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*In Partnership for Global Chemical Safety*

**FORUM III**

**Third Session**  
**of the**  
**Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety**

**Salvador da Bahía, Brazil**  
**15 – 20 October 2000**

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**Final Report**

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## BAHIA DECLARATION ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

**I. We, the participating partners in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), met in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, October 15-20, 2000 for our Third Forum. Representing governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations from industry, public interest groups, and groups concerned with scientific and labour interests, we:**

*Reaffirm* our commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development including the principles on sustainable development, capacity building, access to information and the precautionary approach;

*Recommit to Agenda 21, Chapter 19*, acknowledging the challenges for chemical safety set in 1992 at Rio;

*Note* the progress made since the establishment of our Forum in 1994;

*Emphasize* the essential role of sound management of chemicals in sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment;

*Recognize* the responsibility of all sectors to work together in our shared vision for the safe management of chemicals;

*Acknowledge* that all countries have diverse needs in working to achieve chemical safety;

*Recognize* the importance of the provision of technical and financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to accomplish Forum priorities beyond 2000;

*Understand* that our knowledge of the effects of exposure to chemicals remains very incomplete; that continued research and vigilance are needed; that new challenges will demand new responses; that cooperation and partnership are essential to the development of appropriate policies and infrastructure for chemicals management in all countries; and that an informed public is a vital support for the work that needs to be done; and

**II. Accordingly, we call on governments, industry, public interest non-governmental organizations, labour unions, scientific organizations, international organizations, and the public to engage and join us in our common efforts toward the accomplishment of the priorities that we have set for review at Forum IV and Forum V and beyond:**

1. Promoting global cooperation for chemicals management; for pollution prevention; for sustainable agriculture; and for cleaner processes, materials and products;
2. Increasing the flow of information about the safe use of chemicals; the risks that can be involved in their manufacture, release into the environment and disposal; and the means to avoid or reduce risks;
3. Ensuring that all countries have the capacity for sound management of chemicals, particularly through coordinated national policies, legislation and infrastructure;
4. Ratifying and implementing chemicals conventions and agreements and ensuring efficient and effective coordination between all chemical safety-related organizations and activities;

5. Marshalling resources to remedy chemical safety problems warranting concerted international response and action, such as illegal trafficking in toxic and dangerous products; and
6. Increasing access to information, knowledge, and skills development in chemical safety, recognizing that communities have a right-to-know about chemicals in the environment and to participate meaningfully in decisions about chemical safety that affect them.

**III. While taking satisfaction that much has been done we, the participants, agree that much still remains to be done in order to accomplish the intent of *Chapter 19*, as:**

1. Many countries are still struggling to establish the essential infrastructure for chemical safety including the creation of national coordinating mechanisms, the development of national profiles and the implementation of national action plans;
2. Standards of chemical safety across much of the world fall short of that needed to provide adequate protection of human health and the environment;
3. Insufficient international resources have been mobilized and insufficient local resources exist to properly manage and dispose of the many stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and hazardous chemicals that remain around the world; and
4. International assessments of chemicals have not reached the targets set at Forum I in 1994.

**IV. In order to build on progress to date and to meet those objectives that have been set in a number of fora and in Salvador da Bahia during Forum III we, the participants, commit ourselves to:**

1. Work together as partners in this mutual enterprise, recognizing the valuable contributions that each has to make to attainment of our goals;
2. Give greater emphasis to cooperation and coordination at all levels, seeking synergies through sharing concerns and experience, and through pooling of resources;
3. Identify innovative solutions to the problems of chemical safety and pursue them energetically;
4. Seek ways of securing greater and more stable flows of resources to enable work on the pressing priorities identified, and the goals set, at Forum III; and
5. Promote the entry into force at the earliest possible time of international treaties and agreements concerning chemical safety that are under negotiation or not yet in operation

**V. So that we can focus our energies and resources and measure our progress, we commit ourselves and, where applicable, with the support of donor countries and international organizations to achieve a number of goals for review at Forum IV and Forum V, as set out in full in our Forum III document *Priorities for Action beyond 2000*. To keep these before us we list key goals in short form:**

By 2001:

- The Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants will have been adopted.

By 2002:

- Most countries, through a multi-stakeholder process, will have developed a National Profile on chemicals management, ensured national coordination for the sound management of chemicals and designated an IFCS National Focal Point.
- Seventy or more countries will have implemented systems aimed at preventing major industrial accidents and systems for emergency preparedness and response.
- Poison centers will have been established in thirty or more countries that do not have such centers and further strengthened in at least seventy more.

By Forum IV in 2003:

- The Rotterdam Convention will have entered into force.
- The Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) will have been adopted.
- An effective Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals will be operating.
- The Forum will consider recommendations for prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products, and countries will have elaborated their national strategies.
- A report will have been prepared on the problem of acutely toxic pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations and recommending sound management options.
- All countries will have reported on risk reduction initiatives they have taken on other chemicals of major concern.

By 2004:

- Recommendations to establish common principles and harmonized approaches for risk methodologies on specific toxicological endpoints will be available.
- An additional one thousand chemical hazard assessments will have been completed and made available to the public in a timely manner.
- Most countries will have procedures in place to ensure that hazardous materials carry appropriate and reliable safety information.
- Most countries will have integrated and ecologically sound pest and vector management strategies.
- Most countries will have established action plans for safe management of obsolete stocks of pesticides and other hazardous chemicals and at least two countries in each IFCS region will have commenced implementation of their action plans.
- Following its adoption in 2001, the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants will have entered into force.
- At least two additional countries in each IFCS region will have established a Pollution Release and Transfer Register or emissions inventory.

By 2005:

- At least five countries in each IFCS region will have full arrangements in place for the exchange of information on hazardous chemicals.
- Most countries will have developed national policies with targets for improving the management of chemicals.

Beyond Forum V (expected in 2005 or 2006)

- The Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals will be fully operational.
- Most countries in each IFCS region will have fully operational arrangements in place for the exchange of information on hazardous chemicals.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Forum III agreed action items and recommendations**

#### **Priorities for Action beyond 2000**

At its first meeting in Stockholm in 1994, the Forum adopted recommendations on some 40 Priorities for Action. Six years later considerable progress has been made towards these goals while new challenges have appeared. Forum III considered and adopted new Priorities for Action beyond 2000. The new Priorities update objectives in earlier areas of work and set goals in several new areas. These include targets relating to:

- data on inherent hazards in geographical areas other than temperate climatic regions;
- ensuring that relevant hazard data become available in the shortest possible time;
- ensuring that information on hazards related to export of hazardous chemicals is available;
- management of stocks of pesticides and other chemicals which are no longer in use;
- global measures against persistent organic pollutants;
- poisonings of users of toxic pesticides;
- national plans of action to address hazardous chemicals;
- taking action against illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products; and
- promoting assistance to enable all countries to work in all of the Forum's programme areas.

