



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

Distr.: General
12 October 2005

Original: English

**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

**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
second meeting**

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The second 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) in Rome, from 27 to 30 September 2005.
2. Mr. Philippe Roch (Switzerland), President of the Conference, declared the meeting open at 3.10 p.m. on Tuesday, 27 September 2005.
3. Opening statements were made by Mr. David Harcharik, Deputy Director General of FAO, Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and Mr. Domenico Zinzi, Vice-Minister of Health of Italy.
4. Mr. Harcharik welcomed the representatives to the meeting, noting with satisfaction that it was the first time that the Conference of the Parties would meet in Rome since it had established the joint UNEP/FAO secretariat at its first meeting. Agriculture, he said, was central to the Convention. Over the past 50 years, global agricultural production had kept up with the world's rapidly rising demands, but at considerable cost to the environment. Agriculture in the twenty-first century would need to be sustainable and safe. The goal set at the 1996 World Food Summit to halve the number of hungry people in the world by 2015 had been reaffirmed at the Millennium Summit and in the Millennium Development Goals. Achieving that goal would involve many serious challenges, including the use of pesticides, especially in developing countries, where capacity to manage them properly was often lacking. The Convention, he said, was an example of FAO commitment to appropriate pesticide use and reducing the application of chemical units per unit output. In that respect, he also referred to the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which he described as the globally accepted standard for pesticide management, and the Africa Stockpiles Programme.

5. He urged the representatives to bear in mind three themes, namely, progress, partnerships and coherence. Although much progress had been made, including an increase in the number of new Parties to the Convention and in the number of chemicals proposed for inclusion in the Convention, many challenges remained. Partnerships, and the concept of shared responsibility among those involved in the chemicals trade, were central to the Convention. The Conference would consider new partnerships at the meeting, including with the Pesticide Action Network and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). In that respect, he also referred to the exemplary cooperation between UNEP and FAO in the provision of the secretariat services to the Convention. On the issue of coherence, he said that countries should maintain consistent positions not just within the context of the Convention, but also across all chemicals-related agreements and processes. In conclusion, he noted that the Convention was not just about chemicals, but about the empowerment of developing countries, and he expressed his belief that the Convention, while perhaps a modest achievement measured against the scale of the challenge, was nevertheless making a difference.

6. Mr. Kakakhel recalled that some two weeks earlier, world leaders had concluded the 2005 World Summit, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to reaffirm their commitments made at the Millennium Summit. Noting that none of the Millennium Development Goals would be achieved without the sound management of chemicals, he welcomed the resolve shown by Governments at the summit to promote the sound management of chemicals in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. He also welcomed their resolve to adopt and implement a voluntary strategic approach to international chemicals management. In that context, he recalled the outcomes of the recent third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

7. The Rotterdam Convention was extraordinary, he said, in that it had started on a voluntary basis and had evolved into a legally binding instrument as a result of intergovernmental negotiations. The voluntary prior informed consent procedure continued to provide protection to all participating countries, not only to Parties to the Convention. He recalled, however, that in accordance with decision RC-1/13, the voluntary procedure would cease to operate in February 2006. He emphasized, therefore, the importance of encouraging ratification, noting that the Convention would be most effective if it was universally ratified.

8. Another theme reflected in the outcome of the 2005 summit was that of institutional arrangements for increasing efficiency and coherence in the environmental activities carried out by the United Nations system. In that regard, he noted with satisfaction the arrangements between UNEP and FAO in providing the secretariat functions for the Convention and underscored the need to promote cooperation between the different chemicals-related conventions.

9. Mr. Zinzi welcomed the meeting participants to Italy and emphasized the importance the Italian Government attached to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. Outlining the approach taken by the Italian Government to coordinating health and environmental policies relating to chemicals, he said that, when dealing with the problems associated with international trade in hazardous chemicals, it was essential to focus on awareness and institutional capacity. The success of the joint efforts by UNEP and FAO to implement the Convention reinforced Italy's firm conviction that there was a need to adopt an integrated approach and to continue research into new ways to guarantee the proper management of chemicals, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In conclusion, he drew attention to a number of events organized by the Italian Government to promote the implementation of the Convention, including a workshop aimed at identifying the institutional, technological and administrative obstacles to implementation faced by developing countries, and another to illustrate the purposes of the Convention to representatives of industry.

II. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

10. Representatives of the following countries and regional economic integration organizations participated in the meeting: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar,

Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, 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).

11. In addition, representatives of the following countries attended the meeting as observers: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

12. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Berne Declaration, European Chemical Industry Council, Confederation of Employers of the Republic of Kazakhstan, CropLife International, Foundation for Advancement in Science and Education, Hatof Foundation – Ghana, Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, Legambiente, Network for Promotion of Agriculture and Environmental Studies, Pesticide Action Network, Worldwide Fund for Nature.

B. Officers

15. In accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau elected at the first meeting of the Conference continued to serve until the closure of the current meeting. That Bureau was constituted as follows:

President:	Mr. Philippe Roch (Switzerland)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Maria Celina de Azevedo Rodrigues (Brazil) Mr. Mesfin Dessalegne (Ethiopia) Mr. Yusef Shuraiki (Jordan) Ms. Marija Teriosina (Lithuania)

Mr. Dessalegne also served 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.2/1:

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 second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Status of implementation;
 - (b) Confirmation of experts designated for the Chemical Review Committee;

- (c) Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its first meeting.
- 6. Issues arising out of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Non-compliance: report of the open-ended ad-hoc working group;
 - (b) Study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms;
 - (c) Regional delivery of technical assistance;
 - (d) Encouragement of the World Customs Organization to assign specific Harmonized System codes to the chemicals listed in Annex III;
 - (e) Cooperation with the World Trade Organization;
 - (f) Secretariat arrangements.
- 7. Communication with Governments.
- 8. Report on activities of the secretariat.
- 9. Programme of work and reconsideration of the indicative 2006 budget.
- 10. Venue and date of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 11. Election of officers for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 12. Other matters.
- 13. Adoption of the report.
- 14. Closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

17. The Conference agreed to conduct its business in plenary and to establish such contact and drafting groups as it considered necessary to work on particular agenda items during the course of the meeting. 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

18. Under the item, the Conference had before it a note by the secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/3) 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 noted 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.

19. Following discussion, the Conference agreed that it would not take a formal decision on the item at the current meeting, 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 second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

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

21. The chair of the credentials committee reported that the committee had examined the credentials of 71 representatives of Parties participating in the Conference and had found those of the following 67 to be in conformity with the stipulated requirements: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland,

Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay.

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

V. Implementation of the Convention

A. Status of implementation

23. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on the status of implementation of the Rotterdam Convention by Parties and participating States (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/6). It also had before it a note by the secretariat on the status of ratification of the Rotterdam Convention as of 1 September 2005 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/1) and a note listing the chemicals scheduled for review at the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/6).

24. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat summarized the progress in implementation which had been observed by the secretariat during the reporting period from 1 May 2004 to 30 April 2005.

25. In the ensuing debate, a number of representatives expressed satisfaction with the work of the secretariat during the reporting period. It was noted with concern, however, that no proposals for the inclusion of severely hazardous pesticide formulations had been submitted during the reporting period. One representative encouraged the secretariat to facilitate the use of that provision by designated national authorities. A number of representatives outlined the obstacles to implementation faced by developing countries, in particular with regard to obtaining and exchanging information, and emphasized their need for financial and technical assistance. The representative of the secretariat said that the secretariat was endeavouring to facilitate access to information, through whatever means were most convenient for Parties.

26. The representative of a regional economic integration organization and its member States that were Parties to the Convention said that the number of notifications of final regulatory action verified as complete under article 5 of the Convention was encouraging, as was the number of Parties making such notifications. He urged Parties to bear in mind that, although preferable, meeting the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention was not a precondition for the submission of notifications. Noting that a high proportion of notifications related to chemicals that were already subject to the prior informed consent procedure, he suggested that, if the trend continued, the Conference might wish to consider encouraging Parties to set priorities so that scarce resources could be concentrated on new chemicals. Prioritization might also become necessary if the Chemical Review Committee was once again faced with a large number of notifications for new chemicals with limited or no supporting documentation.

27. He noted with satisfaction that the overall import response rate for Parties had improved, but expressed disappointment that a number of Parties had not yet provided any import responses. He recalled that, in accordance with article 11 of the Convention, continuing failure to provide an import response would ultimately result in the importing Party no longer being protected by the status quo provisions of that article. It would be helpful, he said, to know if the secretariat could take steps to help those Parties concerned meet their obligations. In that context, he suggested that tackling the question of non-response should be highlighted as a priority for technical assistance. He described his organization's experience with applying the export notification procedure and noted problems in contacting designated national authorities due to incorrect contact details. He also outlined the steps taken by his organization to promote information exchange in accordance with article 14 of the Convention, and suggested that the Rotterdam Convention website might be reorganized to provide easier access to the clearing-house facility.

28. The Conference noted the valuable information provided on the status of implementation and agreed that technical assistance needs would be addressed under agenda item 6 (c).

B. Confirmation of experts designated for the Chemical Review Committee

29. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat setting out a list of experts designated to serve on the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/7) and an information document describing the qualifications of those experts (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/5).

30. Introducing the item, the secretariat noted that no expert from Gabon had yet been designated for membership on the Committee. One representative, speaking on behalf of the group of African

countries, announced that the group had consulted and agreed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo would designate an expert to serve on the Committee in lieu of the expert that was to have been designated by Gabon.

31. As proposed by the Chemical Review Committee, the Conference elected Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland) Chair of the Committee.

32. Decision RC-2/1 on confirmation of the appointment of the members of the Chemical Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its first meeting

33. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat containing the report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/8) and a note by the secretariat highlighting specific issues arising from that meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/9).

