

## RC-5/10: Technical assistance: workplan for the biennium 2012–2013

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Secretariat and relevant partners in the implementation of decision RC-4/9 on technical assistance,

*Reiterating* that the unsound management of hazardous chemicals and pesticides covered by the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade contributes to poverty through its adverse effects on human health and the environment and that the effective implementation of the Convention contributes to attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

*Stressing* the importance of technical assistance in enabling parties, especially developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, 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, and in particular between 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 and at the national level between designated national authorities and relevant key stakeholders in the management of chemicals,

*Keeping in mind* paragraph 5 of chapter III of decision RC.Ex-1/1, by which it requested the modification of the organization of the three secretariats for the biennium 2012–2013 to be undertaken in a way that saved costs on support services and moved resources towards assistance for the implementation of the three conventions,

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

*Emphasizing* the need for effective delivery of technical assistance as laid down in Article 16 of the Convention,

*Noting* that support will be needed in relation to the chemicals newly listed in Annex III to the Convention,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate assistance to developing-country parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, in the implementation of the Convention, particularly with regard to the activities included in the annexes to the present decision and set out also in the budget for the biennium 2012–2013, specifically according priority to activities therein related to the chemicals newly listed in Annex III to the Convention;

2. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the experience gained in the regional and national delivery of technical assistance and opportunities for joint activities with the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

3. *Invites* developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to provide information to the Secretariat on their technical assistance needs, difficulties and any other views in this regard;

4. *Invites* developed-country parties to inform the Secretariat of the technical assistance that they have available to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a synergistic, prioritized and detailed workplan of activities for the regional and national technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the information provided under paragraphs 3 and 4 of the present decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

6. *Invites* parties and others in a position to do so to contribute to the voluntary Special Trust Fund of the Convention to support the above-mentioned technical assistance activities and to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to implement their obligations with regard to the chemicals newly listed in Annex III to the Convention.

**Annex I to decision RC-5/10: Technical assistance activities of high priority in support of the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention**

<b>Technical assistance workplan category</b>	<b>Budget activity number</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Resource kit</b>	5 (8P)	Review content and components of resource kit, prepare new material and update established key publications, to be made available also in an electronic format with consideration of possible training opportunities
<b>Awareness-raising, training and elements of national plans</b>	8 (10)	Develop action-orientated tools, including electronic ones, to identify and outline elements for national actions and strategies for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. Activities to include Secretariat helpdesk support, video conference meetings, a comprehensive independent review and sub-regional hands-on trainings or meetings
<b>Support for submissions of proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations</b>	10 (12P)	Strengthen national capacities related to severely hazardous pesticide formulations, including by facilitating pilot projects
<b>Facilitating the preparation of notifications of final regulatory action</b>	12 (14P)	Preparation of notifications of final regulatory action to strengthen the capacities of countries to prepare and submit notifications, including appropriate documentation of national decisions

**Annex II: Technical assistance activities of lower priority in support of the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention**

<b>Technical assistance workplan category</b>	<b>Budget activity number</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Awareness-raising, training and elements of national plans</b>	13 (17P)	Customs training activities, with possible linkages to relevant chemicals activities
	11 (23P)	Develop programmes and provide respective training to assist Parties on specific issues upon requests  Training to focus on basic obligations under the Convention, especially for new Parties and those experiencing difficulties and the development of electronic training tools to be considered, where relevant
	14N (new)	Development of orientation workshop for the effective participation in the work of the CRC

<b>Technical assistance workplan category</b>	<b>Budget activity number</b>	<b>Activities</b>
	former S2 <b>(synergy 2)</b>	Capacity building programmes: development and deliver assistance based on regional and national needs and in accordance with the technical assistance strategy plan.
	former S3, S7N, S18N <b>(synergy 3)</b>	Undertake synergies capacity building projects for the development of national institutional frameworks for the implementation of the conventions and to provide technical assistance through the regional centres and in cooperation and coordination with the subregional offices of FAO and UNEP.
	former S5N <b>(synergy 6)</b>	Support the work of and coordination among the scientific bodies under the conventions and identify common issues and linkages between conventions.
<b>Resource kit</b>	<b>former S1</b> (synergy 1)	Development of a toolkit and electronic training tools and upgrade of existing ones.
<b>Strengthening capacity for industrial chemicals management</b>	<b>16 (24P)</b>	Continue to develop, in collaboration with IOMC and other relevant partners, a program on industrial chemicals
<b>Building parties' capacity to gain access to and use the Rotterdam Convention components of the joint clearing-house mechanism</b>	<b>21 (33)</b>	Support to Parties in the operation of the PIC procedure and information exchange provisions of the Convention by the review of information submitted and liaison concerning nominations and changes of designated national authorities and official contact points, notifications of final regulatory action, severely hazardous pesticide formulations and import responses.
	<b>former S10N (new), S11, S12</b> <b>(synergy 10)</b>	Joint clearing-house mechanism for information exchange