The Priorities for Action beyond 2000 are listed in full in Annex 6.

#### **Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products**

Forum III recognized that there is global concern for illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products. It noted that despite the diversity of problems in the different regions, there are common issues as well as potential and possible solutions. The Forum unanimously adopted several recommendations as part of the Priorities for Action beyond 2000 (Annex 6).

#### **Barriers to Information Exchange**

There are many barriers to timely and effective information exchange. Forum III recognized that resolution of communication gaps must assume a very high priority in the near term.

Forum III:

- Agreed to support a global effort to assure that government officials responsible for the sound management of chemicals have access to the Internet (email and Web) in the near term (e.g. 1-2 years), and the training to make effective use of it;
- Requested that IFCS participants assist in finding the needed funding and implementation mechanisms, following the roles outlined below; and

- Requested that one of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations take the lead for such an effort.

The targets for a Forum-sponsored effort are the following:

- Designated National Authorities for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention;
- National Focal Points for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS);
- Focal Points for a future convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- Other relevant focal points and national competent authorities designated by countries on related issues.

IFCS participants should play the following roles:

- One IOMC participating organization should take the lead for coordinating fundraising and implementation efforts for a global project that would seek to assure that all government officials responsible for the sound management of chemicals have Internet access and other related information tools and training in their use. The designated organization should prepare and circulate a questionnaire designed to identify national requirements for Internet access and form a workgroup of interested parties who want to assist with this effort, including other IOMC participating organizations.
- Potential donors should accord priority to funding this project, either in the form of bilateral support to individual countries or as support for the lead IOMC organization.
- IFCS participants from developing countries should take a leadership role in mobilizing support within their own countries for this effort, and should serve as liaisons with the lead IOMC organization.
- Companies and organizations representing the chemical industry should provide in-kind services and they are encouraged to consider funding, as well as to investigate other financial resources, for such a project.
- All parties should encourage the participation of private charitable trust funds, particularly those established by the technology sector, which may be interested in providing resources for such projects.

### **Information Exchange for Chemical Production Decision Making**

Forum III agreed that a mechanism is needed by which government officials, industry, and other relevant organizations in less developed countries can be provided with information about 'best practices' in the design and development of new facilities that would minimize health and safety problems and environmental risks associated with the manufacture of chemicals.

Forum III:

- Recommended that the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations take into account the information needed for decision-making aimed at preventing adverse human health and environmental impacts related to the production of chemicals, to foster timely and effective exchange of such information, and to develop and promote the mechanisms for implementation. These could include development of a chapter in the chemical management toolbox, establishment of a coordination mechanism to put government



and industry in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in contact with knowledgeable officials in government and industry in developed countries, and establishment of a repository to capture and make readily available to other users information on “best practices”, clean technologies, and impacts on human health and environmental quality, involving all stakeholders under this programme.

- Requested the chemical industry, where it has not already done so, to commit to provide advance notification about new or expanded production facilities to officials, employees, customers, and the public in the country involved, in conformity with: national laws and regulations, principles of sound management of chemicals as established by international agreements and guidelines, and product stewardship programmes and initiatives including Responsible Care<sup>®</sup>. The advance notification should include information on chemical-related health or environmental hazards and recommended preventative measures.
- Urged chemical companies that operate in a global environment to apply their corporate health, safety and environmental principles, standards, and “best practices” in all stages of design, construction, operations, and decommissioning, in all countries, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to comply with local laws, regulations, and requirements. Chemical industry associations are requested to encourage their members in this respect.
- Requested IFCS National Focal Points to take a leadership role in mobilizing the means to use the information available to ensure that all appropriate measures are in place to protect workers, communities, and the environment, including contingency planning for emergencies.

### **Emission Inventories**

Forum III reiterated that Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)/emission inventories are effective tools to stimulate the reduction of risks from chemicals and the prevention and/or the reduction of emissions, and

- Encouraged countries without PRTR systems to take steps to initiate a process to design a national PRTR/emission inventory taking into account national circumstances and needs;
- Called for the establishment of a PRTR/emission inventory in at least two additional countries in each IFCS region by 2004;
- Called upon countries to involve all affected and interested parties in designing PRTRs/emission inventories and to ensure that all parties have the information and capacity to participate in an effective way;
- Urged countries to link reporting requirements under international agreements to national PRTRs/emissions inventories;
- Called upon the multi- and bi-lateral donor community to provide financial and

technical assistance in response to national requests for PRTR/emission inventory related assistance;

- Called upon UNEP and UNITAR to increase technical and financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen national capacities and capabilities to design and implement national PRTRs/emission inventories;
- Requested ICCA to report to Forum IV on progress achieved in implementing ICCA policy on PRTRs/emission inventories, including possible interim voluntary public disclosure by ICCA members with facilities in countries without voluntary or regulatory PRTR/emission inventory systems; and
- Requested the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group to:
  - 1) Prepare a report for Forum IV, summarizing the status and progress in developing PRTRs/emission inventories;
  - 2) Investigate opportunities to engage countries, which are not members of the OECD, in work of the Group;
  - 3) Prepare a report addressing the linking of reporting requirements under international agreements to national PRTRs/emission inventories; and
  - 4) Coordinate the action called for above and prepare a consolidated report for review and possible further action at Forum IV.

### **Awareness Raising**

The Forum recognizes the need for high level political support in governments and international development agencies. Forum III agreed that IFCS should play a much more active role in advocating the importance of the sound management of chemicals at high political levels in governments and other organizations, especially those providing international aid (donors) and in potential recipient countries. To this end, Forum III:

- Requested governments and international development agencies to link the sound management of chemicals to other important health and environment topics, such as sustainable development, occupational health and safety, consumer safety, and water quality and biodiversity, as well as to other relevant development cooperation programmes in the fields of agriculture and industry.
- Recommended that each donor country should designate a contact point with respect to the management of chemicals, as agreed in the decision on an information exchange network for capacity building for the sound management of chemicals. The contact point should facilitate the exchange of information related to funding and associated issues between the donor and other donors and international organizations and programmes as well as partners in recipient countries to avoid duplication and to increase the synergistic effect of different projects.
- Recommended establishment of capacity building programmes needed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition leading to the development of strategies and procedures for information gathering and dissemination as part of the realization of national emissions inventories, and other tools such as Pollutant

#### Release and Transfer Registers.

- Urged the various Convention secretariats, Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations, and donors to greatly increase coordination in capacity building programmes, and to develop new synergies and opportunities for coordination in the implementation of the conventions and other related areas of sound chemicals management with a view toward ensuring a comprehensive approach.
- Strongly recommended that worker safety remain an on-going major focus for Forum activities, in particular those aimed at providing support for national worker safety programmes such as education, training, and capacity building. The Forum further recommended the strengthening of cooperation between IFCS and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its tripartite partners (governments, industry, and labor) to ensure the highest levels of chemical safety at work.
- Emphasized that the creation and strengthening of national committees and institutions is essential for progress in further development of national profiles, awareness raising, and participation of all sectors.
- Recommended that all international organizations and donor agencies provide support to strengthen public interest non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field of chemical safety. Since at present charitable foundations and other donor agencies these NGOs rely on often focus their efforts in other areas such as climate change and biodiversity, the Forum encourages higher priority be given to chemical safety activities. This should occur especially at the international level and for NGOs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- Urged representatives of major donor agencies and coordination groups, including the World Bank, regional development banks, Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), to actively participate in IFCS meetings and efforts.