34. The chair of the Chemical Review Committee reported to the Conference on the work of the first meeting of that Committee. She noted that in preparation for the meeting, task groups had performed initial reviews of 60 notifications of regulatory action for 14 chemicals. For seven chemicals, none of the notifications had met all the criteria in Annex II of the Convention. For another six chemicals, only one notification fulfilled all the criteria of Annex II. None of those chemicals, therefore, could be proposed for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention at that time. For one chemical, three notifications from different prior informed consent regions were found to fulfill all the criteria of Annex II.

35. She further noted that the Committee had identified measures to promote efficiency in its intersessional work, which could be reviewed by the Conference at its next meeting. Those included prioritization and deadlines for the submission of supporting information. She concluded by thanking the Committee, the outgoing chair, Mr. Andre Mayne (Australia), and the Interim Chemical Review Committee and its chair, Mr. Reiner Arndt.

36. Following Ms. Hitzfeld's presentation, one representative noted that chrysotile asbestos was widely used in some developing countries in low-cost housing, insulation of water pipes and brake linings, and said that when embedded in cement it did not pose a hazard to human health, unlike other uses that precipitated regulatory actions in developed countries. As it was of great economic significance, any decision taken on whether chrysotile should be included in Annex III of the Convention should not be precipitate, he said, and should be accompanied by detailed assessments of cost-effective alternatives. In response, the President confirmed that the Conference would not consider inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III during the current meeting, but would take it up again at its next meeting.

37. The representative of a regional economic integration organization, noting the large number of chemicals considered by the Committee and the seemingly disappointing high number that did not meet all the criteria of Annex II, urged parties not to be deterred by the low number of chemicals meeting the requirements of Annex II. Rather, notifications should continue to be submitted even if all information required by Annex II was not available, as they served the purpose of information exchange and did not raise questions as to the validity of the regulatory actions described in the notifications. He noted too that guidance had already been prepared to assist countries to meet the criteria requirements of Annex II and that the Chemical Review Committee would continue that work at its next meeting.

38. The Conference took note of the report of the Committee, commending its work.

39. The Chair of the Chemical Review Committee also reported on the issues arising out of the first meeting of that Committee, as discussed in the note by the secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/9), and referred the Conference to the draft decision on the process for drafting decision guidance documents contained therein.

40. Decision RC-2/2 on the process for the preparation of decision guidance documents, as adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

1. Determination of existing trade in chemicals

41. The Chair of the Committee noted that the Committee had adopted the working procedures for determining existing trade in chemicals set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/8, which had worked well for the Interim Chemical Review Committee, and had used that process for chemicals eligible for review by the Committee at its first meeting, in February 2005.

42. The Conference agreed to encourage industry bodies, non-governmental organizations and Parties to provide the information requested for the determination of ongoing trade in chemicals as contained in annex III to the report of the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/8, annex).

2. Preparation and use of focused summaries

43. Turning to the preparation and use of focused summaries, the Chair noted that the Committee had adopted the working paper on the preparation and use of focused summaries (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/10). She explained that such summaries were prepared when supporting documentation for a notification was either very voluminous or was submitted in a language other than English, and were intended to supplement rather than supplant the supporting documentation.

44. The Conference agreed to encourage Parties to prepare focused summaries in accordance with the guidance contained in annex IV to the report of the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/8, annex).

3. Risk evaluations conducted under different international bodies

45. Concerning the difference between risk evaluation requirements conducted under different international bodies, the Chair noted that at its first meeting the Committee had considered notifications concerning regulatory action that had been taken based on decisions or assessments taken under the auspices of other multilateral environmental agreements. Taking into consideration criterion (b) (iii) of Annex II of the Convention, the Committee sought guidance from the Conference on whether such risk evaluations could be used in connection with the submission of a notification of regulatory action when a national risk evaluation based on prevailing conditions within the Party taking the action had not been undertaken.

46. During the ensuing debate, general concern was expressed regarding the need to avoid overlap and duplication of work done under different multilateral environmental agreements. It was suggested that, while risk evaluations undertaken under such agreements might form the basis for national regulatory actions, when reporting such actions it should be made clear that they were based on prevailing conditions in the country. The requirement to fulfil criterion (b) (iii) of Annex II of the Convention remained. It was therefore necessary that bridging information be submitted to demonstrate how an evaluation made under another multilateral environmental agreement applied to the prevailing conditions in the notifying country. One representative noted the importance of considering regional evaluations. It was suggested that, if a chemical was of global concern, no national risk evaluation should be necessary. If the concern was national, however, there was a need to take into account prevailing national conditions. It was further suggested that an assessment of the criteria required in other multilateral environmental agreements should be made to determine their applicability under the Rotterdam Convention. One representative underlined the point that, as the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements varied, a separate risk evaluation should be required under the Convention.

47. The Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a paper for consideration by the Chemical Review Committee at its second meeting on how a substance whose trade was prohibited, severely restricted or managed in some way under other multilateral agreements should be treated under the Rotterdam Convention. The paper would provide information on existing provisions relevant to trade and procedures for risk evaluation and would include consideration of case studies of specific chemicals covered under other multilateral agreements, with a possible assessment of the value of including those chemicals in the Rotterdam Convention and the number of chemicals that might be implicated. The Chemical Review Committee would report back to the Conference of the Parties on that paper at the latter's third meeting.

4. Confusion between trade names and brand names

48. The Chair of the Committee recalled that at the first meeting of the Committee, one observer had noted the need to clarify the distinction between trade names, which were required to be included in a notification of regulatory action, and brand names.

49. At the request of the President, the representative of a non-governmental organization observer explained that the term "trade name" referred to the name of a company or business, while the term "brand name" referred to specific products or preparations. It was a brand name that distinguished a

specific product from others in the marketplace and in trade and was most useful to the Rotterdam Convention. He expressed the view that most verified notifications appeared to refer to brand names rather than trade names.

50. The Conference invited the observer to work with the Committee on a case-by-case basis to attempt to clarify any confusion that might exist when considering new chemicals for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention.

5. Guidance on the term “severely restricted”

51. The Chair of the Committee noted that there had been some lack of clarity in some notifications as to whether a given regulatory action had resulted in a ban or a severe restriction on the chemical at issue and that, with regard to the latter term, insufficient information had been provided to assess whether there had been a real or expected reduction in use as a consequence of the regulatory action.

52. The representative of an observer suggested that in clarifying the impact of severe restrictions, Parties should indicate whether reductions in exposure to restricted chemicals had occurred in proportion to the reduction of the active ingredients on the market.

53. The Conference encouraged Parties, when submitting notifications, to describe clearly the effects, real or expected, of the regulatory action with regard to the use of chemicals in order to facilitate the task of the Committee in assessing whether criterion (c) (i) of Annex II of the Convention had been met.

6. Additional information

54. With respect to the information used by the Committee in its review of individual chemicals, the Chair reported that some of its members had suggested that it would be valuable if the Committee could consider information from a broad range of sources in addition to that provided by notifying Parties, and that others had suggested that it would be useful to establish a process for updating decision guidance documents. The Conference was asked to consider whether it wished to invite the secretariat to prepare a paper for consideration by the Conference at its next meeting on the scope of decision guidance documents and the feasibility of a process for updating and refining them.

55. Several parties expressed the view that the scope of decision guidance documents was clearly set out in the Convention and that it was therefore unnecessary for the secretariat to prepare any study on the matter. The representative of a regional economic integration organization agreed with the view that the Convention limited the Committee to considering information on regulatory measures provided by notifying Parties and internationally agreed peer reviewed information. He suggested that additional measures for providing other information, such as information exchange under article 14 of the Convention or the clearing-house on the Convention website, should be explored. One representative presented a conference room paper and noted that the study would be welcome and should consider the needs of Parties for information, the decision guidance document in the context of other information sources available under the Convention, and options for a periodic review of the effectiveness of information from all sources.

56. The Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a paper reviewing the mechanisms under the Convention that provided for information exchange, such as those under articles 7 and 14 and the clearing-house mechanism, and assessing how they were meeting the needs of the Parties to the Convention.

VI. Issues arising out of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties

A. Non-compliance: report of the open-ended ad-hoc working group

57. Mr. Denis Langlois (Canada), Chair of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-compliance, provided a brief summary of the background and work of the Working Group. He recalled that, in its decision RC-1/10 on non-compliance, adopted at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties had decided to convene an open-ended ad hoc working group on article 17 of the Convention immediately prior to its second meeting with a view to preparing for and carrying forward deliberations on the issue of non-compliance. Accordingly, a meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-compliance had been held on 26 September and the morning of 27 September 2005 at FAO

headquarters in Rome. The Working Group had considered a draft document outlining the establishment of a compliance committee and setting out its operating procedures (UNEP/FAO/RC/OEWG.1/2).

58. He noted that, although progress had been made on a number of significant issues, there was still disagreement regarding certain parts of the draft text, notably those dealing with the membership of the compliance committee, the way in which the mechanism could be triggered and the additional measures that could be taken to address a country's compliance problems. In consequence, the working group had established a drafting group to work further on the disputed issues but had not completed its work prior to the opening of the current meeting of the Conference. The Chair of the Working Group therefore requested the Conference to permit it to reconvene for the purpose of reviewing the results of the drafting group and adopting the report of its meeting.

59. The Conference briefly adjourned in order to allow the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group to reconvene as requested by the Chair of the Working Group. The report of the Working Group's meeting will be made available on the Convention website.

60. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, as suggested by the Working Group, to be chaired by Mr. Langlois, to continue the deliberations on non-compliance during the current meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

61. Following the group's deliberations, its chair reported back to the Conference that the group had made progress and achieved further agreement. It had not been possible to resolve a number of issues, however, including the composition of the committee, and in particular the question of equitable geographical representation; the so-called "triggers", or the events that would lead to action by the committee; the measures to be employed by the Committee to assist Parties to overcome difficulties in complying with the Convention; and the handling of information by the Committee. The contact group recommended that the Conference consider further the issue of non-compliance procedures at its third meeting.

