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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR
THE APPLICATION OF THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT
PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND
PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Seventh session

Geneva, 30 October – 3 November 2000

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

Note by the secretariat

1. Article 18, paragraph 4 of the Rotterdam Convention states: "The Conference of the Parties shall by consensus agree upon and adopt at its first meeting rules of procedure and financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies, as well as financial provisions governing the functioning of the Secretariat."
2. In considering the above issue, the Committee, at its sixth session, invited the secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting.
3. Pursuant to that invitation, the secretariat has reviewed the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the following multilateral environmental agreements: the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Biological Diversity; and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.
4. The secretariat has the honour to present to the Committee, in annex to the present note, the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. The draft text has been prepared taking fully into account the above-mentioned rules of procedure, and in particular those of the Convention to Combat Desertification, which is the most recently adopted of the above agreements.

* UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.7/1.

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Annex I

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

Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
and its subsidiary bodies

I. INTRODUCTION

Scope

Rule 1

The present rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention convened in accordance with Article 18 of the Convention.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purposes of the present rules:

1. "Convention" means the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, adopted at Rotterdam, on 10 September 1998;
2. "Parties" means Parties to the Convention;
3. "Conference of the Parties" means the Conference of the Parties established by Article 18 of the Convention;
4. "Meeting" means any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with Article 18 of the Convention;
5. "Regional economic integration organization" means an organization defined in Article 2 (h) of the Convention;
6. "President" means the President of the Conference of the Parties elected in accordance with Rule 22, paragraph 1;
7. "Secretariat" means the Secretariat established by Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Convention.
8. "Subsidiary body" means the body established pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 6 of the Convention, as well as any body, established pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 5 of the Convention.
9. "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the meeting in which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

II. MEETINGS

Place of meetings

Rule 3

The meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat(s) ^{1/} of the Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

Dates of meetings

Rule 4

1. Ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held once every year, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. At each ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary meeting. The Conference of the Parties should endeavor not to hold such meetings at a time that would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such times as may be decided either by the Conference of the Parties in ordinary session or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
4. In the case of an extraordinary meeting held at the written request of a Party, it shall be held not more than ninety days after the date on which the request is supported by at least one third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3.

Notification of meetings

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of an ordinary meeting at least two months before the meeting is due to commence. The date and venue of an extraordinary meeting shall be notified in the communication to the Parties by the Secretariat pursuant to rule 4, paragraphs 3 and 4.

III. OBSERVERS

Participation of United Nations and specialized agencies

Rule 6

1. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to this Convention, may be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

^{1/} Will depend on the decision regarding the location of the Secretariat.

Participation of other bodies or agencies

Rule 7

1. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Notification by Secretariat

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall notify those entitled to be observers pursuant to rules 6 and 7 of the date and venue of any meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. AGENDA

Preparation of provisional agenda

Rule 9

In agreement with the President, the Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting.

Items on provisional agenda

Rule 10

The provisional agenda for each ordinary meeting shall include, as appropriate:

- (a) Items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in its Article 18;
- (b) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting;
- (c) Items referred to in rule 16;
- (d) The proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements;
- (e) Any item proposed by a Party and received by the Secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated.

Distribution of provisional agenda

Rule 11

For each ordinary meeting, the provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting.

Supplementary items

Rule 12

The Secretariat shall, in agreement with the President, include any item that is proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Addition, deletion, deferment or amendment of items

Rule 13

When adopting the agenda, the Conference of the Parties may decide to add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items that are considered by the Conference of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Provisional agenda of extraordinary session

Rule 14

The provisional agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the extraordinary meeting. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Report on administrative and budgetary implications

Rule 15

The Secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and budgetary implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such substantive agenda item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the Conference of the Parties has received the report of the Secretariat on the administrative and budgetary implications.

Incomplete consideration of item

Rule 16

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary meeting, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegation

Rule 17

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as it may require.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 18

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

Submission of credentials

Rule 19

The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

Examination of credentials

Rule 20

The Bureau of any meeting shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties.

Provisional participation

Rule 21

Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials.

VI. OFFICERS

Election of officers

Rule 22

1. At the commencement of each ordinary meeting, a President, three Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. They shall serve as the Bureau of the meeting. Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one Bureau member. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the five regional groups.
2. The officers referred to in paragraph 1 above, shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next ordinary meeting and shall serve in that capacity at any intervening extraordinary meetings. No officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two consecutive terms.
3. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.

General powers of the President

Rule 23

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by the present rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the meetings, ensure the observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to the present rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat.
2. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.
3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Acting President

Rule 24

1. The President, if temporarily absent from a meeting or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. The President so designated shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party.
2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President.

Replacement of an officer

Rule 25

If an officer of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's term.

Temporary President

Rule 26

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, a Vice-President, shall preside until the meeting has elected a President for the meeting.

VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Application of rules to subsidiary bodies

Rule 27

Save as provided in rules 28 to 33, the present rules shall apply mutatis mutandis to the proceedings of any subsidiary bodies, subject to such modifications as the Parties may decide upon in the light of proposals by the subsidiary body concerned.

Establishment of subsidiary bodies

Rule 28

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish, in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 5, such subsidiary bodies, as it considers necessary for the implementation of the Convention, in addition to the subsidiary body established under Article 18, paragraph 6.
2. Meetings of standing subsidiary bodies shall be in public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.
3. Meetings of ad hoc subsidiary bodies shall be private unless the ad hoc subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

Quorum for non open-ended subsidiary bodies

Rule 29

In the case of a subsidiary body that is not open-ended, a majority of the Parties designated by the Conference of the Parties to participate therein shall constitute a quorum.

