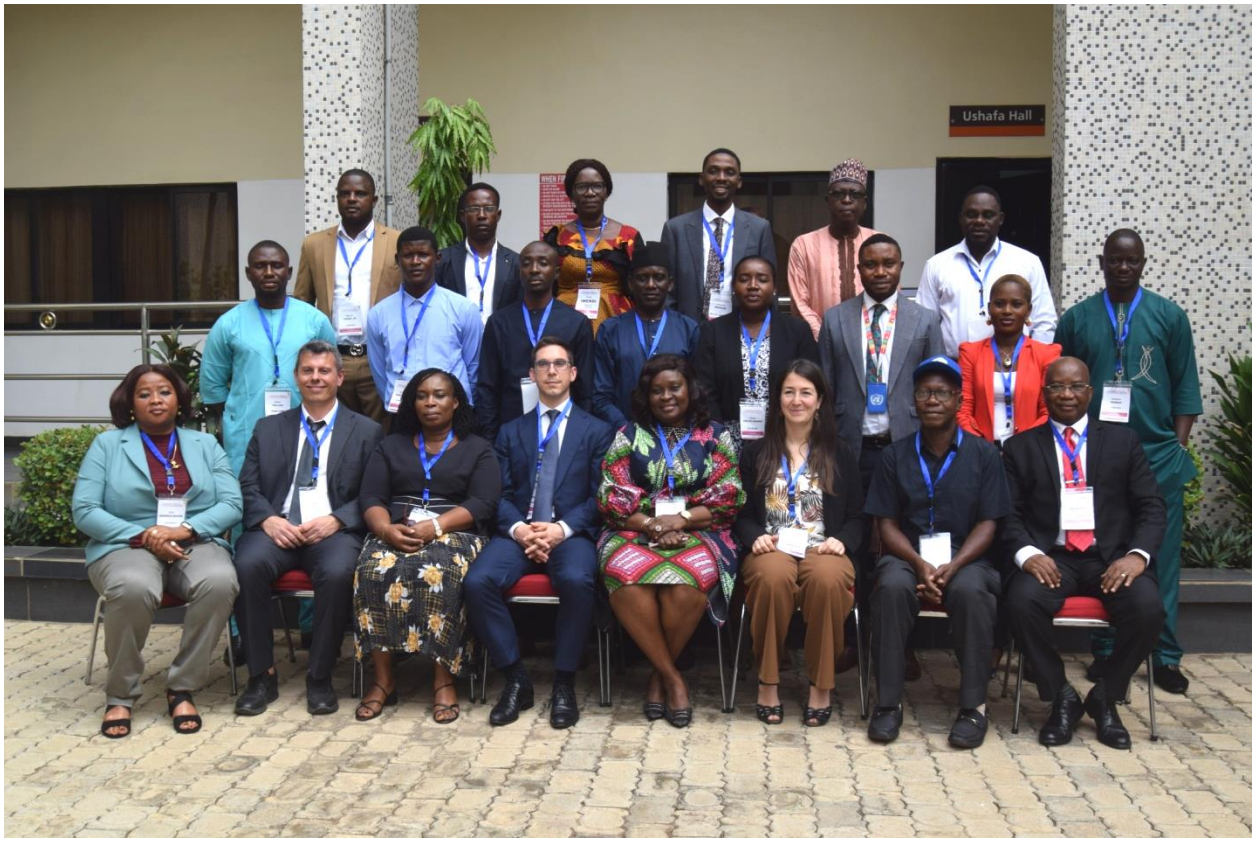
WORKSHOP REPORT (DRAFT)

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO STRENGHTEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

14-16 MAY, 2024

ABUJA, NIGERIA



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UN environment programme

The project workshop was funded with the generous financial support of the European Union

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATONS

BCCC-Africa	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm
CAS	Chemical Access Service
CC	Compliance Committee
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRC	Chemical Review Committee
DGD	Decision Guidance Document
DNA	Designated National Authority
EC	European Commission
ECHA	European Chemical Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Final Regulatory Action
GFC	Global Framework for Chemicals
GHS	Global Harmonized Systems
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticide
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	International Medical Online Council
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Import Responses
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NAP	National Action Plan
NCCM	National Committee on Chemicals Management
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RC	Rotterdam Convention
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHPF	Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute on Training & Research
WCO	World Custom Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Background of the workshop

The Rotterdam Convention (RC) on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC) for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade is a legally binding multilateral environmental agreement, which entered into force in 2004. Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia are all Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. These countries were identified among Parties in need of technical assistance in the context of the EU-funded Global Public Goods and Challenges project 'Implementation of activities approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention in 2019 for the biennium 2020-2021.

It is in the context of this that that the sub-regional workshop was organized in Abuja to strengthen the capacities of the participating Parties to implement the Rotterdam Convention and to fully comply with its provisions, including the submission of missing import responses for chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention.

1.2 Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by Designated National Authorities (DNAs) and other relevant government representatives with a role in implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. For the full list of participants, see Appendix II

1.3 Workshop objectives

Overarching objective: To strengthen the capacities of Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia to implement the RC and to fully comply with its provisions.

Specific objectives:

- Improve understanding of the RC and its objectives.
- Familiarize participants with relevant tools and resources
- Improve understanding of Parties' situation in implementing the Convention.
- Exchange information, experiences and lessons learned.
- Strengthen strategic action and national coordination mechanisms.

1.4 Workshop structure

The workshop was delivered through a mix of presentations, discussions and working group sessions.

1.5 Workshop agenda

The detailed agenda of the workshop is provided in Appendix I.

2 OPENING

2.1 Opening remarks by BCCC-Africa

Prof. Percy Onianwa in his welcoming remarks expressed his gratitude at the workshop finally becoming a reality as it had been almost two years in the making. He also expressed his gratitude at the unique opportunity for BCCC- Africa and the BRS Secretariat to organize this workshop. He stated that this was one of several of such workshops that the BRS Secretariat had conducted globally and more specifically in countries in the African region like, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa. He stated that it was the turn of the West African region especially the English-speaking countries. He highlighted that the organizing of the workshop was within the scope of the mandate of the regional centers to support the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreement among parties and that BCCC-Africa was pleased to have this unique opportunity.

2.2 Opening remarks by BRS Secretariat

Mr. Jost Dittkrist in his opening remarks thanked the Government of Nigeria for its warm hospitality; he thanked BCCC-Africa for the excellent organization and the European Union for their generous financial support in organizing the workshop. He also thanked representatives of the FAO and all participants for taking time to attend the workshop. He stated that it would be impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the 2030 Agenda without the environmentally sound management of chemicals as it cut across several of the goals and targets of the SDGs. He stated that although some progress has been made, there was still a lot of work to be done. He pointed out that according to the World Health Organization (WHO), 2 million lives and 53 million disability adjusted life years were lost in 2019 due to exposure to selected chemicals, so the Rotterdam Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Basel and Stockholm conventions are essential instruments to reduce this number and to protect human health and the environment. He however stated that the effectiveness of the conventions depended on the implementation by its parties. He highlighted that in previous year, the conference of the parties to the Rotterdam Convention, noted that only 24 parties transmitted the texts of their national legislation to implement the convention. The conference noted that this could indicate a systemic problem in compliance with the convention. He further stated that only 22% of the import responses for chemicals listed in annex 3 are missing globally but for the African region this number is higher. He pointed out that this was due to the fact that many developing countries lack the resources and the capacities for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the full implementation of the Rotterdam convention. Mr. Dittkrist added that in recognition of this reality, the Convention encourages the sharing of responsibilities and cooperation among parties and facilitates the exchange of information and helps parties take informed decisions.

He stated that it was against this background that we have gathered here in order to support Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia. In implementing the Rotterdam Convention and fully complying with its provisions. He added that only then can we realize the full potential of the Rotterdam Convention in addressing the adverse effects of hazardous industrial chemicals and pesticides.

He closed by saying that while the countries present had made significant progress there remained much work to be done in the areas of import responses and final regulatory actions, both of which he said would be addressed in dedicated sessions during the workshop. He expressed gratitude on being able to count on the support of the representatives from the various countries as their commitment and motivation was clearly evidenced during the preparatory calls before the workshop. He stated that he was very confident that workshop would strengthen the capacity of participants to implement the Rotterdam Convention and thus to help protect human health and the environment.

2.3 Opening remarks by Representatives of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

In his opening remark Mr. Andreas LoBianco expressed great delight at the opportunity of being able to attend the Abuja sub-regional workshop to strengthen the implementation of the Rotterdam convention in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia.

He gladly informed participants that he had previously been in Nigeria in 2009 in Lagos and Ijebu-ife for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) projects on roots and tubers value chain development and he was glad to be back in Nigeria.

He stated that it was important to underline that the Rotterdam convention not only involved normative work to promote shared responsibilities in relation to import of hazardous chemicals, and to promote open exchange of information on exporters of hazardous chemicals to use proper labeling and directions on safe handling, and to inform purchasers of any known restrictions or bans, but that it also focused on the promotion of sustainable safer alternatives to hazardous pesticides and chemical fertilizers, which heavily contribute to low carbon crops production and food safety and the protection of human health and the environment. The current situation urges us to think green and to think smart for a cleaner planet towards 2030, knowing that to address climate change bringing in hot weather in winter, heavy storms due to the hot and humid air with hail, strong winds, lightning throughout the year, it was necessary to join forces to improve carbon sequestration, tree planting and replacing the use of hazardous chemicals and chemical fertilizers with biological alternative pesticides and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) all over the world. He stated that it was not unusual to hear small scale farmers complaining that chemical pesticides were cheaper than biological pesticides.

He highlighted that although this may be true in the short term, that this narrative could be changed if policy dialogue at governmental and private sector levels favored the large scale production of biological pesticides as a result of increased demand for biological pesticides. He highlighted the need to invest in farmer field schools for expanding IPM knowledge at community level in the use of biological means for addressing pests and fertilizing the land without using chemicals. He stated that promoting the creation of cooperatives and the production and direct sale of biological pesticides could create a stable income generating activity for small holder farming communities.

Ms. Nadia Correale, the second representative of the FAO, made some additional remarks. She expressed her delight at being able to participate at the workshop in Abuja and though it was important to remind participants that it was the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rotterdam convention. She stated that despite many challenges yet to be overcome, the Rotterdam convention had already recorded some achievement but that it was important to look ahead. She closed by expressing her appreciation for the countries represented both in person and online.

2.4 Opening remarks by Representative of the Nigerian Government

Ms. Omotunde Adeola (who was representing the Director of the Department of Pollution Control & Environmental Health, Mr. Olubunmi Olusanya) stated that the significance of the workshop could not be over emphasized, as it would afford an opportunity to critically examine the various national legislative frameworks of the different countries represented, for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and enable participants to identify gaps and provide appropriate solutions through strengthening national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and pesticides.