#### **Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals**

Forum III supported the development of an Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals, adopted, as an interim measure, Provisional Terms of Reference for such a network as presented to Forum III, and made the following recommendations in order to initiate concrete action by Forum IV:

- Instructed the Forum Standing Committee to assist in establishing a Steering/Advisory Group for the Network, including adoption of final Terms of Reference for the Network;
- Recommended that the IFCS secretariat serve as the Central Coordinating Node for the Network during its start-up phase;
- Requested the IFCS secretariat, in consultation with the stakeholder groups

represented in the IFCS, and in coordination with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations and the World Bank, to establish the Network taking into account work ongoing and planned in other fora;

- Encouraged countries and organizations to provide support for the start-up phase for the Network in accordance with the different options provided in section 10 of the provisionally adopted Terms of Reference;
- Requested countries and organizations to designate points of contact for the Network (in accordance with Section 9 of the provisionally adopted Terms of Reference) and to provide information relevant to implementing the objectives of the Network; and
- Requested that a report on progress made and lessons learned during the start-up phase of the Network be made available at Forum IV for consideration and possible further action.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Opening Ceremony and Presentation of Award of Merit

1. The third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), Forum III, was held 15-20 October 2000 in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, hosted by the Government of Brazil. Eighty-three governments participated in the meeting, together with representatives from ten intergovernmental (IGO) and twelve non-governmental (NGO) organizations. A list of participants is given in Annex 16. Mr J. R. Hickman (Canada) officiated as President, with Mr G. Seog (Republic of Korea), Mr A. Suburu (Argentina), Mr O. Touré (Mali), and Professor Dr G. Ungvary (Hungary) serving as Vice-Presidents.
2. The President of IFCS opened the meeting. He welcomed participants and congratulated Professor Michel Mercier recipient of the IFCS Award of Merit, the most prestigious global Award in the field of chemical safety. His Excellency Marco Maciel, Vice President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, presented the Award to Professor Mercier praising his contribution to international efforts in chemical safety.
3. Professor Mercier declared that he is honoured in receiving the award. He dedicated the award to all his colleagues having taken part in the establishment of the IFCS. He underlined three important objectives of the Forum: raising awareness, enhancing partnership mechanisms, and maintaining and reinforcing cooperation between governments, IGOs and NGOs. He concluded by wishing the Forum great success in its future endeavours.
4. The acting Brazilian Minister of Environment, His Excellency José Carlos Carvalho, noted the Forum was meeting for the first time in Brazil and Latin America, and underlined the importance of chemical safety for Brazil. Hosting the Forum offered Brazil the opportunity to promote this issue and highlight the country's involvement in various international initiatives to protect human health and the environment.
5. The Vice Governor of the State of Bahia, His Excellency Otto Alencar, reported on the modern and successful policy of chemical safety being promoted by the Government of Bahia which was honored by the presence of the Forum.
6. The Vice President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency Marco Maciel, welcomed the participants and stated that within the context of globalization it is important to enhance quality of life through democratic solutions in a socio-economic balanced way. To reach this goal, there is a need to have sustainable development that can only be adequately promoted by balanced partnerships. He praised the contributions of the President of IFCS and underlined the Forum's importance in promoting a partnership in global chemical safety.
7. The President delivered a message to Forum III from Mr N. Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. Mr Desai stressed the major contribution made by IFCS to international cooperative efforts on Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. He recalled the important role of the Forum recognized by the UN General Assembly in the review of the Rio process in 1997. The General Assembly had noted that important items remain to be done in the

implementation of Agenda 21 and that the environmentally sound management of chemicals would continue to be an important issue well beyond 2000. Mr Desai stated that input from IFCS on the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including both an assessment of progress to date and recommendations for future priorities and actions, would be a valuable contribution to the preparations for the Rio+10 Conference. He expressed his appreciation to the Forum organizers and participants for their important contribution to the Rio+10 process. The Forum noted Mr Desai's comments with appreciation.

### **President's Analysis of Progress**

8. The President briefly outlined his Analysis of Progress (IFCS/Forum III/08 INF). The report demonstrated the commitment of stakeholders to work together to improve the management of toxic chemicals. In each programme area addressed, progress has been made. He noted that there is a need for a more complete sharing of information between all partners in the IFCS. In conclusion, he underlined the Forum's unique mechanism for coordinating global action on chemicals and stressed the opportunity that the Forum provides for all partners to meet in a constructive atmosphere to reach the goal of a successful partnership for global chemical safety.

### **Round Table: *In Partnership for Global Chemical Safety***

9. Representatives from various IFCS participant groups were invited to provide perspectives from their respective spheres of responsibility on the challenges of enhancing the commitment and involvement of all stakeholders to actively work to integrate ideas, people and organizations into forward thinking strategies and work in a common direction. Mr H. Otterstetter served as moderator of the Round Table.

10. Mr J. Bélanger (National Round Table on the Environment and Economy, Canada) and Dr C. Bittencourt (ABIQUIM) gave industry's perspective. Both stressed that mutual trust, common goals, and mutual respect together with responsibility are essential objectives. The commitment demonstrated by industry through the Responsible Care<sup>®</sup> Initiative underlined its willingness to actively take part in solving human health and environmental problems. Prof P. Pothisiri (Ministry of Public Health, Thailand) presented the perspective and experience of a national government. He described the international action on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) as a good example of linking all partners to solve global chemical safety problems. Mr J. Willis (Chairman, Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)) described successful partnership programmes within the framework of intergovernmental organizations.

11. Perspectives from different NGOs were presented by Mr R. Agarwal (Srishti Toxic Links, India), Mrs K. Perry (Physicians for Social Responsibilities, USA) and Mr R. Green (International Federation of Chemical, Energy Mining and General Workers Union (ICEM)). Panelists stated that the public is too often not adequately informed to play an effective role in chemical safety. Barriers to progress in partnerships include unbalanced opportunities both for meaningful input and participation, especially in developing countries. Public interest NGOs have demonstrated that they can be valuable resources for information and expertise, an example being the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN). What is needed, however, are financial resources and

capacity assistance. In the work place, cooperation for chemical safety requires mutual commitments and respect between partners. These partnerships can be established through legislation and voluntary initiatives providing benefits to all.

