



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BASEL CONVENTION ROTTERDAM CONVENTION STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

RULES OF PROCEDURE

**Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to
the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**

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

**Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to
the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

© 2014 Secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Disclaimer

The versions of the texts contained in this booklet have not been formally edited and are for informative purposes only. They shall not supersede the official texts of the decisions as adopted by the respective conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions. In case of error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, alteration of their content, and any discrepancy between the documents included in the present booklet and the official texts of the decisions, the latter shall prevail.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BASEL CONVENTION ROTTERDAM CONVENTION STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

RULES OF PROCEDURE

**Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to
the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**

**Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to
the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure
for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade**

**Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties
to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION




STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

CONTENTS

Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	5
--	----------

Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.....	21
--	-----------

Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	41
---	-----------

The background of the page is a light green color with a subtle grid pattern of small squares. The text is centered in a dark blue horizontal band.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION ON
THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS
OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL**

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL¹

PURPOSES

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal convened in accordance with article 15 of the Convention.

DEFINITIONS

Rule 2

For the purposes of these rules:

1. "Convention" means the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, adopted on 22 March 1989;
2. "Parties" means, unless the text otherwise indicates, Parties to the Convention;
3. "Conference of the Parties to the Convention" means the Conference of the Parties established in accordance with article 15 of the Convention;
4. "Meeting of the Conference of the Parties" means the meeting of the Parties convened in accordance with article 15 of the Convention;
5. "Political and/or economic integration organization" means an organization defined in article 2, paragraph 20, of the Convention;

¹ As adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision I/1), and amended by the seventh, tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties (decisions VII/37, BC-10/11 and BC-11/24).

6. "President" means the President elected in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;
7. "Secretariat" means the international organization designated as Secretariat of the Convention by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 16 of the Convention;
8. "Meeting" means any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

PLACE OF MEETINGS

Rule 3

The meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat of the Secretariat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

DATES OF MEETINGS

Rule 4

1. Ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held every other year, unless the Parties decide otherwise.
2. At each ordinary meeting, the Conference shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary meeting.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened at such times as may be deemed necessary by a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to them by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
4. In the case of an extraordinary meeting convened at the written request of a Party, it shall be convened not more than ninety days after the date at which the request is supported by at least one third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3 of this rule.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of the meetings at least two months before the meeting.

OBSERVERS

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and any State and any political and/or economic integration organization not party to the Convention of any meeting so that they may be represented by observers.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, and if there is no objection from at least one third of the Parties present, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting.

Rule 7

1. The Secretariat shall notify any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes as well as their management and disposal, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented, of any meeting so that they may be represented by observers, subject to the condition that their admission to the meeting is not objected to by at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, and if there is no objection from at least one third of the Parties present, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent.

AGENDA

Rule 8

In agreement with the President, the Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting.

Rule 9

The provisional agenda of each ordinary meeting shall include:

1. Items specified in article 15 of the Convention;
2. Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting;
3. Items referred to in rule 15 of the present rules of procedure;

4. Any item proposed by a Party before the agenda is circulated.
5. The provisional budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

Rule 10

The provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, for each ordinary meeting shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the Parties at least two months before the opening of the meeting.

Rule 11

The Secretariat shall, with the agreement of the President, include any question suitable for the agenda which may arise between the dispatch of the provisional agenda and the opening of the meeting in a supplementary provisional agenda, which the meeting shall examine together with the provisional agenda.

Rule 12

The meeting when adopting the agenda may add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items which are considered by the meeting to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 13

The provisional agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the extraordinary meeting. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 14

The Secretariat shall report to the meeting on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before they are considered by it. Unless the meeting decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the meeting has received the Secretariat's report on the administrative and financial implications.

Rule 15

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary meeting, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in

the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 16

Each Party participating in the meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 17

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

Rule 18

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the meeting if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Executive Secretary. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional political and/or economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

Rule 19

The officers of any meeting shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the meeting.

Rule 20

Pending a decision of the meeting upon their credentials representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

OFFICERS

Rule 21²

1. At each ordinary meeting, a President, and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur, are to be elected from among the

² As amended by the Conference of the Parties in decisions BC-10/1 and BC-11/24

representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. In conducting these elections, the Conference of the Parties shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the five United Nations regional groups.

2. The President and nine Vice-Presidents elected at an ordinary meeting shall commence their terms of office at the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for which they will serve as the Bureau, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. Exceptionally, one or more of these officers may be re-elected for one further consecutive term.
3. The President shall participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.
4. The Chair of the Compliance Committee, the co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group and the Chair of any other subsidiary bodies shall be members ex officio of the Bureau.

