

RC-1/16: Representation of developing countries in the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of Parties,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principle of sovereign equality of its Member States;

Reaffirming the principle of equitable participation of all States Parties in its work, including the secretariat and various committees and bodies;

Bearing in mind the principle of gender balance;

Recognizing that developing countries, and African countries in particular, represent the most affected and vulnerable regions in terms of chemicals and waste management;

Noting that developing countries, and African countries in particular, also have high technical expertise within their regions on chemicals and waste management;

Noting also the undesirability of an imbalance in the distribution of posts in the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme between the developing and the developed countries, and the continued under-representation of developing countries at professional grade levels in the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention,

1. *Recommends* that the administrative arrangements of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations be applied to the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, to make sure that developing countries are adequately represented at senior grades in the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report periodically to the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the present decision.