62. Decision RC-2/3 on non-compliance was adopted by the Conference and is contained in annex I to the present report.

B. Study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms

63. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on the results of a study undertaken in response to decision RC-1/5 of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms which would enable developing countries to implement adequately the provisions of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10).

64. The item was introduced by the representative of the secretariat, who recalled the aims of the study as set out in decision RC-1/5 and explained that six financial mechanisms and entities had been reviewed for the purposes of the study and nine options had been identified for consideration by the Conference. Those options had been presented in three categories, which were set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10. The document contained the findings of the study but no conclusions as to which option would be most suitable for the purposes of implementing the provisions of the Convention. He invited the Conference to consider the options set out in the study, noting that the secretariat sought guidance on which options, if any, could be dismissed and which should be further examined.

65. Noting that the study had been completed prior to the discussion of financial arrangements at the recent third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, he said that the Conference might also wish to take into account those discussions, which were particularly relevant to the proposal to establish a financial mechanism for chemicals-related multilateral agreements. Most of the funds allocated for conducting the study had not been used, he said, pointing out that one of the challenges in preparing the study had been a lack of information on the actual cost of implementing the Convention and its prior informed consent procedure. He invited countries to provide information in that regard.

66. The Conference commenced its consideration of the item with general statements from representatives on the possible options set out in the note submitted by the secretariat.

67. While all those who spoke agreed that the study served as an excellent basis for discussion, there was a divergence of views over which option or combination of options would be preferable.

68. One representative, speaking on behalf of the group of African countries, drew attention to the links between the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the broader goals set out in

the Millennium Declaration. The world's poor people, and particularly those living in Africa, were extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of poor chemicals management. Several representatives noted that it would be impossible to achieve the goals of the Millennium Summit without a concerted effort by all concerned to bridge the gaps between developed and developing countries and to strengthen the capacities of developing countries by identifying obstacles to implementation and providing the necessary technical assistance.

69. The representative of a regional economic integration organization commended the study but noted that it had not addressed the option of mainstreaming the Rotterdam Convention into regular aid programmes. On the cost of establishing a financial mechanism, she said that further clarification was needed of the magnitude of the needs involved. She assumed that costs would not be prohibitively high, given the achievements that had already been made by other multilateral environmental agreements, which could be used to the benefit of the Rotterdam Convention. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol were specifically designed to cover the incremental costs associated with achieving global benefits. While the Rotterdam Convention clearly brought about global benefits, she was doubtful whether those benefits required incremental spending.

70. One representative stated that the voluntary trust fund established by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting should be developed into a coordinating mechanism under the Convention, and should seek co-financing with other mechanisms. She expressed the view that GEF, and possibly also the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, should be invited to elaborate on how they could contribute to increased technical assistance and capacity-building under the Rotterdam Convention. Another representative announced that funds would be available from GEF, which had already expressed its desire to cooperate with the Rotterdam Convention. Other issues that arose during the discussion were the need for political will and the need to set priorities.

71. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, to be chaired by Mr. Jean-Louis Wallace (Canada), to discuss the possible options for a lasting and sustainable financial mechanism and to prepare a draft decision on the item for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

72. The Conference was informed that few developing country representatives had been able to attend the meeting of the contact group owing to the small size of their delegations, and that the contact group had accordingly decided not to discuss the item. Debate on the issue therefore resumed in plenary.

73. During that debate, there was disagreement about which of the financial mechanisms set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10 would be most suitable.

74. Several representatives suggested that, as it would take some time to establish an appropriate mechanism, the Conference should consider establishing an interim mechanism. In that respect, they suggested maintaining the status quo or urging GEF to include more Convention-related activities under its Stockholm Convention focal area. Other representatives opposed those options, with one expressing doubt as to the availability of funds from GEF. One representative said that using the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol might be a suitable short-term option, but would require a change to the Fund's terms of reference. A representative of the Multilateral Fund said that whether funding could be made available under the Fund depended on a number of factors, including the discussions to be held at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 2005.

75. While one representative said that her delegation did not support the idea of enhancing the voluntary special trust fund to operate as a coordinating mechanism, another spoke in favour of that option, noting that the trust fund and other existing funds might provide a source of financing for the implementation of the Convention in developing countries.

76. Several representatives said they would not object to expanding the existing Stockholm Convention focal area under GEF or establishing a Rotterdam Convention financial mechanism; another indicated, however, that in the light of the discussions at the recent third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the establishment of a financial mechanism for chemicals-related multilateral agreements, his delegation would be unable to support such options. He and another representative urged the Conference to draw on the progress achieved at that session.

77. There was no support for the option of imposing a levy on importers and exporters.

78. In the end, consensus was not reached on the text of a decision. The Conference agreed, however, to request the secretariat to examine in more detail the options set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10, taking into account the discussions held on the subject during the current meeting, and to report on its findings to the Conference at its third meeting. It further agreed that funds that had been allocated but not used for conducting the study of options referred to in paragraph 63 above could be used by the secretariat in its further examination of the options in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10.

79. Following that agreement, representatives on both sides of the debate expressed disappointment at what they saw as a lack of progress on the issue and inflexibility on the part of certain Parties.

C. Regional delivery of technical assistance

80. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on regional delivery of technical assistance (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/12).

81. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the Conference to decision RC-1/14, which requested the secretariat to operationalize the regional delivery of technical assistance to Parties. He outlined the progress made in the implementation of the decision and said that a resource kit had been prepared with a range of end-users in mind including the general public, designated national authorities and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention. He stated that substantial efforts had been made to identify partners in the delivery of technical assistance, as exemplified by cooperation with FAO and UNEP regional offices and regional centres established under the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. A series of national and subregional meetings had been convened involving a broad range of stakeholders in developing national action plans or strategies for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. He noted the importance of working with the stakeholders of other multilateral environmental agreements on cross-cutting issues such as legislation and customs training. Finally, he summarized the main components of the proposed work plan for 2006 on the regional delivery of technical assistance, including a possible pilot project in collaboration with UNITAR on the preparation of national plans for the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in selected countries.

82. The representative of the secretariat presented a list of 18 candidate countries from which up to six would be selected to participate in the pilot project contemplated by the proposed work plan. The candidate countries were invited to write to the secretariat with a formal expression of interest by 1 December 2005. The 18 candidate countries were: Argentina, Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Jamaica, Jordan, Mongolia, Madagascar, Mali, Samoa, Senegal, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania.

83. There was broad support from the Conference for the activities of the secretariat in 2005 and the proposed programme for 2006. One representative, however, queried the omission of Central American countries from the list of countries proposed for the pilot project, another, the lack of countries with economies in transition. The representative of the secretariat outlined the criteria used to compile the list, explaining that only a small number of countries could be included in the pilot project to be carried out during 2006 and that the pilot project, it was hoped, would lead to activities involving a greater number of countries during 2007 and 2008. Other representatives noted the work of the secretariat with nine West African countries through the secretariat of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP) and proposed that that approach be expanded. A representative speaking on behalf of the group of African countries commended the secretariat on the resource kit and asked the secretariat to consider increasing the number of programmes in Africa and using the four Basel Convention regional centres in Africa for training and capacity-building.

84. Decision RC-2/4 on regional delivery of technical assistance in 2006, as adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

D. Encouragement of the World Customs Organization to assign specific Harmonized System codes to the chemicals listed in Annex III

85. The Conference had before it a report by the secretariat on continued cooperation between the secretariat and the secretariat of the World Customs Organization (WCO) (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/16). It also had before it a note by the secretariat which contained copies of relevant correspondence between WCO and the secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4) and a conference room paper submitted by

Switzerland containing a table of the Harmonized System customs codes assigned to chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention.

86. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat summarized the efforts made by the secretariat to continue cooperation with WCO, as described in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/16. In addition, she noted that WCO at the thirty-sixth session of its Harmonized System Committee had welcomed continued cooperation with the Rotterdam Convention.

87. In the ensuing debate, representatives expressed satisfaction with the efforts made to promote cooperation with WCO and encouraged the secretariat to continue its efforts in that regard. The importance of training activities for customs officials, particularly in developing countries, was underscored. The importance of cooperation and finding synergies with other chemicals-related multilateral agreements when developing training programmes for customs officials was highlighted as well.

88. A number of representatives expressed appreciation to the delegation of Switzerland for having prepared the table of Harmonized System codes assigned to chemicals in annex III and said that it would be useful if that table could be made available in all official languages of the United Nations. One representative suggested that the table should be made available on the Convention website. The representative of the secretariat said that the agreement of WCO would be sought before taking such steps.

89. The Conference endorsed continued cooperation between the secretariat and WCO, both in the assignment of Harmonized System customs codes and in developing and implementing a training scheme for customs officials on the obligations of the Rotterdam Convention within the planned technical assistance programmes of both WCO and the Rotterdam Convention.

E. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization

90. The Conference had before it a note prepared by the secretariat on continued cooperation between the secretariat and the World Trade Organization (WTO), including attempts to obtain observer status in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in special session (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/15). It also had before it a note by the secretariat on secretariat arrangements (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4), which contained copies of correspondence between WTO and the secretariat and a copy of a report by the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Environment in special session to the WTO Trade Negotiations Committee.

91. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled the provisions of decision RC-1/15 on cooperation with WTO, as set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/15, and noted that, although the secretariat had not yet been granted observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment, it had participated as an ad hoc observer in the special session of the Committee held on 24 and 25 February 2005. She drew attention to the report of that meeting, which was contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4, and said that the report of subsequent meetings could be provided on request. She suggested that such reports should regularly be made available to the Conference of the Parties in order to enhance the exchange of information between the secretariat and WTO.

92. The Conference took note of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/15 and agreed to support the efforts of the secretariat to promote further cooperation with WTO.

F. Secretariat arrangements

93. The Conference had before it a note prepared by the secretariat in response to decisions RC-1/9 and RC-1/12 on arrangements by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO for performance of the secretariat functions for the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14). The representative of the secretariat introduced that note and a memorandum of understanding on those arrangements (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14/Add.1). He said that the arrangements built on the excellent and long-standing cooperation between UNEP and FAO, and added that the memorandum of understanding had not yet been signed but was being implemented on an interim basis.