### Organizational Matters Concerning Forum III

12. The President reported on preparations for Forum III. He noted the work of the Forum Standing Committee (FSC) and that agenda items had been developed following the adopted IFCS practice of a lead sponsor approach. The time schedule had been structured to permit regional groups adequate opportunity for discussion and formulation of regional recommendations to be brought forward to plenary. The provisional agenda (IFCS/FORUM III/01w/01w) and time schedule (IFCS/FORUM III/04w) were adopted as proposed. Participants agreed to designate Dr R. F. Hertel (Germany) as rapporteur for Forum III.

13. The drafting process for the meeting report was introduced by the Executive Secretary, Dr J. Stober. It was agreed that a drafting group composed of lead sponsors and recorders for each of the subject areas would be formed to produce a draft of the Final Report of Forum III. The reports would be reviewed and the recommendations and decision items agreed in plenary during the final session. Subsidiary reports and reports of the Regional Group meetings would be attached as Annexes to the Final Report.

14. The President presented an overview of the agenda items to be discussed during Forum III highlighting the draft Declaration to be finalized to reflect of the discussions and decisions taken by the Forum. The President recommended the formation of an *ad hoc* working group to prepare a revised draft Declaration based on the discussions and proposals throughout the sessions and report back to plenary. The working group would be composed of representatives from each region, representatives of the IGOs and industry, public interest, labour and science NGOs. Regional and other nominations for the working group were presented. Australia as lead sponsor for the agenda item served as facilitator for the working group.

15. A number of IFCS participants organized exhibitions on their work at Forum III. Exhibitors included Brazil (IBAMA), Brazil and Latin America, Japan (GINC), USA (Project on Sustainable Chemistry), BUA/GDCh (Germany), IPCS, IOMC, UNEP, UNITAR, IOMC Coordinating Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Voarisoa (Madagascar), WWF, ICME, ICCA (HPV-challenge programme). Participants were invited to visit the exhibits during the week.

16. A series of informal lunchtime presentations on special topics were organized by several groups of participants. These included: Multi-Stakeholder Success Stories: Sustainable Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals (sponsored by public interest NGOs); Harmonization of Approaches to the Assessment of Risk from Exposure to Chemicals sponsored by the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS); "Meet the IOMC" (presented by IOMC Participating Organizations); and Case Studies from Brazil (Crisis Management in the Chemical Industry presented by Dr G. Santana, UNIVALI, Santa Catarina, Brazil and Chemical Safety and Governance in Developing Countries presented by Mr C. Freitas and Mr M. Porto, FIOCRUZ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

## **IFCS Administrative Items**

17. The President introduced the Forum III working document “Organization of Work and Terms of Reference” (IFCS/Forum III/06w). The 1994 Resolution on the Establishment of an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety recommended that the Forum conduct a full review of the organizational, administrative and financial aspects of the Forum, as well as an assessment of its effectiveness, for consideration by the third session of the Forum. Forum III was asked to consider the role and future direction of the IFCS.

18. Since the inaugural meeting of IFCS in Stockholm in April 1994, the Forum has undergone a gradual evolution and adapted its procedures to improve the organization of its work and better meet the needs of its participants. These changes were reflected in the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference, Role of the President, Regional Roles and Responsibilities for Vice-Presidents, Guidelines for National Focal Points, and Terms of Reference for the Forum Standing Committee (FSC). The changes included a discontinuation of the Intersessional Group, election of five Vice-Presidents, one from each region, and an independent President, and provision for National Focal Points. Additional amendments were proposed, taking into account discussions in Regional Groups. These addressed the role of the IFCS in analyzing progress, the IFCS consensus building process, the need to take into account subregional issues, a policy respecting participation in IFCS meetings, mobilization of resources to assist participation in IFCS, the responsibility of Vice-Presidents to promote Forum recommendations and to work with IFCS National Focal Points, the role of National Focal Points in establishing coordinating mechanisms, and expanded regional membership in the FSC. The Forum agreed to a proposal from the Asian Regional Group to change the name of the region to Asia and the Pacific.

19. The revised IFCS Terms of Reference and annexed documents (Role of the President, Regional Rules and Responsibilities for Vice-Presidents, Guidelines for National Focal Points and Forum Standing Committee Terms of Reference) were adopted (Annexes 1 to 5).

20. An Election Facilitating Committee was established to oversee and facilitate the election process at Forum III. Members of this Committee included a designated representative from each of the five regions. Mrs L. Musset (France) chaired the committee. Members were responsible for bringing forward regional nominations for IFCS Officers and Forum Standing Committee members.

21. The IFCS Financial Statement (IFCS/Forum III/07w) was introduced by the Executive Secretary. The report presented information on the IFCS Trust Fund including organizational and administrative arrangements for the secretariat, in-kind contributions, the IFCS Twinning Funds (government and NGO) and bilateral twinning assistance. The Forum approved the proposed budget for 2001-2003, noting that variances may be necessary as a result of decisions taken at Forum III. A request that the budget be routinely updated to reflect new contributions and initiatives was noted.

## **Priorities for Action Beyond 2000**

22. Prof G. Ungvary (Hungary) and Dr G. Bengtsson (Sweden), lead sponsors, introduced the working paper (IFCS/FORUM III/09w). It was noted that Forum I had adopted



a number of Priorities for Action in order to provide guidance for immediate action and to set goals that were to be achieved in the longer term. As noted in the President's Analysis of Progress, there has been significant progress in many areas. It was noted that many of the Priorities for Action adopted by Forum I have now been implemented and that some, for varying reasons, have become obsolete. In addition, the successful and efficient implementation of these Priorities for Action has not been achieved evenly throughout each of the programme areas or geographical regions. New and modified priorities, as well as emerging challenges in the field of chemical safety, need to be taken into consideration when recommending immediate and longer-term goals. Revised Priorities for Action proposed for consideration were fewer in number, more focused and measurable. Criteria were proposed for updating the priorities. These included the potential to improve chemical safety at all levels, the potential to prevent or reduce adverse health and environment effects of any chemical throughout its lifecycle, suitability for immediate implementation by most nations, and the availability of suitable tools for rapid application at the national level. An overview of the proposed priorities was presented.

