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Interim Chemical Review Committee

Fourth session

Rome, 3 – 7 March 2003

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Scenario note for the fourth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Interim Chemical Review Committee, in the annex to the present note, information for the fourth session of the Committee prepared by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Reiner Arndt of Germany.

* UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.4/1.

Annex

Scenario note for the fourth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee

1. I have prepared the present scenario note for the fourth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee to communicate my plans and general expectations to participants and assist them in preparing for the meeting. The documents for the fourth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee were sent to all Committee members in December 2002 and, on request, to all interested observers. They are also available on the Rotterdam Convention website (www.pic.int)

A. General objectives of the fourth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee

2. This meeting will consider decision guidance documents for asbestos, DNOC and Spinox T/Granox TBC, as well as four new chemicals submitted under article 5 of the Convention, all formulations of the pesticide parathion, tributyltin compounds and two industrial chemicals tetraethyl and tetramethyl lead.

3. I am optimistic that the practical experience provided by working on these chemicals will be invaluable in further developing the operational processes necessary for the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities under the interim PIC procedure. For example the working papers on the development of decision guidance documents are one way to help ensure consistency and transparency in the work of the Committee. This is increasingly important as there are some new members who at this session will be participating in the work of the Committee for the first time.

4. The overall goals of this fourth session are to conclude the decision guidance documents developed by the intersessional drafting groups, initiate work on new chemicals determined to meet the requirements of the Convention and to respond to the requests of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. The following are some of the principal issues to consider:

- (a) The Committee will review the outcome of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with regard to its work, in particular those issues where guidance was sought from the INC by the third session of the Committee and, where in turn the Committee has been asked to provide specific reports to the INC. This will include a report on inconsistencies within Annex III of the Convention and inconsistencies between Annex III and decision guidance documents, as well as guidance on the type of information needed by the Committee in order to determine the acceptability of a risk evaluation from one country to support a notification of final regulatory action in another. In addition a review of the level of compliance with decision INC.8/3 on maleic hydrazide will determine the need for further work by the Committee.
- (b) The work of the intersessional task group on the environmental incident report form established at the third session of the Committee will be reviewed. The initial pilot testing of the form has identified a series of issues that will need to be considered. In particular the need for additional guidance on the use of the form and the need for a further round of pilot testing.
- (c) A consolidated working paper on the preparation of focussed summaries has been drafted based on the outline developed at the last session of the Committee and the worked example submitted by Australia. The Committee is to review the working paper and consider whether it would assist DNAs in preparing focused summaries and whether these summaries would represent an adequate basis for the work of the intersessional task groups and the Committee on candidate chemicals.
- (d) The drafting groups have had an opportunity to use the working papers in the preparation of internal proposals and decision guidance documents for banned or severely restricted chemicals and for severely hazardous pesticide formulations. The working papers have been

amended to reflect the experience gained in the drafting groups. They represent an important tool to guide the work of future drafting groups.

- (e) The Committee will need to finalize the decision guidance documents on asbestos, DNOC and Spinox T/Granox TBC and prepare recommendations for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.
- (f) In line with the process for drafting decision guidance documents approved at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, intersessional task groups will undertake a preliminary assessment of the submitted notifications and supporting documentation for four new chemicals (all formulations of parathion, tributyltin compounds, tetraethyl and tetramethyl lead). These preliminary assessments will be the basis for further review by the Committee and comparison with the relevant criteria in the Convention (Annex II). The Committee will then decide whether to recommend the inclusion of any or all of these chemicals in the interim PIC procedure and form drafting groups.
- (g) As agreed at the first session of this Committee, any drafting groups should consist initially of Committee members who had expressed willingness to serve and interest in a particular chemical; subsequently, it would be important to ensure fair geographical representation. Committee members should come to the meeting prepared to indicate their availability to take an active role in these task groups.

B. Possible outcomes of the fourth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee

5. The following is a list of the expectations that I have for possible outcomes of the meeting:

- (a) Finalization of the decision guidance documents for asbestos, DNOC and Spinox T/Granox TBC and recommendations to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, including a summary of the Interim Chemical Review Committee deliberations, a rationale based on the criteria listed in the Convention (Annex II or part 3 of Annex IV), and a tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the process for developing decision guidance documents including how they were addressed;
- (b) Recommendations to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on whether to include all formulations of parathion, tributyltin compounds, tetraethyl and tetramethyl lead in the interim PIC procedure;
- (c) Where appropriate, establishment of drafting groups with representation from each of the interim PIC regions and a work plan for the development of the draft internal proposals on candidate chemicals;
- (d) Updated working papers on preparing internal proposals and decision guidance documents for both banned and severely restricted chemicals and severely hazardous pesticide formulations, to be used by any drafting groups that may be formed at the meeting, on the understanding that these papers will evolve as experience is gained in their application;
- (e) Agreement on the further development and possible distribution of the working paper on the preparation of focused summaries.
- (f) Agreement on a revised environmental incident report form and guidance for severely hazardous pesticide formulations and on their further development.
- (g) Guidelines on the scope of the information to be contained in the supporting documentation provided by a notifying country using a risk evaluation from another country in support of its final regulatory action, for review by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

- (h) A report to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee identifying inconsistencies within Annex III of the Convention and inconsistencies between Annex III and decision guidance documents as a basis for preparation of a recommendation to the first Conference of the Parties and further guidance to the operation of the Interim Chemical Review Committee.
- (i) A report to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and possible next steps regarding the chemical maleic hydrazide given that all of the identified manufacturers would not appear to have met the requirements of decision INC-8/3.
