

**Near East Consultation on the Rotterdam Convention On the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,  
29 May to 1 June 2005, Cairo, Egypt**

**AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

**SUNDAY 29 May**

08:30-9:00	Registration of participants	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Session:</b>	<b>OPENING</b>	<i>Chair</i>
9:00-9:45	Opening Remarks – Host Government Opening Remarks – Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention Opening Remarks – Host Organization Opening Remarks – on behalf of FAO Representative	<i>TBD Secretariat Dr.M. Abdel Satar T. ElAzzabi, FAO</i>
9:45-10:00	Presentation of participants and secretariat	<i>Chair</i>
	Overview of the agenda and organization of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Objectives/ Structure</li><li>• Local arrangements</li></ul>	<i>T. ElAzzabi, FAO</i>
10:00-10:30	<b>Break</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Session</b>	<b>Introduction to the Rotterdam Convention</b>	<i>Chair</i>
10:30-11:30	Overview of the Rotterdam Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benefits</li><li>• Obligations</li><li>• Operational procedures (brief)</li></ul>	<i>S. Logan, Secretariat</i>
11.30 – 12.00	Status of implementation and current activities	
12.00 – 12:30	Discussion / questions and answers	
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Session</b>	<b>Ratification of the Rotterdam Convention</b>	<i>Chair</i>
13:30-14:00	Signature and Ratification <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General overview on steps for ratification and challenges</li><li>• Benefits of ratification</li></ul>	<i>G. Wyrwal, Secretariat</i>
14:00-14:40	Presentations by invited countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Countries in the region who have ratified the Convention - description of the process followed, experience with the ratification process;</li></ul>	<i>DNA-Jordan DNA-UAE</i>
14:40-15:00	<b>Break</b>	
15:00-15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country in the region who has not yet ratified the Convention - report on status with ratification and challenges;</li></ul> Panel discussion – lessons learned, consideration of benefits as well as challenges and obstacles to ratification, Questions and answers;	<i>DNA-Egypt</i>

15:15-15:30	Preparation for Session 5 breakout group	<i>G. Wyrwal, Secretariat</i>
15:30-16:30	Break out group: (Egypt only): identify steps towards ratification; identify means to address any challenges and propose next steps to be taken for ratification	<i>Egyptian Participants</i>

### MONDAY 30 May

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Session</b>	<b>Operational elements of the Rotterdam Convention</b>	<i>Chair</i>
9:00-12:00	<b>Specific Obligations of the Rotterdam Convention (Session to include a coffee break at an appropriate time)</b>	
	<b>Notifications of regulatory control actions</b>	<i>S. Logan Secretariat</i>
	Presentation of the notification process and key documents	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obligations of Parties</li> <li>• consideration of national action required</li> </ul>	
	Country in the region presenting experience with the notification process and challenges;	<i>DNA Jordan</i>
	Discussion – Questions and answers;	
	<b>Proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations</b>	
	Presentation of the proposal process and key documents	<i>G. Wyrwal. Secretariat</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obligations of Parties</li> <li>• consideration of national action required</li> </ul>	
	Discussion – Questions and answers;	
	<b>Import decisions:</b>	<i>G. Wyrwal Secretariat</i>
	Presentation of the process for import decisions and key documents	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obligations of Parties</li> <li>• consideration of national action required</li> </ul>	
	Country in the region presenting experience with the import response process and challenges;	<i>DNA UAE</i>
	Discussion – Questions and answers;	
	<b>Export Notifications</b>	<i>S. Logan, Secretariat</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obligations of parties</li> <li>• consideration of national action required</li> </ul>	
	Discussion – Questions and answers;	
12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Session</b>	<b>Identification of possible approaches to implementation</b>	<i>Chair</i>
13:00-13:15	Introduction – Plenary	<i>G. Wyrwal, Secretariat</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives of the breakout groups – to consider approaches to implementation of the key obligations, start proposing actions</li> </ul>	

13:15-16:00 Breakout groups – Identification of possible approaches  
Based on their own experience, information provided in presentations, and documentation prepared by the Secretariat, the working groups will:

- identify key challenges and consider possible next steps to the implementation of all key operational elements of the Convention

*Groups*

15:00-15:15 **Break (as appropriate during breakout group)**

16:00-17:00 Plenary Session

- Groups to present individually the key challenges identified, and the possible approaches to implement each of the key obligations
- Plenary to consider the approaches presented, exchange views, and discuss possible solutions

*Chair  
Groups*

## TUESDAY, 31 May

**6<sup>th</sup> Session**      **Focussing on national approaches**      *Chair*

9:00-10:30 Overview of the Basel and Stockholm Convention, and Synergies with the Rotterdam Convention      *Secretariat*

Incorporating issues of the Rotterdam Convention in other national chemicals management programmes (UNITAR Integrated Chemicals Management Programme) - country in the region with experience      *DNA Jordan*

Incorporating issues of the Rotterdam Convention in other national chemicals management programmes (POPs- NIP- National Implementation Programmes ) - country in the region with experience      *POPs FP Egypt*

10:30-11:00 **Break**

11:00-11:15 Introduction to work of working groups – Plenary

- Objectives of breakout groups – the results of the previous session will assist national working groups to identify national actions required, and start developing next steps

*G. Wyrwal,  
Secretariat*

11:30 – 12:00 **Elaboration of National plans**      *Groups*

Based on the results of the previous session, national working groups will consider the key operational elements and:

- consider specific issues relevant to the implementation of the key operational elements:
  - current legal / administrative infrastructure
  - what has been done/ needs to be done
  - identify responsibilities
- identify specific national actions
- identify elements of national plans addressing these issues

12:00-13:00 **Lunch**

13:00-15:00 ctd- Elaboration of National plans      *Chair*

15:00-15:30 **Break**

15:30-17:00 Plenary Session      *Chair*

- Groups to present individually their consolidated list of **national actions** for consideration by the plenary *Groups*
- Discussion: Exchanging information and views regarding the individual lists of national plans and exchange of experience among participants in developing next steps

### WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE

<b>7<sup>th</sup> Session</b>	<b>Consolidation elements working towards National Action Plans or Strategies</b>	<i>Chair</i>
9:00-12:00	Breakout groups (national lines) – formulate the national action plans or strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize consolidated tables containing the elements of a national action plan or strategy for the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, and make any amendments following plenary discussions;</li> <li>• Formulate a descriptive Executive Summary to accompany the list of elements of a national action plan;</li> </ul>	<i>Groups</i>
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Session</b>	<b>Presentation of National Action Plans and Strategies</b>	<i>Chair</i>
13:00-13:15	Introduction – Plenary	<i>G. Wyrwal, Secretariat</i>
13:15-16:00	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the executive summary, along with the consolidated lists of national issues, actions to be taken (by whom, when) and presentation of the national plans or strategies regarding implementation of the Rotterdam Convention</li> </ul>	<i>Groups</i>  <i>Chair</i>