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

Third meeting

Rome, 20–23 March 2007

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Organizational matters:
organization of work**

Scenario note for the third 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 third meeting of the Committee prepared by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Bettina Hitzfeld (Switzerland).

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.3/1.

Annex

Scenario note for the third meeting of the Chemical Review Committee

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1. I have prepared the present scenario note for the third 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 third meeting of the Chemical Review Committee were sent to all Committee members in mid January 2007 and, on request, to all interested observers. They are also available on the Rotterdam Convention website (www.pic.int).

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

2. The overall goals of this third meeting are to finalize the decision guidance document on tributyltin compounds 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 new notification on endosulfan submitted by the European Community and if appropriate decide on a process for incorporating relevant information resulting from this notification in the draft decision guidance document. The Committee will also review the notifications of final regulatory action for four new chemicals (benzidine and its salts, endrin, methamidophos and mirex) to determine if they meet the requirements of the Convention. The following are some of the principal issues to consider:

(a) The Committee will review the outcome of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, relevant to the work of the Chemical Review Committee.

(b) The Committee will need to finalize the draft decision guidance document on Tributyltin compounds and prepare a recommendation for the Conference of the Parties.

(c) The Committee will review the notification of final regulatory actions for endosulfan submitted by the European Community to determine if it meets the criteria in Annex II of the Convention. If considered acceptable a drafting group will need to be established to review the draft decision guidance document to determine which sections of the document will need to be modified in order to reflect the additional information. The drafting group will need to agree on a time table and work plan.

(d) In addition to the notification on endosulfan the Committee will also consider notifications of final regulatory action for four new chemicals. In line with the process for drafting decision guidance documents 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 this chemical (endosulfan), an intersessional task group will be established to undertake a preliminary assessment of the submitted notification and supporting documentation. The second category includes four 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 four 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 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.

(e) In the light of the guidance provided by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the experience gained in reviewing notifications of final regulatory action and preparing draft decision guidance documents the Committee may wish to review the associated policy guidance regarding bridging information and misuse as well as the working papers on the preparation of internal proposals and decision guidance documents for banned or severely restricted chemicals and on the application of criteria b (i), b (ii) and b (iii) of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention.

(f) In line with decision RC.1/6 on establishment of the Chemical Review Committee the term of office for those members nominated for a two year term will expire following this meeting. This includes two members of the present Bureau, myself as Chairperson and representative of the Western European and other States (WEOG) region as well as Ms. Oluronke Ajibike Soyombo from the Africa region (Nigeria). As a result the regional groups of WEOG and Africa will need identify two new members for the Bureau. The new bureau will then be invited to elect a new chairperson.

B. Possible outcomes of the third 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 tributyl tin compounds and forwarding of the recommendation and the 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 the Convention (Annex II), and a tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the process for developing decision guidance documents, including how they were addressed;

(b) A determination regarding acceptability of the notification for endosulfan from the European Community and if appropriate preparation of a rationale as to how the criteria of Annex II have been met. If the notification is found to be acceptable establish a drafting group and work plan for revising the draft decision guidance document to reflect the additional information in the notification.

(c) Determination of which of the submitted notifications for the four new chemicals, benzidine and its salts, endrin, methamidophos and mirex meet the requirements of the Convention. 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 the individual notifications have been found to meet the criteria of Annex II.

(d) Review and amend as necessary the policy guidance and working procedures that guide the work of the Committee in particular the policy guidance concerning misuse and bridging information as well as the working papers on the preparation of internal proposals and decision guidance documents for banned or severely restricted chemicals and on the application of criteria b (i), b (ii) and b (iii) of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention.

(e) Election of new representatives to the Bureau from the Western Europe and other States region and the African region and of a chairperson and rapporteur from among the Bureau.