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

**Second meeting**

Geneva, 13–17 February 2006

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: Adoption of the agenda**

**Item 1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, to be held from 13 to 17 February 2006 at the Varembe Conference Centre, 9 rue Varembe, Geneva, Switzerland, will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 13 February 2006.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be delivered by Mr Niek van der Graaff, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention.

**Item 2. Organizational matters**

**(a) Adoption of the agenda**

3. The Committee may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/1.

**(b) Organization of work**

4. Upon commencement of the meeting, the Committee will need to agree on suitable working hours. The Committee may wish to agree to meet each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., subject to adjustments as appropriate.

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

### **Item 3. Review of the outcome of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

**(a) Outcome of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

5. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat that provides a review of the outcome of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties relevant to the work of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/3).

**(b) Risk evaluations under other multilateral environment agreements and their relevance to chemicals eligible for listing in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention**

6. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat that provides information on risk evaluations carried out under other multilateral environment agreements and, for chemicals subject to those agreements, the implications of their being included in Annex III of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/4).

7. The Committee may wish to review the note and forward it, with any amendments it may deem necessary, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its third meeting.

**(c) Trade restrictions under other multilateral environment agreements and their relevance to chemicals eligible for listing in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention**

8. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat that provides information on trade restrictions which apply under other multilateral environment agreements and, for chemicals subject to those agreements, the implications of their being included in Annex III of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/5).

9. The Committee may wish to review the note and forward it, with any amendments it may deem advisable, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its third meeting

### **Item 4. Operational procedures for the Chemical Review Committee**

**(a) Process for a preliminary review of notifications and prioritizing the work of the Chemical Review Committee**

10. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat setting out a possible procedure for dealing with notifications of final regulatory action with the objective of improving the efficiency of the operation of the Committee. This includes a process for the Secretariat, working with the Bureau, to establish priorities for the intersessional work of the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/6).

11. The Committee may wish to consider this document, and in the light of the experience gained in preparing for this meeting, adopt the proposed procedure.

**(b) Clarification of criteria for accepting information under subparagraphs b (i), b (ii) and b (iii) of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention**

12. During the first meeting of the Committee, a working group was established to consider criteria for accepting information provided in notifications and supporting documentation under subparagraphs b (i), b (ii) and (b) (iii) of Annex II of the Convention. The Committee agreed that the chair of the working group, Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland), in consultation with the secretariat, would prepare a note on the issue for the Committee's consideration at its third meeting. The Committee will have before it that note (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/7).

13. The Committee may wish to consider the note and, following discussion, adopt the criteria for accepting information as part of the general operational guidance for the Committee.

## Item 5. Listing of chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention

### (a) Report of the Bureau on the preliminary review of notifications and proposed priorities for chemicals scheduled for review by the Chemical Review Committee

14. The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat that sets out the results of the preliminary review of notifications undertaken by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and the proposed priorities for intersessional work on the chemicals scheduled for review by the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/9). The Committee may wish to consider the notifications before it in line with the priorities suggested in the note.

### (b) Review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict a chemical

#### (i) Alachlor

15. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of two PIC regions relating to alachlor (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/10). One notification comes from North America and was submitted by Canada; the other comes from Europe and was submitted by the Netherlands.

16. Any supporting information provided by Canada and the Netherlands will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/10/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/10/Add.2 and Add.3, respectively.

#### (ii) Tributyl tin

17. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of two PIC regions relating to tributyl tin (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/11). One notification comes from North America and was submitted by Canada; the other comes from Europe and was submitted by the European Community.

18. Any supporting information provided by Canada will be made available in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/11/Add.1. Supporting information provided by the European Community may be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/11/Add.2.

19. The notification and supporting documentation submitted by the European Community were considered by the interim Chemical Review Committee at its fourth meeting. The interim Committee considered that all of the criteria of Annex II had been met (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.4/18, paragraph 74). The interim Committee's conclusions were confirmed by the Chemical Review Committee at its first meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/28, paragraph 106).

#### (iii) Cyhexatin

20. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of two PIC regions relating to cyhexatin (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/12). One notification comes from North America, and was submitted by Canada; the other comes from Asia, and was submitted by Japan. The Committee will also have before it an information document containing information on cyhexatin provided by industry (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/INF/7).

21. Any supporting information provided by Canada and Japan will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/12/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/12/Add.2, respectively.

22. The Committee may wish to note that cyhexatin was previously included in the voluntary prior informed consent procedure but was removed following a review of new information provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and a process of consultation with the original notifying countries. A fact sheet regarding the process of reconsideration of cyhexatin under the voluntary procedure, as well as the revised decision guidance document containing the new information provided by WHO, may be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/12/Add.3.

