the request had been submitted and when it had been granted;
- (b) To report to the Conference of the Parties on any WTO meetings that it attended, any substantive contacts that it had with the WTO secretariat and any general or factual information provided to or any other information requested by the WTO secretariat or any other body of that organization;
- (c) To ensure that at no time did it provide an interpretation of the provisions of the Convention;
- (d) To monitor developments in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session and report on such developments to the Conference of the Parties; and

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

(e) To reflect on ways of enhancing information flows on matters of common interest with WTO.

2. The purpose of the present note is to report to the Conference of the Parties on progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned decision.

3. Observer status has been sought by the secretariat in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session. A copy of the secretariat's letter to this effect and a copy of the response received by the secretariat from WTO can be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4.

4. At the invitation of WTO, the secretariat participated as an ad hoc observer in the special session of the Committee on Trade and Environment, held on 24 and 25 February 2005. A copy of the report by the Chair of the special session of the Committee on Trade and Environment to the Trade Negotiations Committee may be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4.

5. The WTO secretariat issues a regular document entitled "Matrix on trade measures pursuant to selected multilateral environmental agreements" (WT/CTE/W/160/Rev.3). This document contains factual information relevant to trade provisions under multilateral environmental agreements. The Rotterdam Convention continues to provide factual information to the WTO secretariat on the convention's provisions relevant to the production of this document. The secretariat's most recent input to the above-mentioned matrix was provided on 19 January 2005.