She further stated that it was interesting to note that in implementing the Rotterdam Convention in Nigeria, the National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) had been established and that this committee was a multi-stakeholder committee, co-chaired by the Ministries of Environment and Health. Other members of the committee also included key government agencies involved in chemical safety and management, professional bodies, academia, and civil society organizations. She expatiated by informing participants that the committee was charged with the responsibility of recommending national action, control actions on the imposition of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedures on chemicals and pesticides, including the development of broad strategies in the implementation of national chemicals management infrastructure with a view towards plugging loopholes and enhancing areas of cooperation and synergies between relevant stakeholders.

She closed by wishing all participants a pleasant stay in Abuja and stating that the outcome of the workshop would chart a new course for the effective implementation of the Rotterdam convention in represented countries and by extension the African region.

3 SESSION 1

3.1 Presentation: Workshop objectives and structure, backgrounds, concepts, definitions and scope of the Rotterdam Convention (Jost Dittkrist, Programme Management Officer, BRS Secretariat)

Mr. Dittkrist stated that the overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of the parties present, namely: Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia to implement the Rotterdam Convention and to fully comply with its provisions.

He further stated that the workshop was about improving the understanding of participants on their roles and responsibilities as designated national authorities (DNAs) and familiarizing participants with the tools and resources available such as the convention website resource kit which was a source of materials such as: guidance documents, case studies and e-learning modules amongst others.

He pointed out that the workshop was an opportunity for the Secretariat to know where each country stood with respect to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention as this was the only way that the Secretariat could tailor its support to best serve the participating countries. He emphasized the importance of information exchange, sharing experiences and lessons learnt. He also stated that the more practical aspects such as how to fill import responses and what are the necessary considerations before filling such import responses would also be addressed during the course of the workshop.

He outlined that the workshop would be structured into 5 sessions in total.

- Session 1: Rotterdam Convention
- Session 2: National situations and challenges
- Session 3: Risk evaluation, chemicals Management and Final Regulatory Action (FRAs).
- Session 4: Import Responses (IRs)
- Session 5: National Action Plans (NAPs)

Mr. Dittkrist also stated that the Rotterdam Convention came into being as a result of the activities of UNEP and the FAO in the area of regulation of the international trade in industrial chemicals and pesticides. The synergies which existed between the international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides developed by FAO and the London guidelines for the exchange of information on chemicals in international trade developed by UNEP, led to the decision at the UN conference of 1992, to create a globally binding instrument on the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure. This decision led to the creation of the Rotterdam Convention which was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2004 and currently has 166 parties.

He clarified that the objective of the Rotterdam Convention was to promote shared responsibility and cooperative effort among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and contribute to environmentally sound use of these chemicals by facilitating information, exchange about their heuristics by providing for a national decision, making process on the import and export, and by disseminating these decisions to parties.

He stated that the prior informed consent (PIC) was really the core and the beating heart of the Rotterdam Convention. He further stated that the convention was not about banning chemicals on an internal level but provided countries with a means to assess the risks associated with such chemicals and their use and whether or not to allow future imports of these chemicals.

He explained that the following fell under the scope of the Rotterdam Convention, thereby also explaining relevant definitions:

- Banned and severely restricted chemicals
- Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF)

He closed by stating that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were essentially a framework for life cycle management which cover different aspects which complement each other at different stages of the life cycle. For example, the Basel Convention covers hazardous and other wastes, the Rotterdam Conveniton covers certain pesticides and industrial chemicals, and the Stockholm Conveniton covers Persistent Organic Pollutants. He also pointed out that the three conventions shared the same objective which is to protect human health and the environment.

3.2 Presentation: Key provisions of the Rotterdam Convention" (Mr. Andrea LoBIANCO, Programme Operation Specialist, FAO)

Mr. LoBianco spoke on the Rotterdam Convention's Article 4 and stated that this Article foresees that each party was to designate one or more national authorities who would be responsible to act on behalf of the party in the performance of the administrative function required by the Convention, and that each party seek to ensure that such authorities have sufficient resources to perform their task effectively.

He also stated that it was important to remember that the Designated National Authority (DNA) is the key contact point for matters related to the convention for other parties and the Secretariat, which enables the dissemination of information concerning the provision of the Convention to the various Government departments. He further stated that the DNA had the responsibility for providing information to the Secretariat and other participating countries as required by the convention.

He spoke on Article 5 of the convention which is related to procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals. He explained that a ban is when all uses of a chemical which is either a pesticide or an industrial chemical are prohibited and a severe restriction is when virtually all use of a chemical within one or more categories has been prohibited, but for which certain uses are still allowed.

He stated that Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention foresees that each party that has adopted an FRA due to health or environmental reasons shall notify the Secretariat in writing of such action and that such notification shall be made as soon as possible, and in any event no later than 90 days after the date on which the FRA has taken effect, and must contain the information required by Annex I. In case a party modifies a regulatory action notified previously to the Secretariat, the DNA should resubmit a notification reflecting the change in the regulatory action, the notification shall contain information on the chemical, including:

- Names
- CAS number, which is Chemical Access Service number (CAS). This is a unique identification number assigned by the chemical Access Service in the United States, assigned to every chemical substance described in open scientific literature in order to index the substance in the CAS registry, and then also
- Physical, chemical, toxicological and ecotoxological properties.

He clarified that the notification must also include the reasons why the decision was taken, and whether it was based upon a risk, or hazard evaluation. The notification should include the reasons which are relevant to the FRA and human health or development, and should contain a summary of hazards and risk presented by the chemical and should include reference date of entry into force and list of uses prohibited or permitted by the FRA.

He enumerated and described the various sections of the FRA form as follows:

- **Section 1:** Dedicated to the identity of the chemical subject to the FRA.
- **Section 2:** focuses on banning, or severely restricting of the chemical as well as the summary of FRA.
- **Section 3:** Chemical properties, for example, the international classification system from World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Further elaborating on the IARC, Mr. LoBianco stated that IARC Group 1 chemicals contained 126 agents that are known human carcinogens while Group 2A includes 94 agents that are probable human carcinogens and that Group 2B included 322 substances that were possible human carcinogens while Group 3 chemicals include 500 substances not yet classifiable as carcinogenic.

He spoke further on the WHO classification stating that it had four different categories:

(I) Extremely hazardous pesticides which basically correspond to a neural absorption of less than 5 mg/Kg of body weight which can kill 50% of the tested population and in this case could be the lethal dose applied to rats and less than 50 milligrams per body weight of thermal absorption.

(Ib) between 5 and 50 milligram of all absorption.

(II) Moderately hazardous, between 50 and 2,000 mg/Kg of body weight

(III) Slightly hazardous, over 2,000 milligram per body weight.

- **Section 4:** Information on the DNA such as: Institution, name, address, position, email and telephone number.

He stated that Article 10 of the Rotterdam Convention mentioned concerns with regards to obligations in relation to imports of chemicals listed in Annex 3. He clarified that each party was to implement appropriate legislative or administrative measures to ensure timely decisions with respect to the import of chemicals listed in Annex 3, and therefore each party was transmit to the Secretariat as soon as possible no later than 9 months after the date of dispatch of the Decision Guidance Documents (DGD).

He added that the Import Response (IR) shall consist of either a final decision, pursuant to national, legislation, administrative measures or an internal response.

He elaborated that the final decision may include consent to future importation of the chemical, no consent or consent to future importation subject to specific conditions. He clarified that a possible interim response may also include an interim decision to consent to future importation of the chemical, not to consent to it during the interim period until a final decision is reached, or to consent to it with specified conditions.

He highlighted the 7 sections of the import response form, namely:

- **Section 1:** Identity of the chemical, such as CAS number, the category (pesticide or industrial, chemical) or SHPF.
- **Section 2:** Indication regarding previous response.
- **Section 3:** Response regarding the future import and final decision on interim response.
- **Section 4:** Final decision pursuant to national Legislative or administrative measures.
- **Section 5:** Interim response.
- **Section 6:** Additional information on the chemical. For example, if it is currently registered in the country? Is it manufactured in the country or not?
- **Section 7:** Information about the DNA

He stated that Parties need to be aware of specific aspects when making an Import response. For example, is there domestic production or use? What is a potential assessment of risk due to continued import or use and other relevant socio economic implications?

He suggested that sources of information in making such decisions are the decision guidance document, (DGD) or national consultations. He further clarified that the DGD provided basic information about the chemical and the reason for its listing in Annex 3. He stated that this was meant to initiate an informed decision-making process regarding future imports of the chemical in question. He stated that the DGD could serve as a starting point for countries in making decision about a particular chemical, taking into account their national circumstances.

He stated that an important element of reaching an important decision is whether or not there is domestic production of the chemical for domestic use. He explained that it was important to underline the fact that if the decision is not to consent to import or to consent to import or any other specified conditions ,this decision must equally apply to import of the chemical from any source, and to domestic production and use of the chemical.

He stated that Article 11 of the Rotterdam Convention concerns obligations in relation to export of chemicals listed in Annex III, that each exporting party shall implement appropriate legislative or administrative measures to communicate import responses forwarded by the Secretariat in accordance with Article 10, nationally and take appropriate legislative or administrative measures to ensure that exporters within its jurisdiction comply with the decision in each response no later than 6 months after the date on which the Secretariat first informed the parties of such response, in accordance with Article 10, and to advise and assist importing parties upon request as appropriate, to obtain further information, to help them to take action in accordance with Article 10, and to strengthen their capacities to manage chemicals safely during the life cycle.

He stated that each party shall ensure that any chemical listed in Annex 3 is not exported from its territory to an importing party that has failed to transmit a response, or is transmitted to an interim response that does not contain an interim decision, unless it is a chemical that at the time of import is registered as a chemical in the importing party, or it is a chemical for which evidence exists that it has previously been used or imported into the importing party, and the relation to which no regulatory action to prohibit its use has been taken or explicit consent to the import has been sought and received by the exporter through a DNA of the importing party. The importing party shall respond to such a request within 60 days, and shall promptly notify the Secretariat of its decision.

He clarified that it was important to note that the Convention does not prescribe how parties implement these obligations and Article 13 ensures that exported chemicals be subject to

labeling requirements that ensure adequate availability of information or risks and hazards to human and environmental health.

Article 12 of the Rotterdam convention is related to export notification in case a chemical that is banned or severely restricted by a party is exported from its territory. That party shall provide an export notification to the importing party. This export notification shall include the information set out in Annex 5, which is related to information requirements for export notification. Export notification shall be provided for that chemical prior to the first export following adoption of the corresponding FRA as the export notification shall be provided before the first export in any calendar year. The obligations of a party shall terminate when the chemical has been listed in Annex 3 and when the importing party has provided the response for the chemical to the Secretariat, in accordance with Article 10, and the Secretariat has distributed the response to those parties in accordance with Article 10. An exporting party shall provide an updated export notification after it has adopted an FRA that results in major changes concerning the ban or severe restriction of the chemical. The importing party partial knowledge received of the first expert notification received after the adoption of the FRA.

