



**United Nations  
Environment Programme**

**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

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

**Conference of the Parties**

**Third meeting**

Geneva, 9–13 October 2006

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda**

## **Annotated provisional agenda**

### **Item 1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, to be held from 9 to 13 October 2006 at the Geneva International Conference Centre, Geneva, will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 October 2006.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be made by:
  - (a) The President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (b) A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
  - (c) A representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

### **Item 2. Organizational matters**

#### **(a) Adoption of the agenda**

3. Subject to the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/1.

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\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/1.

**(b) Organization of work**

4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to establish such standing and ad hoc subsidiary bodies as it may deem necessary and to specify their mandates.
5. The Conference of the Parties may wish to decide that it should meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments as necessary.
6. The meeting of the Conference of the Parties will feature a ministerial segment on Thursday afternoon and Friday. The proposed theme for the ministerial segment is "Towards full implementation of the Rotterdam Convention: opportunities and challenges".

**Item 3. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties**

7. At its first meeting, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 2004, in its decision RC-1/1 the Conference of the Parties adopted its rules of procedure as set forth in the annex to that decision, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, pertaining to voting rules. At its second meeting, held in Rome from 27 to 30 September 2005, the Conference agreed that it would not take a formal decision on the matter at that meeting, that the brackets surrounding that portion of text would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.
8. The Conference of the Parties may wish to continue its consideration of rule 45, paragraph 1, as set out in a note by the Secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/3).

**Item 4. Report on the credentials of representatives at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

9. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties provides that the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers must be submitted to the Secretariat, if possible no later than 24 hours after the opening of the meeting. Any change in the composition of the delegation must also be submitted to the Secretariat. The credentials must be issued either by the head of State or Government or by the minister for foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. If credentials are submitted in copy or by fax, the delegation should submit the original upon registration. Please note that submission of credentials prior to the meeting would greatly facilitate the advance clearing process by the Secretariat.
10. Representatives may participate in the meeting pending a decision of the Conference of the Parties on their credentials.
11. The Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will examine the credentials of the representatives at the meeting and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties, which will consider the report of the Bureau.

**Item 5. Implementation of the Convention**

**(a) Status of implementation**

12. The Conference of the Parties has before it a note by the Secretariat containing information on the status of implementation of the Rotterdam Convention by the Parties (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/4).
13. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the progress made in implementation and consider further efforts to encourage implementation by Parties.

**(b) Confirmation of the appointments of Government-designated experts to the Chemical Review Committee**

14. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision RC-2/1 which confirmed the appointment of 30 government-designated experts to the Chemical Review Committee.
15. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties also decided that the Democratic Republic of the Congo shall be entitled, in place of Gabon, to designate an expert to serve as a member of the Chemical Review Committee and requested the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

to designate an expert to serve on the Committee on an interim basis, pending formal confirmation of the appointment of the expert by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

16. The name of the expert from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, designated in accordance with decision RC-2/6, is provided in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/5 and information on the qualifications of that expert is provided in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/6. The Conference of the Parties may wish to confirm the appointment of the expert as a member of the Chemical Review Committee.

**(c) Nomination of Governments to designate experts for the Chemical Review Committee**

17. The Conference of the Parties has before it a note by the Secretariat that provides detailed information on the establishment and composition of the Chemical Review Committee and the process for the nomination of new members as agreed in decision RC.1/6, adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/6).

18. The Conference of the Parties will have an opportunity to decide on the member countries eligible to nominate experts to the Chemical Review Committee, replacing those appointed for a two-year term under decision RC-1/6. The term of the outgoing Committee members will be completed in September 2007. The regional groups should be requested to meet and present to the Conference of the Parties their proposal for Governments to be invited to nominate an expert to the Chemical Review Committee. The new members will serve for a four-year term, commencing at the fourth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, in February or March 2008.

**(d) Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its second meeting**

19. The Conference of the Parties has before it a note by the Secretariat containing the report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/7). Specific issues arising from the work of the Chemical Review Committee at its second meeting are highlighted in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/8.

20. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered issues associated with trade restrictions and procedures for risk evaluations under other multilateral agreements and their relevance to chemicals eligible for inclusion in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. The Secretariat was requested to prepare two papers on those topics for consideration by the Chemical Review Committee at its second meeting and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

21. The papers on trade restrictions and risk evaluations under other multilateral environmental agreements, requested by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, are available to the Conference of the Parties, as amended following their consideration by the Chemical Review Committee at its second meeting, in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/9 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/10.

22. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the report of the second meeting of the Chemical Review Committee and consider the specific issues arising from that meeting, and to take note of the papers on trade restrictions and risk evaluations under other multilateral environmental agreements and consider the possible actions by the Conference of the Parties proposed therein.

**(e) Consideration of a chemical for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention: chrysotile asbestos**

23. At its second meeting, the Chemical Review Committee completed the decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos. The draft decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos, together with the recommendations of the Chemical Review Committee and the consolidated table of comments received during the preparation of the document, are available to the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/11.

24. The Conference of the Parties will need to decide on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention and on the adoption of the decision guidance document.

## **Item 6. Issues arising out of previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties**

### **(a) Non-compliance**

25. At its second meeting, in decision RC.2/3 on non-compliance, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider further at its third meeting the procedures and institutional mechanisms on non-compliance required under article 17 of the Convention.
26. The Conference of the Parties may wish to establish a group to continue discussions on a non-compliance mechanism on the basis of the text of the annex to decision RC-2/3, which is available to it in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/12.
27. The Conference of the Parties may also wish, on the basis of that discussion, to take a decision on procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and on the treatment of Parties found to be in non-compliance.

