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Interim Chemical Review Committee

Fifth session

Geneva, 2 – 6 February 2004

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The fifth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee, to be held at the Varembe Conference Centre, 9 rue Varembe, Geneva, Switzerland, will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 March 2003.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be delivered by the following:
 - (a) Mr. James B. Willis, Executive Secretary;
 - (b) Mr. Niek Van der Graaff, Executive Secretary.

Item 2. Organizational matters

- (a) **Adoption of the agenda**
3. The Committee may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/1.
- (b) **Organization of work**
4. The Committee may wish to decide to meet from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., subject to adjustments as appropriate.

* UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/1.

5. The secretariat will provide participants with information regarding logistics and hospitality arrangements for the meeting. An informal reception is tentatively scheduled on Monday, 2 February 2004.

Item 3. Review of the outcome of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

6. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat that provides a review of the outcome of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee relevant to the work of the Interim Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/3).
7. The purpose of the note is to provide the Interim Chemical Review Committee with an overview of the action items and decisions relevant to its work that resulted from the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its tenth session in Geneva, 17-21 November 2003. It describes issues with respect to which the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has requested follow-up action from the Committee and reports on the decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee based on the recommendations made by the Committee at its fourth session. Finally, it reports on other decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that are of relevance to the Committee's work.

Item 4. Operational procedures for the Interim Chemical Review Committee

(a) Issues associated with implementation of the operational procedures

8. There were two issues identified in the course of the fourth session of the Committee that, based on experience in the implementation of the current operational procedures, would benefit from further consideration. In order to facilitate this discussion, papers on the individual issues have been prepared.

(i) Draft working papers on preparing internal proposals and decision guidance documents

9. The Committee will have before it two notes prepared by the Secretariat that contain the working papers on the preparation of internal proposals and decision guidance documents for banned and severely restricted chemicals and severely hazardous pesticide formulations (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/6 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/7, respectively). The working paper on banned or severely restricted chemicals has been revised based on the experience of the drafting groups. The working paper on severely hazardous pesticide formulations was revised as requested by the Committee at its fourth session.
10. The Committee may wish to review the working papers in the light of the experience gained in drafting the decision guidance documents in order that they may be proposed for use by future drafting groups in the development of internal proposals and decision guidance documents.

(ii) Report on inconsistencies in the listing of chemicals within Annex III and between Annex III and decision guidance documents

11. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its tenth session, reviewed and adopted the recommendations made by the Interim Chemical Review Committee at its fourth session on possible inconsistencies within Annex III and between Annex III and decision guidance documents. However, the Committee was requested to provide its rationale for its recommendation not to accept certain proposals in the secretariat paper on this issue.
12. A copy of the report of the break-out group established at the fourth session of the Committee to consider this issue is available in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/5.

Item 5. Inclusion of chemicals in the interim prior informed consent procedure**(a) Review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict a chemical**

13. In line with the requirements of article 5 of the Convention and the procedure for developing decision guidance documents adopted at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (decision INC-7/6, excerpted in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/INF/3), the Committee will have before it verified notifications of final regulatory actions for five chemicals.

14. For each of these chemicals, the Committee may wish to review the notifications and supporting documentation against the criteria in Annex II and decide whether to make a recommendation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to include the individual chemicals in the PIC procedure and develop an internal proposal for a decision guidance document.

(i) Dimefox

15. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to dimefox (Near East – Jordan; Asia – Thailand) (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/8).

16. The relevant documentation provided by Jordan and Thailand, in conjunction with their respective notifications, is available in documents UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/8/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/8/Add.2, respectively.

(ii) Endrin

17. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to endrin (Near East – Jordan; Latin America and the Caribbean – Peru) (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/9).

18. The relevant documentation provided by Jordan and Peru, in conjunction with their respective notifications, is available in documents UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/9/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/9/Add.2, respectively.

(iii) Endosulfan

19. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing three verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to endosulfan (Near East – Jordan; Europe – the Netherlands and Norway) (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/10).

20. The relevant documentation provided by Jordan, the Netherlands and Norway, in conjunction with their respective notifications, is available in documents UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/10/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/10/Add.2, respectively.

(iv) Mevinphos

21. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to mevinphos (Near East – Jordan; Asia – Thailand) (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/11).

22. The relevant documentation provided by Jordan and Thailand, in conjunction with their respective notifications, is available in documents UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/11/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/11/Add.2, respectively.

(v) Vinclozolin

23. The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing two verified notifications from two PIC regions relating to vinclozolin (Near East – Jordan; Europe – Norway) (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/12).
24. The relevant documentation provided by Jordan and Norway, in conjunction with their respective notifications, is available in documents UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/12/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/12/Add.2, respectively.

(b) Consideration of draft decision guidance documents

(i) Tetraethyl and tetramethyl lead

25. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat containing the draft decision guidance document on tetraethyl and tetramethyl lead prepared by the drafting group established at the fourth session of the Committee (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/13), as well as a tabular summary of the comments received under step 4 of the procedure for developing decision guidance documents and how they were addressed (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/INF/5). The decision guidance document was developed in line with the process adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session (decision INC-7/6). In accordance with decision INC-6/2, the draft decision guidance document is also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.
26. The Committee may wish to finalize the decision guidance document for tetraethyl and tetramethyl lead and prepare a recommendation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee including a summary of its deliberations, a rationale based on the criteria listed in Annex II and the tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the process for developing decision guidance documents and how they were addressed.

(ii) Parathion

27. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat containing the draft decision guidance document on parathion prepared by the drafting group established at the fourth session of the Committee (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/14), as well as a tabular summary of the comments received under step 4 of the procedure for developing decision guidance documents and how they were addressed (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/INF/4). The decision guidance document was developed in line with the process adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its seventh session (decision INC-7/6). In accordance with decision INC-6/2, the draft decision guidance document is also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.
28. The Committee may wish to finalize the decision guidance document for parathion and prepare a recommendation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee including a summary of its deliberations, a rationale based on the criteria listed in Annex II and the tabular summary of comments received under step 4 of the procedure for developing decision guidance documents and how they were addressed.

Item 6. Other matters

29. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its tenth session requested the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) to undertake as soon as possible an evaluation of chrysotile asbestos and its alternatives. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee also agreed that the Interim Chemical Review Committee should identify appropriate alternatives for IPCS to review.
30. The follow-up action proposed by the secretariat with respect to the identification of possible alternatives to chrysotile asbestos is set out in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/4. Information on alternatives compiled by the secretariat may be found in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/INF/6.

31. The Committee may wish to consider this information in recommending alternatives to chrysotile asbestos for review by IPCS.

Item 7. Adoption of the report

32. At the final meeting of this session, the Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report on the work of its fourth session, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting

33. It is expected that the session will be closed by the Chair no later than 6 p.m. on 6 February 2004.