Article 13 of the Rotterdam convention concerns information which accompanies exported chemicals. The COP shall encourage the World Custom Organization (WCO) to assign specific harmonized systems customs code to the individual chemical or group of chemicals listed under Annex 3 as appropriate. Each party shall require that whenever a code has been assigned to such a chemical, the shipping document for that chemical bears the code when exported.

Article 13 outlines the information to accompany exports of chemicals, including an Annex 3 of the convention, as well as chemicals that are banned or severely restricted in the exporting party. Such exports should have labeling that provides adequate information, hazard and risk posed by the chemical to human health and environment with respect to the chemical to be used for occupational purposes. Each exporting party shall require that an up-to-date Material safety data sheet, following an internationally recognized format be sent to each importer.

He explained how new chemicals are listed under Annex 3, that there were 2 main ways to which new chemicals are identified for the inclusion in an Annex 3.

1. The first being when a party sends to the Secretariat a notification of an FRA to ban or severely restrict a chemical for health or environmental concerns or a proposal from a party which is a developing country or a country with economy in transition that is experiencing human or environmental health issues within SHPF under the condition of use in its territory.

When the Secretariat has received this notification, it must verify that the notification meets the information requirements of Annex 1 which is related to information requirements for notification made pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention.

If the notification meets the information requirements then a draft summary is prepared.

The notifying country is informed that their notification was complete, and is invited to review the draft summary. Such summaries are published in Appendix 1 of the PIC circular within 6 months after being received.

When the Secretariat has received a notification for a chemical that is not listed in Annex 3 and has verified that it meets the information requirements of Annex 1, it will request the notifying party to submit the supporting documentation referenced to in their notification.

When the Secretariat receives the proposal for any such SHPF, it verifies that it includes the information specified in Annex 4 of the convention which is related to the information and criteria for listing severely hazardous pesticides.

If the submitted proposal meets the information requirements, a draft summary is prepared by the Secretariat and the proposing countries informed that their proposal was complete, and invited to review the draft summary. Summaries of the verified proposal are published in Appendix 2 of the PIC circular within 6 months of their being received.

For banned or restricted chemicals the relevant criteria are contained in Annex 2, which concern criteria for listing banned or severely restricted chemicals.

2. If 2 countries from 2 different regions of the world decided to ban or severely restrict a particular chemical, then the chemical becomes a candidate for being placed on the list of substances covered by the Convention prior informed consent procedure(PIC) procedure and is referred to the Convention CRC for investigation.

The Chemical Review Committee CRC) is a subsidiary body of the Rotterdam Convention established to review chemicals and pesticide formulations, according to the criteria set out by the convention in Annexes 2 and 4 respectively, and make recommendation to the Conference of Parties for listing such chemicals in Annex 3.

In reviewing notification for banned or restricted chemicals, the CRC establishes that the action was taken to protect human health or the environment. The action was taken on the basis of scientifically sound risk evaluation performed by the party based on prevailing conditions within its territory.

The FRA has an absolute broad basis for listing in the Convention, and there is continuing international trade in the chemical. In the review in the proposal for an SHPF the CRC will consider whether the reported incidents were a result of the use of the formulation, whether the proposal has relevance to other countries with similar climate conditions and patterns of use of the

formulation. Severe handling, restriction for the chemical in other countries and the amount of chemical used in relation to the reported incident suggests that the chemical is highly hazardous.

If the CRC considers that the information in support of a banned or severely restricted chemical or an SHPF meets the relevant information requirements and criteria set out in the Convention. It will recommend the inclusion of the chemical in annex 3 of the convention to the cop and begin preparation of a draft decision, guidance, document in line with Article 7, which is a listing of chemicals in Annex 3 and Article 22, which is adoption and amendment of annexes of the Convention. The COP will decide whether or not to include a chemical in Annex 3 of the convention, and if so, to approve the draft DGD.

He stated that so far we have 55 chemicals listed in Annex 3; 36 Pesticides, which include 3 SHPFs, 18 industrial chemicals, 1 chemical, which is in both categories as a pesticide and industrial chemical.

He concluded by saying that It was important to remember that the amendments to list 'terbufos' entered into forcing October 2023, and that parties are requested to provide import responses by the 21st of July 2024.

3.3 Presentation: key mechanisms, actors and benefits of the Rotterdam Convention (Ms. Nadia CORREALE, Rotterdam Convention Specialist, FAO)

Ms. Correale stated that there were 2 key mechanisms.

She clarified that the first one was the PIC procedure. She stated that it was a mechanism for collecting and circulating information about the decisions of the parties as to their decision to receive future imports of chemicals listed in Annex 3.

She stated that the PIC mechanism also ensured the compliance by the exporting party to this decision, which made it clear what a party wanted in its territory. She also highlighted that this mechanism facilitated informed decision making on the import of Annex 3 chemicals.

She stated that the other mechanism was the information exchange; which applies to all the chemicals listed in annex 3: banned or severely restricted chemicals, but also Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations, that for this parties received through a PIC circular a summary of the Final Regulatory Actions, and the proposals on Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations that has been taken by each party.

Regarding the PIC procedure, she stated that it was necessary to refer to the convention text, because it was the basis of every action with regards to the convention.

She outlined the key provisions of the PIC procedure:

- Article 7that is linked to the listing of the chemicals in the Annex 3.
- Article 10 which is an obligation for parties in relation to the submission of the import responses.
- Article 11 which is the obligation in relation to the export of the chemical listed in Annex. 3.

She spoke also on the key documents of the PIC procedure:

- Decision Guidance Document (DGD) where every single chemical that was listed in Annex 3 has a specific DGD for guiding the national decisions.
- Import responses form
- PIC circular where all import responses and FRAs that have been submitted by the countries can be found.

In explaining the process she stated that at the Conference of the Parties (COP), the parties through the DNA, the Secretariat and exporting parties agree to list a chemical in Annex 3 and for these chemicals a DGD is produced and is distributed to all the DNAs.

The Parties need to decide through an import response which is interim or final as to if they want to consent, not consent or consent subject to some conditions.

She clarified that when a party has followed these steps and has submitted to the Secretariat. The Secretariat circulates this information through the PIC circular which is sent out to every party twice per year, in June and December. This means that parties are updated every 6 months on the process.

The next step is for the exporting party to comply with these import responses.

She spoke on the key provisions of the information exchange mechanism:

- Article 5: Notification of the FRA
- Article 6: Proposal for SHPF
- Article 12: Export notification
- Article 13: Information accompanying the exports.
- Article 14: Information exchange

Key documents for Information Exchange:

- PIC circular
- Export notification
- Decision Guidance Document

- Network of DNA where work can be at the regional or sub-regional or at the global level during events like the COP
- RC website where you can find really useful materials

She outlined the 6 steps involved from Import notifications/Proposals to Import responses:

1. Country sends a notification of an FRA.

2. The Secretariat will verify the final regulatory action and can publish it in the PIC circular if all the requirements are met.

3. The CRC reviews the FRAs and SHPF proposals and may recommend the listing in annex 3,and develop a draft DGD that goes to the COP

4. The COP decides whether the chemicals proposed need to be subject to the PIC procedures and lists them in Annex 3 and approves the DGD

5. The Secretariat communicates the listing and DGD to the Parties through the PIC circular or the convention website to disseminate the information.

6. Prepare and submit the Import Responses

She stated that the key actors in the mechanism where the Parties, DNA and the COP.

She clarified that a Party could be a country or an economic integration organization like the EU that has accepted, approved, ratified or acceded to the Convention. The Designated National Authority (DNA) is the primary contact point, so is the first person in the country that deals with all the operation of the Convention, is authorized to perform administrative function that are necessary for the operation the implementation of the convention. The second actor is the COP that keeps under review and evaluates the implementation of the RC and makes decision on the amendments of the Convention, including Annex. 3

She spoke on other actors of the Rotterdam Convention such as:

Chemical Review Committee which is a subsidiary body which reviews notification of chemicals and proposals of pesticide formulations and makes recommendation to the COP for listing chemicals in Annex 3. The CRC at the moment is composed of 31 designated experts, where 8 of these designated experts are from Africa.

The Compliance Committee which is another subsidiary body that may assist parties in resolving compliance difficulties on receipt of a valid submission.

And the Secretariat which makes arrangements for the meetings of Convention bodies, and also provides technical assistance through face-to-face meetings or online, etc.

She stated that the secretariat is partly in UNEP and partly in FAO, where the UNEP side deals with industrial chemicals and the FAO side is more focused on pesticide in agriculture.

She spoke also on the role of DNAs, stating that each party could designate one or more DNAs.

She stated that DNA performs the administrative function required by the convention, and that it was the responsibility of each party to ensure that the DNAs have sufficient resources for doing their work. Another of such roles is to notify the Secretariat when there is a national Final Regulatory Action, or when submitting the proposals for Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations. Other roles include providing the import responses to chemicals listed under Annex 3 and to communicate these responses to all national stakeholders, that although information was communicated to the Secretariat through the PIC procedure, it was also important to communicate internally in-country.

She spoke on the benefits to the RC to the parties like:

- Early warning system, which helps to keep abreast of what is going on globally like when a country has experienced a problem, and another party is experiencing the same, this information exchange can help take some national decision that may be more effective.
- Informed decision making
- Shared responsibilities
- Networks among Parties
- Technical Assistance
- Knowledge sharing and guidelines

She stated that there were many tools available on the website and encouraged all participants to go to the RC website and view the resource kit section which contained case studies and e-learning courses as well as guidance for operating the Rotterdam convention for the DNAs and evaluation toolkits and so on

She closed the presentation by encouraging the participants to submit the online questionnaires for the needs assessment for 2024 for technical assistance, as the deadline of 31st of May was fast approaching.

3.4 Discussions on Session 1

Participants wanted to know if during the PIC procedure, the FRA is to be submitted by 2 PIC regions at the same time or if the submission was to done independently. It was clarified that there was no need for an agreement with another party before submission, that each party was just to submit its own FRA as it is taken in-country and that it was the responsibility of the Secretariat to review all submissions and find a match from another PIC region to inform further necessary action. It was added that this would be done even if the submissions were years apart.

With regards to the benefits of the RC to parties, participants sought clarification on the "early warning system", they wanted to know if the system in place was like that operated by International Food Safety Network where if a specific country did not have the capacity to manage a particular chemical, if there was any way information could be provided to such a country on the shipment and its landing location to enable the country in question take action

Participants who had National Technical Coordination Committees in their countries wanted to know if this committee was a subset of the CRC or Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention

In responding it was stated that what the early warning system meant, was that the RC ensured that the list of chemicals in Annex 3 was continuously updated to give parties up to date information for decision making within their various countries. It was also added that if 2 parties from 2 PIC regions submitted FRAs for a certain chemical to the CRC, which was eventually listed in Annex 3, then this would definitely serve as an early warning system to other parties on what to do in respect of such a chemical.