Rule 22

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.
2. The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 23

If the President is temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, he shall designate a Vice-President to act as President.

Rule 24

If an officer of the bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his term of office or to perform his functions, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace him for the remainder of his mandate.

Rule 25

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in his absence, a Vice-President, shall preside until the meeting has elected a President for the meeting.

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Rule 26

1. The meeting may establish such committees or working groups as may be required for the transaction of its business.
2. The meeting may decide that such committees or working groups may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.
3. Unless otherwise decided by the meeting, the chairman for each such committee or working group shall be elected by the meeting. The meeting shall determine the matters to be considered by each such committee or working group and may authorize the President, upon the request of the chairman of a committee or working group, to adjust the allocation of work.
4. Without prejudice to paragraph 3 of this rule, each committee or working group shall elect its own officers.
5. A majority of the Parties designated by the meeting to take part in the committee or working group shall constitute a quorum, but in the event of the committee or working group being open-ended, one quarter of the Parties shall constitute a quorum.
6. Unless otherwise decided by the meeting, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of committees and working

groups, except that:

- (a) The chairman of a committee or working group may exercise the right to vote; and
- (b) Decisions of committees or working groups shall be taken by a majority of the Parties present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal shall require the majority established by rule 38.

SECRETARIAT

Rule 27

1. The head of the international organization designated as Secretariat of the Convention shall be the Secretary-General of any meeting. He may delegate his functions to a member of the Secretariat. He, or his representative, shall act in that capacity in all sessions of the meeting and in all sessions of committees or working groups of the meeting.
2. The Secretary-General shall appoint an Executive Secretary of the meeting and shall provide and direct the staff required by the meeting and the committees or working groups of the meeting.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- (a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- (b) Receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- (c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the meeting;
- (d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
- (e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting in the archives of the international organization designated as Secretariat of the Convention; and
- (f) Generally perform all other work that the meeting may require.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 29³

1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise;
2. Meetings of committees and working groups established by the Conference of the Parties, other than drafting and informal working groups, shall be held in public unless the committee or working group decides otherwise.

Rule 30

The President may declare a session of the meeting open, permit the debate to proceed and have any decisions taken when representatives of at least two thirds of the Parties are present.

Rule 31

1. No one may speak at a session of the meeting without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Without prejudice to rules 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The meeting may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Rule 32

The chairman or rapporteur of a committee or working group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by his committee or working group.

³ As amended by the Conference of the Parties in decision VII/37

Rule 33

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 34

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the meeting to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 35

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding the session. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though these amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Rule 36

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:
 - (a) To suspend a session;
 - (b) To adjourn a session;
 - (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and
 - (d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.
2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker

in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 37

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 38

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the meeting, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

VOTING

Rule 39

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this rule, each Party shall have one vote.
2. Political and/or economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and *vice versa*.

Rule 40

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, the financial rules referred to in paragraph 3 of article 15 of the Convention and the present rules of procedure.
2. Decisions of a meeting on matters of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority vote of the Parties present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedural or substantive nature, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.
4. If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.
5. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 41

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the meeting, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The meeting may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 42

Any representative may request that any parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 43

If the motion referred to in rule 42 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 44

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Rule 45

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the meeting shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Rule 46

Voting, except for election, shall normally be by show of hands. A rollcall vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party. It shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.

Rule 47

The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call vote shall be recorded in the relevant documents of the meeting.

Rule 48

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal to explain his vote on his own proposal or amendment, except if it has been amended.

Rule 49

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the meeting.

Rule 50

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1 of this rule.

Rule 51

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting shall be deemed elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

LANGUAGES

Rule 52

The official languages of the meetings shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Rule 53

1. Statements made in an official language of the meeting shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than an official language of the meeting, if he provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Rule 54

Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official languages.

SOUND RECORDS OF THE MEETING

Rule 55

Sound records of the meeting, and whenever possible of its committees and working groups, shall be kept by the Secretariat in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 56

1. These rules of procedure may be amended by consensus by the Conference of the Parties.
2. Paragraph 1 of this rule shall likewise apply in case the Conference of the Parties deletes an existing rule of procedure or adopts a new rule of procedure.

OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION

Rule 57

In the event of any conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Convention, the Convention shall prevail.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON
THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR
CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES
IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE¹

I. INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

Rule 1

The present rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention convened in accordance with article 18 of the Convention.