#### (iv) Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)

23. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of two PIC regions relating to dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/13). One notification comes from North America, and was submitted by Canada; the other comes from Asia, and was submitted by Thailand.

24. Any supporting information provided by Canada and Thailand will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/13/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/13/Add.2, respectively.

**(v) Dicofol**

25. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing two verified notifications from one PIC region and one verified notification from a second PIC region relating to dicofol (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/14). Two of the notifications come from Europe, and were submitted by the Netherlands and Romania. The third notification comes from Asia, and was submitted by Japan.

26. Any supporting information provided by the Netherlands, Romania and Japan will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/14/Add.1 and Add.4, UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/14/Add.2 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/14/Add.3, respectively.

**(vi) Mirex**

27. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of three PIC regions relating to mirex (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/16). One notification comes from North America, and was submitted by Canada; one comes from Asia, and was submitted by Japan; and one comes from Europe, and was submitted by Bulgaria.

28. Any supporting information provided by Canada, Japan and Bulgaria will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/16/Add.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/16/Add.2 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/16/Add.3, respectively.

**(vii) Endosulfan**

29. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of three PIC regions relating to endosulfan (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/15). One notification comes from Europe, and was submitted by the Netherlands; one comes from Asia, and was submitted by Thailand; and one comes from Africa, and was submitted by Cote d'Ivoire.

30. Any supporting information provided by the Netherlands, Thailand and Cote d'Ivoire will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/15/Add.1 UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/15/Add.2 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/15/Add.3, respectively.

31. The notification and supporting documentation submitted by the Netherlands were considered by interim Chemical Review Committee at its fifth meeting. The interim Committee considered that all of the criteria of Annex II had been met (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/15, paragraph 42). The interim Committee's conclusions were confirmed by the Chemical Review Committee at its first meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/28, paragraph 48).

**(viii) Methyl parathion**

32. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing five verified notifications from three PIC regions relating to methyl parathion (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/17). Two of the notifications come from Europe, and were submitted by the European Community and Bulgaria; two come from Africa, and were submitted by Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire; and one comes from Asia, and was submitted by Thailand.

33. The notification submitted by the European Community was considered by the Committee at its first meeting. The Committee agreed that all criteria of Annex II were met and a rationale was prepared (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/28, paragraph 66 and annex IV).

34. The notification submitted by Côte d'Ivoire was also considered by the Committee at its first meeting, at which time the Committee determined that it did not meet all the criteria of Annex II due to insufficient supporting information (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/28, paragraph 65). Côte d'Ivoire has subsequently submitted additional supporting information for the notification, which is available for the Committee's consideration in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/17/Add.5.

35. Any supporting information provided by Nigeria, Thailand or Bulgaria will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/17/Add.2, UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/17/Add.3 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/17/Add.4, respectively. Supporting information provided by the European Community, consisting of the rationale developed by the Chemical Review Committee at its first meeting, may be found in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/17/Add.1.

**(ix) 4-nitrobiphenyl**

36. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing one verified notification from each of two PIC regions relating to 4-nitrobiphenyl (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/18). One notification comes from Europe, and was submitted by Latvia; the other comes from Asia, and was submitted by Japan.

37. Any supporting information provided by Latvia and Japan will be made available in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/18/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/18/Add.2, respectively.

**(c) Consideration of the draft decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos**

38. The Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat containing the draft decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos prepared by the drafting group established at the first meeting of the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/19), as well as a tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the procedure for developing decision guidance documents and how they were addressed (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/INF/6). The decision guidance document was developed in line with the process adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting in decision RC-2/2. In accordance with that decision, the draft decision guidance document is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

39. The Committee may wish to finalize the decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos and forward its recommendation and the draft decision guidance document to the Conference of the Parties for decision. Should the Committee so decide, the draft decision guidance document and recommendation would, in accordance with the process adopted in decision RC-2/2, be accompanied by a summary of the Chemical Review Committee's deliberations, including a rationale based on the criteria listed in Annex II of the Convention and a tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the process for developing decision guidance documents and how they were addressed.

**Item 6. Other matters**

40. At its tenth meeting, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee requested WHO to conduct an assessment of the health effects of chrysotile and its alternatives. In response to that request, WHO held a workshop in November 2005 entitled "Mechanisms of Fibre Carcinogenesis and Assessment of Chrysotile Alternatives". If it is available, a preliminary report on the outcome of this assessment will be provided to the Committee.

**Item 7. Adoption of the report**

41. The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report on the work of its second meeting, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

**Item 8. Closure of the meeting**

42. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by the Chair no later than 6 p.m. on 17 February 2006.