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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN  
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR  
THE APPLICATION OF THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT  
PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND  
PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Eighth session

Rome, 8-12 October 2001

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

STATUS AS ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2001

Note by the secretariat

1. The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on 10 September 1998 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In accordance with its article 24, the Convention was open for signature at Rotterdam by all States and regional economic integration organizations on 11 September 1998, and subsequently at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 September to 10 September 1999. As on 11 September 1999 the Convention had been signed by 73 Parties, as set out in annex I.
2. As on 25 September 2001, the Convention had been ratified, accepted, approved and acceded by 16 Parties, as set out in annex I. In accordance with its article 26, the Convention will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Annex I is based on information published by the Legal Office of the United Nations. It does not constitute an official document and is reproduced for information only.
3. On 11 June 2001 the interim secretariat circulated to Parties letters requesting information on their internal status of ratification of the Rotterdam Convention. The letters included an annex providing options for identification of the status of ratification of the Convention in each party. These letters, together with the annex, are reproduced in annex II to the present document.

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\* UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.8/1.

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4. The secretariat received responses from 17 parties. A table, summarizing the responses and corresponding options of the internal status of ratification, is found in annex III to the present document. The text of the responses, as received by the interim secretariat from Parties, is attached as annex IV.

Annex IStatus of signature and ratification, acceptance, approval and accession as of 25 September 2000

Status: Signatories: 73, Parties: 16  
Not yet in force: see article 26 of the Convention

Party	Date of signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)
Angola	11 Sept. 1998	
Argentina	11 Sept. 1998	
Armenia	11 Sept. 1998	
Australia	6 July 1999	
Austria	11 Sept. 1998	
Barbados	11 Sept. 1998	
Belgium	11 Sept. 1998	
Benin	11 Sept. 1998	
Brazil	11 Sept. 1998	
Bulgaria		25 July 2000 (a)
Burkina Faso	11 Sept. 1998	
Cameroon	11 Sept. 1998	
Chad	11 Sept. 1998	
Chile	11 Sept. 1998	
China	24 Aug. 1999	
Colombia	11 Sept. 1998	
Congo	11 Sept. 1998	
Costa Rica	17 Aug. 1999	
Côte d'Ivoire	11 Sept. 1998	
Cuba	11 Sept. 1998	
Cyprus	11 Sept. 1998	
Czech Republic	22 June 1999	12 June 2000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11 Sept. 1998	
Denmark	11 Sept. 1998	
Ecuador	11 Sept. 1998	
El Salvador	16 Feb. 1999	8 Sept. 1999
European Community	11 Sept. 1998	
Finland	11 Sept. 1998	
France	11 Sept. 1998	
Germany	11 Sept. 1998	11 Jan 2001
Ghana	11 Sept. 1998	
Greece	11 Sept. 1998	
Guinea		7 Sept. 2000 (a)
Guinea-Bissau	10 Sept. 1999	
Hungary	10 Sept. 1999	31 Oct 2000
Indonesia	11 Sept. 1998	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	17 Feb. 1999	
Israel	20 May 1999	
Italy	11 Sept. 1998	
Japan	31 Aug. 1999	
Kenya	11 Sept. 1998	
Kuwait	11 Sept. 1998	

Party	Date of signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)
Kyrgyzstan	11 Aug. 1999	25 May 2000
Luxembourg	11 Sept. 1998	
Madagascar	8 Dec. 1998	
Mali	11 Sept. 1998	
Mauritania	1 Sept. 1999	
Mongolia	11 Sept. 1998	8 March 2001
Namibia	11 Sept. 1998	
Netherlands <u>1/</u>	11 Sept. 1998	20 April 2000 (A)
New Zealand	11 Sept. 1998	
Nigeria		28 June 2001 (a)
Norway	11 Sept. 1998	
Oman		31 Jan. 2000 (a)
Pakistan	9 Sept. 1999	
Panama	11 Sept. 1998	18 Aug. 2000
Paraguay	11 Sept. 1998	
Peru	11 Sept. 1998	
Philippines	11 Sept. 1998	
Portugal	11 Sept. 1998	
Republic of Korea	7 Sept. 1999	
Saint Lucia	25 Jan. 1999	
Saudi Arabia		7 Sept. 2000 (a)
Senegal	11 Sept. 1998	20 July 2001
Seychelles	11 Sept. 1998	
Slovenia	11 Sept. 1998	17 Nov. 1999
Spain	11 Sept. 1998	
Suriname		30 May 2000 (a)
Sweden	11 Sept. 1998	
Switzerland	11 Sept. 1998	
Syrian Arab Republic	11 Sept. 1998	
Tajikistan	28 Sept. 1998	
Togo	9 Sept. 1999	
Tunisia	11 Sept. 1998	
Turkey	11 Sept. 1998	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11 Sept. 1998	
United Republic of Tanzania	11 Sept. 1998	
United States of America	11 Sept. 1998	
Uruguay	11 Sept. 1998	

Note

1/ For the Kingdom in Europe.