In response to the National Technical Coordination Committees of the countries, it was stated that the CRC and Compliance Committee were totally independent and had no affiliation to the national bodies. It was stated that the CRC and CC were instituted to give a scientific basis for decision making.

Participants also wanted to know how long it took from the FRA notification stage by the DNA to the point of IR, that is how long does it take for a chemical to be listed in Annex 3

It was stated that it was impossible to determine this, as there were a number of factors such as the time between submissions of matching FRAs by both PIC regions, existing backlogs of already submitted FRAs and also the final decision actually rests with the COP which may decide to list or not list the chemical.

Some participants wanted to know if there are tools within the RC that allowed countries to share data in real-time to enable parties have a broader perspective of the issues.

In response it was stated that the Secretariat operated a clearing house mechanism which contains a database of all FRAs, IRs and national legislative decisions from the various parties.

Participants wanted to also know if there was an emergency mechanism for parties to take action on a chemical whose FRA had been submitted but which had not been listed yet especially in the advent of a crisis.

In response, it was stated that there was no way to fast-track the process, but the best thing to do in such a situation was to create local legislation at the national level to address the issue around the particular chemical and not wait for the RC. It was also stated that parties could request for technical assistance in such crisis situations. It was also pointed out that in the case of SHPFs, these do not require a matching submission from another PIC region, only a single proposal is required form one country to potentially initiate the process of listing in Annex 3.

Participants highlighted the case of countries that have more than one DNA and wanted to know how these DNAs are supposed to work collaboratively before making submission to the Secretariat.

In response it was said that it was necessary to have consultative meetings involving all stakeholders before a submission is made to the secretariat.

Participants asked if a similar structure to the compliance committee of the RC can be formed within a country.

In response it was said that every country had the liberty to establish such a structure within its own country.

Participants wanted to know if FRAs may be reversed in the light of new scientific evidence that may give greater clarity on a chemical and its impacts.

In response it was stated that it could be reversed in the case for example when country experts see that the impact observed was not due to a specific ingredient or active agent, but to something else, then an upgraded notification of FRA can be submitted.

It was asked, that if there was no IR, can an exporting country assume that there is no harm importing the chemical?

In response it was stated that in principle if there is no IR the exporting country should not export the chemical unless the chemical is registered in the importing country or if there is evidence that the chemical has been previously imported into the country without any regulatory action. Also if the country fails to submit IR within 1 year then the exporting party can go ahead.

Participants sought clarification from the Secretariat on the process for upgrading the contacts of DNAs especially if a DNA retires. Also participants wanted to know how the network of DNAs operates. In addition, clarification was sought on who could be party to the convention and what defined the PIC regions and who could submit an FRA.

In response it was stated that the PIC circular contains the list of all DNAs and that the process of updating the contacts of DNAs was to reach out to the secretariat on the change and provide the new contacts and it was stressed that this should be done as soon as possible, and some follow up should be done to ensure that the contacts have been updated. It was also clarified that the meaning of 'network of DNAs' did not refer to a specific platform where DNAs met but that this referred to the possible means through which DNAs could communicate with each other. It was however indicated that a Whatsapp group (BRS-Africa) existed which convened most BRS actors in the African Region and it would be good if participants present decided to join.

It was also highlighted that there were 7 PIC regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South-West Pacific) and that Regional Economic integration organization such as the EU can be party to a convention and individual countries can submit as well, usually coordinated by ECHA with respect to the EU. It was also stated that the convention does not actively lobby non-parties to join by however provide support to countries seeking to move towards ratification.

3.5 Quiz on Rotterdam Convention

For quiz question and answers, see Appendix III

3.6 SESSION 2

3.7 Presentations on the national situation (legal and institutional framework for chemicals management and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention)

3.7.1 Presentation: Presentations on the national situation (Ghana)

(Ms. Anifat Abubakar-Mahama, Principal Human Resource Officer, EPA, Ghana)

Ms. Abubakar-Mahama spoke on ACT 490 (Part 11 & Section) which provided regulation for issues of Pesticides and Industrial chemicals in Ghana. She stated that the EPA was the institution responsible for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in Ghana and that EPA board was responsible for taking final regulatory Action while the EPA management was responsible for implementation of the boards decisions while the CCMC (Secretariat of the Conventions)

She highlighted the roles of the PTC (Technical Support on Pesticides) and the HTC (Technical Support on Industrial Chemicals) in the work of the EPA as means of gathering all relevant stakeholders to provide technical support on the issues of Pesticides and Industrial chemicals.

She spoke on the important role of the Customs in implementing the Rotterdam Convention and that the EPA was able to enforce national decisions on the import/export of hazardous chemicals due to the cordial coordination with customs authorities. She further stated that it was the duty of the EPA to provide the Commissioner of Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) with the list of registered and banned pesticides.

She mentioned on the Integrated Customs Management System (ICUMS) , that the DNA (EPA) in collaboration with the GRA-Customs Unit use the Integrated Customs Management System (ICUMS) to enforce the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention PIC procedure.

She highlighted the lack facilities for pesticides quality control (verification), inadequate analytical capacity to analyze chemicals and lack of technical capacity for Environmental monitoring as some of the current challenges with the full implementation of the RC in Ghana

3.7.2 Presentation: Presentations on the national situation (Nigeria)

(Mr. Musa Dauda, Desk officer Rotterdam Convention, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria)

Mr. Dauda spoke on the national chemicals management framework for pesticides and industrial chemicals in Nigeria, he cited a number of laws, policies and regulations, the most recent being the NESREA Act of 2007 which had recently been updated in 2023. He also spoke on the institutional arrangements, stating that the Federal Ministry of Environment was the Designated National Authority (DNA) responsible for the performance of the administrative functions required by the Rotterdam convention, including the operation of the PIC and information

exchange procedures at the national level. Other institutional frameworks include The National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) which is a multi-stakeholders committee through which national decisions are made.

He highlighted the decision making process for taking decisions on chemicals in Nigeria which involved the following 4 steps

Step 1: Preparation and Transmission of Meeting Documents to NCCM Members by Secretariat

Step 2: NCCM Meeting for National Decision on Chemicals

Step 3: Transmission of NCCM Recommendations to Honourable Minister for Approval

Step 4: Transmission of National Decisions (FRAs and IRs) to Secretariat

Mr. Dauda stated that the last meeting of the NCCM was held on 14 March 2024 and recommendations on the following chemicals forwarded to the Honourable Minister for approval:

- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds
- Decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE)
- Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAS), their salts and related compounds
- Chlorpyrifos

He spoke on lack of compliance by parties especially from the Asia in complying with the provisions of Articles 11 and 12 of the Rotterdam Convention text as some of the challenges currently being experienced. Other challenges include inaccurate contact details of some intending importers on the export notification forms thereby making it difficult to conclude due diligence and respond to the exporting parties within the required time frame.

He closed by highlighting some ongoing projects and activities relevant for chemicals management in general and for the RC implementation in Nigeria. Some of which are:

- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) project
- Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) project
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) Phase Out Management Plan Project
- Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- UNEP Special Program on Strengthening the Legal and Institutional Infrastructures for Sound Management of Chemicals in Nigeria.

3.7.3 Presentation: Presentations on the national situation (Sierra Leone)

(Mr. Sheku Sillah, Manager, EPA, Liberia)

Mr. Sillah stated that the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone had the overall mandate for chemicals management in country and was responsible for developing standards and guidelines for the importation, transportation, storage and use of all types of chemicals (EPA-SL Act 2O22). He also added that the Ministry of Agriculture had formed a committee to register and manage pesticides which overlaps with the mandate of the EPA of Sierra Leone.

He spoke on some of the Legislative and Administrative Gaps which include:

- NAP for PIC
- No active designated country contact for PIC, which has been corrected two months ago.
- Establishment of harmonized national pesticides regulatory committee including registration, use and disposal. Maintenance of national database on the use, import, export and disposal.
- Monitoring mechanism at the various crossing points.
- Capacity and necessary equipment for the implementation of PIC
- Support to legal department for the development of required legal instrument for the implementation of PIC.

In closing Mr. Sillah cited the inter-sectoral National Chemicals Management Committee and the National One Health Platform as some of the Inter-ministerial Coordination Mechanism within the country.

3.7.4 Presentation: Presentations on the national situation (Liberia)

(Mr. Jefferson Dahnlo, Healthcare Waste Management Coordinator, National Public Health Institute of Liberia)

Mr. Dahnlo stated that Liberia consented to the Rotterdam Convention on August 20, 2004 and strengthened its commitment to implement the provisions of the RC by the establishment of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in 2016, an entity responsible for public health related issues including management and control of public health diseases and outbreaks and that the NPHIL had a Division of Environmental and Occupational Health as one of its component which was the Designated National Authority (DNA) for the Rotterdam Convention.

He highlighted that Liberia recognizing the absence of specific legislations on Pesticides and Industrial chemicals, the country turned to some of the following legislative frameworks:

- The Agriculture Law of 1973
- The Act creating the National Public Health Institute of Liberia,

- the act creating the EPA and the Environmental Protection and Management Law of 2003.
- The Revised Public Health and Safety Law of 1976

Mr. Dahnlo further stated that Liberia had formulated Guidelines for the importation, handling, transportation and storage of chemicals in Liberia and that the guidelines were designed to handle some of the following:

- Obtaining license (s) to import, handle, transport and store chemicals in Liberia
- Prohibits the importation of chemicals restricted under international conventions to which Liberia is a party to (Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Basel

He highlighted, limited inter-sectoral collaboration, limited logistics to implement Convention related activates and limited technical capacity (training of Custom officers, laboratories staff, and public health inspectors as some of the challenges to fully implement the Rotterdam Convention in Liberia.

In closing he listed dome of the ongoing activities related to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in the country which include:

- Screening for hazardous chemicals at points of entry
- Licensure for chemical importers
- Monitoring of chemical depots

3.8 Discussion on Session 2

Participants wanted to know the scope of the mandate of the EPA in their respective countries as issues of duplication existed with the Ministry of Environment and other related ministries. Participants who had just recently ratified the convention also wanted to know why older parties were yet to have a National Action Plan in place.

In response it was clarified that the EPA concerns itself with large projects which requires Environment, Social, and Impact Assessment (ESIA), that it was the responsibility of the EPA to review such reports. With regards to the late development of the NAP, it was pointed out that there was actually a draft but frequent changes in focal points and lack of capacity was responsible for the delays in finalizing the document.

It was clarified that what fell under the purview of the ministry was that of overall policy direction

4 SESSION 3

4.1 Presentation: Hazard, exposure and risk evaluation; chemicals management: legislation, registration and authorization systems. (Mr. Jost Dittkrist)

Mr. Jost Dittkrist defined the concepts of:

- **Hazard:** the intrinsic properties of the chemical with a potential to cause adverse effects
- **Hazard assessment:** identification of the nature (type) of adverse effects that a chemical has inherent capacity to cause in an organism, system or population
- **Exposure:** the amount of, and the frequency with which a substance comes into contact with a person or the environment
- **Exposure assessment:** process of estimating or measuring the magnitude, frequency and duration of exposure to an agent, along with the number and characteristics of the population exposed
- **Risk:** a function of hazard and exposure.
- **Risk assessment:** The process of quantifying the risk based on the known hazard and the amount of exposure.

