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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 (b) of the provisional agenda***

Organizational matters: organization of work

Scenario note for the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Chemical Review Committee, in the annex to the present note, information for the second meeting of the Committee prepared by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland).

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

Annex

Scenario note for the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

1. I have prepared the present scenario note for the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee to communicate my plans and general expectations to participants and assist them in preparing for the meeting. The documents for the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee were sent to all Committee members in December 2005 and, on request, to all interested observers. They are also available on the Rotterdam Convention website (www.pic.int).

A. General objectives of the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

2. The overall goals of this second meeting are to finalize the decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos developed by the intersessional drafting group and forward it to the Conference of the Parties in line with decision RC-2/2[†]. The Committee will also review the notifications of final regulatory action for nine new chemicals (alachlor, cyhexatin, DBCP, dicofol, endosulfan, methyl parathion, mirex, 4-nitrobiphenyl and tributyl tin compounds) to determine if they meet the requirements of the Convention and respond to the requests made by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting. The following are some of the principal issues to consider:

(a) The Committee will review the outcome of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in particular matters with respect to which the Committee has been asked to provide specific advice. This will include consideration of two papers concerning risk evaluations completed under the aegis of other multilateral environmental agreements as well as trade restrictions under such agreements. The Committee will also consider the implications of including chemicals subject to those agreements in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention;

(b) The Committee will need to finalize the decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos and prepare a recommendation for the Conference of the Parties;

(c) The Committee will review and adopt measures proposed to promote the efficiency of intersessional work of the Committee, which were developed by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau. The proposed measures will address among other things the process for the preliminary review of candidate chemicals by the secretariat working with the Bureau and proposals for prioritizing the work of the Committee, particularly with respect to the establishment of intersessional task groups;

(d) The Committee will consider the nine new chemicals for which notifications of final regulatory action have been received. In line with the process for drafting decision guidance documents reviewed by the Committee at its first meeting and adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (RC-2/2), and following the priorities proposed by the Bureau, the chemicals have been clustered into two categories. The first consists of chemicals for which there appear to be notifications from at least two PIC regions that meet the criteria of annex II. For these three chemicals (alachlor, endosulfan and tributyl tin compounds), intersessional task groups will be established to undertake preliminary assessments of the submitted notifications and supporting documentation. The second category includes chemicals for which there would not appear to be notifications from two PIC regions that meet the criteria of Annex II. In the case of these remaining six chemicals, I have, in consultation with the Bureau, identified experts from among the Committee members to be responsible for their preliminary assessment. These experts also will, as appropriate, develop rationales as to how the requirements of the Convention have been met for individual notifications which meet the criteria of Annex II. The preliminary assessments of all nine chemicals will be the basis for further review by the full Committee and comparison with the relevant criteria in the Convention (Annex II). The Committee will then decide whether to recommend the inclusion of any or all of these chemicals in Annex III of the Convention.

[†] UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/19, annex, decision RC-2/2: Process for the preparation of draft decision guidance documents.

B. Possible outcomes of the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

3. The following is a list of the expectations that I have for possible outcomes of the meeting:

(a) Finalization of the decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos and forwarding of the recommendation and draft decision guidance document to the Conference of the Parties for decision. This will be accompanied by a summary of the Chemical Review Committee 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, including how such comments were addressed;

(b) Determination of which of the submitted notifications for the nine new chemicals, alachlor, cyhexatin, DBCP, dicofol, endosulfan, methyl parathion, mirex, 4-nitrobiphenyl and tributyl tin compounds, meet the requirements of the Convention;

(c) Recommendation for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention of any chemicals for which there are notifications from at least two PIC regions which meet the criteria of Annex II, along with a rationale for their inclusion. For those chemicals, the Committee will also need to establish drafting groups and work plans for the development of decision guidance documents;

(d) For those chemicals for which there are not notifications from at least two PIC regions that meet the criteria of Annex II, development of rationales setting out how individual notifications have been found to meet the criteria of Annex II;

(e) Adoption of a procedure for dealing with notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical, including measures to promote the efficiency of intersessional work of the Committee;

(f) Consideration, with amendment as necessary, of the papers prepared for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties on risk evaluations completed under the aegis of other multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the trade restrictions under these agreements, and the implications for chemicals subject to those agreements that are proposed for inclusion in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention.
