

RC-1/12: Physical location of the secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the agreement for the cities of Geneva and Rome to be the location of the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention;

Noting paragraph 3 of article 19 of the Convention;

1. *Expresses* its sincere gratitude to the Governments of Germany, Italy and Switzerland for their generous offers to host the secretariat of the Convention;

2. *Also expresses* its appreciation to the Governments of Italy and Switzerland for their commitment to fulfilling the terms of their offer to host the secretariat;

3. *Decides* to accept the offer of the Governments of Italy and Switzerland to host jointly the secretariat;

4. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consult the authorities of the host Governments regarding the practical arrangements for hosting the secretariat in Geneva and Rome;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations headquarters agreements already in force with Italy and Switzerland will continue to apply to the secretariat and accepts the additional elements included in the offer of the Governments of Italy and Switzerland for inclusion in the framework of those practical arrangements;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting.
