

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

Chemical Review Committee

First meeting

Geneva, 11–18 February 2005

Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its first meeting

VI. Operational procedures for the Chemical Review Committee: working procedures and policy guidance forwarded from the Conference of the Parties

B. Policy guidance

Bridging information

33. The secretariat introduced the note on bridging information (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/11) that would be used by the Committee in judging the acceptability of a notification where the notifying country had used a risk evaluation from another country or international body. The ensuing discussion turned on the scope of the information to be provided and whether bridging information was necessary for chemicals which had manifestly global effects in such cases as ozone-depleting substances. Attention was also drawn to the difficulties that might be faced by some countries in providing all the information listed.
34. The secretariat noted that, as currently set out, the procedure was to be applied on a case-by-case basis and that it was not an obligatory requirement. Under the Convention, Parties were obliged merely to make a notification that a chemical had been banned or restricted. The procedure outlined in the paper was guidance to the Committee on the sort of bridging information that would be helpful in determining whether the risk evaluation in the notifying country reflected the prevailing conditions in that country in accordance with criterion (b) (iii) of Annex II.
35. The Committee adopted the working paper on bridging information, on the understanding that it would be applied on a case-by-case basis and that it would be developed further in the light of future experience.