94. During the ensuing discussion, the good cooperation between UNEP and FAO was welcomed. It was noted that, while the memorandum of understanding provided excellent guidance for establishing joint heads of the secretariat, any such arrangements should remain open to amendment in the future, and that any such amendments would have to be approved by the Conference.

95. The Conference approved the arrangements for the performance of the secretariat functions described in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14.
96. The Conference also had before it correspondence undertaken pursuant to decision RC-1/17 between the secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on possible arrangements for a joint head of the secretariats of the two conventions (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4, pages 28–31).
97. In introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to decisions SC-1/4 and SC-1/18 taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its first meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/7), agreeing that a secretariat post at the D.1 level would be shared with the Rotterdam Convention, while the Stockholm Convention would provide 75 per cent of the cost and the Rotterdam Convention 25 per cent of the cost of a UNEP secretary. He recalled that a request had been made to the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare in cooperation with other secretariats a study on improvement of cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes. He further recalled that, through a generous financial contribution by the Government of Switzerland, \$35,000 had been made available for that study, for which terms of reference had been drafted by the Stockholm Convention secretariat in consultation with the Basel and Rotterdam Convention secretariats.
98. Strong support was expressed for the proposal that the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention work with the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on the study on synergies, which it was hoped would indicate ways for increased efficiency of the secretariats. A number of representatives observed that the preparation of a study on synergies was opportune given that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would all hold meetings of their respective conferences of the parties in 2006. It was suggested that all reasonable steps should be taken to prepare the ground for possible decisions at those conferences. It was further suggested that further detailed analyses be provided on the administrative and financial implications of possible synergies, which should draw upon the strengths of all the secretariats and produce cost savings. Several participants emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication and achieving savings, which could be better spent implementing the Convention.
99. While some representatives suggested that the study should be prepared in time for the special session of the UNEP Governing Council in February 2006, others felt that it should first be reviewed by the conferences of the three conventions.
100. With regard to the arrangements for heading the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, some representatives indicated their preference in principle for a single head. Others preferred the current situation, however, and it was recognized that the current arrangement had worked well and that it would be best to maintain for the moment the status quo of two individuals as joint heads, particularly in view of the current work programme to be achieved. The possibility of revisiting the question in the light of the outcome of the synergies study was suggested. In that regard it was also emphasized that, while improving synergies was important, it was also important to note clearly the differences between the conventions and their respective activities.
101. Decision RC-2/5 on secretariat arrangements, as adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.
102. Decision RC-2/6 on enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions, as adopted by the Conference, is contained in annex I to the present report.

VII. Communication with Governments

103. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on official communication with Governments and observers (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/17).
104. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat noted that the entry into force of the Convention provided an opportunity to improve the efficiency and timeliness of communication with Parties and with non-Party Governments, as well as observers, and to bring communication practices into line with the text of the Convention and the rules of procedure. She said that identification of preferred official channels of communication by Party and non-Party Governments would streamline the communication process, and stated the objective of ensuring clearly identified and recognized lists of observers, to be updated as required.

105. The representative of a regional economic integration organization stated that the communication process would be further helped if Governments specified the names of those to be contacted, and noted that the secretariat might consider maintaining contact details for designated national authorities of non-parties beyond the expiry date of the transitional period.

106. The Conference requested the secretariat to write to Governments asking them to provide contact details for their official contact points for the Rotterdam Convention, and to agree to the posting of those details on the Convention website. The Conference further agreed to adopt the recognized official lists of observers contained in annexes II and III to the note by the secretariat, which were to be updated as appropriate and posted on the Convention website.

VIII. Report on activities of the secretariat

107. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on the activities of the secretariat during the reporting period from 1 May 2004 to 30 April 2005 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/4).

108. The secretariat introduced the item, outlining the main points of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/4. The Conference took note of the report.

IX. Programme of work and reconsideration of the indicative 2006 budget

109. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on a draft programme of work and budget for 2006 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/5), a financial report and review of the staffing situation in the secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/18) and a note by the secretariat providing additional financial information, including information on updating the indicative 2006 budget approved by the Conference at its first meeting to reflect changes in costs since the budget was approved (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/8).

110. The representative of the secretariat introduced the financial report and review of the staffing situation in the secretariat, drawing particular attention to the updated figures contained in the information paper. He said that funds from countries that had deposited money in the trust fund in support of the negotiation of the Convention had been carried over to the new arrangements in accordance with their expressed wishes. He added that it had not been possible to close all trust funds, as a result of which some adjustment might be necessary, which would be reflected in the programme of work submitted to the Conference at its third meeting. With regard to contributions, while the most recent information had been posted on the Convention website, recent contributions from Denmark and Malaysia had not yet been included there. He concluded with a request to Parties that had not yet made their contributions for 2005 to do so as soon as possible.

111. In that regard, it was noted by a few representatives that letters of request for payment had not been received in their countries and that care should be taken to ensure that those letters were sent to the competent authorities.

112. The representative of Italy informed the Conference that his Government's contribution as host country to the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention was being prepared.

113. With regard to the programme of work and budget for 2006, the representative of the secretariat recalled that the budget as approved by the Conference in decision RC-1/17 was an indicative budget which needed updating. He also noted that it would be useful to have a set of priorities attached to the voluntary trust fund for future guidance. He added that the cost of undertaking any other work with which the secretariat might be entrusted at the current meeting would inevitably require modification of the indicative budget. He concluded that the operational budget included a working capital reserve of 8.3 per cent but that instructions had been received from United Nations Headquarters in New York that that should be increased to 15 per cent, and guidance was sought from the Conference on that matter.

114. It was suggested that the relative balance between technical cooperation activities and participant travel be examined and that, if possible, non-earmarked contributions reflect the priorities of all. It was noted that a significant amount of money was still outstanding for the current year and that it would be regrettable if arrears in contributions became a problem, as was the case in other multilateral agreements.

115. The representative of Switzerland noted that unused Swiss contributions transferred from the original trust fund were earmarked under the voluntary special trust fund for capacity-building activities. The specific activities would be decided on a case-by-case basis, and countries were requested to submit proposals for funding such activities to the Government of Switzerland through the secretariat.

116. Several representatives raised the issue of contributions under the United Nations scale of assessment, which, in certain cases, resulted in some developing countries having to contribute more than many developed countries, and requested clarification on what had been undertaken in that regard. The President of the Conference confirmed that he had written to the President of the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly but had not received a reply to date. It was suggested that the President of the Conference attempt other avenues to bring the concern to the attention of the President of the General Assembly.

117. The Conference agreed that the contact group established under the chairmanship of Mr. Wallace to discuss options for a sustainable financial mechanism for the Convention would also discuss matters related to the programme of work and budget for 2006.

118. In his report on the work of the contact group, Mr. Wallace submitted for the Conference's consideration the group's agreement on the 2006 revised proposed operational budget, the indicative scale of assessment and the staffing arrangements. He stated that the proposed operational budget for 2006 totalled \$3,710,224, or \$2,246,809 after deducting host country contributions. He pointed out that countries that were Parties at the time of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties would see a reduction in their assessed contributions due to the addition of 21 new Parties to the Convention.

119. He noted that the budget allocated, on an exceptional basis, \$278,000 for travel to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties; the allocation was to allow developing country Parties to bring experts to the meeting so that they could participate fully in the negotiations on non-compliance with the Convention that were expected to be held in the margins of the meeting.

120. He drew attention to the significant reduction in the revised budget of professional personnel and administrative support costs, reflecting the special arrangements that the Convention had with FAO whereby the FAO contribution to the Convention represented in-kind staff support. He also noted the recommendation of the contact group that a special contingency reserve in the amount of \$380,000 be created to fund that staff in the event that the in-kind contributions ceased.

121. The representative of Argentina reiterated the reservation which her delegation had made during the first meeting of the Conference on the subject of the scale of contributions adopted by the Conference. That reservation may be found in the report of the first meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.1/33, para. 59).

122. Decision RC-2/7 on amendment of the financing and budget arrangements for the biennium 2005–2006 was adopted by the Conference and is contained in annex I to the present report.

X. Venue and date of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

123. The Conference of the Parties agreed to hold its next meeting in Geneva from 9 to 13 October 2006.

XI. Election of officers for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

124. 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.

125. 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:	Mr. Yue Ruisheng (China)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Andrea Silvina Repetti (Argentina) Ms. Helga Schrott (Austria) Ms. Marija Teriosina (Lithuania) Mr. Azhari Omer Abdelbagi (Sudan)

Ms. Teriosina agreed to serve also as Rapporteur.

XII. Other matters

A. Applicability of international trade to the Convention

126. The Conference had before it a note by the secretariat on the question of the applicability of international trade to the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/13).

127. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, several representatives had questioned whether the existence of international trade in a chemical constituted a prerequisite for that chemical to be addressed under the Convention, and had requested the secretariat to prepare a document on the subject for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting. The note before the Conference, which had been prepared in pursuance of that request, highlighted the relevant provisions of the Convention, with a view to responding to the question raised by representatives. He summarized the contents of the note and drew attention in particular to the conclusions set out in its chapter III.

128. The Conference took note of the presentation by the secretariat. One representative said that the Conference should advise the Chemical Review Committee to give priority to chemicals that were in international trade.

B. Previously considered notifications

129. One representative presented a conference room paper on the question of previously considered notifications, in which it was stated:

“Notifications of final regulatory action from the parties are part of the unified process of making proposals to amend Annex III. If the proposal to make an amendment is rejected that proposal loses its legal meaning and effect, and along with it, that Parties’ notifications that formed the basis for the proposal lose their legal meaning and effect as well. To begin a new proposal submission procedure, newly received notifications from each of two PIC regions are required.”

