



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

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Conference of the Parties to the  
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain  
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in  
International Trade  
Sixth meeting

Geneva, 28 April–10 May 2013

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties

### Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### I. Introduction

1. At its first meeting, by decision RC-1/1, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in the annex to that decision,<sup>1</sup> with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, which it agreed to maintain in square brackets to indicate that it had not been agreed and was of no effect.
2. Paragraph 1 of rule 45, relating to the adoption of decisions on substantive matters, reads as follows:

The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. [If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, by the financial rules referred to in article 18, paragraph 4 of the Convention or by the present rules of procedure.]

3. The Conference of the Parties continued its discussion of the matter at its second, third, fourth and fifth meetings, but no formal decision was taken, and the text of the second sentence of paragraph 1 remained enclosed in square brackets. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed that it would again forgo taking a formal decision on the matter, that the brackets would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide on substantive matters by consensus.<sup>2</sup>

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\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.6/1.

1 The rules of procedure can be found in a dedicated publication on the Secretariat website, available from <http://synergies.pops.int/Implementation/Publications/tabid/2645/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

2 UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/26, para. 27.

## **II. Proposed action**

4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to continue its consideration of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45.
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