Overview of the Rotterdam Convention
Content

- Introduction to the Convention
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Objectives of the Convention

To promote **shared responsibility** and **cooperative efforts among Parties** in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order **to protect human health and the environment** from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use
Key Provisions

**Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure**

- Helps to regulate the import of hazardous chemicals
  - Currently 50 entries of pesticides and industrial chemicals
- Facilitates compliance with import decisions by exporting Parties
- **Shared responsibility** between importing and exporting Parties

**Information exchange**

- Acts as an **early warning system** on a broader range of hazardous chemicals and pesticide formulations
Scope of the Convention

- Chemicals banned or severely restricted to protect **human health** or **the environment**

- Severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF) causing problems for **human health** or **the environment** under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition
Overview of the Rotterdam Convention

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Key Players

- Designated National Authorities (DNAs)
- Conference of the Parties (COP)
- Chemical Review Committee (CRC)
- Secretariat
Key provision: PIC procedure

- COPs lists a chemical in Annex III & approves a DGD
- DGD is circulated to facilitate parties making informed decision
- Parties transmit the import decision
- Secretariat publish the decision through PIC circular
- Exporting Party takes measures to comply with import decisions
Key provisions: Chemicals in PIC Procedure

- Final regulatory actions taken on a chemical by at least one country each, from two PIC Regions
  - For SHPFs - any developing country or a country with economy in transition

- Reviewed by CRC in accordance with Annex II
  - To protect human health or environment
  - As a consequence of a risk evaluation
  - Sufficiently broad basis to merit listing
  - Not related to intentional misuse
Overview of the Rotterdam Convention

- Introduction to the Convention
- Operation of the Convention
- Benefits to its Parties
Benefits

1. Prevents unwanted trade

- PIC procedure is legally binding to Parties
- Importing Parties make informed decisions regarding future import of PIC chemicals
- Exporting Parties ensure that exports do not occur contrary to the import decisions of importing Parties

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
Benefits

2. Early warning system

PIC Circular provides information on:

- notifications of regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict chemicals
- incidents (human poisoning and environmental damage) associated with the use of severely hazardous pesticide formulations
Benefits

3. Informed decision-making

- Future imports of PIC chemicals
  - Decision Guidance Documents provide the basis for national decision-making

- Sound management of hazardous chemicals
  - Information available through the PIC Circular
  - Direct communication with other Parties
Benefits

4. Export notification

- Reminds importing Parties of a national regulatory actions in the exporting Party
- Informs importing Parties that the chemical may be in use in their country
- Provides an opportunity to seek further information from the exporting Party
Benefits

5. Information accompanying export

- Improved labeling and provision of safety data sheets assist importing countries to understand and manage potential risks – consistent with obligations under the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of classification and labelling of chemicals

- Custom HS Codes facilitate tracking PIC chemicals
6. Network of DNAs

- Access to DNAs in other countries with similar conditions

- Opportunities to exchange experience and information in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention
Benefits

7. Technical Assistance

- Parties cooperate in promoting technical assistance to develop the infrastructure and capacity required to implement the Convention
- Parties with more advanced systems to regulate chemicals provide technical assistance to other Parties
Relevant decisions of COP-8

COP-8 (24/4 - 5 May 2017)

Decisions of relevance to CRC:

→ Decision RC-8/1 on the operation of the Chemical Review Committee:
  ✓ 14 CRC members appointed (1/5/2016 – 30/4/2020);
  ✓ 17 new members of CRC appointed by COP-8 for 1/5/2018-30/4/2022;

✓ Conditions (payments arrears)
✓ CRC-14, 2018, FAO, Rome;
Relevant decisions of COP-8

Decisions of relevance to CRC:

- **RC-8/1**: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee
- **RC-8/2**: Listing of carbofuran in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention (pesticide)
- **RC-8/3**: Listing of trichlorfon in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention (pesticide)
- **RC-8/4**: Listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention (ind. chem.)
- **RC-8/5**: Listing of tributyltin compounds in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention (ind. chem.)
Relevant decisions of COP-8

Decisions of relevance to CRC:

Chemicals deferred from COP-8 to COP-9:

- **RC-8/6**: Consideration of carbosulfan for listing as pesticide in Annex III
- **RC-8/7**: Consideration of fenthion (ultra low volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) for listing in Annex III as SHPF;
Relevant decisions of COP-8

RC-8/8: Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention

Decision from previous COPs deferred to COP-9:
- chrysotile asbestos
- 2 severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPFs):
  - fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L)
  - liquid formulations (emulsifiable concentrate and soluble concentrate) containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L
Relevant decisions of COP-8

RC-8/7: Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention

Con’t the discussion started after COP-7 by a small Inter-sessional Working Group on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention;

- online survey in English, French and Spanish to gather info on:
  - (a) max. (5) priority actions to enhance the effectiveness of RC;
  - (b) indicate key info gaps for each of the identified priority actions.
- report based on answers received by parties has been prepared/posted on web for further comments.
- serves as the bases for a meeting in June to discuss the next steps and concrete action to take;
- Invites Parties to nominate representatives to a working group; open to non-Party States;
- Review reports of online survey;
- Identify further steps, for consideration at COP-9;
Thank you for your attention!

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