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INTERIM CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Second session

Rome, 19 – 23 March 2001

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The second session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee, to be held in FAO Headquarters, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy, will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 19 March 2001.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be delivered by the following:
 - (a) Ms. Maria Celina de Azevedo Rodrigues, Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;
 - (b) Mr. Niek Van der Graaff, Executive Secretary.

Item 2. Organisational matters

- (a) Adoption of the agenda
3. The Committee may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda as contained in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/1.

* UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/1.

(b) Organisation 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.

5. The secretariat will provide participants with information regarding logistic and hospitality arrangements for the meeting. An informal reception will be held on Monday, 19 March 2000 at 5.30 p.m.

Item 3. Review of the outcome of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee - action items/decisions relevant to the work of the Interim Chemical Review Committee

6. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat that provides a review of the outcome of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee relevant to the work of the Interim Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/2).

7. The purpose of this 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 seventh session in Geneva, 30 October - 3 November 2000. It describes new issues for which the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee have requested follow-up action from the Committee and reports on other decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of relevance to the Committee's work. Finally, it reports on the decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, based on the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session.

Item 4. Status of implementation of the interim prior informed consent procedure as it relates to the work of the Interim Chemical Review Committee

8. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat that provides a report on the status of implementation of the interim PIC procedure, as of 31 October 2000 (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/3). The report is based on the information contained in the most recent PIC Circular, PIC Circular XII, which was distributed to all designated national authorities and members of the Committee on 12 December 2000.

9. The purpose of the note is to present to the Committee a context for its work on formats for notification of final regulatory action, the incident report form and decision guidance documents. This agenda item provides an opportunity for members of the Committee to better understand the key role of the PIC Circular in the implementation of the interim PIC procedure and strengthen the link between the work of the Committee and that of designated national authorities.

Item 5. Consideration of the draft decision guidance document on maleic hydrazide referred to the Interim Chemical Review Committee by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in light of the guidance provided by the seventh session of that Committee

10. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat on consideration of the draft decision guidance document on maleic hydrazide referred to the Committee by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in light of the guidance provided by the seventh session of that Committee (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/4).

11. The purpose of this note is to inform the Interim Chemical Review Committee of the decision taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its seventh session in Geneva, 30 October - 3 November 2000, concerning the issue of chemicals whose use had been banned or severely restricted on the basis of specified levels of contaminants, in order for the Committee to continue its consideration of the decision guidance document on maleic hydrazide, referred to it by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its sixth session.

12. The note provides a summary of the outcome of discussions on the draft decision guidance document on maleic hydrazide and the issue of contaminants that took place at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Rotterdam, September 1998), the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (Rome, July 1999) and the first session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee (Geneva, February 2000), as well as the specific guidance provided by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its seventh session.

13. The draft decision guidance document on maleic hydrazide referred to the Interim Chemical Review Committee by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its sixth session, was available to the first session of the Committee as document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.1/4/Add.3. It was also made available informally to the Interim Chemical Review Committee in French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian. The draft decision guidance document was also contained in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.6/6/Add.5; this document is available in English, French and Spanish on the Rotterdam Convention Website and in Arabic, Chinese and Russian upon request from the Secretariat.

Item 6. Operational procedures for the Interim Chemical Review Committee – status of the work of the individual task groups established at the first session of the Committee

(a) Task group 1: Format and guidance on submission of notifications of final regulatory action;

14. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat, containing the report of the work of task group 1, established at the first session of the Committee, when it was reviewing its operational procedures (UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/5). Task group 1 was charged with the following: to revise the form for notification of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical pursuant to article 5 so as to make it fully consistent with annex I and revise the guidance of completing the form, linking the information provided to the criteria set out in annex II.

15. The report provides brief background information on the objective and composition of the task group and information on how it organized its work. The report identifies issues for consideration by the Interim Chemical Review Committee and provides specific recommendations on how the work might be further progressed by the Committee.