The representative requested that that position be set forth in the report of the current meeting as the position of the Conference. The result would be that previously considered notifications could not be taken into account by the secretariat in connection with any subsequent process for considering whether to list chemicals in Annex III. Some representatives expressed support for the submission, but others opposed it and no agreement was reached. The representative requested that the report of the current meeting reflect the proposal.

XIII. Adoption of the report

130. The Conference adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report which 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

131. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 6.10 p.m. on Friday, 30 September 2005.

Annex I

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

RC-2/1: Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Chemical Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision RC-1/6, in which it resolved that the 31 Governments which it had identified should formally designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee and, through the secretariat, provide their names and relevant qualifications by 1 December 2004, and 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 second session,

1. *Decides* to confirm the appointment to the Chemical Review Committee of the 30 experts listed below, who were designated by 30 of the Governments of the Parties identified in decision RC-1/6:

Africa

Ghana	Mr. John Pwamang
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Mohamed Ammar Khalifa
Nigeria	Ms. Oluronke Ajibike Soyombo
Rwanda	Mr. Aloys Kamatari
Senegal	Mr. Ousmane Sow
South Africa	Mr. Sibbele Hietkamp
United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Ernest Mashimba

Asia

Jordan	Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh
Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Isak Djumaev
Malaysia	Mr. Halimi Bin Mahmud
Oman	Mr. Hamoud Darwish Salim Al-Hasani
Republic of Korea	Mr. Kyunghee Choi
Samoa	Mr. William J. Cable
Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mohammed Jamal Hajjar
Thailand	Ms. Supranee Impithuksa

Eastern Europe

Hungary	Mr. Tamás Kömíves
Slovenia	Ms. Karmen Krajnc
Ukraine	Mr. Yuriy Illich Kundiev

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina	Ms. Norma Ethel Sbarbati Nudelman
Brazil	Mr. Cesar Koppe Grisolia
Ecuador	Ms. Mercedes Bolaños
Jamaica	Ms. Hyacinth Chin Sue
Uruguay	Ms. Ana Laura Chouhy Gonella

Western Europe and other States

Australia	Mr. Angelo Anthony Valois
Canada	Mr. Lars Juergensen
Finland	Mr. Magnus Nyström
France	Mr. Mario Nichelatti
Italy	Mr. Leonello Attias
Netherlands	Mr. Klaus Berend
Switzerland	Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld

2. *Recalls* the duration and terms of service of the members of the Chemical Review Committee, as provided for in paragraph 4 of its decision RC-1/6;

3. *Decides* to elect Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld as the Chair of the Chemical Review Committee, bearing in mind the duration of her term;

4. *Notes* that Gabon, which had been identified by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-1/6 to designate a member to the Chemical Review Committee, had not submitted the designation of an expert to the secretariat by the date of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and, given this situation, the group of African countries decided that the Democratic Republic of the Congo would replace Gabon to designate an expert to serve as a member of the Chemical Review Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Democratic Republic of Congo shall be entitled, in place of Gabon, to designate an expert to serve as a member of the Chemical Review Committee;

6. *Requests* the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to designate an expert to serve on the Committee on an interim basis for the same term as would have been served by the expert that was to be designated by Gabon, pending formal confirmation of appointment of the expert by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, and, for this purpose, to provide through the secretariat the name and relevant qualifications of the expert to the Parties by 1 December 2005.

RC-2/2: Process for the preparation of draft decision guidance documents

The Conference of the Parties

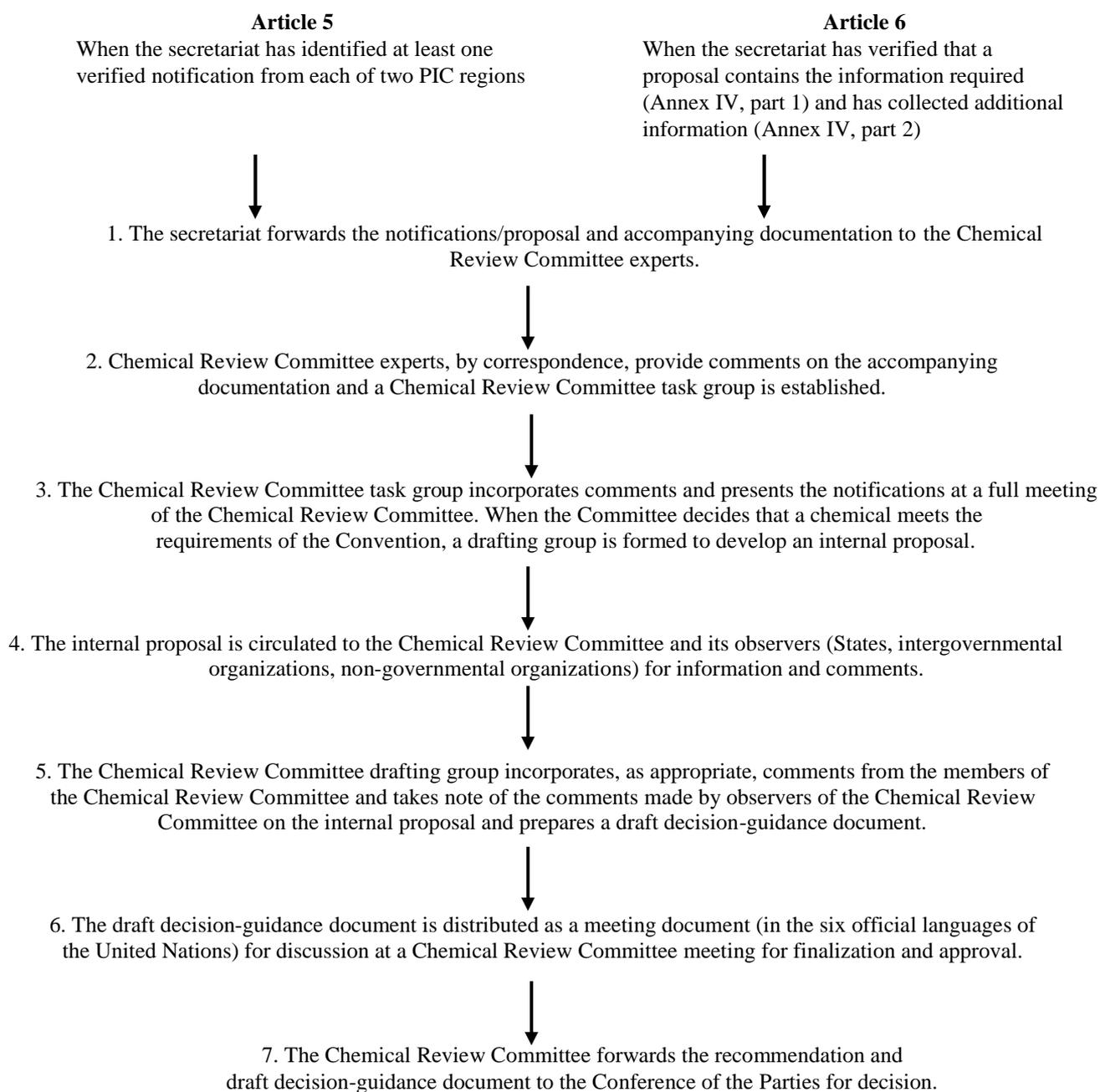
Decides that the preparation of decision guidance documents by the Chemical Review Committee pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention shall follow the process set out in the flow chart and explanatory notes contained in the annex to the present decision.

Annex to decision RC-2/2

Process for drafting decision-guidance documents and accompanying explanatory notes

A. Process for drafting decision-guidance documents

Flow chart



B. Explanatory notes to the process for drafting decision-guidance documents

1. Decision-guidance documents for chemicals notified as banned or severely restricted in accordance with Article 5

The secretariat will forward to members of the Chemical Review Committee the notifications determined to meet the information requirements of Annex I and relevant supporting documentation provided by the notifying Parties (per Annexes I and II).

The Chemical Review Committee must deem a notification and relevant supporting documentation to meet the requirements of the Convention prior to developing a decision-guidance document.

(1)* When the information in the notification is deemed sufficient, the secretariat will forward the notifications and accompanying documentation to the experts of the Chemical Review Committee (2) for an initial round of comment. A Chemical Review Committee task group will be established.

(3) The task group will incorporate comments provided by experts, as appropriate, indicating those comments that are taken up and those that are not, and why.

The task group will present the notifications and the accompanying documentation to the Chemical Review Committee along with the tabular summary of comments. The Chemical Review Committee will decide whether to make a recommendation to include the chemical in Annex III of the Convention. When the decision is to recommend inclusion of a chemical, a drafting group will be established. The drafting group will prepare an internal proposal and circulate it within the drafting group for comments. A revised internal proposal will be prepared.

(4) The internal proposal will then be circulated to the Chemical Review Committee and its observers for information and comments. Any comments will be directed to the secretariat, which will prepare a tabular summary for review by the drafting group.

(5) The drafting group will incorporate, as appropriate, comments from the members of the Chemical Review Committee and take note of the comments made by observers of the Chemical Review Committee on the internal proposal and prepare a draft decision-guidance document.

(6) The draft decision-guidance document (and the tabular summary of comments) will be distributed as a meeting document for discussion at a Chemical Review Committee meeting (in six languages) for finalization and approval.

(7) The Chemical Review Committee will forward the recommendation and draft decision-guidance document to the Conference of the Parties for decision. The final documentation forwarded by the secretariat to all Parties and observers in advance of the Conference of the Parties meeting at which it is to be considered will include the draft decision-guidance document, the Chemical Review Committee recommendation for inclusion in Annex III and a summary of the Chemical Review Committee deliberations, including a rationale based on the criteria listed in Annex II as well as the tabular summary of comments received under step 4 and how they were addressed.

Regional coordination by members of the Chemical Review Committee in preparing and providing comments is encouraged.