DEFINITIONS

Rule 2

For the purposes of the present rules:

- (a) “Convention” means the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, adopted at Rotterdam, on 10 September 1998;
- (b) “Parties” means Parties to the Convention;
- (c) “Conference of the Parties” means the Conference of the Parties established by article 18 of the Convention;
- (d) “Meeting” means any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with article 18 of the Convention;
- (e) “Regional economic integration organization” means an organization defined in article 2 (h) of the Convention;

¹ As adopted in decision RC-1/1 by the Conference of the Parties, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45.

- (f) “President” means the President of the Conference of the Parties elected in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1;
- (g) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat established by article 19, paragraph 1, of the Convention;
- (h) “Subsidiary body” means the body established pursuant to article 18, paragraph 6, of the Convention, as well as any body established pursuant to article 18, paragraph 5 (a), of the Convention;
- (i) “Parties present and voting” means Parties present at the meeting in which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

II. MEETINGS

PLACE OF MEETINGS

Rule 3

The meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seats of the Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

DATES OF MEETINGS

Rule 4

1. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the second and third ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held yearly and, thereafter, ordinary meetings shall be held every two years.
2. At each ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary meeting. The Conference of the Parties should endeavour not to hold such meetings at a time that would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such times as may be decided either by the Conference of the Parties at an ordinary meeting or at the written request of any Party,

provided that, within ninety days of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

4. In the case of an extraordinary meeting held at the written request of a Party, it shall be held not more than ninety days after the date on which the request is supported by at least one third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3.

NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of ordinary and extraordinary meetings at least sixty days before the meeting in question is due to commence.

III. OBSERVERS

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND NON-PARTIES

Rule 6

1. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not Party to this Convention, may be represented at meetings as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

PARTICIPATION OF OTHER BODIES OR AGENCIES

Rule 7

1. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting as an observer may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARIAT

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall notify those entitled to be observers and those which have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented, pursuant to rules 6 and 7, of the dates and venue of the next meeting.

IV. AGENDA

PREPARATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Rule 9

In agreement with the President, the Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda for each meeting.

ITEMS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR ORDINARY MEETINGS

Rule 10

The provisional agenda for each ordinary meeting shall include, as appropriate:

- (a) Items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in its article 18;
- (b) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting;
- (c) Items referred to in rule 16;
- (d) The proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements;
- (e) Any item proposed by a Party and received by the Secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Rule 11

For each ordinary meeting, the provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

Rule 12

The Secretariat shall, in agreement with the President, include any item that is proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda for an ordinary meeting has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

ADDITION, DELETION, DEFERMENT OR AMENDMENT OF ITEMS

Rule 13

When adopting the agenda for an ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties may decide to add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items that are considered by the Conference of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

AGENDA FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

Rule 14

The agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at an ordinary meeting or in the request for the holding of the extraordinary meeting. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the notification of the extraordinary meeting.

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Rule 15

The Secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and budgetary implications of all substantive agenda

items submitted to the meeting, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such substantive agenda item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the Conference of the Parties has received a report of the Secretariat on its administrative and budgetary implications.

INCOMPLETE CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

Rule 16

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary meeting, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the provisional agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

Rule 17

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as it may require.

ALTERNATES AND ADVISERS

Rule 18

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

SUBMISSION OF CREDENTIALS

Rule 19

The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of

a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

EXAMINATION OF CREDENTIALS

Rule 20

The Bureau of any meeting shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties.

PROVISIONAL PARTICIPATION

Rule 21

Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials.

VI. OFFICERS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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 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.
4. The President shall participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the meetings and to exercise the right to vote.
5. The Chairs of the Chemical Review Committee and any other subsidiary bodies shall be members ex-officio of the Bureau.

GENERAL POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

Rule 23

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by the present rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the meetings, ensure the observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to the present rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat.
2. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.
3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

ACTING PRESIDENT

Rule 24

1. The President, if temporarily absent from a meeting or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. The President so designated shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President.

REPLACEMENT OF AN OFFICER

Rule 25

If an officer of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's term.

VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

APPLICATION OF THE RULES TO SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Rule 26

Save as provided in rules 28–33, the present rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of any subsidiary bodies, subject to any modifications decided by the Conference of the Parties.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Rule 27

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish, in accordance with article 18, paragraph 5 (a), such subsidiary bodies, as it considers necessary for the implementation of the Convention, in addition to the subsidiary body established under article 18, paragraph 6.
2. Meetings of subsidiary bodies shall be held in public unless the Conference of the Parties or the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

QUORUM FOR NON OPEN-ENDED SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Rule 28

In the case of a subsidiary body that is not open-ended, a simple majority of the Parties designated by the Conference of the Parties to participate therein shall constitute a quorum.