23. The IFCS Vice-Presidents reported on regional discussions and proposed amendments and additions for updating the priorities. Input was also received from NGOs and IGOs. To facilitate the work, an open ended *ad hoc* working group was established with Ms M. C. Cardenas Fischer (Colombia) serving as Chairperson and Dr G. Bengtsson (Sweden) as recorder. The working group held three meetings and periodically reported back to plenary on progress and received further input.

24. The Priorities for Action beyond 2000 adopted unanimously by Forum III are presented in Annex 6.

### **Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products**

25. Ms F. Jallow Ndoeye (The Gambia) facilitated the session and introduced the topic prepared by a FSC working group chaired by The Gambia and Germany (IFCS/FORUM III/10w) pointing out that the Forum was addressing this issue for the first time. The problem of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products exists in all regions and awareness of the problem is increasing, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. She highlighted the objectives in Programme Area F of Chapter 19 and a proposed approach to address these objectives. She noted that information on ongoing work at the international level would be provided and representatives from each region would briefly describe regional issues of concern, mechanisms of illegal traffic and recent developments. Regional papers distributed as Room Documents provided more detailed information.

26. Mr J. Willis (UNEP) described work being done in relation to several international conventions, including the Basel Convention, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Montreal Protocol. In 1999 UNEP established a standing working group on compliance and enforcement in multilateral environmental agreements. The 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) in July 1999 encouraged delegations to ensure that IFCS addresses the topic of illegal international traffic at Forum III and agreed that

the issue would be revisited at its next session, bearing in mind inter alia the outcome of any discussion thereon by IFCS.

27. Regional presentations were made by Mr I. Sow (Africa), Prof P. Pothisiri (Asia and the Pacific), Ms J. Alvarez (Latin America and the Caribbean), Dr J. Kovacicova (Central and Eastern Europe), and Mr M. Penders (Western Europe and Other Groups). The presentations noted issues pertinent to each region and highlighted the importance of information collection and sharing, training, coordination and cooperation at all levels, and the involvement of the World Customs Organization. A number of specific recommendations, detailed in regional papers distributed as Room Documents, were presented for consideration by the Forum.

28. The Forum noted that there is global concern for illegal traffic. Despite the diversity of problems in the different regions, there are common issues as well as potential and possible solutions. The question was raised about the value added to discuss illegal traffic within IFCS. It was noted that linkage is necessary to ongoing activities in international conventions, e.g. the Chemicals Weapons Convention, and organizations like Interpol and World Customs Organization (WCO). There was general support for international work to be done on enforcement and prevention of illegal traffic. However, concerns were raised how the Forum could be involved in the discussion on illegal traffic bearing in mind that IFCS has only very limited resources to support active participation in this work.

29. An *ad hoc* working group was set up to discuss possible outcomes and propose recommendations to the Forum. The working group, chaired by Mrs F. Jallow Ndoeye (The Gambia), included government participants from each region and representatives from each of the IFCS NGO and IGO participant groups. Two recommendations emanated from the working group; first requesting that IOMC establish a working group on illegal trafficking, drawing on the expertise of the Forum, and building upon ongoing activities within IOMC participating organizations; second recommending that governments elaborate national strategies for prevention, detection, and control of illegal traffic. The recommendations as adopted unanimously by the plenary of the Forum are presented in the Priorities for Action beyond 2000 (Annex 6).

### **Information Exchange:**

#### **Barriers to Information Exchange for the Sound Management of Chemicals**

30. Dr W. Sanders (USA) presented the working paper (IFCS/FORUM III/11w) in which Forum III was requested to sponsor a global effort to ensure that officials responsible for sound management of chemicals have Internet access (both e-mail and web) and training for the effective use of it. Having access to the Internet has become an integral component of capacity building. In giving an overview of the Internet Access Training Project sponsored by the US government and UNEP Chemicals, he noted the importance of strong national leadership and commitment which has made possible the initial training efforts in Mali and Nigeria. Mr J. Willis (UNEP) observed that this is a pilot partnership project addressing the clearly defined needs of the recipient countries for capacity building, both human and technical. The effort is expected to grow in geographic scope, with Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire scheduled to be the next training sites. He noted that development of networking at the national and regional level is an important outcome of the training, and that measures must be taken to promote and ensure

sustainability of such networks. Mr O. Touré (Mali) described the many positive outcomes already obtained as a result of the training conducted in Mali. These include: facilitation of necessary communication in the African region; improvement of access to information required for effective sound management of chemicals; development of mutual trust among the stakeholders; easing the development of inventories of pesticides and appropriate enforcement actions; and a significant increase in awareness and interest in several quarters. Several delegates expressed appreciation for the generous support of the US government and UNEP Chemicals in undertaking this effort and for providing significant financial and human resources to conduct the training courses.

31. Brazil, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group proposed that the target group for the project be extended to include the national authorities responsible for the Basel Convention and Montreal Protocol, and that industry organizations and companies be requested to participate in funding. Mr J. Willis, as Chair of the IOMC, agreed to consult with the other IOMC participating organizations to identify an IOMC member organization that would take on the responsibilities requested by the Forum. IPEN stressed the importance of access by NGOs to information they believe is now withheld under inappropriate commercial confidentiality arrangements. As examples, they cited restrictions of information on where chemicals are used, on location and content of environmental reservoirs, on test to detect individual chemicals, and on alternatives to the use of hazardous chemicals.

32. The recommendations presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

#### **Information Exchange:**

#### **Information Exchange for Chemical Production Decision Making**

33. Mr I. Fuller (USA) introduced the working paper (IFCS/FORUM III/13w) co-sponsored by the USA and ICCA. He described the basic problem of lack of access to information on best practices in the design and implementation of new or expanded chemical production facilities. He noted that a mechanism was needed to provide the information to minimize health and safety problems and environmental risks associated with the manufacture of chemicals. Mr F. McEldowney (ICCA) noted that members have been requested to implement worldwide the Responsible Care<sup>®</sup> initiative including management practice codes. He cited the benefits of consistent standards and systematic exchange of information stressing the responsibility of both government and industry in establishing facilities.

34. The Latin America and Caribbean Region and the Asia and the Pacific Region proposed amendments to the proposed actions outlined in the working paper. These emphasize the aim of preventing adverse impacts to health and the environment, the inclusion of all stages of the operation, and reference to national laws, regulations and sound practices as established by international agreements and guidelines.

35. The recommendations presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

## **Emission Inventories**

36. Mr A. Halpaap, UNITAR, Vice Chair of the IOMC Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Coordinating Group, facilitated the session and introduced the topic. Mr J Harman (USA) presented the working document (IFCS/FORUM III/14w) which had been prepared by the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group. Collecting information on chemicals through PRTR systems can increase understanding and awareness which, in turn, supports decision-making. The benefits of PRTRs were highlighted with examples. Mr P. Acquah (Ghana) presented a summary of the Forum III PRTR workshop which took place on 16 October 2000. The workshop focused on PRTR issues from the perspective of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and was sponsored by Environment Canada, UNITAR, Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (CCPA), and Pollution Probe.