2. Decision-guidance documents for severely hazardous pesticide formulations proposed in accordance with Article 6

The secretariat will forward to members of the Chemical Review Committee the proposal and accompanying documentation, based on the information contained in the proposal and the additional information collected by the secretariat in accordance with Annex IV, part 2.

The Chemical Review Committee must deem the proposal to meet the requirements of the Convention prior to developing a decision-guidance document.

* Numbers refer to steps in the flow chart.

(1)* When the information in the proposal is deemed sufficient, the secretariat will collect the information in part 2 of Annex IV from designated national authorities and non-governmental organizations and forward the proposal and accompanying documentation to the experts of the Chemical Review Committee (2) for an initial round of comment. A Chemical Review Committee task group will be established.

(3) The task group will incorporate comments, as appropriate, indicating those comments that are taken up and those that are not, and why.

The task group will present the proposal and the accompanying documentation to the Chemical Review Committee along with the tabular summary of comments. The Chemical Review Committee will decide whether to make a recommendation to include the pesticide formulation in Annex III of the Convention. When the decision is to recommend inclusion of the formulation, a drafting group will be established. The drafting group will prepare an internal proposal and circulate it within the group for comment. A revised internal proposal will be prepared.

(4) The internal proposal will then be circulated to the Chemical Review Committee and its observers for information and comments. Any comments will be directed to the secretariat, which will prepare a tabular summary for review by the drafting group.

(5) The drafting group will incorporate comments as appropriate from the members of the Chemical Review Committee and take note of the comments made by observers of the Chemical Review Committee on the internal proposal and prepare a draft decision-guidance document.

(6) The draft decision-guidance document (and the tabular summary of comments) will be distributed as a meeting document for discussion at a Chemical Review Committee meeting (in six languages) for finalization and approval.

(7) The Chemical Review Committee will forward the recommendation and draft decision-guidance document to the Conference of the Parties for decision. The final documentation forwarded by the secretariat to all Parties and observers in advance of the Conference of the Parties meeting at which it is to be considered will include the draft decision-guidance document, the Chemical Review Committee recommendation for inclusion in Annex III and a summary of the Chemical Review Committee deliberations, including a rationale based on the criteria listed in Annex IV as well as the tabular summary of comments received under step 4 and how they were addressed.

Regional coordination by members of the Chemical Review Committee in preparing and providing comments is encouraged.

* Numbers refer to steps in the flow chart.

RC-2/3: Non-compliance

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 the procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance required under article 17 of the Convention for adoption at its third meeting;
2. *Decides* also that the draft text contained in the annex to the present decision shall be the basis for its further work on this matter at its third meeting;
3. *Invites* the Parties to include in their respective delegations to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties at least one expert who will participate in further work on this matter during that meeting.

Annex to decision RC-2/3

Establishment of a compliance committee

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

Members

2. The Committee shall consist of [10][14][15][21] members. Members shall be nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties. In electing members, due consideration shall be given to the principle of equitable geographical representation of [the regional groups of the United Nations] [the PIC regions].

[2 alt. The Committee shall consist of [17][19] members. Members shall be nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, including ensuring a balance between developed and developing Parties, drawn from the following regional groups of the United Nations:

African States: [4][5]

Asian and Pacific States: [4][5]

Central and Eastern European States: 2

Latin American and Caribbean States: 3

Western European and other States: 4]

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.

Election of members

4. At the meeting at which the Committee is established, the Conference of the Parties shall elect half the members of the Committee for one term and half the 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 [open] [closed] to the public] unless the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question agree 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 is made with respect to the possible non-compliance of a Party, it shall be invited to participate in the consideration of the submission 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 [XX] members, whichever is greater.]

[[X] 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 has concerns or is affected by a failure to comply with the Convention's obligations by another Party [with which it is directly involved under 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;]

[(c) The secretariat, if, while acting pursuant to its functions under [articles [4, 5, 10 [and][.] 11[and 12]] of] the Convention, it becomes aware of possible difficulties for any Party in complying with its obligations under [articles [4, 5, 10 [and][.] 11 [and 12]] of] the Convention [or when it receives submissions from individuals or organizations having reservations about a Party's compliance with its obligations under the Convention]].

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 making a submission under subparagraph 12 (c) 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.]

[14 bis If the secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under articles 4, 5, or 10 of the Convention, becomes aware of possible difficulties by a Party in complying with its obligations under the Convention, it may request the Party concerned to furnish necessary information about the matter. If there is no response from the Party concerned within three months or such longer period as the circumstances of the matter may require, or the matter is not resolved through administrative action or through diplomatic contacts, the secretariat shall report the matter to the Parties pursuant to paragraph 4

of article 4, paragraph 4 of article 5 or paragraph 10 of article 10 of the Convention, and shall inform the members of the Committee which [, if appropriate,] shall consider the matter 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, should be forwarded to the secretariat within three months of the date of receipt of the submission 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 which it considers to be:

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

Facilitation

18. The Committee shall consider any submission made to it in accordance with paragraph 12 [or any matter referred to it in accordance with paragraph 14 bis] 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 that it consider [appropriate] [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;
- [(b bis) Statement of concern on non-compliance;]
- (c) Statement of concern regarding possible future non-compliance;
- [(d) Statement on the determination of non-compliance;][Declaration on non-compliance;]
- [(e) Issuing a caution;]
- [(f) Suspending rights and privileges under the Convention;]
- [(g) Recommending a non-compliant Party to take steps to remedy the non-compliant situation, such as re-import/re-export of the chemical or safe disposal at the expense of the non-compliant Party.]

Handling of information

21. [The Committee may receive relevant information, through the secretariat, from the Parties [and from other relevant sources.]]

[21 alt: As regards paragraph 12 submissions, the Committee may only receive information:

- (a) Submitted by the secretariat from Parties pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 16;

(b) Obtained by the secretariat from Parties while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention; and

(c) With the consent of the Party concerned, as requested by the Committee from any source.]

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

(a) Request information from all Parties;

[(b) [As directed 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.

Relationship with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements

[28. Where there is a relationship with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, the Committee may solicit specific information, upon request by the Conference of the Parties, or directly, from 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-2/4: Regional and national delivery of technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the work of the secretariat in producing a comprehensive proposal for the regional delivery of technical assistance for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties,¹

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,

Stressing the importance of working closely with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building as well as other international processes so as to promote a coherent framework for technical assistance,

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

Emphasizing the need to promote coordination and cooperation among international organizations, conventions, Parties, designated national authorities, customs services and other relevant organizations in the provision of technical assistance,

Recalling the role of the secretariat of the Convention as laid down in its article 19,

Emphasizing also the need to achieve effective and coordinated delivery of technical assistance,

Noting with appreciation the work of the secretariat in the implementation of decision RC-1/14 on the regional delivery of technical assistance,²

1. *Requests* Parties that are in a position to do so to contribute to the voluntary trust fund in support of technical assistance activities;
2. *Adopts* the work plan for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for 2006 annexed to the present decision;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the experience gained in the regional delivery of technical assistance;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a detailed costed programme of activities for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for the biennium 2007–2008 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.1/28.

² UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14.

Annex I to decision RC-2/4

Work plan for 2006 on the regional and national delivery of technical assistance³

A. Elements unique to the Rotterdam Convention

1. National and subregional consultations on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention

1. A proposal has been made to continue the national and subregional consultations on assisting countries to prepare national strategies or action plans for the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The methodology and approach will be modified as necessary to reflect experience gained. Measures of the success of this programme will include an increase in the number of ratifications and the ability of countries to meet their obligations under the Convention, in particular with regard to the submission of notifications of final regulatory actions, proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations and import responses.

2. The initial phase of work in Latin America is expected to be completed with two subregional meetings for Central American countries funded from the 2005 budget, which will be held in the first quarter of 2006 in cooperation with the Regional Plant Protection Officer at the regional office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Santiago, Chile. The first meeting, involving Costa Rica and Cuba, will be focused on developing national plans for the implementation of the Convention and the second, involving the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, will be focused on training in the implementation of the Convention.

3. Two subregional meetings are proposed for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, where possible cooperation is contemplated with regional initiatives such as the Africa Stockpiles Programme and partners such as the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States, the Basel Convention regional centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the Regional Plant Protection Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana. Participating countries have yet to be identified.

4. In cooperation with the secretariat of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP), a proposal has been made to follow up on the work initiated in 2005. This would take the form of a one- or two-day meeting of designated national authorities in conjunction with a regularly scheduled CSP meeting. The purpose of this meeting between designated national authorities and CSP would be to review progress in integrating the work of the Rotterdam Convention with that of CSP, address questions on the role of CSP in assisting member countries to meet their obligations under the Rotterdam Convention, and encourage ratification of the Convention by CSP members that are not yet Parties to it.

5. Further national or subregional consultations with two or three selected countries in Asia are foreseen in cooperation with the Regional Plant Protection Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. Pakistan has been identified as one of those countries.

6. Provisions have also been made in the budget (on the order of \$90,000) for national and subregional consultations in other regions in 2006. Information on specific activities should be available at the time of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Consideration will also be given, on a case-by-case basis, to determining the most appropriate follow-up for countries participating in the national and subregional consultations convened in 2005. This will include working with regional experts and the Regional Plant Protection Officers of FAO in an effort to ensure that the most relevant assistance is provided. The countries for which such specific assistance is envisaged include El Salvador and Panama, in part based on a recommendation made at the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee.

B. Cross-cutting elements

8. The resource kit will be revised to reflect experience gained in its use, especially regarding the development of new documents and the updating and reprinting of existing materials.

³ A summary of the costs of the individual elements of the present work plan is set out in the attached appendix.

9. In particular, the guidance document for designated national authorities and the guide on how to become a Party to the Rotterdam Convention both need to be updated to reflect experience gained and feedback from countries.

