



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

# BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

July 2016

## Guidelines for the participation of representatives of observers at meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS) and their subsidiary bodies

### A. Introduction

1. Meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their subsidiary bodies are convened for negotiations between the Parties to the conventions. Observers are welcome to attend these meetings, subject to the relevant provisions of the convention<sup>1</sup> and the rules of procedure<sup>2</sup>.
2. Since the early days of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, observers have been actively involved, attending sessions and exchanging views with other participants, including Party representatives. It is recognized that this involvement allows vital experience, expertise, information and perspectives from observers to be brought into the process to generate new insights and approaches. Furthermore, the access and participation of observers to the process promotes transparency in the increasingly complex universal problem of chemicals and waste regulation. Such participation flourishes in an atmosphere of mutual trust, which acknowledges respect for others and their opinions, and takes into account the nature of intergovernmental sessions.
3. The BRS Secretariat has prepared these guidelines to promote a harmonious atmosphere supportive of discussions and negotiations at intergovernmental meetings, and to provide a point of reference for all participants.
4. These guidelines are not exhaustive and are without prejudice to the applicable United Nations (UN) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s rules and regulations. They provide information reflecting current practice regarding attendance and participation of observers at BRS conventions' meetings. They are in line with the guidelines governing observer participation at sessions of other bodies in the UN system.

### B. Security and safety

5. Observer representatives admitted to convention meetings shall cooperate with the BRS Secretariat and UN security staff, and comply with their requests and instructions regarding access to and conduct within the venue, including the use of its facilities.
6. Observer representatives shall not interfere with the movement of participants at any time or location within the venue.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 15 paragraph 6 of the Basel Convention, Article 18 paragraph 7 of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 19 paragraph 8 of the Stockholm Convention.

<sup>2</sup> Rules 6, 7 and 26 of the Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Rules 6, 7 and 26 of the Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Rules 6, 7 and 26 of the Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

### **C. Etiquette**

7. Observer representatives shall respect other participants' social, cultural, religious or other opinions and refrain from personal attacks, whether in verbal, written or physical form.
8. Such personal attacks include, but are not limited to, harassment, threat, and other behavior designed to deter others from holding and expressing different views.
9. During the meetings, observer representatives shall not seek to obtain information dishonestly and follow the common rules of courtesy in international negotiations within the United Nations.

### **D. Measures**

10. Any non-observance of these guidelines will normally be resolved in consultations between the BRS Secretariat and the relevant organizations and individuals. It may involve other meeting participants if deemed necessary by the Secretariat.
  11. Kindly note that, in conformity with applicable UN/UNEP/FAO rules and regulations, the BRS Secretariat and the UN Security reserve the right to take the following measures for non-observance of the above:
    - (a) Confiscation of the representative's badge;
    - (b) Removal of the representative from the premises;
    - (c) Confiscation of unauthorized material;
    - (d) Any other measure falling within their mandate that is deemed appropriate or necessary.
  12. For the purpose of paragraphs 10 and 11, the BRS Secretariat and the UN Security may act upon a complaint or on their own initiative.
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