He spoke about the 2 most prominent risk assessment tools available namely:

- The WHO Human health risk assessment toolkit
- and the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Environmental risk assessment toolkit.

He stated that the Chemical Review Committee (CRC), when it evaluates Final Regulatory Actions ensures that the action taken is a consequence of a risk evaluation based on scientific data of prevailing conditions within the party taking the action. He further state that under the RC, risk evaluation considers information under hazard and exposure. He stated that information on hazard assessment was often taken from toxicological and ecotoxicological sources (e.g. WHO publications), while exposure may take the form of actual or measured exposure or reflect the results of modeling of expected or anticipated exposure.

He also spoke on the concept of 'bridging information' where a risk evaluation undertaken in one country can be used by another country which has similar conditions.

He clarified that risk evaluation under the Rotterdam Convention, the focus was on risk evaluation rather than risk assessment as the latter would require a greater level of detail and resources than most countries could afford. He highlighted the example of Sweden where an FRA was taken with regards to the chemical 'Paraquat' based on a dossier of toxicological properties

and recorded cases of poisoning in Sweden and worldwide. He pointed out that in Sweden the government attributed the cases to failure in the spraying equipment in other countries but such was not the case in Sweden. He indicated that based on the risk evaluation the CRC concluded that the criterion (b) for annex 2 was not met and as such there was no 'bridging information' between the cases in Sweden and those recorded worldwide.

He compared this with a case in Jamaica where a risk evaluation, using results of a study by the U.S and IPCS on 'aidicard' and IPCS. The study was aimed at comparing worker exposure and leaching conditions in the U.S with conditions of use of the same chemical in Jamaica. He highlighted that the study showed that if Protective Equipment (PE) was not used then there was a risk. But since this was a U.S study, that information needed to be 'bridged'. In order to do this, the Jamaican government conducted a survey on farmers and was able to establish that many of the farmers did not use PE as it was either not available or often the weather was too hot to make it practicable to wear. Therefore based on the knowledge gathered through the survey, combined with the U.S study, Jamaica was able to establish that there was a risk if PE was not used. This led the CRC to conclude that based on the risk evaluation and the prevailing conditions of exposure in Jamaica, the requirements had been met.

He highlighted the case of Jamaica as an ideal template and that many FRAs failed the review process because this 'bridging' of information could not be established.

He also highlighted an example from Peru as a case where actual data from poisoning caused by DNOC in Peru was modeled and used to establish that there would be expected exposure in the EU and this was accepted by the CRC.

He pointed out that since there were so many chemicals to be addressed in developing countries it was important to prioritize. He stated that this could be done by looking at, for example:

- Chemicals that were already regulated under conventions
- FRAs taken in other countries
- Hazard
- Exposure and risk.

He highlighted an interesting example from Costa Rica where this prioritization was done by listing a number of criteria, namely:

- Import production volumes,
- Potential harm to human health and the environment.
- persistence in the environment,
- Listing in international agreements
- Reported emergencies

- Potential risk of damage, whether physical health or environmental-related as established by the GHS.

These criteria were then used to calculate an overall value for each chemical. These values were developed into a scoring system that made it easy to decide which chemicals were of priority.

Mr. Dittkrist spoke on the risk reduction tools, highlighting that the GHS was the most important because it was internationally accepted system which conveyed key information that everyone throughout the value chain handling chemicals has to have. He also highlighted bans, restrictions, pre-market approval systems, economic instruments, information, public procurement, Eco labeling, awareness raising and safer alternatives as other risk reduction tools. Registers or databases were also highlighted as an important system through which the production, import, export and use of chemicals is registered.

4.2 Presentation: Notifications of Final Regulatory Actions, FRAE toolkit" (Mr. Andrea LoBianco, FAO)

Mr. LoBianco stated that on the entry into force of the convention for a party, the party is obliged to notify the secretariat over its regulatory actions, bans, and severe restrictions that were in effect, at that time. He further stated that parties have an ongoing obligation to notify the Secretariat of any subsequent FRAs taken for health or environmental reasons. These notifications are to be submitted to the Secretariat by the DNA as soon as possible after action has been taken and no later than 90 days after the regulatory action has taken effect. In the case where a party seeks to modify the FRA, then the Party in question is to resubmit even if the chemicals in question are already listed in Annex 3.

He stated that it was important to note that an FRA must contain the information specified in Annex 1.

He defined Notifications of an FRA as a means by which parties inform the secretariat of their national actions, whose purpose is to ban or severely restrict a chemical for human health and for environmental reasons. He stated that the Rotterdam Convention does not specify how to regulate chemicals or how to make a regulatory decision, but that these were national decisions. However what the RC requires is that final regulatory decisions to ban or severely restrict a chemical be submitted to the secretariat.

He spoke on the responsibilities of parties, which was that, it was the responsibility of the DNA to notify the secretariat of all its FRAs once the convention has entered into force. He pointed out that notifications for final regulatory actions must contain the information set out in Annex

1. He stated that it was the responsibility of the DNA to complete, sign and date the FRA form and submit to the secretariat.

With regards to the responsibilities of the secretariat Mr. LoBianco stated that it was the responsibility of the secretariat to verify that the notifications meet an Annex 1 information requirements of the Convention and to publish a summary in Appendix 1 of the PIC circular each June and December and to make them available online in an open, publicly available database.

He took time to explain the various section of the FRA form and the various sources of information available in filling the various sections. He closed by describing the various facets of the FRA evaluation toolkit

4.3 Presentation: Proposal for Severely Hazardous Pesticides Formulation SHPFs (Ms. Nadia Correale, FAO)

Ms. Correale spoke on the definition of SHPFs as contained in the convention text. She stated that according to the convention text that an SHPFs is a chemical formulated for pesticidal use that produces severe health or environmental effects observable within a short period of time after single or multiple exposure, under conditions of use. She stated that submitting a SHPF proposal was not an obligation but an opportunity for developing countries experiencing problems to seek assistance.

She spoke on the process through which developing countries and countries with economies in transition could submit an SHPF proposal. She stated that it was the role of the DNA to submit a proposal to the Secretariat and that the secretariat verifies that the information requirements of Annex IV Part 1 have been met and a summary is published in the PIC Circular (Appendix II, Part A). The secretariat collects additional information (Annex 4 Part 2)

She listed some of the documentation required by a proposing party, which include:

- description of the pesticide formulation (name, active ingredient, type of formulation, trade names and names of the producers)
- description of how the formulation is used (common and recognized patterns of use within the proposing Party)
- description of the incident(s) and impact on human health or the environment (adverse effects and way in which the formulation was used)
- any control measures taken or proposed (regulatory, administrative or others) by the Party in response to such incidents

She expatiated on the environmental incident report form and stated that it was composed of 2 parts; part A and part B.

She stated that the Part A was what was considered as the transmittal form which was to be filled and signed by the DNA. The Part A of the form request information requirements found under Annex 4. While the part B was the incident report section. She clarified that this contained the description of this incident from the field, that it was meant to give a clear description of the incident that was meant to help the DNA to include all the details of these incidents. She went on to describe all the parts of the form in detail

She outlined the key criteria of the CRC for listing in Annex 4, part 3 which include:

- reliability of the evidence indicating that use of the formulation, in accordance with common or recognized practices within the proposing Party, resulted in the reported incidents;
- relevance of such incidents to other States with similar climate, conditions and patterns of use of the formulation;
- existence of handling or applicator restrictions involving technology or techniques that may not be reasonably or widely applied in States lacking the necessary infrastructure;
- significance of reported effects in relation to the quantity of the formulation used;
- intentional misuse is not in itself an adequate reason to list a formulation in Annex 3.

She closed by speaking on the challenges on submission of proposals for SHPFs such as the fact that information on poisoning incidents was difficult to collect, also mentioned was that it was also difficult to connect symptoms to one pesticide formulation when handling many different pesticides and the lack of political will to submit proposals.

4.3.1 Discussions from Presentation on SHPFs

Participants wanted to know if there was a difference between HHPs and SHPFs as it seemed that these two terms were used interchangeably sometimes.

It was clarified that Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP) and SHPF were not the same, she clarified that SHPF is a term used within the scope of the Rotterdam convention which may include HHPs (especially all SHPFs listed in Annex 3 are HHP). She stated that term SHPF captured things like the conditions of use, problems that they cause in human health and the environment etc. HHPs have about 8 criteria that identify such chemicals such as 1A or 1B of f the WHO classification which needs to be pesticide or chemicals that contain active ingredients that are carcinogenic, category one 1A or 1B of the GHS, and other criteria that help to identify HHPs.

Participants also observed that most risk assessments presented were based on occupational exposure, while in the African context ecological exposure may be more significant.

In response it was stated that information could be bridged using ecological exposure, although the situation in developing countries sometimes may not be strong enough for taking a regulatory action to support a request for listing. It was further stated that usually in developing countries, the submitting of FRAs with the objective of getting that chemical listed in Annex 3 was not usually the priority, the priority was usually to regulate the chemicals in order to protect your human health and environment.

4.4 Presentation: Implementation of the RC in the EU; discussion on implementation of PIC procedure, export notifications etc. (Ramona Bardis EU/ECHA)

Ms. Ramona Bardis spoke on the implementation of Rotterdam Convention within the European Union and the main differences with the EU regime as compared to the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention. She also spoke on the 2 main procedures that are similar to what is available within the Rotterdam Convention namely:

- The export notification, and
- The explicit consent procedure

She stated that the Rotterdam Convention was ratified by EU in 2002 and that after that it had been domesticated within different EU regulations. The first of such regulations was **Regulation (EC) No 304** in 2003 which was replaced by a second one **Regulation (EC) 689** in 2008, and finally, the one currently in place, **Regulation (EU) No 649**, called the EU PIC regulation, which was adopted in 2012.

She also spoke on the objectives of the adoption of the PIC regulation. The first being to implement the Rotterdam convention within the EU, secondly, to promote shared responsibility and cooperation in the international movement of hazardous chemicals in practice. She stated that this has to do with the exchange of information via the export notification and the acknowledgments of received and the PIC procedure.

She further stated that the EU regulation also aims at protecting the human health and the environment by providing all the importing countries with information on the characteristics of hazardous chemicals, and how to store them, how to transport, how to use, and also how to dispose of such chemicals in a safe way.

She spoke on the differences between the EU PIC regulation and the RC by highlighting that the in various aspects that EU regulation went beyond the scope of the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention; the first being that the EU notifies its exports of hazardous chemicals to all non EU

countries, not only to the parties of the Rotterdam Convention. The EU also requires an export notification, irrespective of the intended use in the country of destination, and not only for the use in which the chemical is banned or restricted.