37. Several intervenors highlighted the importance and potential benefits of PRTRs/emission inventories as tools for environmental management and noted the value of the Forum III PRTR workshop in preparing for the plenary discussion on this topic. Many intervenors stressed that a key for successful design and implementation of PRTRs/emission inventories is to match the system to national circumstances and needs. Due to the significant interest in the topic and the wide range of potential opportunity for follow-up action by all IFCS partners, an informal group was established which developed a Forum III PRTR/Emission Inventory Action Plan that is included as Annex 7.

38. The recommendation and actions as adopted are presented in the Priorities for Action beyond 2000 (Annex 6) and Executive Summary.

## **Awareness Raising**

39. Prof U. Schlottmann (Germany) served as facilitator for the session, which was co-sponsored by Germany and the USA. He noted in his introductory statement that the sound management of chemicals currently does not rank high on the agenda for governments and is also not usually a priority for international development organizations, especially bilateral and multilateral donors. The goal of the session was to initiate the development of strategies that will help establish links between potential donors and recipients, and strengthen their political commitment to capacity building for the sound management of chemicals. Several speakers had been requested to give short statements describing lessons learned in past and on-going projects to help facilitate a better understanding of the necessity for awareness raising and the role of donors and recipient countries.

40. Dr M. Kern (Germany) summarized the issues presented in the working document (IFCS/FORUM III/15w). He noted the role of the IFCS in promoting chemical safety, particularly in identifying strategies that will help strengthen the political commitment to capacity building for the sound management of chemicals. He stressed the importance of securing funding for capacity building projects and called for a dialogue with politicians, administrators and the general public.

41. Dr Siriwat Tiptarodol (Thailand) provided information on the experiences in Thailand highlighting recent developments in Asia including ratification of international

conventions and agreements, revision of legislation, and strengthening civil society. He spoke of the strengths and weaknesses of the various stakeholders involved in chemical safety as well as the opportunities and challenges they face.

42. Dr K. Bláha (Czech Republic) provided an overview of the issues in raising the priority of the sound management of chemicals in governments of countries with economies in transition. Substantial, but uneven progress, has been seen in the region. Future efforts needed to recognize and take into consideration the underlying reasons for subregional disparities. He called on governments, through an intersectoral and multi stakeholder approach, to prepare national profiles, legal framework, develop national chemical safety programmes and the infrastructure for enforcement of regulation. He called on IFCS to make active contact with governments of the region at the highest political level.

43. Mr V. Vithoontien (World Bank) presented the experiences and lessons learned on development of national action plans under the Montreal Protocol. He stressed that the development of action plans should be a dynamic process requiring both useful information and the necessary organization to track progress and improve the plan. The Bank has recently embarked on the development of an environment strategy. The objective is to improve peoples' health by reducing exposure to environmental factors, including as toxic substances.

44. Points noted during general discussion included the need to create synergies and opportunities for coordination in the implementation of conventions, increased emphasis on worker protection, the importance of providing public access to information and actively promoting its dissemination, and strengthening NGO participation.

45. Forum III agreed that IFCS should play a much more active role in advocating the importance of chemicals management at high political levels in organizations and in governments of international aid donor and recipient countries. The recommendations presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

### **Capacity Building Network**

46. Mr A. Halpaap (UNITAR) introduced the working document on Development of a Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IFCS/FORUM III/12w). He referred to the decision of the third meeting of the Intersessional Group (ISG 3) which requested UNITAR to develop a draft terms of reference for a capacity building network. He summarized the outcomes of an international consultation meeting on the subject that was organized in January 2000 with financial support of the Government of Switzerland. Participants agreed that the network should be comprised of a number of specific information exchange services that are relevant to planning, implementing, evaluating and coordinating of capacity building projects for the sound management of chemicals. The meeting also agreed on a number of guiding principles for the network, e.g. keeping the network simple and flexible and making sure that it does not interfere with more specialized network arrangements already in place or under development.

47. Intervenor from a broad range of countries, organizations and non-governmental organizations indicated broad support for the development of the network and noted with appreciation the preparatory and consultative work undertaken by UNITAR. One of the

key factors for the success of the network will be to ensure active participation of countries, international organizations, industry, labor unions and public interest groups. FAO suggested that the name of the network should indicate that its primary objective is to facilitate information exchange on issues related to capacity building (e.g. Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals). UNEP noted the importance of linking the development of the Network to ongoing discussions in the negotiations for a legally binding instrument on persistent organic chemicals to develop a capacity assistance network addressing capacity building activities on POPs under the Convention. UNEP also stated that the Network, operating within the framework of the IFCS, would provide an important contribution to implementing Article 16 of the Rotterdam Convention which encourages partnerships for building capacities to enable implementation of this Convention.

48. The recommendations and actions adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 (Annex 6).

### **Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety**

49. Mr P. Burnett (Australia) introduced amendments made to the draft Declaration by the *ad hoc* working group noting that the final text was shorter and more focused. The key goals were abbreviated versions of those specified in the Priorities for Action. Additional amendments agreed upon in plenary included recognition of the importance of providing technical and financial assistance and technology transfer to enable accomplishment of IFCS priorities, recommitment to challenges set out in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, and reporting on risk reduction initiatives on other chemicals of major concern.

50. The final text of the Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety, adopted by acclamation, is presented in the first section of this report.

### **Information Session:**

#### **Global Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labelling Systems (GHS)**

51. Ms A. Sundquist, vice-Chair of the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS), made a presentation outlining the progress made, next steps towards implementation, and the benefits of a GHS. Representatives from industry (Mr G. Ethier, ICME), labour (Mr R. Green, ICEM), governments (Mr R. Puiatti, Brazil; Dr H. Jonai, Japan; Mr A. Fassey, UK) and international organizations (Dr R. Visser, OECD; Mr A. Halpaap, UNITAR) commented on the importance of, and problems confronting, the GHS from their perspectives. During the information session countries were encouraged to prepare for adoption of the system and to identify their needs for capacity building and technical assistance in order to implement the GHS.

52. The GHS will become a practical and coherent global standard for chemical hazard communication within the workplace, for those involved in work-related activities, for the transportation system, and for consumers. The GHS will set criteria for the classification of chemicals and standards for the communication of chemical hazard information. The GHS will have implications for chemical safety laws and regulations in all countries. It will ensure coherence between the information needed by each target

audience, aid comprehension of hazard information by users, and simplify the production of this information by suppliers. The GHS will enhance overall safety in the sound use and management of chemicals worldwide.