10. Section D of the resource kit, on training materials, contains detailed technical information on the four key operational elements of the Convention (notifications of final regulatory action, proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations, import responses for chemicals in Annex III and obligations related to exports of chemicals). A proposal has been made to develop an interactive compact disk to facilitate continuous and self-directed training at the national level in order to try and meet the challenges that arise from frequent changes in designated national authorities in some countries. A prototype of the interactive training compact disk will be developed in English, and field testing will be initiated to determine its effectiveness.

11. Section E of the resource kit, on cross-cutting issues, requires further work in order to develop more complete coverage of the relevant information that is available and to determine how it might be best reflected in the resource kit.

1. Guide on the development of national laws to implement the Rotterdam Convention

12. As a complement to the guide on the development of national laws to implement the Rotterdam Convention, a proposal has been made to develop a set of case studies based on the experience of a limited number of countries in revising their national laws or administrative arrangements to meet the requirements of the Rotterdam Convention. The countries have yet to be identified and the full scope of case studies needs further consideration.

2. Development of plans for the implementation of chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements – development of supplementary guidance

13. The supplementary guidance developed in association with UNITAR to assist countries in using their national profiles or national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention as a basis on which to define gaps in their infrastructure for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention will be field tested in 2006 through national and subregional meetings on the implementation of the Convention.

14. A new proposal involves a series of national meetings in countries that have participated in the UNITAR project, “Action plan training/Skills building for 25 least developed countries to assist with national implementation plan development under the Stockholm Convention”. The goal of this initiative is to determine the extent to which the UNITAR training might be applied to the preparation of national plans for the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. Steps will be taken to assess the feasibility of this approach through a series of follow-up meetings in five pilot countries. The project would be undertaken in cooperation with UNITAR, which would take the lead in developing the relevant training materials and in organizing the five meetings.

3. Cooperation with customs officials

15. Opportunities for cooperative or collaborative activities with customs officials will continue to be explored with the World Customs Organization, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant organizations.

16. At the same time, relevant information materials in the resource kit, including the guidance document for designated national authorities, will be updated to reflect the importance of information flow between designated national authorities and customs officials. The presentations made during the national and regional meetings will also be updated.

4. Integration with activities under the Stockholm Convention

17. In order to strengthen the links between national implementation plans and associated action plans under the Stockholm Convention and the obligations of countries under the Rotterdam Convention, further work is needed to determine the effectiveness of relevant guidance documents. The secretariat, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, will undertake a review of a number of completed national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention and will consider whether there is a need to revise the relevant guidance documents.

18. Pilot country projects to develop plans with UNITAR and national and subregional meetings may also provide opportunities to field test these guidance materials.

5. Collecting information on severely hazardous pesticide formulations

19. The secretariat will continue its efforts to integrate the severely hazardous pesticide formulation incident report forms with the work of the WHO pesticide data management system, possibly through cooperation with WHO regional offices.

20. Since January 2005, the European Union has been funding a three-year project with the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) to strengthen community health monitoring capabilities relevant to pesticide poisonings in six African countries. The lack of a process for collecting reliable information on pesticide poisoning incidents and a lack of adequate mechanisms for communicating this information to designated national authorities have been identified as major challenges by countries. A proposal has been made to collaborate on this project with a view to establishing appropriate links between designated national authorities and community health monitoring activities in the six pilot countries and a process for the preparation and submission of proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations under article 6 of the Convention.

Appendix to the work plan for 2006 on the regional and national delivery of technical assistance

Summary of the costs of the individual elements of a work plan on the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for 2006

A. Elements unique to the Rotterdam Convention	Cost (US \$)
<i>National and subregional consultations on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention</i>	
Two subregional meetings involving countries of Southern Africa and East Africa (paragraph 3)	60,000
Meeting with CSP and DNAs to further integration of the Convention with the work of the Committee (paragraph 4)	15,000
National meetings in Asia region, in cooperation with the FAO Regional Office (Pakistan + one to two others) (paragraph 5)	40,000
National and subregional meetings (paragraph 6)	90,000
Follow-up to previous subregional and national meetings – individual country visits (paragraph 7)	15,000
B. Cross-cutting issues	
<i>Resource kit</i>	
Updating language versions and reprinting existing documents (paragraphs 8–9)	20,000
Prototype of interactive compact disk for self-directed training on the four key operational elements of the Convention (paragraph 10)	20,000
Further developing and expanding section E on cross-cutting issues (paragraph 11)	10,000
Case studies to supplement the guide on the development of national laws (paragraph 12)	15,000
<i>Development of supplementary guidance</i> (paragraph 14)	90,000
Collaboration with UNITAR: action plan development – preparation of training materials and delivery of pilot project in four countries	
<i>Integration with activities under the Stockholm Convention</i> (paragraphs 17–18)	5,000
Review completed national implementation plans (NIPs) to determine whether the references to the Rotterdam Convention in the guidance on the development of NIPs need strengthening.	
<i>Collecting information on severely hazardous pesticide formulations</i> (paragraphs 19–20)	20,000
Within the context of the PAN-European Union project on strengthening community health monitoring of pesticide poisoning incidents, strengthen links between DNAs and community health monitoring activities in six pilot countries.	
Total	400,000

RC-2/5: Arrangements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the performance of the secretariat functions for the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 3 of article 19 of the Rotterdam Convention and its decision RC-1/9,

1. *Approves* the arrangements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the performance of the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention to be concluded on the basis of the proposed memorandum of understanding contained in the note by the secretariat;⁴

2. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, when reviewing arrangements for the functioning of the secretariat of the Convention, to consider whether any changes are necessary based on the outcomes of the studies referred to in decision RC-2/6;

3. *Decides* to review the arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 above at its future sessions if necessary.

⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14/Add.1.

RC-2/6: Enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste management, and in order to achieve economies of scale including by sharing resources,

1. *Recalls* the proposal made in its decision RC-1/17 for a joint head of the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention;
2. *Welcomes* decision SC-1/18 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention for its secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on improving cooperation and synergies, including consideration of common structures, for the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, with a view to ensuring maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes;
3. *Welcomes* also the recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention made at its fourth session requesting the secretariat of the Basel Convention to cooperate with the secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions in preparation of the study on cooperation and synergies referred to in paragraph 2 above;
4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to join this work by contributing to the study on cooperation and synergies with the Basel and Stockholm convention secretariats;
5. *Considers* that to enable the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions to take any decisions which they may deem appropriate at their next meetings, they will require in addition to the above-mentioned study a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme may propose. In addition, such supplementary analysis should identify any financial savings that might accrue, as well as any implications for adjustments to secretariat expenditures on United Nations administrative fees;
6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare the supplementary analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above and to make it available for consideration at the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions;
7. *Agrees* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 2 above and the analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above at its third meeting.

RC-2/7: Amendment of the financing and budget arrangements for the biennium 2005–2006

The Conference of the Parties,

Reconfirming its decision RC-1/17 on financing and budget for the biennium 2005-2006,

1. *Approves* the operational budget of 3,710,224 United States dollars for 2006 for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue their financial support for the operation of the Convention and its secretariat in 2006;
3. *Decides* to create a special contingency reserve, which should appear in all future budget reports, for the purpose of providing the annual salary costs of those posts in table 3 to the present decision that are currently covered by in-kind contributions should those in-kind contributions be discontinued;
4. *Further decides* to adjust the special contingency reserve in future years in the light of changes in salary costs;
5. *Authorizes* the heads of the Convention secretariat to draw down an amount of 380,000 United States dollars from the projected carry-over at the end of 2005 for the special contingency reserve and to use that sum in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above should those in-kind contributions cease;
6. *Approves* on an exceptional basis 278,000 United States dollars in the operational budget to support, on a one-time basis, travel for experts to attend discussions on the issue of non-compliance with the Convention during the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Welcomes* the annual contribution of 1.2 million euros pledged for 2006 by the host Governments of the Convention secretariat to offset planned expenditures;
8. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2006 as contained in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the heads of the Convention secretariat, in keeping with the financial rules, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2006 for 2006;
9. *Approves* the staffing table of the Convention secretariat for the operational budget for 2006 as contained in table 3 of the present decision;
10. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as stated in paragraph 7 of its decision RC-1/4, to co-finance in 2006 the position of joint head of the secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions at the level of D-1 and the invitation to the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to continue with the arrangement in 2007 and beyond;
11. *Decides* to consider the matter of a joint head of the secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions further at its third meeting in the light of the study and the reports referred to in decision RC-2/6;
12. *Notes* with concern that a number of parties have not paid their contributions to the operational budget for 2005, which were expected on 1 January 2005 in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules, and invites the Executive Secretary to submit proposals for promoting full and timely payment of contributions by Parties for consideration and review by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;
13. *Welcomes* the work done by the Convention secretariat in keeping up-to-date on the Convention website the list of assessed contributions received.

Table 1
Operational budget for 2006 (in US dollars)

Ensure effective functioning of the Conference of the Parties		
	<i>COP3</i>	
	Conference services	600,000
	Expert travel to non-compliance meeting during COP3	278,000
	Subtotal	878,000
	<i>CRC2</i>	
	Conference services	105,000
	Experts travel	72,000
	Subtotal	177,000
Office automation and databases		
	Software/hardware	66,000
	Consultants/sub-contracts	29,000
	Subtotal	95,000
Core secretariat costs		
	Professional personnel ^a	1,536,786
	Consultants	25,000
	Administrative support ^a	384,598
	Official travel	100,000
	Equipment and premises	40,000
	Miscellaneous	47,000
	Subtotal	2,133,384
Total activities		3,283,384
Administrative overhead (13 per cent)		426,840
Subtotal activities and administrative overhead		3,710,224
Working capital reserve (15 per cent) ^b		0
Total operational budget		3,710,224
Host country contribution ^c		1,463,415
Total to be covered by assessed contributions		2,246,809

^a In addition to working capital reserve an amount of \$380,000 has been put aside from the projected end-of-2005 carry-over as a contingency reserve (see paragraph 5 of decision RC-2/7).

