

RC-3/5: Financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the need for lasting and sustainable financial support for sound chemicals management including implementation of the Rotterdam Convention,

Building on existing strategies for the mobilization of resources to support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and approaches dealing with the sound management of chemicals,

Supporting the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and other ongoing activities in this regard,

Recognizing that sizeable development assistance flows to build foundational capacities in sound chemicals management should be available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that intend to mainstream sound chemicals management objectives into their national development plans and assistance requests, but that challenging obstacles exist that prevent those countries from accessing those funds in their efforts to achieve sound chemicals management,

Highlighting the importance of strengthening linkages and coordinating resource mobilization strategies of other multilateral chemicals agreements, approaches and processes, including the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, including its Quick Start Programme, and the Chemicals Branch of United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics,

Welcoming work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in identifying modalities for mainstreaming chemicals management issues into national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy plans,

Welcoming the secretariat's study of possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms,¹ specifically its identification of the difference between foundational chemicals management capacities, upon which the ability to regulate chemicals effectively is based, and activities required to implement the specific provisions of the Convention,

Acknowledging that the needs for foundational capacities may be most effectively addressed within the broader frameworks of the international chemicals and wastes agreements cluster and overarching sustainable development strategies such as those set out in the Millennium Development Goals and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Acknowledging also that a strategic, multifaceted approach to securing lasting and sustainable financial resources is required for the effective implementation of the Convention and should explore and take advantage of all reasonably available opportunities and utilize existing institutions and processes whenever it is feasible to do so,

1. *Invites* developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:

(a) To incorporate sound chemicals management into national development plans such as poverty reduction strategy plans in order to promote mainstreaming as part of multilateral and bilateral financing;

(b) To include capacity-building and technology transfer for the implementation of the Convention, including their maintenance, in the regional implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan;

2. *Recommends* individual developing countries and countries with economies in transition which are Party to both the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention:

(a) To use their national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention as a basis for defining gaps in their chemicals management infrastructure for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, noting that the Rotterdam Convention secretariat, in conjunction with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, is field testing supplementary guidance to assist countries in doing so;

(b) To propose to the Global Environment Facility projects within its mandate that may contribute to implementation of the Stockholm Convention and contribute indirectly to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention by building foundational chemicals management capacity;

3. *Recommends* that individual developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:

(a) Propose projects under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management's Quick Start Programme that will build foundational capacities in sound chemicals management necessary for their adequate implementation of the Rotterdam Convention;

(b) Propose projects under the Quick Start Programme that will support activities directed at enabling the implementation of sound chemicals management objectives by mainstreaming them into national development strategies, noting that this type of enabling activity is among the strategic priorities of the Quick Start Programme;

(c) Request the secretariat to facilitate the identification of donors that will provide them with technical support to assist them in integrating sound chemicals management objectives into their national development assistance requests, noting that the provision of such technical support is among the financial considerations included in subparagraph 19 (c) (i) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management's Overarching Policy Strategy;

4. *Requests* individual developed country (donor) Parties and the Governments of other countries, in support of the above actions by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to communicate to the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, individual developing country Parties and individual Parties with economies in transition their willingness to provide the technical support referred to in the Overarching Policy Strategy;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to consult with the Basel Convention secretariat, the Stockholm Convention secretariat, the Strategic Approach secretariat and other appropriate entities to help identify ways in which the secretariat might, as part of a multi-faceted strategy for securing financial resources, assist Rotterdam Convention developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in their efforts to integrate sound chemicals management objectives into their national development assistance requests;

6. *Invites* Parties to provide information on which to base an assessment of the cost of implementing the specific requirements of the Convention in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

7. *Encourages* donors to continue contributing generously to the Convention's Voluntary Special Trust Fund;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, in a facilitative role, to work closely with relevant implementing, executing, and finance agencies (including among others the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and the Global Environment Facility to enhance their understanding of and support for the aims and objectives of the present decision;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to consult with the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to explore ways to make more effective use of and build upon existing sources of relevant global funding by inviting the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund Executive Committee, within their mandates, and the Parties to the Montreal Protocol to identify those areas that can support implementation of appropriate and relevant objectives of the Convention such as foundational chemical management, and to report on the results of its efforts;

10. *Invites* Parties, for the longer term, to consider the need for the Global Environment Facility to broaden its programming activities, including the possibility of a chemicals-related focal area, with a view to targeted and sustainable funding of priority needs within recipient countries for the implementation of those objectives of the Convention that relate to the incremental costs of achieving global environmental benefits;

11. *Requests* the secretariat as part of its activities in the context of paragraphs 8 and 9 to continue exploring as appropriate possibilities for new sources of funding to support the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.