

RC-1/15: Cooperation with the World Trade Organization

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting that the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Trade Organization have developed an informal institutional dialogue over several years, a process that started under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and continued until 1994, before the existence of the World Trade Organization,

Noting the note by the secretariat concerning cooperation with the World Trade Organization,¹

Noting also that informal dialogue has been taking place more recently between multilateral environmental agreements, including between the interim secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the World Trade Organization, to enhance synergies in particular in relation to trade and environment,

Mindful of the need to strengthen cooperation between the Convention and the World Trade Organization within their respective mandates,

1. *Welcomes* the enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the World Trade Organization;
2. *Requests* the secretariat:
 - (a) To seek observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session of the World Trade Organization and inform Parties when the request has been submitted and when it has been granted;
 - (b) To report to the Conference of the Parties on any meetings of the World Trade Organization that it attends, any substantive contacts that it has with the secretariat of the World Trade Organization and any general or factual information provided to or any other information requested by the secretariat of the World Trade Organization or any other body of the World Trade Organization;
 - (c) To ensure that at all times it does not provide an interpretation of the provisions of the Convention;
 - (d) To monitor developments in the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session and report on such developments to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (e) To reflect on ways of enhancing information flows on matters of common interest with the World Trade Organization;
3. *Encourages* Governments to apprise their representatives on the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session of the present decision.

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UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.1/INF/8.