DATES OF MEETINGS

Rule 29

The Conference of the Parties shall decide on the dates of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, taking note of any proposals to hold such meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Rule 30

The Chair of the Chemical Review Committee shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chair of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own officers other than the Chair. The officers of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Rule 31

Subject to article 18, paragraph 6 (b), of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each subsidiary body and the President may, upon the request of the Chair of the subsidiary body concerned, adjust the allocation of work.

VIII. SECRETARIAT

DUTIES OF THE HEADS OF THE SECRETARIAT

Rule 32

1. The heads of the Secretariat shall jointly exercise the functions of that office in all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies. Either head of the Secretariat may designate a representative to serve in its place.
2. The heads of the Secretariat shall jointly arrange for the provision of staff and services required by the Conference of the Parties and

its subsidiary bodies, within available resources. The heads of the Secretariat shall jointly manage and direct such staff and services and provide appropriate support and advice to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT

Rule 33

In addition to the functions specified in the Convention, in particular in article 19, the Secretariat shall, in accordance with the present rules:

- (a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- (b) Collect, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- (c) Publish and distribute the official documents of the meeting;
- (d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting;
and
- (e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

SESSIONS

Rule 34

Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

QUORUM

Rule 35

1. The President shall not declare a session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties open or permit the debate to proceed unless at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present. The presence of two thirds of the Parties to the Convention shall be required for any decision to be taken.
2. For the purposes of determining a quorum for a decision to be taken on a matter within the competence of a regional economic integration

organization, that organization shall be counted to the extent of the number of votes it is entitled to cast in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 23 of the Convention.

PROCEDURES FOR SPEAKING

Rule 36

1. No one may address a meeting without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 38, 39, 40 and 42, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

PRECEDENCE

Rule 37

The Chair or Rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

POINTS OF ORDER

Rule 38

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, on which the President shall immediately rule in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

DECISIONS ON COMPETENCE

Rule 39

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Rule 40

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing, in one of the official languages, by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. As a general rule, no proposal or amendment to proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding that session. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals, of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though such proposals, amendments to proposals or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

ORDER OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Rule 41

1. Subject to rule 40, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated below over all other proposals or motions:
 - (a) To suspend the meeting;
 - (b) To adjourn the meeting;
 - (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
 - (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.
2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS OR MOTIONS

Rule 42

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the proposal or motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

Rule 43

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Conference of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover, to one speaker in favour of and two against the proposal, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

X. VOTING

RIGHT TO VOTE

Rule 44

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.
2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

MAJORITY REQUIRED

Rule 45

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. [If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, by the

financial rules referred to in article 18, paragraph 4 of the Convention or by the present rules of procedure.]

2. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting.
3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedural or substantive nature, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.
4. If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

ORDER OF VOTING ON PROPOSALS

Rule 46

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

DIVISION OF PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS

Rule 47

1. Any representative may request that any part of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If an objection is made to the request for division, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the request, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote. The President may limit the time allowed to each speaker.
2. If the request referred to in paragraph 1 is allowed or adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal that are approved shall then be put to vote as a whole. If all operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

AMENDMENT TO A PROPOSAL

Rule 48

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

ORDER OF VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO A PROPOSAL

Rule 49

If two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Conference of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the next amendment furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

METHOD OF VOTING FOR GENERAL MATTERS

Rule 50

1. Voting, except for elections, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll call vote shall be taken if so requested by any Party. The roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. If at any time, however, a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.
2. When the Conference of the Parties votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call.
3. The vote of each Party participating in a roll call or recorded vote shall be included in the relevant documents of the meeting.

CONDUCT DURING VOTING

Rule 51

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in

connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal to explain his/her vote on his/her own proposal or amendment, except if it has been amended.

XI. ELECTIONS

METHOD OF VOTING FOR ELECTIONS

Rule 52

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

ABSENCE OF MAJORITY

Rule 53

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1.

ELECTION TO TWO OR MORE ELECTIVE PLACES

Rule 54

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting shall be deemed elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Rule 55

The official languages of the Conference of the Parties shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

INTERPRETATION

Rule 56

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

LANGUAGES OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Rule 57

Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official languages.

