

RC-6/15: Development of a draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the proposal for the development of memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions;

2. *Recalls* its decision RC-2/5, by which the Conference of the Parties approved the arrangements for the performance of the secretariat functions of the Rotterdam Convention specified in a memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Recognizes* that openness, transparency and the application of an equal and harmonized approach to the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats that it administers should apply to the development and implementation of institutional arrangements for the provision of the secretariat functions for the respective agreements;

4. *Takes note* of the request of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, set out in its decision 27/13 of 22 February 2013, which followed two similar requests at earlier sessions of the Governing Council, to the Executive Director to deepen consultations with the multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat, in the preparation, by 30 June 2013, of a full report on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and those multilateral environmental agreements, and for the submission of a final report on that subject to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its 2014 session and to the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements;

5. *Notes* that, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, the United Nations Secretariat, including the United Nations Environment Programme, will implement the International Public Service Accounting Standards, with effect from 1 January 2014, replacing the current United Nations System Accounting Standards;¹

6. *Acknowledges* the potential impact of resolution 60/283 on the provision of secretariat functions to the Convention, including issues such as the appropriate size of the working capital reserve, and, in this context, expresses its regret that the full report referred to in paragraph 3 above was not available at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Invites* the executive secretaries to actively engage in the consultations undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, bearing in mind the legal autonomy of the Rotterdam Convention and the decision-making powers of the Conference of the Parties in relation to the provision of secretariat functions;

8. *Requests* the executive secretaries to report on those consultations and their possible impact on the proposed memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to the Bureau, during the intersessional period, and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

9. *Also requests* the executive secretaries to submit a draft memorandum of understanding to the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its seventh meeting.

¹ See UNEP/GC.27/14/Rev.1.