

RC-6/14: Admission of observers

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Approves* the application form for admission as an observer at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Invites* anybody or agency wishing to be represented as an observer at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, or, as appropriate, its subsidiary bodies, to submit to the Secretariat the information required in accordance with the form set out in the annex to the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to maintain a list of national and international, governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies represented as observers at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, for the purpose of inviting observers to those meetings and for official communications with observers during the periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

4. *Also requests* the Secretariat, within the context of its work to maintain the list referred to in paragraph 3 above, to continue to confirm that the bodies or agencies making requests for admission as observers meet the relevant criteria in accordance with the Convention and the rules of procedure;

5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on experiences with using the form referred to in paragraph 1 above and the practices followed regarding the admission of observers to meetings of the bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

6. *Agrees* that the list referred to in paragraph 3 above shall include those bodies or agencies represented as observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to maintain the list referred to in paragraph 3 above and to update it after each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision RC-6/14

Application for admission as an observer to meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

SECRETARIAT OF THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED
CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN
INTERNATIONAL TRADE



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Application for admission as an observer to meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention¹

Paragraph 7 of Article 18 of the Rotterdam Convention provides: “The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not Party to the Convention may be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be admitted unless at least one third of the parties present object. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.”

Paragraph 1 of rule 7 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention provides: “Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting as an observer may be so admitted unless one third of the parties present at the meeting object.”

To apply for admission as an observer at meetings of the Rotterdam Convention bodies (i.e., the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, the Chemical Review Committee), any interested body or agency should complete the present application form and send it, along with supporting documents, to brs@brsmeas.org at least **one month** prior to the commencement date or opening of the meeting in question. The Secretariat will screen the applications to check whether they are complete and in conformity with the above-mentioned requirements. Successful applications will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting following receipt of the relevant documents.

In the event that any body or agency wishes to attend a meeting of a subsidiary body established under the Rotterdam Convention prior to their application being reviewed by the Conference of the Parties, such body or agency may be represented as an observer at the meeting of the subsidiary body on a provisional basis and will be considered for admission to meetings of the bodies established under the Rotterdam Convention at the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, without prejudice to any decision of the Conference of the Parties or any relevant rules on admission of observers at meetings of that subsidiary body.

¹ This process does not apply to those entities represented by observers in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, i.e., the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and any State not party to the Convention.

Please complete those sections in the form below that are relevant to the body or agency making the request for admission:

I. Name of body or agency	
Contact person (if any): (Mr. / Ms.)	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
Email:	
National or international:	
Qualification in matters covered by the Rotterdam Convention	
II. Affiliation with networks, non-governmental organizations or institutions involved in activities relating to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and/or the Rotterdam Convention	
Economic and Social Council consultative status:	Yes _____ No _____
Other relevant affiliation (e.g., United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues)	Yes _____ No _____

Information to be provided, where relevant:

III. Membership of networks:	
Name of network:	
Type of network:	
Geographical distribution:	
Date of membership:	

Information to be provided, if available:

1. Information describing the body or agency
2. Information on the affiliation of the body or agency with non-governmental organizations or institutions
3. Information on the programmes and activities undertaken by the body or agency/qualification in matters covered by the Convention
4. Description of any network and/or membership system

Signature and/or seal
(the application must be signed by a duly authorized representative)

Date: