



Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

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Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 1–12 May 2023

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: election of officers

Election of officers

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade is expected to elect the officers of the Conference of the Parties who will serve during its twelfth meeting.
2. In addition to electing those officers, the Conference of the Parties is expected to elect 8 members of the Compliance Committee with terms of office from the closure of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the closure of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,¹ and to appoint 14 new members of the Chemical Review Committee with terms of office from 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2028.²
3. A table providing an overview of all the elections expected to take place during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/4–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/4–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/4.

II. Implementation

4. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, as adopted by decision RC-1/1 with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, set out the following procedures for the election of the officers of the Conference of the Parties:

Rule 22

1. At the first ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a President and four Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. These officers shall serve as the Bureau of

* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/1.

¹ See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14.

² See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/5.

the Conference of the Parties. Each of the United Nations regional groups shall be represented by one Bureau member. The Bureau shall remain in office until the closure of the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

2. At the second and subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the election of officers from among the Parties to serve as the Bureau for the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall take place before the end of the meeting. These officers shall commence their term of office at the closure of the meeting and shall serve until the closure of the following ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

3. The offices of the President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the United Nations regional groups. No elected officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two consecutive terms.

5. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected one President and four Vice-Presidents from among the Parties to serve as officers from the closure of its tenth meeting until the closure of its eleventh meeting, as follows:

President:	Ms. Ana Berejiani (Georgia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Joswa Aoudou (Cameroon)
	Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile)
	Ms. Tuulia Toikka (Finland)
	Mr. Mohammad Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan)

6. Mr. Aoudou was also elected to act as Rapporteur.

7. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties also entrusted the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with facilitating, during the intersessional period preceding the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the process for nominating candidates for election.³ During their 2022 meetings, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions also agreed to the same arrangement, with a view to ensuring consistency in approaches and, ultimately, to facilitating decision-making on elections during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2023.

8. In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure, at its eleventh meeting the Conference of the Parties is to elect a president and four vice-presidents, one of whom is to act as rapporteur, from among the Parties. Those officers are to begin their terms of office at the closure of the eleventh meeting and serve until the closure of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

9. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, for the purposes of regional rotation the next President would be expected to be elected from among the Asia-Pacific States, and the Rapporteur from among the Western European and other States.

10. A table showing the regions and Parties from which the offices of president and rapporteur have been filled since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties is set out in the annex to the present note.

11. To facilitate the election of officers and members of subsidiary bodies, on 19 December 2022, the Secretariat, on behalf of the bureaux, sent a letter to all Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions regarding the elections to take place during the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties.⁴ Attached to the letter were three information packages on the elections to take place during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties, including information as at 30 November 2022 on arrears in assessed contributions to the general trust fund of each convention, as well as an overview of all the elections to take place during the meetings. In its letter, the Secretariat invited Parties to consider submitting to the Secretariat by 1 March 2023 the names of candidates, along with, where relevant, the required documentation supporting the nominations of the candidates, namely, in the case of the Chemical Review Committee, a curriculum vitae and the completed form for the declaration of conflicts of interest. Parties were also invited to consult in their regions in advance of and during the regional preparatory meetings on candidates to be considered for election,

³ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1, para. 29.

⁴ The letter is available at www.pic.int/TheConvention/Communications/tabid/3464/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

so as to facilitate decision-making during the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties on the election of officers and members of subsidiary bodies.

12. In accordance with paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules of the Rotterdam Convention, and as decided by the Conference of the Parties in decision RC-10/19 on the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2022–2023, no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years is eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, provided, however, that this does not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to Parties that have agreed on and are respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules.

13. Information on arrears in assessed contributions to the general trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is provided in a note by the Secretariat on a combined proposal for the programmes of work and proposed budgets for the three conventions for the biennium 2024–2025, including joint activities,⁵ and in associated documents cited therein.

14. In decisions BC-13/20, RC-8/13 and SC-8/23, on mainstreaming gender, the conferences of the Parties recognized that, notwithstanding the efforts of Parties and the Secretariat to promote gender equality, efforts were still needed to ensure that women and men from all Parties were equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and were represented in their bodies and processes and thus informed and participated in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and wastes policies. Parties are therefore encouraged to ensure that both female and male candidates are put forward for election as members of the Bureau and, in particular, as president.

III. Proposed action

15. The Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, is invited to elect a president and four vice-presidents, including one vice-president to act as rapporteur, to serve as the officers of the Conference of the Parties from the closure of its eleventh meeting to the closure of its twelfth meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

16. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to entrust the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with facilitating the election of officers and members of subsidiary bodies during the intersessional period preceding the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and during that meeting.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.16/27–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/28.

Annex

Offices of the President and the Rapporteur of the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention since its first meeting

	<i>First meeting</i>	<i>Second meeting</i>	<i>Third meeting</i>	<i>Fourth meeting</i>	<i>Fifth meeting</i>	<i>Sixth meeting</i>	<i>Seventh meeting</i>	<i>Eighth meeting</i>	<i>Ninth meeting</i>	<i>Tenth meeting</i>	<i>Eleventh meeting</i>
President	Western European and other States (Switzerland)	Western European and other States (Switzerland)	Asia-Pacific States (China)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Argentina)	African States (South Africa)	Eastern European States (Poland)	Asia-Pacific States (Jordan)	Western European and other States (Switzerland)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Chile)	African States (Gabon)	Eastern European States (Georgia)
Rapporteur	Asia-Pacific States (Jordan)	African States (Ethiopia)	Eastern European States (Lithuania)	African States (Mali)	Western European and other States (Finland)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Ecuador)	Western European and other States (France)	Asia-Pacific States (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Eastern European States (Serbia)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Saint Kitts and Nevis)	African States (Cameroon)