53. The Forum welcomed the progress made since Forum II. In particular, agreement has been reached on classification criteria for chemicals, and on an implementation mechanism through the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It will be essential that the anticipated GHS guidance document meets the needs of the various user groups and for it to be supported by other tools, e.g. information and training packages on the Internet and in more traditional forms. The GHS should be able to be fully and effectively implemented in all countries as a fundamental building block in the development of approaches for controlling the risks from chemicals. The particular importance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to be given appropriate and targeted assistance as soon as possible was noted. It was noted also that UNITAR and ILO have agreed to take the lead in: encouraging and assisting countries to adopt and implement the GHS; in providing appropriate capacity building assistance; and in developing the appropriate mechanisms and strategies to bring interested countries to an operational level.

### **Election of IFCS Officers and Forum Standing Committee Members**

54. Ms L. Musset (France), Chairperson of the Election Facilitating Committee, presented the nominations for the Forum Standing Committee and IFCS Officers compiled from the Regional Groups. Cameroon supported by USA endorsed the proposal that Brazil serve as President, and that Ecuador, Hungary, Japan, Senegal and Sweden serve as Vice-Presidents. The proposal was carried unanimously. Canada, supported by Brazil, proposed that the nominations for the Forum Standing Committee be adopted. The proposal was carried unanimously. The President thanked the Election Facilitating Committee and expressed gratitude to those who have agreed to serve the Forum in various capacities until, and during Forum IV.

55. The newly elected IFCS Officers and members of the Forum Standing Committee are listed in Annex 15.

### **Future Forum Meetings**

56. The President noted two generous offers to host Forum IV in 2003. These had been received from the Governments of Hungary and Thailand. Subsequently, the Government of Hungary had agreed to modify its offer to host Forum V in 2005 or 2006. The schedule for future IFCS meetings was agreed as follows: Forum IV will be held in 2003 in Thailand. Forum V is scheduled for late 2005 or 2006 in Hungary. The Forum was unanimous in expressing its gratitude to the Governments of Hungary and Thailand for their interest and future contributions to the work of the IFCS.

### **Closure of Forum III**

57. Representatives of several countries and NGOs thanked and congratulated the President, the Secretariat, the Brazilian Government and the local organizing Committee for all efforts undertaken to ensure a successful meeting. The President thanked the Vice-Presidents, the Executive Secretary, Secretariat, and those responsible for local

arrangements that had ensured the smooth running of daily business for their work. He expressed the Forum's appreciation of the hospitality of the Governments of Brazil, Bahia, and Salvador. Mrs I. Teixeira, Ministry of Environment, gave the closing address on behalf of the Brazilian Government to Forum III. She underlined the important work accomplished during the sessions of Forum III and the high level of success reached in terms of chemical safety. She noted that the strategies for the sound management of chemicals developed during Forum III will not only encourage the Brazilian government to continue its successful environmental policy, but will be an important step forward to reach the goal of global chemical safety. In closing she thanked the President, the Vice-Presidents, and the participants for their efforts in reaching this important goal.

58. The President, Mr J. R. Hickman, in noting that his presidency came to an end, gave his best wishes to Mr H. B. Cavalcanti as new President and welcomed him. Mr Cavalcanti gave his respects to the past presidents Dr G. Bengtsson and Mr J. R. Hickman praising their successful and effective leadership. He expressed his thanks to the new members of the Forum Standing Committee for their willingness to actively support and promote the goals of IFCS.

59. Mr J. R. Hickman wished the participants a safe journey home and declared Forum III closed.



## **ANNEX 1**

### **IFCS Terms of Reference**

## **Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Terms of Reference**

### **1. Purpose and Aims**

1.1 The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (hereinafter called 'the Forum') is a non-institutional arrangement to provide analysis and report on progress of governments, international organizations and intergovernmental bodies in achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals, and to provide advice, guidance and make recommendations.

1.2 The Forum seeks consensus amongst representatives of governments, in consultation and collaboration with other participants (see paragraph 3), on the development of priorities and strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, Chapter 19 (Environmentally Sound Management Of Toxic Chemicals Including Prevention Of Illegal International Traffic In Toxic And Dangerous Products) and related issues, and undertakes periodic review of such strategies.

1.3 The purpose of the Forum is to provide policy guidance with particular emphasis on regional and sub-regional cooperation. It aims to develop strategies in a coordinated and integrated manner and foster an understanding of the issues. In promoting the required support needed to discharge these functions, the Forum will engage the attention of governments, donor agencies and financing institutions on the need for adequate resources.

1.4 The Forum shall provide:

- (a) clear and consistent advice for cost-effective, integrated risk assessment and management of chemicals using environmentally sound and generally accepted principles, including advice on alternatives to banned or severely restricted chemicals;
- (b) improved delineation and mutual understanding of roles, initiatives and activities both within and among governments and international organizations having responsibilities for chemical safety.

### **2. Functions**

The functions of the Forum shall be to:

- (a) identify priorities for cooperative action on chemical safety, advise and, where appropriate, recommend concerted international strategies for hazard identification and risk assessment of chemicals, including occupational exposure, and for environmentally sound management of chemicals, including risk reduction programmes and risk communication, particularly taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

- (b) assist in securing the collaboration, through governments, of national, regional and international bodies active in the field of chemical safety, and avoid any duplication of effort in this area;
- (c) promote the strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms and of national capabilities and capacities for chemicals management, especially in relation to infrastructure building, training, education, research and monitoring, and provision of information;
- (d) promote international agreements and commitments on harmonized classification and labelling of chemicals;
- (e) assist in identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation, including training, and education and technology transfer;
- (f) review periodically the effectiveness of relevant ongoing activities to implement recommended international strategies concerning chemical safety and make recommendations for further activities and, where necessary, advise on the strengthening or establishing the necessary follow-up mechanisms;
- (g) advise governments in their work on chemical safety with particular reference to legislative aspects, promote cooperation among governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and encourage the appropriate distribution of work among organizations and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system in as clear and consistent a way as possible;
- (h) promote the strengthening of national programmes and international cooperation for the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents including major industrial accidents;
- (i) promote the strengthening of programmes for the prevention of and response to poisoning by chemicals; and,
- (j) perform other functions in pursuance of the purposes and aims of the Forum, as agreed by the Government Participants.

### **3. Participation**

3.1 All Member States of the United Nations, of its Specialized Agencies and of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) shall be invited to participate in the Forum ("Government Participants"). Associate Members of any of the Specialized Agencies shall also be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum.

3.2 Relevant United Nations bodies and Specialized Agencies, as well as intergovernmental organizations representing subregional and regional geographic, political and economic groups of countries involved in the field of chemical safety ("Intergovernmental Participants"), shall be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum.

3.3 International non-governmental organizations concerned with science, health, workers' interests, the environment, consumers and industry, involved in the field of chemical safety shall be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum ("Non-governmental Participants").