SOUND RECORDINGS OF MEETINGS

Rule 58

Sound recordings of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and whenever possible of the subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat, consistent with the practice of the United Nations.

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 59

The present rules of procedure may be amended by consensus by the Conference of the Parties.

XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION

PRECEDENCE OF THE CONVENTION

Rule 60


In the event of any conflict between any provision of the present rules and any provision of the Convention, the Convention shall prevail.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

ITALICIZED HEADINGS

Rule 61

The italicized headings of the present rules are for reference purposes only. They shall be disregarded in the interpretation of the rules.

The background of the entire page is a light orange color with a subtle, repeating grid pattern of small squares. A solid dark blue horizontal band is positioned across the upper middle of the page, containing the title text in white.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS¹

I. INTRODUCTION

Rule 1

The present rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention convened in accordance with Article 19 of the Convention.

Rule 2

For the purposes of the present rules:

- (a) "Convention" means the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted at Stockholm, on 22 May 2001;
- (b) "Party" means a Party as defined in Article 2 (a) of the Convention;
- (c) "Conference of the Parties" means the Conference of the Parties established by Article 19 of the Convention;
- (d) "Meeting" means any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with Article 19 of the Convention;
- (e) "Regional economic integration organization" means an organization as defined in Article 2 (b) of the Convention;
- (f) "President" means the President of the Conference of the Parties elected in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1;
- (g) "Secretariat" means the Secretariat established by paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Convention.
- (h) "Subsidiary body" means the body established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 19 of the Convention, as well as any body established pursuant to Article 19, paragraph 5 (a) of the Convention.

¹ As adopted in decision SC-1/1, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, and amended in decision SC-5/1 by the Conference of the Parties.

- (i) “Parties present and voting” means Parties present at the meeting in which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

II. MEETINGS

Rule 3

The meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat of the Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

Rule 4

1. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the second and third ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held yearly and, thereafter, ordinary meetings shall be held every two years.
2. At each ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary meeting. The Conference of the Parties should endeavour not to hold such meetings at a time that would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such times as may be decided either by the Conference of the Parties at an ordinary meeting or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within ninety days of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
4. In the case of an extraordinary meeting held at the written request of a Party, it shall be held not more than ninety days after the date on which the request is supported by at least one third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of ordinary and extraordinary meetings at least sixty days before the meeting in question is due to commence.

III. OBSERVERS

Rule 6

1. The United Nations, its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not Party to the Convention, as well as any entity operating the mechanism referred to in paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention, may be represented at meetings as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate in the proceedings of any meeting without the right to vote, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a meeting as an observer, may be so admitted, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

Rule 8

The Secretariat shall notify those entitled to be observers and those which have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented, pursuant to rules 6 and 7, of the dates and venue of the next meeting.

IV. AGENDA

Rule 9

In agreement with the President, the Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda for each meeting.

Rule 10

The provisional agenda for each ordinary meeting shall include, as appropriate:

- (a) Items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in its Article 19;
- (b) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting;
- (c) Items referred to in rule 16;
- (d) The proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements;
- (e) Any item proposed by a Party and received by the Secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated.

Rule 11

For each ordinary meeting, the provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Secretariat to the Parties at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting.

Rule 12

The Secretariat shall, in agreement with the President, include any item that is proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda for an ordinary meeting has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Rule 13

When adopting the agenda for an ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties may decide to add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items that are considered by the Conference of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 14

The agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at an ordinary meeting or in the request for the holding of the extraordinary meeting. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the notification of the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 15

The Secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and budgetary implications of all substantive agenda

items submitted to the meeting, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such substantive agenda item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the Conference of the Parties has received a report of the Secretariat on its administrative and budgetary implications.

Rule 16

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary meeting, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the provisional agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 17

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as it may require.

Rule 18

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

Rule 19

The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

Rule 20

The Bureau of any meeting shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 21

Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials.

VI. OFFICERS

Rule 22²

1. At each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a President and nine 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 the Conference of the Parties. They shall commence their terms of office at the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. Each of the five United Nations regional groups shall be represented by two members.
2. 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.
3. The President shall participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the meetings and to exercise the right to vote.
4. The chairs of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and any other subsidiary bodies shall be members ex-officio of the Bureau.

Rule 23

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by the present rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the meetings, ensure the observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points

² As amended by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-5/1.

of order and, subject to the present rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat.

2. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.
3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 24

1. The President, if temporarily absent from a meeting or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. The President so designated shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party.
2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President.