She stated that the reason for this was because the EU could not guarantee that the declared use in the export notification will correspond to the use in the importing country. Therefore to make sure that the information reaches the importing country in case the use would be different at the destination then the EU requires and also forwards this export notifications to the importing countries.

Also the number of chemicals that are covered by the EU PIC regulation is larger than the number that can be found in Annex 3 of the Rotterdam Convention. The Annex 3 of the RC has about 52 chemicals while in the Annex 1 of the EU PIC regulation there are a total of about 280 chemicals subject to the export notification procedure. She added that there were also other chemicals, about 210, that were subject to the explicit consent procedure which are banned or severely restricted according to the RC.

She spoke on the PIC network which include the European Commission, and more specifically, the DG, environment who is the common DNA for the Rotterdam Convention and the DNAs of each EU Member State. She stated that these officials were responsible for ensuring implementation of the RC their national level. She further stated that these organizations work in close collaboration, the EU Commission, and with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) which works to provide assistance for the implementation of the RC in the EU.

She added that ECHA collaborates with doctors, industry actors, the EU commission and DNAs of member states.

She spoke on the scope of the EU PIC regulation, that it applied to chemicals that were either banned or severely restricted in the EU for health or environmental reasons. These chemicals, she added, are those regulated as active substances in plant protection products or in biocidal products, such as disinfectants, insecticides, parasiticides. The PIC also applies to:

- Some industrial chemicals which have uses restricted under the EU (REACH) regulation.
- Chemicals banned for export from the EU (for example POPs and Mercury compounds regulated under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions respectively)

She also mentioned that the Annexes of the EU PIC regulation were updated one a year by the EU Commission following developments taking place within the EU, but also developments that are taking place internationally.

She spoke on the chemicals listed under Annex 1 of the EU PIC regulation, stating that the list was divided in 3 parts (Part 1, 2 and #3). She stated that the list contained chemicals that were banned or severely restricted within the EU.

She stated that Part 1 and 2 chemicals are much more because the uses under the Rotterdam Convention are categorized under Pesticides and Industrial chemicals while under the EU PIC regulation each of these categories (Pesticides and Industrial Chemicals) is subdivided into 4 subcategories.

Pesticides

- Agricultural products
- non agricultural product products, such as biocides

Industrial Chemicals

- Professional uses
- Public uses

She expatiated on the Part 2 chemicals that these were chemicals that were banned or severely restricted within the EU that subject to the export notification and the explicit consent procedure.

She spoke about Part 3 chemicals stating that, these are those listed in the Annex 3 of the RC, and are subject to the PIC procedure in the EU. These chemicals are also subject to the explicit consent procedure, except if an import response was published in the PIC circular and there is a response for the category that the export is intended for.

She spoke also on the 2 main procedures of the EU PIC regulation:

- Export notification
- Explicit consent

She expatiated on the procedure for the export notification of the EU PIC regulation by quoting from Article 12 of the Rotterdam Convention, which states that an export notification is provided prior to the first export of the chemical for each calendar year, and for each importing country and that the importing country should acknowledge the receipt of the first export notification sent after the adoption of the final regulatory action.

She stated that it was important to mention that the EU requests that an acknowledgement of receipt for any subsequent export notification submitted for that chemical.

She stated that ECHA provides the importing country always with the final version of the export notifications via email, Fax or surface mail with an acknowledgment response time of 30 days, after which a reminder is sent.

Ms. Bardi responded to some FAQ by importing countries with regards to the export notification procedure by stating that an acknowledgment of receipt did not imply acceptance of the import and was only an as an indication that the export notification had been well received. She reiterated that this acknowledgment was to be done by the provided EU PIC regulation export notification form or a simple response via email.

She spoke on the explicit consent procedure by stating that this only applied only to a specific subset of chemicals only and was an addition to the export notification requirements which applies to all chemicals. She stated that his procedure applied when the chemical was listed in Annex 3 of the Rotterdam Convention, and if the importing country did not provide an import response or the response was provided but for a use category that is different from the one the export is intended for or if the importing country is not a party to the RC. She stated that this procedure also applied when a substance is not listed in Annex 3 of the RC but is banned or severely restricted in the EU in one of the RC use categories.

She clarified that this was one the reasons why importing countries were requested to give consent for imports of more chemicals beyond the scope of those listed in Annex 3.

She spoke on the practicality of the hoe the explicit consent procedure worked by stating that the initial request for consent was sent by the EU Member State (DNA in this case). The export notification is received from ECHA but the consent request is received from the member state.

She clarified that this was achieved by a consent request letter, which explained the process and the specific member state that intends to make the export and that the importing country was expected to respond within an expected period of 30 days after which if no response is received a follow-up email would be sent by ECHA. If there is no response, the export cannot proceed. She highlighted that Part 1 chemicals mentioned before are those for which there is no legal basis to block the exports, because there are those that consent is not requested for and in the case where there was o response, after 60 days the exporter had the possibility to waive the consent requirement as found in Article 11 of the Rotterdam Convention.

This waiver will only be given as long as the exporter can provide sufficient evidence to show that the chemical they intend to export is allowed, or it has a registration in the importing country, otherwise the export will not be allowed.

She spoke further that in general the response was to reflect the national legislation that as it applies in the importing country, irrespective of the finer details.

The initial request is usually a preliminary version of the export notification, because the final version, as mentioned, is sent by ECHA when the export notification is sent.

If the consent response is sent with no clear information on detailed restrictions, then such a response will be considered to apply to all mixtures containing that active substance and for a maximum period of 3 calendar years.

She also spoke on how exports leave the EU to importing countries. She stated that each notification receives an identification number called a reference identification number (RIN) which the exporters indicate in the customs declaration. The customs authority of the respective EU Member State from where the export is taking place verifies the status of this RIN before allowing the export to leave. She stated that this was why it was important for countries to respond to export notifications as it was against this responses that the customs authority in the EU will allow export.

She took time to respond to some questions from importing countries which had been sent in the last one year. These questions revolved around how the EU is regulating certain chemicals. She responded as provided on the ECHA website where public data was available on exports and imports of hazardous chemical since 2003. She explained that the website contained information on the chemical subject to PIC export and import notifications, explicit consents and waivers, and also contacts of designated national authorities. Several reports and information on chemicals in different mixtures and how those chemicals are regulated under different pieces of EU regulations, their hazard classifications and labeling as well were available on the website.

She concluded by stating that it was important to remember the 2 main procedures (export notification, and the explicit consent procedure) under the PIC regulation. She reiterated that the export notification was to be forwarded by ECHA and the explicit consent was to be requested by the Member States DNAs. Under the export notification procedure it was important to acknowledge receipt of the export notification and that it was only a proof that the communication had been received and did not mean acceptance of the import. She also stressed the need to share the most recent official contact details of the DNAs as this was the means through which information could be transmitted. She encouraged participants to get in contact with ECHA by email (pic@echa.europa.eu) for any further questions or clarifications.

4.4.1 Discussions on the Presentation from ECHA

In response to the presentation from ECHA participants wanted to know why phone numbers and addresses on export notification were usually not correct or functional. In response it was stated that this was true and that the same feedback was received from other importing countries and that the ECHA was constantly passing out information to this effect. It was also pointed out that sometimes importers deny ever receiving an export notification.

In response it was stated that sometimes exporters want to go ahead and put together all the required documentation before talking with the importer especially large companies who schedule their exports ahead of time.

On the explicit consent it was observed that the procedure is quite elaborate and wondered if in implementation the EU did not go beyond the scope of the convention text.

In response it was stated that this was not the case, as there was a need for a clear procedure to enforce and to ensure that when there is a negative import response, the customs on the EU side can enforce accordingly

4.5 Presentation: Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) (Mr. Oliver Wootton, Senior Programme Officer, UNITAR)

Mr. Wooton gave an introduction of the Global Harmonized System (GHS). He stated that the globally harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals, the GHS was often regarded as a fundamental component of the sound management of chemicals applicable to all sectors (health, labor, agriculture, environment, transport trade, and much more). He further stated that in 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development encouraged countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible. In 2019 the High Ambition Alliance stated that it is essential that the GHS be implemented by all countries and UNEP's 2019 publication GCO. 2, under action, one, on developing effective management systems called for full implementation of the GHS. He stated that other entities talking about the GHS are the FAO in their 2022 update to the guidance on good labeling practices for pesticides noted that the GHS has become the international standard for classification and labeling of chemicals, including pesticides. Further to this the FAO and WHO strongly recommend progressive adoption of the GHS for classification and labeling of pesticides.

He stated that the GHS is mentioned in the Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Conventions. Especially in Article 13 of RC where there is information to accompany exports, where both chemicals listed in Annex 3 and chemicals banned or severely restricted in the exporting parties, when exported, shall be adequately labeled with regard to health or environmental hazards, taking into account international standards (UN GHS)

He also stated that with regards the 8 criteria for identifying HHPs, criteria 2, 3, 4 and 6 are based on the GHS.

He highlighted that the GHS was not yet operational in about 120 countries, most of which were developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The most recent up-to-date commitment on the implementation of the GHS was the Global Framework for Chemicals (GFC) in 2023 which set a target for all governments to have implemented the GHS in all relevant sectors as appropriate for their national circumstances.

He spoke on the purpose and benefits of the GHS which was to enhance the protection of human health and the environment, providing an internationally comprehensible system for hazard communication and help provide a legal framework for countries, particularly those without an existing system. He also stated that it would reduce the need for testing and evaluation of chemicals and to facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed.

He stated that historically, the main basis in the development of the GHS was based on the original UN recommendations on transport, dangerous goods. He added that a lot was taken from the European Union Directives and United States requirements for workplace consumers and pesticides, and also from the Canadian requirements. So by coordinating and harmonizing these and other inputs the first edition was published in 2003. He highlighted that the GHS was updated by the UN Sub-Committee of experts on GHS which meets twice every year over a two year cycle such that a new GHS text comes out every 2 years. The GHS revision 10 which was adopted at the end of 2022 and was released in the middle of 2023 is the most recent version.

He spoke on the scope of the GHs which was to harmonize the criteria for classification of substances and mixtures and that it was based on intrinsic properties (hazards).

He mentioned the 3 types of hazards: physical, health and environment which are further sub-divided into various classes.

- 17 physical hazard classes
- 10 hazardous to health classes
- 2 hazardous to the environment classes

He outlined the degree of hazard provided by the hazard category, e.g.:

- Category 1: Extremely flammable liquids and vapours
- Category 2: Highly flammable liquids and vapours
- Category 3: Flammable liquids and vapours
- Category 4: Combustible liquids

He spoke on the main elements to the GHS

- Hazard assessment
- Developing the criteria for classification (is it hazardous? How hazardous is it?)
- Hazard communication (How do you make people aware of the hazard? i.e Material safety Data Sheets MSDS)

He spoke on the relationship between UNITAR and the GHS, stating that UNITAR for the last 15 years was the co-lead of the global partnership to implement the GHS and that this was done with the collaboration of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and OECD countries and range of coalition partners which this includes governments, regional organizations, the private sector, trade unions, academics, and NGOs. He stated that through these partnerships UNITAR coordinated activities for training and awareness raising, developing implementation strategies in developing countries under the old Quickstart Program Trust Fund and lately supporting the drafting and review of legislation.