Annex II



*Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention on the  
Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous  
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*



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Geneva, 11 June 2001

**Subject:** The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

**To:** Official contact points of UNEP and FAO in States signatories of the Rotterdam Convention.

Sir/Madam,

We have the pleasure to refer to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, signed by your State. A copy is attached for ease of reference.

Since the adoption of the Convention in September 1998 in Rotterdam by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries and on the basis of the resolutions adopted by that Conference, the Convention has been implemented on an interim voluntary basis. These interim arrangements are called the interim Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. The interim secretariat is provided by FAO and UNEP.

According to its Article 26, the Rotterdam Convention will enter into force on the 90<sup>th</sup> day after the date of deposit of the 50<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. To date 14 instruments have been deposited with the Depositary of the Convention (see unofficial list of signatories and parties attached). We note that a legally binding instrument on the PIC procedure was identified in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). We therefore hope that the Rotterdam Convention could enter into force by the meeting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In order for the interim secretariat to assess the development of the ratification status of the Convention and its prospects of entry into force we should be grateful if you, as the official contact point for FAO and/or UNEP, could provide us

with information on the status of the internal process of ratification of the Convention in your country.

To facilitate characterization of the status of ratification in your country the annex to the present letter provides several options for you to consider. We should be grateful if you could indicate which of the suggested options best reflects the situation with in your country or, should the options not be sufficient, provide any additional clarification. Where relevant, please also indicate the anticipated date of ratification. This information will be presented at the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, which oversees the operation of the interim PIC procedure, in October 2001.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurance of our highest consideration.



N. A. Van der Graaff  
Executive Secretary



James B. Willis  
Executive Secretary



*Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention on the  
Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous  
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*



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Geneva, 11 June 2001.

**Subject:** The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

**To:** Official contact points of UNEP and FAO in States which did not sign the Rotterdam Convention.

Sir/Madam,

We have the pleasure to refer to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. A copy is attached for ease of reference.

The Convention was adopted and opened for signature for one year by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam in September 1998. In accordance with the resolutions adopted by that Conference, the Convention has been implemented on an interim voluntary basis. These interim arrangements are called the interim Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. The interim secretariat is provided by FAO and UNEP.

According to its Article 26, the Rotterdam Convention will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. At present 14 instruments have been deposited with the Depositary of the Convention (see list of signatories and parties attached). We note that a legally binding instrument on the PIC procedure was identified in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). We therefore hope that the Rotterdam Convention could enter into force by the meeting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The interim secretariat is presently collecting information on development of the ratification status of the Convention and its prospects of entry into force. We, therefore, would be grateful if you, as the official contact point for FAO and/or

UNEP, could provide us with information on the intention of your country to accede to the Convention..

To facilitate characterization of the status of accession to the Convention in your country the annex to the present letter provides several options for you to consider. We should be grateful if you could indicate which of the suggested options best reflects the situation in your country or, should the options not be sufficient, provide any additional clarification. Where relevant please also indicate the anticipated date of accession. This information will be presented at the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, which oversees the operation of the interim PIC procedure, in October 2001.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurance of our highest consideration.



N. Van der Graaff  
Executive Secretary



James B. Willis  
Executive Secretary



## Annex

**Status of Ratification of and Accession to the Rotterdam Convention .**

Options:

1. No steps have been taken towards ratification<sup>1</sup>/accession;
2. No formal steps have been taken towards ratification/accession but the Convention has been examined at technical level by respective national authorities in order to determine what actions may be needed to initiate ratification/accession;
3. The Convention has been examined at political level by respective national authorities and recommended for ratification/accession;
4. The Convention has been examined at political level by respective national authorities and not recommended for ratification/accession;
5. The Convention has been submitted to the legal and/or administrative procedures required for ratification/accession (e.g. submission to the legislature);
6. The ratification/accession has been enacted and the instrument of ratification/accession is being transmitted to the Depositary (i.e. the Secretary-General of the United Nations);
7. Expected date of deposit with the Depositary of the instrument of ratification/accession.

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<sup>1</sup> Denotes also approval or acceptance.

Annex IIIResponses provided by Parties with regard to the ratification status of the Rotterdam Convention

Option numbers correspond to options in the annex to the letters in Annex II

<b>Option</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Party</b>							
Australia*	X						
Bahrain		X					
Belgium*					X		2001
Brazil*					X		
Burkina Faso*					X		2002
Canada			X				
Chile*		X					
Cuba*		X					
European Community*					X		
France*					X		2002
Greece*					X		
Israel*		X					
Lesotho		X					2002
New Zealand*		X					
Republic of Korea*		X					
Saint Lucia*		X					
Turkey*		X					2002

\* - Signatories of the Convention

Annex IV

Responses provided by parties as received by the interim secretariat