(your letterhead)

(date)

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

To: (Insert correct name and form of address, example: Honourable J. Smith, Minister of Health)

(Dear Minister Smith),

I write to you to express strong support for the Proposal to amend Article 22 of the Rotterdam Convention, submitted by the African Region / the Governments of Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zambia.

It is my hope that our government will support this change during the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, which will take place 24 April – 5 May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

As you are no doubt aware, the Rotterdam Convention is effectively dysfunctional, at least for substances that have the backing of strong financial interests. First, industry interest groups insisted that consensus decision-making under the Convention meant unanimity. Then, using the requirement for unanimity, those same interest groups have blocked the listing of substances for Prior Informed Consent under the Convention. I refer in particular here to the International Chrysotile Association, which has managed to block the listing of asbestos for years, with the support of only a very few countries.

The proposed change would mean that in the absence of a consensus, a substance could be listed if a majority of 75% of the Parties voting, supported that action.

On behalf of (organization), affiliated with the 50 million workers represented by IndustriALL Global Union worldwide, this situation is long overdue for correction. So long as any one party can exercise a veto over good science and common sense, the Rotterdam Convention is discredited.

Hundreds of thousands of workers die of asbestos disease each year, and millions more suffer disability and pain. We count on your support to correct this.

Respectfully submitted,

(name and title)