Mr. Wootton in conclusion spoke on the various National and Regional activities undertaken by UNITAR on GHS and the International Medical Online Council (IOMC) toolbox used to develop National GHS implementation strategies as well as the e-learning resources available at UNITAR.

In response to the presentation participants wanted to know if there were plans to include the Basel Convention in the list of entities to which the GHS was relevant, even though the GHS did not deal directly with waste. In response it was stated that this was a valid point and that it was an issue up for inclusion in new updates of the GHS.

Participants also wanted to know if there was any platform or some source of support for countries in the final and final disposal of waste. In response it was stated that this was not within the scope of UNITAR but that UNITAR would be happy to get in touch and try to develop something in that regard. It was also pointed out that some of the GHS courses were quite expensive, participants wanted to know if scholarships or other types of support were available

In response it was stated that when UNITAR ran projects in countries it tried to make such scholarships available and that was one way we try to engage developing countries as these opportunities were mainly targeted at policy makers to get a deep technical understanding but also to practitioners in companies, workers, groups, those involved in occupational health and safety. In conclusion it was stated that UNITAR will try to do its best to satisfy the demand for training, including scholarships.

4.6 SESSION 4

4.7 Potential Notification on FRAS

Potential notifications of FRA

Ghana

Act 490: 32 pesticides banned, of which:

- 20 listed in Annex III as pesticides
- 3 listed in Annex III as SHPFs
- 2 (endrin and pentachlorobenzene) scheduled for CRC review
- 1 (methyl bromide) to be considered for listing by next COP
- 1 (chlordecone) submission in past found by CRC not to meet the criteria
- **2 (alpha and beta hexachlorocyclohexane) not yet considered, as only notifications of FRAs from Asia**

Notify 32 FRAs?

Potential notifications of FRA

Liberia

- EPA Act 2003 banned a number of chemicals; all of which are listed in Annex III:
  - Lindane
  - Chlordane
  - Toxaphene
  - Dieldrin
  - DDT
  - Heptachlor
  - Aldrin
  - PCB

Notify 8 FRAs?

Potential notifications of FRA

Nigeria

NESREA Act of 2007, updated in 2023

- Bans/restrictions for 77 chemicals, of which
  - 20 industrial chemicals, 53 pesticides, 4 in both categories
  - 32 FRAs notified → **45 can still be notified**

Potential notifications of FRA

Sierra Leone

- A list of banned and restricted chemicals is maintained
- However, not formalized, no legal/administrative instrument in place
- **Currently no notification of FRA possible?**

Potential notifications of FRA

The Gambia

- Hazardous chemicals regulations 1999
- Submitted 23 FRAs for Annex III chemicals
- Submitted 7 FRAs for non-Annex III chemicals
- New draft act foresees automatic inclusion of all Annex III chemicals?
  → Any other chemicals to be included? **Submit additional FRAs?**

4.8 Discussions on Session 3

Participants made contributions to the effect that it was possible to take decision on certain chemicals based purely on national positions without necessarily taking into account the global regime. It was highlighted that due to national security concerns certain off the shelf chemicals had to be restricted due to the potential of them being diverted to manufacture small scale explosives.

Participants also wanted to know if there was a way to obtain real live data on pesticides especially in countries where most of the data available was anecdotal.

In response it was stated that data was available in the academia and research institutes, that it would be good for a national platform/organization like the National Library to collect such data and make it available.

Participants asked if there was support from the Secretariat for the creation and management of national databases or if there was some sort of guidance on this.

In response it was stated that there were projects already underway in this direction and that one was already in existence on building a registration system in Panama that will be completed by the end of the year and there were plans for similar projects on establishing a data registration system or similar systems in Sri, Lanka, Mongolia, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Djibouti.

On the issue of the availability of a guidance document, it was stated that although a lot of research had been done in this area, there was no comprehensive guidance on how to establish a registration system for chemicals. It was stated that the secretariat would be interested in commissioning such a guidance subject to the availability of funds, but it would also be apt an email requesting technical assistance on this matter be sent to the secretariat for consideration for future funding opportunities.

4.9 SESSION 5

4.9.1 Presentations of the outcomes of the working groups, open discussion

Participants stated that there was some difficulty gathering information for filling the FRAs, that for the IR was easier. It was also pointed out that there was some challenge with identifying the specific HS codes for the chemicals being considered.
The secretariat responded by stating that if any of the focal points needed to fill out FRAs or IRs it was appropriate to reach out to the secretariat, that the secretariat was more than willing to help. It was added that for IARC and WHO classifications, it was better to on their organizational websites to get the most recent codes. It was stated that only one of the codes needed to be used and that WHO one was usually the best choice followed by that of the IARC. The RC website could also be consulted

Participants wanted to know why when some Import Responses were rejected; there was no response as to what the error was.
In response it was stated that the IR may have been sent to the wrong email address; the Secretariat however acknowledged that this was not an excuse as there was supposed to be mutual communication between the Rome FAO office and the Geneva office.
It was further highlighted that if the IR related to pesticides it should be sent to the Rome office and if it related to an Industrial Chemical it should be sent to the Geneva Office and if there is no acknowledgment after a week, then there was need to send a follow-up email.

Some clarification was also given on trade neutrality. It was stated that the basic principle was that if a chemical is banned, that is if the country does not consent to the import of the chemical, then the country must also have to ban imports from any other country and all domestic production for domestic use must be banned.
It was stated that this was because otherwise it might be an attempt to gain an economic advantage rather than protecting the environment.

Participants asked what the best line of action was if a chemical that was banned but was still registered within the country
It was responded that once the chemical is banned then records should be updated and the chemical removed from the list

Participants were taken through a questionnaire used to explain how to write a NAP
Participants wanted to know, given that the NAP needed to be updated from time to time, is there any requirements of time limit for updating from the secretariat?

It was responded that it was voluntary, so there's no obligation to have a NAP under the Rotterdam Convention, but however it was decided that it was a useful tool. It was also stated that although there was no specific guidance as to updating the NAP, it was important to have a fixed date (annually or bi-annually) on which this is done, as being consistent was key. It was also indicated that changes could be made to the form to include additional elements

5.0 Wrap-up, next steps and closing remarks

Mr. Jost Dittkrist thanked all participants for their participation and the workshop secretariat for a job well done.
He stated that now that the workshop was completed, what was important that there be a proper follow-up on identified areas where actions needed to be taken and the need to develop concrete plans especially with regards to import Responses and FRAs, and that the Secretariat hoped to receive many import responses and FRAs in the coming months. He also emphasized that if any country needed any help they should reach out to the secretariat as they were always on hand to provide any assistance.

Regarding the next steps, Mr. Dittkrist stated that all participants would be receiving follow-up emails from the secretariat and that in due time, there would be a follow up webinar. He wished all participants a safe trip.

Ms. Omotunde on behalf of all participants thanked the representatives of the BRS Secretariat, FAO and BCCC-Africa for an excellent workshop, that their expectations as participants had been exceeded with regards to the content, the delivery, and then the overall organizing of the sessions. She stated that the minds of the participants had been opened and their capacities built. She further stated that participants had been able to develop a plan, and all would be done to have such plans implemented

Prof. Onianwa thanked all participants and appreciated that all participants were going back home with improved capacities, an understanding of the challenges. and the work ahead. He appreciated the Secretariat for the opportunity to organize the workshop and hope that there would be also other opportunities for further cooperation. He looked forward to other opportunities to support the countries. He also thanked the Government of Nigeria for their continuous support of BCCC-Africa

APPENDIX I

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday 14 May 2024

Time	*Activity*	*Facilitator*
09:00 - 09:15	*Registration (15 min)*	
09:15 - 09:30	Openingof the workshop	Government of Nigeria (Olubunmi Olusanya), BCCC-Nigeria (Percy Onianwa), BRS Secretariat (Jost Dittkrist, Andrea LoBianco, Nadia Correale)
09:30-09:50	Round of self-introduction and workshop' expectations	All participants, facilitated by the moderator
Session 1: The Rotterdam Convention		
09:50 - 10:30	Objectives, key provisions and mechanisms of the RC	BRS Secretariat (Jost Dittkrist, Andrea LoBianco, Nadia Correale)
Coffee break and group photo (30 min)		
11:00 - 12:00	Objectives, key provisions and mechanisms of the RC	BRS Secretariat (Jost Dittkrist, Andrea LoBianco, Nadia Correale)
12:00 - 12:30	Quiz on the RC	All participants, facilitated by the BRS Secretariat and BCCC Nigeria
Lunch (1h)		
Session 2: National situations and challenges		
13:30-15:30	Presentations on the national situation (legal and institutional framework for chemicals management and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention)	DNAs of Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia; ca. 20-25 minutes each, ca. 5-10 minutes for Q&A each
Coffee break (20 min)		
15:50-17:00	Presentations on the national situation (legal and institutional framework for chemicals management and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention)	DNAs of Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone; ca. 20 minutes each, ca. 10 minutes for Q&A each

Day 2: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Time	*Activity*	*Facilitator*
Session 3: Risk evaluation, chemicals management and FRAs		
09:00 -09:30	Hazard, exposure and risk evaluation and management; legislation, registration and authorisation systems	BRS Secretariat (Jost Dittkrist)
09:30 - 10:00	Notifications of FRAs, FRAE toolkit	BRS Secretariat (Andrea LoBianco)
10:00-10:40	Discussion on preparing and notifying FRAs	All participants, facilitated by the BRS Secretariat and BCCC Nigeria
Coffee break (20 min)		
11:00 - 11:15	Proposals for SHPFs	BRS Secretariat(Nadia Correale)
11:15- 11:30	FAO pesticides registration toolkit	BRS Secretariat (Andrea LoBianco)
11:30 - 12:15	Implementation of the RC in the EU; discussion on implementation of PIC procedure, export notifications etc.	EU/ECHA (Ramona Cioata)
12:15 - 12:30	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)	UNITAR (Oliver Wootton)
Session 4: Import responses		
Lunch (1h)		
13:30 -15:30	Identifying priorities and facilitating next step towards developing and submitting IRs and FRAs	All participants in small working groups by Party; BRS Secretariat and BCCC-Nigeria to support
Coffee break (20 min)		
15:50 - 17:00	Identifying priorities and facilitating next step towards developing and submitting IRs and FRAs	All participants in small working groups by Party; BRS Secretariat and BCCC-Nigeria to support

