



**Stockholm Convention  
on Persistent Organic  
Pollutants**

Original: English

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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Fourth meeting**

Geneva, 4–8 May 2009

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties  
and its subsidiary bodies**

**Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted, in decision SC-1/1, the rules of procedure for the Conference as contained in the annex to that decision, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, which it agreed to maintain in square brackets to indicate that it had not been agreed and was of no effect.
2. Paragraph 1 of rule 45 reads as follows:  

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.]
3. At its third meeting, during its consideration of the bracketed text in paragraph 1 of rule 45, the Conference agreed that it would not take a formal decision on the matter at that meeting, that the square brackets around the second sentence of the paragraph would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.<sup>1</sup>

**Possible action by the Conference**

4. The Conference may wish to continue its consideration of paragraph 1 of rule 45 of its rules of procedure.

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\* UNEP/POPS/COP.4/1.

\*\* Stockholm Convention, Article 19, paragraph 4; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/1; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its third meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30), paragraph 23.

1 UNEP/POPS/COP.3/30, paragraph 23.