

RC-7/14: 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,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Takes note* of the proposed draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention;¹

2. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme of a task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat;

3. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Director on the work of the task team pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/12, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;²

4. *Notes* that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandum of understanding are currently being discussed by the task team and decides to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandum of understanding;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage actively in the work of the task team and to inform and consult the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of the task team during the intersessional period;

6. *Invites* the Executive Director to keep the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions informed when preparing meeting documents for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

7. *Acknowledges* the continued application of the 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 concerning arrangements for performing jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which was approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-2/5 and entered into force on 28 November 2005;

8. *Recalls* its decision RC-6/15, in which it requested the executive secretaries to submit a draft memorandum of understanding to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

9. *Requests* the executive secretaries to prepare, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex.

² UNEP/CHW.12/INF/56- UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/40-UNEP/ POPS/COP.7/INF/60.

outcome of the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a draft tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties, the Director-General and the Executive Director concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

10. *Also requests* the executive secretaries, should such a draft tripartite memorandum of understanding not be possible, to prepare:

(a) In consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

(b) In consultation with the Director-General, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Director-General concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision and mirrors as far as possible the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director referred to in paragraph 10 (a) of the present decision.