Rule 25

If an officer of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's term.

VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Rule 26

Save as provided in rules 28–31, the present rules shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of any subsidiary bodies, subject to any modifications decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 27

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish, in accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of Article 19 of the Convention, such subsidiary bodies, as it considers necessary for the implementation of the Convention, in addition to the subsidiary body established under Article 19, paragraph 6.

2. Meetings of subsidiary bodies shall be held in public unless the Conference of the Parties or the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

Rule 28

In the case of a subsidiary body that is not open-ended, a simple majority of the Parties designated by the Conference of the Parties to participate therein shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 29

The Conference of the Parties shall decide on the dates of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, taking note of any proposals to hold such meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 30

The Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the chair of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own officers other than the chair. The officers of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Rule 31

Subject to paragraph 6 (b) of Article 19 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each subsidiary body and the President may, upon the request of the Chair of the subsidiary body concerned, adjust the allocation of work.

VIII. SECRETARIAT

Rule 32

1. The head of the Secretariat, or the representative of the head of the Secretariat, shall exercise the functions of that office in all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies.
2. The head of the Secretariat shall arrange for the provision of staff and services required by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary

bodies, within available resources. The head of the Secretariat shall manage and direct such staff and services and provide appropriate support and advice to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 33

In addition to the functions specified in the Convention, in particular in Article 20, the Secretariat shall, in accordance with the present rules:

- (a) Arrange for interpretation at the meeting;
- (b) Collect, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the meeting;
- (c) Publish and distribute the official documents of the meeting;
- (d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meeting; and
- (e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meeting.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 34

Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

Rule 35

1. The President shall not declare a session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties open or permit the debate to proceed unless at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present. The presence of two thirds of the Parties to the Convention shall be required for any decision to be taken.
2. For the purposes of determining a quorum for a decision to be taken on a matter within the competence of a regional economic integration organization, that organization shall be counted to the extent of the number of votes it is entitled to cast in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 23 of the Convention.

Rule 36

1. No one may address a meeting without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 37, 38, 39 and 41, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Rule 37

The chair or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Rule 38

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, on which the President shall immediately rule in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 39

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 40

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing, in one of the official languages, by the Parties and handed to the

Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. As a general rule, no proposal or amendment to proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations not later than the day preceding that session. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals, of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though such proposals, amendments to proposals or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Rule 41

1. Subject to rule 38, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated below over all other proposals or motions:
 - (a) To suspend the session;
 - (b) To adjourn the session;
 - (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
 - (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.
2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within paragraph 1 (a)–(d) shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Rule 42

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the proposal or motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 43

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Conference of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover, to one speaker in favour of and two against the proposal, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

X. VOTING

Rule 44

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.
2. A regional economic integration organization, on matters within its competence, shall exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

Rule 45

1. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. [If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, by the financial rules referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 19 of the Convention or by the present rules of procedure.]
2. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting.
3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedural or substantive nature, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.
4. If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 46

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 47

1. Any representative may request that any part of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If an objection is made to the request for division, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the request, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote. The President may limit the time allowed to each speaker.
2. If the request referred to in paragraph 1 is allowed or adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal that are approved shall then be put to vote as a whole. If all operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 48

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Rule 49

If two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Conference of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the next amendment furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Rule 50

1. Voting, except for elections, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll call vote shall be taken if so requested by any Party. The roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the President. If at any time, however, a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.
2. When the Conference of the Parties votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call.

3. The vote of each Party participating in a roll call or recorded vote shall be included in the relevant documents of the meeting.

Rule 51

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal to explain his or her vote on his or her own proposal or amendment, except if it has been amended.

XI. ELECTIONS

Rule 52

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 53

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1.

Rule 54

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting shall be deemed elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.
3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS

Rule 55

The official languages of the Conference of the Parties shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Rule 56

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Rule 57

Official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official languages.

Rule 58

Sound recordings of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and whenever possible of the subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat, consistent with the practice of the United Nations.

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 59

The present rules of procedure may be amended by consensus by the Conference of the Parties.

XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION

Rule 60

In the event of any conflict between any provision of the present rules and any provision of the Convention, the Convention shall prevail.

**Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam
and Stockholm Conventions**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
International Environment House
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine GE, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 82 18
Fax: +41 22 917 80 98
Email: brs@brsmeas.org

Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 2061
Fax: +39 06 5705 3224
Email: pic@fao.org

www.basel.int – www.pic.int – www.pops.int