Dates of meetings

Rule 30

The Conference of the Parties shall decide on the dates of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, taking note of the desirability of holding such meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Election of officers for subsidiary bodies

Rule 31

The Chair of the Chemical Review Committee shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chair of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own officers other than the Chair. The officers of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Matters for consideration

Rule 32

Subject to Article 18 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each subsidiary body and may authorize the President, upon the request of a subsidiary body, to adjust the allocation of work.

VIII. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the heads of the Secretariat

Rule 33

1. The heads of the Secretariat shall exercise the functions of that office in all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies. Either head of the Secretariat may designate a representative to serve in their capacity
2. The heads of the Secretariat shall arrange for the provision of staff and services required by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, within available resources. The heads of the Secretariat shall manage and direct such staff and services and provide appropriate support and advice to the presiding and other officers of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies.

Functions of the Secretariat

Rule 34

In addition to the functions specified in the Convention, in particular in article 19, the Secretariat shall, in accordance with the present rules:

- (a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- (b) Collect, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- (c) Publish and distribute the official documents of the meeting;
- (d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
- (e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting; and
- (f) Perform all other work that the Conference of the Parties may require.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Sessions

Rule 35

Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

Quorum

Rule 36

The President shall not declare a session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties open or permit the debate to proceed unless at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present. The presence of two thirds of the Parties to the Convention shall be required for any decision to be taken. 2/

2/ Rule 36 could be divided into two paragraphs, as follows:

Procedures for speaking

Rule 37

1. No one may address a meeting of the Conference of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 38, 39, 40 and 42, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Precedence

Rule 38

The Chair or Rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

“1. The President shall not declare a session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties open or permit the debate to proceed unless at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present. The presence of two-thirds of the Parties to the Convention shall be required for any decision to be taken.

“2. For the purpose of determining a quorum, as specified above, a regional economic integration organization shall be counted to the extent that it is entitled to vote in the meeting in respect of which the quorum is sought”.

Proposed paragraph 2 is justified insofar as the quorum may not be the same and vary depending on whether it is a regional organization that is entitled to vote, or its member States that are Parties to the Convention. Article 23, paragraph 2 of the Rotterdam Convention, reflected in proposed rule 45, provides that “a regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties” to the Convention. “Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa”. Thus, if a regional organization is competent to do so and votes in place of its member States, it will exercise a given number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to the Convention. If the member States that are Parties to the Convention are competent they will exercise their right to vote individually. In this case a situation could arise where, as a consequence of the absence of one or several of those States from a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the number of votes that they would exercise could be less than the number of member States of the regional economic integration organization that are Parties to the Convention. Therefore, the quorum could vary depending on whether the right to vote were to be exercised by a regional economic integration organization or by its member States.

Thus, consideration could be given to the need to provide that a regional economic integration organization should be counted to the extent to which it is entitled to vote on any decision for which the presence of two-thirds of the Parties is required. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 23, paragraph 2 of the Rotterdam Convention, as reflected in proposed rule 45 of the rules of procedure, it should be accorded a number of votes equal to the number of its individual States that are Parties to the Convention.

The same provision is found in rule 16, Paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

Points of order

Rule 39

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, on which the President shall immediately rule in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Decisions on competence

Rule 40

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Proposals and amendments to proposals

Rule 41

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing, in one of the official languages, by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though such amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Order of procedural motions ^{3/}

Rule 42

1. Subject to rule 40, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated below over all other proposals or motions:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

^{3/} Consideration could be given to the addition of a rule reading as follows:

"No representative of a regional economic integration organization shall invoke rules 39, 40, 41 and 43, or present the procedural motions referred to in rule 42, paragraph 1, if those rules or motions have already been invoked or presented in connection with the same matter by any of its member States which are Parties to the Convention. No representative of a member State of such an organization shall invoke or present any of the above-mentioned rules or motions if a representative of that organization has already done so in connection with the same matter".

This proposal was based on a similar provision set out in rule 30 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, within which the Rotterdam Convention was negotiated.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Withdrawal of proposals or motions

Rule 43

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the proposal or motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 44

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Conference of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover, to one speaker in favour of and two against the proposal, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

X. VOTING

Right to vote

Rule 45

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.
2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

Majority required

Rule 46

The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, the financial rules referred to in Article 18, paragraph 4 of the Convention or the present rules of procedure.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 47

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Division of proposals and amendments

Rule 48

1. Any representative may request that any part of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If an objection is made to the request for division, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the request, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote. The President may limit the time allowed to each speaker.
2. If the request referred to in paragraph 1 is allowed or adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal that are approved shall then be put to vote as a whole. If all operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendment to a proposal

Rule 49

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Order of voting on amendments to a proposal

Rule 50

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the next amendment furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Method of voting for general matters

Rule 51

1. Voting, except for elections, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll call vote shall be taken if so requested by any Party. The roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. If at any time, however, a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.
2. When the Conference of the Parties votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call.
3. The vote of each Party participating in a roll call or recorded vote shall be included in the relevant documents of the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 52

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed

for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal to explain his/her vote on his/her own proposal or amendment, except if it has been amended.

XI. ELECTIONS

Method of voting for elections

Rule 53

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Absence of majority

Rule 54

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1.

Election to two or more elective places

Rule 55

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting shall be deemed elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS

Official languages

Rule 56

The official languages of the Conference of the Parties shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Interpretation

Rule 57

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 58

Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official languages.

Sound records of meetings

Rule 59

Sound records of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and whenever possible of the subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat, consistent with the practice of the United Nations.

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 60

The present rules of procedure may be amended by consensus by the Conference of the Parties.

XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION

Precedence of Convention

Rule 61

In the event of any conflict between any provision of the present rules and any provision of the Convention, the Convention shall prevail.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

Underlined headings

Rule 62

The underlined headings of the present rules are for reference purposes only. They shall be disregarded in the interpretation of the rules.