16. The Committee will also have before it two other documents, UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/9 and UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/INF/1, relevant to this agenda item. The first document contains a preliminary analysis of the problems frequently encountered by parties in their preparation of notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical requested by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its seventh session. The second document contains a compilation of examples of notified bans and severe restrictions requested by the Interim Chemical Review Committee, at its first session. Task group 1, in its report to the Committee, recommends that these two documents be considered in association with the report of its work.

(b) Task group 2: Incident report form, format and guidance on submission of proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations;

17. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat, containing the report of the work of task group 2, established at the first session of the Committee, when it was reviewing its operational procedures (FAO/UNEP/PIC/ICRC.2/6). Task group 2 was charged with the following: to prepare an incident report form for proposals pursuant to article 6, based on annex IV, part 1, and develop guidance on providing information on severely hazardous pesticide formulations, linking the information to the criteria set out in annex IV, part 3.

18. The report provides brief background information on the objective and composition of the task group and information on how it organized its work. The report identifies issues for consideration by the Interim Chemical Review Committee and includes a draft format for submission of a proposal for inclusion of a severely hazardous pesticide formulation, which consists of two parts, Part A: a transmittal form to be completed by the DNA and Part B: a pesticide poisoning incident report form. The report also provides specific recommendations on how this work might be further progressed by the Committee.

(c) Task group 3A and B: Formats for decision guidance documents on banned and severely restricted chemicals and severely hazardous pesticide formulations;

19. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat, containing the report of the work of task groups 3A and 3B, established at the first session of the Committee, when it was reviewing its operational procedures (FAO/UNEP/PIC/ICRC.2/7). Task group 3 was charged with the following: to develop standard formats for decision guidance documents reflecting the needs of countries with respect to import decisions based on the information provided in the notification of final regulatory action (annex I and annex IV of the Rotterdam Convention).

20. The report provides brief background information on the objective and composition of the task groups and information on how they organized their work. The report identifies issues for consideration by the Interim Chemical Review Committee in implementing the process for drafting decision guidance documents developed at their first meeting. It contains specific recommendations on how these issues might be addressed and this work further progressed by the Committee. The report suggests that further work by the Committee on the formats of decision guidance documents should await the outcome of task groups 1 and 2.

(d) Task group 4: Cooperation and coordination in the submission of notifications of final regulatory action;

21. The Committee will have before it a note from the secretariat, containing the report of the work of task group 4, established at the first session of the Committee, when it was reviewing its operational procedures (FAO/UNEP/PIC/ICRC.2/8). Task group 4 was charged with the following: to cooperate in and coordinate work on notifications under article 5 and article 6.

22. The report provides brief background information on the objective and composition of the task group and information on how it organized its work. The report identifies issues for consideration by the Interim Chemical Review Committee, including opportunities for coordinating work on resubmission of "old" and submission of "new" notifications, how international hazard assessments might be used to support submission of complete notifications and initiates a discussion on the compatibility of current regulatory approaches with the preparation of notifications of final regulatory action. The report also provides specific recommendations on how this work might be further progressed by the Committee.

Item 7. Other matters

23. At the time of preparation of the present paper there are no notifications of final regulatory action or proposals for inclusion of a severely hazardous pesticide formulation to be forwarded to the Committee.

24. The open ended contact group on operational procedures established at the first session of the Committee identified a range of issues for consideration. The work of the four task groups established at its first session reflects those issues assigned considered of highest priority by the Committee. The Committee may wish to review those tasks to which it assigned lower priority to determine whether or not there is a need to initiate further work at this time.

Item 8. Adoption of the report

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

26. The final report of the work of this meeting, as adopted by the Committee, will subsequently be circulated as document UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.2/10.

Item 9. Closure of the meeting

27. It is expected that the session will be closed by the Chair or co-Chairs no later than 6 p.m. on 23 March 2001.