### **(b) Study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms**

28. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to examine in more detail the options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms set forth in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/10, which would enable developing countries to implement adequately the provisions of the Convention, and to report on its findings to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.
29. The results of this more detailed examination are available to the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/13. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider those results.

### **(c) National and regional delivery of technical assistance**

30. At its second meeting, in decision RC-2/4 on the national and regional delivery of technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to report to it at its third meeting on the regional delivery of technical assistance and to prepare a detailed, costed programme for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for the 2007–2008 biennium. The report and the costed programme of work are available to the Conference of the Parties in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/14 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/15.
31. The Conference of the Parties may wish to review progress made in the implementation of decision RC-2/4 on the national and regional delivery of technical assistance and approve the detailed programme of work proposed for the 2007–2008 biennium, pending the availability of funds.

### **(d) Cooperation with the World Customs Organization**

32. A report on continued cooperation between the Secretariat and the World Customs Organization is contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/16. The Conference of the Parties may wish to endorse further work with the World Customs Organization, including future cooperation with regard to training activities for customs officials.

### **(e) Cooperation with the World Trade Organization**

33. A report on continued cooperation between the Secretariat and the World Trade Organization is contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/17. The Conference may wish to take note of the progress made in obtaining observer status and to support continued cooperation between the Secretariat and the World Trade Organization.

### **(f) Study of the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention**

34. At its first meeting, in decision RC-1/17 on financing and budget for 2005–2006, the Conference of the Parties requested the head or heads of the Secretariat to undertake a study of the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.
35. The results of this study are available to the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/18. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the study and the proposed options and provide guidance to the Secretariat on any further action.

**(g) Results of the study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

36. At its second meeting, in decision RC.2/6 on enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and wastes conventions, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to contribute to the work initiated at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. It also agreed to consider the issue of synergies at its third meeting.

37. In order to facilitate discussion of the topic by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, the Secretariat has prepared a document that briefly summarizes the chronology of events, provides a compilation of the associated decisions and lists the documents available to the Conference of the Parties. It also proposes a sequence of actions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties as a means of ensuring a structured approach to the discussion (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/25).

38. The relevant documents available to the Conference concerning this subitem include:

(a) Study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions undertaken by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/19;

(b) Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies prepared by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF.10;

(c) Decision SC-2/15 on synergies of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/5;

(d) Supplementary analysis of the financial and administrative arrangements that would be required to implement any changes proposed by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions pursuant to decision RC-2/6, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/20 (see paragraphs 40–41 below).

39. In undertaking its work on this subitem, the Conference of the Parties may wish to begin with document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/25 and the approach to the consideration of the individual documents pertaining to improved cooperation and synergies that is proposed therein.

**(h) Supplementary analysis of the financial and administrative arrangements that would be required to implement any changes that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions may propose**

40. At its second meeting, in decision RC-2/6 on enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and wastes conventions, the Conference of the Parties invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to prepare a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any of the changes proposed in the study of synergies undertaken by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

41. The results of the supplementary analysis are available to the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/20.

**(i) Mechanisms under the Convention for information exchange**

42. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper reviewing the mechanisms under the Convention that provide for information exchange, such as those under articles 7 and 14 and the clearing-house mechanism, and assessing how well they were meeting the needs of the Parties to the Convention.

43. The results of the study are available to the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/21. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the results of the study.

**Item 7. Report on activities of the Secretariat**

44. The Secretariat has prepared a report on its activities for the period 1 May 2005–30 April 2006 and a financial report for the period 1 January 2005–31 May 2006. These reports are available to the Conference in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/22 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/23.

45. The Conference may wish to take note of the report on the activities of the Secretariat and the financial report.

### **Item 8. Programme of work and consideration of the proposed budget for the 2007–2008 biennium**

46. The Secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work and budget for the 2007–2008 biennium. This information is contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/24.

47. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the draft programme of work and core budget for the 2007–2008 biennium. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider the impacts on the budget of technical assistance activities or other tasks which it requests the Secretariat to undertake. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to review the budget for the voluntary trust fund as it relates to additional activities.

### **Item 9. Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

48. Rule 3 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties provides that the meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat or seats 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.

49. Rule 4, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure states that the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held yearly and that, thereafter, ordinary meetings shall be held every two years.

50. Paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties provides that, 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 endeavour not to hold such meetings at times that would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult.

51. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider holding its fourth meeting in Rome in October 2008.

### **Item 10. Election of officers for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

52. Under rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the officers elected at the first ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to serve as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties are to remain in office until the closure of the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At each ordinary meeting of the Conference following the first meeting, the election of officers from among the Parties to serve as Bureau members for the following meeting is to take place before the end of the meeting. The officers elected are to commence their terms of office at the closure of the meeting and serve until the closure of the following ordinary meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

53. The Conference of the Parties may therefore wish to encourage the United Nations regional groups to meet during the course of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to elect officers to serve on the Bureau from the end of the third meeting until the end of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to inform the Conference of the Parties of the results of such elections.

### **Item 11. Other matters**

54. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider other matters raised during the meeting.

### **Item 12. Adoption of the report**

55. At its final session, the Conference will be invited to consider and adopt the decisions and draft report on its work as prepared by the Rapporteur.

### **Item 13. Closure of the meeting**

56. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by the President by 6 p.m. on Friday, 13 October 2006.

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