^b In line with paragraph 8 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP2.18, \$517,561 is transferred from the PP trust fund to increase the working capital reserve to 15 per cent (see table on working capital reserve).

^c 1.2 million euros (United Nations exchange rate at 1 September 2005: \$1 = .82 euros).

Working capital reserve	US\$
Working capital reserve 2005 (8.3 per cent)	281,038
Working capital reserve 2005 (15 per cent)	556,534
Difference required to increase balance to 15 per cent	275,496
Carry-over from PP trust fund to augment 2006 reserve to 15 per cent	517,561
Balance to be transferred to Voluntary Special Trust Fund	242,065

Table 2
Scale of contributions to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention for the year 2006

Operational budget
 2006 (US dollars):

2,246,809

	United Nations scale of assessment 2004–2006	Scale for the Trust Fund with 22% ceiling and 0,01% base	Pledges for 2006 ¹	Adjustments new parties in 2005	Total due for 2006
<i>Member State</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	2006		
Argentina	0.956	1.307	29,367	-1,354	28,013
Armenia	0.002	0.010	225	-9	216
Australia	1.592	2.177	48,904	-2,255	46,649
Austria	0.859	1.174	26,387	-1,217	25,170
Belgium	1.069	1.462	32,838	-1,514	31,324
Belize	0.001	0.010	225		225
Benin	0.002	0.010	225	-9	216
Bolivia	0.009	0.012	276	-13	263
Brazil	1.523	2.082	46,785	-2,157	44,628
Bulgaria	0.017	0.023	522	-24	498
Burkina Faso	0.002	0.010	225	-9	216
Burundi	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Cameroon	0.008	0.011	246	-11	235
Canada	2.813	3.846	86,412	-3,984	82,428
Chad	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Chile	0.223	0.305	6,850		6,850
China	2.053	2.807	63,066		63,066
Cook Islands*	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Côte d'Ivoire	0.010	0.014	307	-14	293
Cyprus	0.039	0.053	1,198		1,198
Czech Republic	0.183	0.250	5,622	-259	5,363
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.010	225		225
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.010	0.014	307	-14	293
Denmark	0.718	0.982	22,056	-1,017	21,039
Djibouti	0.001	0.010	225		225
Ecuador	0.019	0.026	584	-27	557
El Salvador	0.022	0.030	676	-31	645
Equatorial Guinea	0.002	0.010	225	-9	216
Eritrea	0.001	0.010	225		225
Ethiopia	0.004	0.010	225	-9	216
European Community	2.500	2.500	56,170	-2,272	53,898
Finland	0.533	0.729	16,373	-755	15,618
France	6.030	8.244	185,234	-8,541	176,693
Gabon	0.009	0.012	276	-13	263
Gambia	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Germany	8.662	11.843	266,085	-12,270	253,815

	United Nations scale of assessment 2004–2006	Scale for the Trust Fund with 22% ceiling and 0,01% base	Pledges for 2006 ¹	Adjustments new parties in 2005	Total due for 2006
Ghana	0.004	0.010	225	-9	216
Greece	0.530	0.725	16,281	-751	15,530
Guinea	0.003	0.010	225	-9	216
Hungary	0.126	0.172	3,871	-178	3,693
India	0.421	0.576	12,933		12,933
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.157	0.215	4,823	-222	4,601
Ireland	0.35	0.479	10,752		10,752
Italy	4.885	6.679	150,061	-6,919	143,142
Jamaica	0.008	0.011	246	-11	235
Japan	19.468	22.000	494,298	-20,000	474,298
Jordan	0.011	0.015	338	-16	322
Kenya	0.009	0.012	276		276
Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Latvia	0.015	0.021	461	-21	440
Liberia	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.132	0.180	4,055	-187	3,868
Liechtenstein	0.005	0.010	225	-9	216
Lithuania	0.024	0.033	737	-34	703
Luxembourg	0.077	0.105	2,365	-109	2,256
Madagascar	0.003	0.010	225	-9	216
Malaysia	0.203	0.278	6,236	-288	5,948
Mali	0.002	0.010	225	-9	216
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Mauritania	0.001	0.010	225		225
Mauritius	0.011	0.015	338		338
Mexico	1.883	2.574	57,843		57,843
Mongolia	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Namibia	0.006	0.010	225		225
Netherlands	1.690	2.311	51,915	-2,394	49,521
New Zealand	0.221	0.302	6,789	-313	6,476
Nigeria	0.042	0.057	1,290	-59	1,231
Norway	0.679	0.928	20,858	-962	19,896
Oman	0.070	0.096	2,150	-99	2,051
Pakistan	0.055	0.075	1,690		1,690
Panama	0.019	0.026	584	-27	557
Paraguay	0.012	0.016	369	-17	352
Peru	0.092	0.126	2,826		2,826
Poland	0.461	0.630	14,161		14,161
Portugal	0.47	0.643	14,438		14,438
Qatar	0.064	0.088	1,966		1,966
Republic of Korea	1.796	2.456	55,171	-2,544	52,627
Republic of Moldova	0.001	0.010	225		225
Romania	0.060	0.082	1,843	-85	1,758
Rwanda	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Samoa	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216

	United Nations scale of assessment 2004–2006	Scale for the Trust Fund with 22% ceiling and 0,01% base	Pledges for 2006 ¹	Adjustments new parties in 2005	Total due for 2006
Saudi Arabia	0.713	0.975	21,902	-1,010	20,892
Senegal	0.005	0.010	225	-9	216
Singapore	0.388	0.530	11,919		11,919
Slovenia	0.082	0.112	2,519	-116	2,403
South Africa	0.292	0.399	8,970	-414	8,556
Spain	2.520	3.445	77,411	-3,569	73,842
Sudan	0.008	0.011	246		246
Suriname	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Sweden	0.998	1.364	30,657	-1,414	29,243
Switzerland	1.197	1.637	36,770	-1,696	35,074
Syrian Arab Republic	0.038	0.052	1,167	-54	1,113
Thailand	0.209	0.286	6,420	-296	6,124
Togo	0.001	0.010	225	-9	216
Ukraine	0.039	0.053	1,198	-55	1,143
United Arab Emirates	0.235	0.321	7,219	-333	6,886
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.127	8.377	188,214	-8,679	179,535
United Republic of Tanzania	0.006	0.010	225	-9	216
Uruguay	0.048	0.066	1,474	-68	1,406
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.171	0.234	5,253		5,253
					0
Total	77	100	2,246,809	-90,898	2,155,911

¹ Contributions for 2006 are calculated based on the number of Parties as at 31 September 2005.

Source: United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/1 B.

* Not a United Nations member State and has no established rate of assessment on the United Nations scale of assessment. Rate similar to other small States is applied.

Total operational budget 2006	3,710,224
Less host country contribution	(1,463,415)
Total to be covered by assessed contributions	2,246,809

Host country contribution 1.2 million euros according to United Nations exchange rate (0.82) for September 2005

Table 3
Approved staffing table for 2006

Staff category and level		2006 budget
A.	Professional category	
	D-1	0.5
	P-5	2.0
	P-4	4.0
	P-3	5.0
	P-2	2.0
	Subtotal	13.5
B.	General service category	5.3
	Total (A + B)	18.8

FAO in-kind contribution of 0.25 of one D-1, one P-5, one P-3, and 0.25 administrative support

Annex II

Pre-session documents before the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting

Symbol	Title	Agenda item	Date of issue	Languages
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/1	Provisional agenda	2 (a)	12 April 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda	2 (a)	24 June 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/2	Scenario note for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention: note by the secretariat	2 (b)	13 July 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/3	Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: note by the secretariat	3	31 May	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/4 and Corr.1	Activities of the secretariat: note by the secretariat	8	6 June 2005 9 August 2005	All All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/5	Programme of work and budget for 2006: note by the secretariat	9	5 August 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/6	Status of implementation: note by the secretariat	5 (a)	6 June 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/7	Confirmation of experts designated for the Chemical Review Committee: note by the secretariat	5 (b)	27 June 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/8	Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its first meeting: note by the secretariat	5 (c)	26 May 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/9	Issues arising out of the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee: note by the secretariat	5 (c)	3 June 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10	Study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms: note by the secretariat	6 (b)	13 June 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/11	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 (a)	8 July 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/12	Regional delivery of technical assistance: note by the secretariat	6 (c)	22 July 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/13	Question of the applicability of international trade to the Convention: note by the secretariat	6	15 July 2005	All

Symbol	Title	Agenda item	Date of issue	Languages
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14	Arrangements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for performance of the secretariat functions for the Convention: note by the secretariat	6 (f)	10 August 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14/Add.1	Arrangements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for performance of the secretariat functions for the Convention: Addendum: Memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the arrangements to perform jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: note by the secretariat	6 (f)	1 September 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/15	Cooperation with the World Trade Organization: note by the secretariat	6 (e)	31 May 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/16	Continued cooperation with the World Customs Organization: note by the secretariat	6 (d)	30 May 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/17	Official communication with Governments and observers: note by the secretariat	7	6 June 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/18	Financial report and review of the staffing situation in the secretariat: note by the secretariat	9	10 August 2005	All
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/1	Status of ratification of the Convention	5 (a)	20 September 2005	English only
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/2	List of designated national authorities	5 (a)	20 September 2005	English only
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/3	List of meeting documents		19 August 2005	English only
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/4	Secretariat arrangements: note by the secretariat	6 (f)	2 June 2005	English only
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/5	Confirmation of experts designated for the Chemical Review Committee: note by the secretariat	5 (b)	14 June 2005	English only

Symbol	Title	Agenda item	Date of issue	Languages
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/6	Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention: chemicals scheduled for review at the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee: note by the secretariat	5 (c)	12 September 2005	English only
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/7	Decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its first meeting relevant to the operation of the Rotterdam Convention secretariat	12	20 September 2005	English only
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/INF/8	Programme of work and reconsideration of the indicative 2006 budget	9	27 September 2005	English only