Day 3: Thursday 16 May 2024

Time	*Activity*	*Facilitator*
09:00 - 10:00	Presentations of the outcomes of the working groups, open discussion	Rapporteur of each working group/Party (10 min each), facilitated by the moderator
Session 5: NAPs		
10:00 - 10:30	Gap analysis and NAPs: template and examples	BRS Secretariat (Jost Dittkrist)
Coffee break (20 min)		
10:50 - 12:30	National gap analysis and updating / development of the draft NAPs	All participants in working groups; BRS Secretariat and BCCC-Nigeria to support
Lunch (1h)		
13:30 - 15:00	National gap analysis and updating / development of the draft NAPs	All participants in working groups; BRS Secretariat and BCCC-Nigeria to support
15:00 - 15:30	Presentation on the gap analysis and updated NAPs	DNAs ofGhana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, The Gambia; ca. 10 minutes each
Coffee break (20 min)		
15:50 - 16:15	Presentation on the gap analysis and updated NAPs	DNAs ofGhana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, The Gambia; ca. 10 minutes each
16:15 - 16:40	Workshop evaluation	All participants, facilitated by the BRS Secretariat and BCCC-Nigeria
16:40 - 17:00	Wrap-up, next steps and closing remarks	Government of Nigeria (Olubunmi Olusanya), BRS Secretariat(Jost Dittkrist, Andrea LoBianco, Nadia Correale)BCCC-Nigeria (Percy Onianwa)

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. GOVERNMENTS

GHANA

Anifat Abubakar-Mahama
Principal Human Resource Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
Starlets 1991 Street,
P. O. Box MB 326, Ministries
Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233244272096
Email: anifata@yahoo.co.uk

Felisa Owusu-Darko
Principal Programme Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
Starlets 1991 Street,
P. O. Box MB 326, Ministries
Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233501301425
Email: Felisa.owusu-darko@epa.gov.gh

Irene Adobea Parker-Allotey
Principal Programme Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
Starlets 1991 Street,
P. O. Box MB 326, Ministries
Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233552472728
Email: Irene.parker.allotey@epa.gov.gh

LIBERIA

Mr. Esaun Dahnlo
Healthcare Waste Management Coordinator
National Public Health Institute of Liberia
New York City,
Boys Town Marshall Road
Margibi County, Liberia
Tel: +231770617934
Email: ejeffersondahnlo@gmail.com

Mr. Morris Gono Jr.
Deputy Director
National Public Health Institute of Liberia
4 Houses, Duport Road,
Paynesville city,
Monteserado County, Liberia
Tel: +231776000841
Email: gonomorris@yahoo.com

Mr. Stephen Henah
National Solid/ Healthcare Waste Management
Focal Point
National Public Health Institute of Liberia
Congo Town
Opposite Musu Spot
Tubman Boulevard
1000 Monrovia, 10 , Liberia
Tel: +231777307878
Email: henah32@gmail.com

NIGERIA

Ms. Omotunde Adeola
Director (Chemicals Management Division)
Pollution Control & Environmental Health
14 Aguiyi Ironsi Street (Green Building)
Maitama
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348056023745
Email: omotundeadeola@yahoo.co.uk

Ms. Christine Asaolu
Assistant Director (Chemicals Evaluation & Research)
National Agency for Food & Drug Administration & Control
Plot 2032,
Olusegun Obasanjo Way,
Wuse Zone 7,
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348050777634
Email: Christine.asaolu@nafdac.gov.ng

Ms. Spanny Embiemu
Head (Food & Chemicals/Inspection & Enforcement)
National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency
No 56 Lome Crescent,
Wuse,
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348033312949
Email: glory3n@yahoo.com

Ms. Grace Iwendi
Director
Ministry of Agricuture & Food Security
No 1 Capital Drive, Federal Capital Development Authority,
Area 11, Garki,
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348056142159
Email: graceiwendi@yahoo.com

Mr. Aliyu Chafe
Ministry of Agricuture & Food Security
No 1 Capital Drive, Federal Capital Development Authority,
Area 11, Garki,
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2349034359995
Email: alichafe@yahoo.co.uk

Ms. Adeyinka Afolabi
National Agency for Food & Drug Administration & Control
Plot 2032,
Olusegun Obasanjo Way,
Wuse Zone 7,
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348062258740
Email:afolabi.adeyinka@nafdac.gov.ng

Mr. Kingsley Kuku
Senior Chemical Engineer (Chemicals Management Division)
Pollution Control & Environmental Health
14 Aguiyi Ironsi Street (Green Building)
Maitama
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348033312949
Email: progress129@gmail.com

Mr. Dauda Musa
Chief Scientific Officer (Desk Officer, Rotterdam Unit)
Pollution Control & Environmental Health
14 Aguiyi Ironsi Street (Green Building)
Maitama
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348056144321
Email: dauda.musa@yahoo.com

Mr. Amos Ishaya
Principal Scientific Officer (Rotterdam Unit)
Pollution Control & Environmental Health
14 Aguiyi Ironsi Street (Green Building)
Maitama
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348038511776
Email: ai.elma@yahoo.com

Mr. Edwin Edeh
National consultant
Public Health and Environment
Programme
World Health Organization
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +2348068727856
Email: edehe@who.int

SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Mo-Bashir Idriss
Director
Environment Protection Agency
92 Dundas Street,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: +23230147003
Email: mo_bash@yahoo.com

Mr. Ibrahim Mansaray
Environment Officer
Environment Protection Agency
92 Dundas Street,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: +23276500772
Email: mansarayibrahim25687@gmail.com

Mr. Sheku Sillah
Manager
Environment Protection Agency
92 Dundas Street,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: +23279754912
Email: shekusilla@gmail.com

II. BASEL CONVENTION COORDINATING CENTRE FOR

THE AFRICAN REGION

Mr. Percy Onianwa
Executive Director
1 Ijoma Road
University of Ibadan
Ibadan
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033480589
Email: pconianwa@yahoo.com

Mr. Oluseun Badejo
Project Officer
1 Ijoma Road
University of Ibadan
Ibadan
Nigeria
Tel: +2348036173816
Email: Oluseunbadejo@gmail.com

III. FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Ms. Nadia Correale
Rotterdam Convention Specialist
Food & Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome,
Italy
Tel: +39 348 721 9326
Email: Nadia.Correale@fao.org

Mr. Andreas LoBianco
Programme Operations Specialist
Food & Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome,
Italy
Tel: +39 349 595 7048
Email: Andre.LoBianco@fao.org

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM & STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

Mr. Jost Dittkrist
Programme Management Officer
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219
Châtelaine,
Switzerland
Tel: ++44 22 593 94 26
Email: jost.dittkrist@un.org

APPENDIX III

QUIZ QUESTION (Correct answers in green)

1.) True or false: The production and use of chemicals listed in Annex III is prohibited at the global level.

a. True
b. False

2.) Which of the following fall under the scope of the Convention?

a. Severely hazardous pesticide formulations
b. Wastes
c. Pharmaceuticals
d. Banned or severely restricted chemicals
e. Chemicals used as food additives

3.) Which of the following is the correct definition of a "banned chemical"?

a. A chemical some uses of which within one or more categories have been prohibited by final regulatory action, in order to protect human health or the environment.
b. A chemical all uses of which within one or more categories have been prohibited by final regulatory action, in order to protect human health or the environment.
c. A chemical virtually all use of which within one or more categories has been prohibited by final regulatory action in order to protect human health or the environment, but for which certain specific uses remain allowed.

4.) True or false: The obligation to notify final regulatory actions to the Secretariat also applies for chemicals that are already listed under Annex III.

a. True
b. False

5.) The Secretariat shall forward notifications of final regulatory action to the Chemical Review Committee in which of the following circumstances:

a. The Secretariat has received at least one notification from each of three Prior Informed Consent regions and has verified the notifications meet the requirements of Annex I.
b. The Secretariat has received at least two notifications from each of two Prior Informed Consent regions and has verified the notifications meet the requirements of Annex II.
c. The Secretariat has received at least one notification from each of two Prior Informed Consent regions and has verified the notifications meet the requirements of Annex II.

d. The Secretariat has received at least one notification from each of two Prior Informed Consent regions and has verified the notifications meet the requirements of Annex I.

6.) How many chemicals are currently listed in Annex III?
   a. 50
   b. 53
   c. 55
   d. 57

7.) True or false: Any Party can propose the listing of severely hazardous pesticide formulations.
   a. True
   b. False

8.) Within which timeframe shall Parties transmit their import responses to the Secretariat?
   a. No later than 6 months after the decision of the Conference of the Parties to list the chemical in question.
   b. No later than 9 months after the decision of the Conference of the Parties to list the chemical in question.
   c. No later than 6 months after the date of dispatch of the decision guidance document.
   d. No later than 9 months after the date of dispatch of the decision guidance document.

9.) A final import response shall be accompanied by which of the following?
   a. A summary of the risk evaluations undertaken to arrive at the final decision.
   b. Description of legislative or administrative measures upon which it is based.
   c. Data on imports and domestic production of the chemical in question.

10.) True or false: Each Party that has made a decision not to consent to the import of a chemical shall also prohibit domestic production of the chemical for domestic use.
   a. True
   b. False

11.) Which of the following obligations apply in relation to exports of chemicals listed in Annex III? (click all that apply)
   a. Implement appropriate legislative or administrative measures to communicate import responses of other Parties to those concerned within its jurisdiction.

b. Take appropriate legislative or administrative measures to ensure that chemicals listed in Annex III are under no circumstances exported.
c. Take appropriate legislative or administrative measures to ensure that exporters within its jurisdiction comply with decisions in import responses of other Parties.
d. Advise and assist importing Parties, upon request and as appropriate.

12.) Where a chemical that is banned or severely restricted by a Party is exported from its territory, that Party shall provide which of the following to the importing Party?
a. A copy of the legislative measure banning/severely restricting the chemical.
b. An export notification
c. Guidance to facilitate decision-making on the import of the chemical.

13.) Which of the following information obligations apply for exported chemicals? (click all correct answers)
a. The shipping documents for Annex III chemicals shall bear the assigned Harmonized System customs codes.
b. Labelling requirements apply for Annex III chemicals, but not for banned or severely restricted chemicals.
c. For Annex III chemicals and banned or severely restricted chemicals that are to be used for occupational purposes, safety data sheets are sent to each importer.

14.) Which ones are among the tasks of the Chemical Review Committee (click all correct answers)
a. Review information in notifications of final regulatory actions submitted by Parties in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II of the Convention.
b. Review information in proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations submitted by Parties in accordance with the criteria set out in Part 3 of Annex IV to the Convention.
c. Review information in import responses submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 10 of the Convention.
d. Recommend to the Conference of the Parties whether a chemical should be listed in Annex III.

15.) What is the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure and how does it work (click all correct answers)
a. The PIC procedure applies to all chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention.
b. Parties to the Convention are obliged to ban all chemicals once these are listed in Annex III.
c. For each chemical in Annex III all Parties are obliged to submit their import responses to the Secretariat.
d. Exporting Parties have to ensure that exports from their countries comply with decisions in import responses of the importing Parties.

APPENDIX IV

OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS