

## RC-4/9: National and regional delivery of technical assistance

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the comprehensive proposal for the regional delivery of technical assistance considered at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and reflected in decisions RC-1/14, RC-2/4 and RC-3/6 on technical assistance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first, second and third meetings, respectively,

*Also recalling* the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention on technical assistance, especially its Article 16,

*Noting* that the hazardous chemicals and pesticides covered by the Convention contribute to poverty through their adverse effects on human health and environmental resources and that effective implementation of the Convention contributes to attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

*Considering* that in many countries regulatory infrastructure for managing industrial chemicals seems to be insufficient to implement the Convention,

*Stressing* the importance of technical assistance in enabling Parties, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, and countries with economies in transition, to implement the Convention and to manage industrial chemicals and pesticides effectively,

*Emphasizing* the need to promote coordination and cooperation in the provision of technical assistance among international organizations, conventions and programmes, in particular the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as well as among Parties, designated national authorities, customs services and other relevant organizations,

*Recalling* the role of the Secretariat of the Convention as laid down in Article 19 of the Convention,

*Emphasizing* the need to achieve effective and coordinated delivery of technical assistance on targeted thematic issues, which could include pilot projects,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure national practices for retaining required expertise for designated national authorities,

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Secretariat and other partners in the implementation of decision RC-3/6 on technical assistance as outlined in the note by the Secretariat on the subject,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Requests* Parties that are in a position to do so to contribute to the Convention's Voluntary Special Trust Fund in support of technical assistance activities;
2. *Takes note of* the programme for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for 2009–2011 contained in the annex to the Secretariat note on technical assistance under the Rotterdam Convention<sup>2</sup> and requests the secretariat to support the activities contained therein as available resources allow and in accordance with decision RC-4/12 on financing and budget for the triennium 2009–2011;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of its technical assistance in line with Article 19 of the Convention and to focus the programme of work on issues and needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to pay particular attention to the needs of Parties in meeting the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next ordinary meeting on the experience gained in the regional and national delivery of technical assistance, taking into account among other things the activities of donors and implementing organizations, information exchange on technical assistance activities and opportunities for joint activities with the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

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3 UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/16.

2 UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/17 and Corr.1.

5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to prepare a detailed costed programme of activities for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance, based on the level of resources likely to be available from all sources, for the biennium 2012–2013 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next regular meeting, taking into account the findings concerning activities of other donors in order to enable closer cooperation between the Secretariat and other donors.

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