3.4 The term "participants" in these Terms of Reference refers to all of the above governments, Associate Members and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

3.5 Participants shall have the right to attend all Forum organized meetings (e.g. regional, *ad hoc* working groups, plenary etc). Exceptions should be for specific, limited and sensitive topics. The reasons for exclusion should be stated one day in advance to the secretariat.

#### **4. Government Representation**

The representative of each government should be a senior official concerned with chemical safety, including health and environmental issues. Advisers as appropriate may accompany each representative. It is expected that governments would ensure that their delegations reflect the full range of national interests.

#### **5. Sessions**

Subject to availability of funds, it is expected that sessions of the Forum will be held at intervals of 2-3 years. Periodically, sessions will review progress on Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and the need for further sessions, as recommended by the Forum Standing Committee.

#### **6. Officers**

At each session, the Forum shall elect, from among the representatives of the Government Participants, Officers consisting of a President and five Vice-Presidents. They shall take office immediately after closure of the session during which they are elected and hold office until the end of the session following their election. Collectively, Officers carry out responsibilities delegated by a Session of the Forum or by the Forum Standing Committee to coordinate and support their work.

#### **7. Forum Standing Committee**

7.1 There shall be a Forum Standing Committee to:

- (a) bring forward new issues for their timely inclusion on the agenda at Sessions of the Forum;
- (b) provide guidance on the development of documents and other items on the agenda of the Forum;
- (c) assist in fund-raising for the Trust Fund and for funds to support participation in IFCS activities;

- (d) assist in regional efforts;
- (e) channel the views of participants into the planning of sessions of the Forum;
- (f) coordinate taking forward IFCS recommendations through national representatives to the governing bodies of international organizations, as appropriate;
- (g) coordinate transmittal of IFCS reports and information to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, as appropriate; and,
- (h) perform other functions referred to it by the Forum.

7.2 The Forum Standing Committee shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate Past President, the Chairperson, *pro tem.*, of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), a government participant representing the host country for the next Forum session, twelve government participants to be elected at each session of the Forum (taking into account equitable regional and geographic representation), and four representatives of non-governmental organizations designated by non-governmental participants present at the session and representing the interests of science, the public, industry and workers.

7.3 The Executive Secretary shall be an *ex officio* member of the Forum Standing Committee.

## **8.0 *Ad hoc* Working Groups**

Subject to the availability of funds, the Forum, or the Forum Standing Committee may establish *ad hoc* Working Groups of Government and other agreed participants for a set period of time to undertake specific tasks. In accordance with the decisions of the Forum, or the Forum Standing Committee establishing the *ad hoc* Working Group concerned, other participants may participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of *ad hoc* Working Groups.

## **9.0 National Focal Points**

9.1 Each country should have a single National Focal Point for the purpose of communication with IFCS. The National Focal Point should be a designated government position at a policy level, preferably in the Department or Agency with responsibility for coordination of chemical safety activities within the country.

9.2 The National Focal Point should provide the Forum with information on national priorities and progress respecting the environmentally sound management of chemicals. The National Focal Point should also disseminate information on Forum activities within the country, including to appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## **10. Administering Organization**

Acting on instructions from the Forum Standing Committee, the President shall enter into agreements with an organization approved by the Forum Standing Committee respecting the employment of a secretariat and administrative services (including accommodations) required by the Secretariat.

## **11. Secretariat**

The Forum, the Forum Standing Committee and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall be served by a Secretariat.

## **12. Decisions**

12.1 The Forum shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters 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 simple majority of the Governments present and voting. Each Government Participant shall have one vote. For the purposes of these Terms of Reference, the phrase "Government Participants present and voting" means Government Participants casting a valid affirmative or negative vote. Government Participants abstaining from voting are considered as not voting.

12.2 Elections of Officers of the Forum shall be decided by consensus; where consensus cannot be achieved, the election shall be decided by secret ballot.

## **13. Procedures**

The Forum shall adopt, and may, at any session, amend its own rules of procedure. The Forum Standing Committee and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure adopted by the Forum.

## **14. Agenda**

The Secretariat, in consultation with and under the guidance of the President of the Forum, shall prepare a Provisional Agenda for each session of the Forum, including a recommendation for the meeting rapporteur. Any participant in the Forum may request the Secretariat to include specific items in the Provisional Agenda prior to its distribution. The Provisional Agenda shall be communicated to all participants in the Forum at least two months before the opening of the session. After the communication of the Provisional Agenda and before the adoption of the Agenda by the Forum, participants may propose only items of an important and urgent nature.

## **15. Budget and Expenses**

15.1 The Forum Standing Committee shall prepare for consideration by each session of the Forum an estimate of expenditure related to the Forum, the Forum Standing Committee, and *ad hoc* Working Groups established by the Forum and a Secretariat, together with information concerning expenditures for the period since the last Forum. This estimate, with such modifications as may be considered appropriate

by the Forum in the light of potential funding, shall subsequently be considered in the budget of the Forum.

15.2 Any types of expenses related to participation in the Forum, Forum Standing Committee, regional meetings or *ad hoc* Working Groups are to be borne by participants unless otherwise agreed by the Forum. Nonetheless, the Forum, through its secretariat, shall undertake efforts towards the obtaining of funding in order to assure the participation of representatives of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, and non-governmental organizations.

## **16. Reports**

The Forum shall consider and adopt a report at each session embodying the recommendations adopted. A statement summarizing minority views will be included when appropriate. Reports will be distributed to all participants in the Forum and, through appropriate channels, to the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the governing bodies of the IOMC participating organizations.

## **17. Languages**

17.1 The working languages of the Forum shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

17.2 The agenda and final report of sessions of the Forum shall be in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. All working documents shall include a section “Issues for consideration and action required by the Forum” which will be translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided at sessions of the Forum.

17.3 The working language of the Forum Standing Committee is English. The Forum Standing Committee will consider the need for other languages on a case by case basis.

## **ANNEX 2**

### **The Role of the President**



## THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Office of President was created by resolution of the International Conference on Chemical Safety held in Stockholm, Sweden in April 1994. The President is appointed by a government elected to hold Office at a session of the Forum and serves from the conclusion of the session in which elected until the conclusion of the session following.

The President represents all participants of the Forum when carrying out official functions, whether participating in IFCS events, addressing international conferences or meeting people in a wide range of informal settings. The President must strive to demonstrate impartiality and act in a fair and impartial manner to all participants. Duties and responsibilities of the President include the following:

- As the presiding officer in the Forum, the President acts as its chairman, directs discussions in plenary sessions, ensures observance with the IFCS Terms of Reference and rules of procedure, and provides guidance for the efficient conduct of business during and between sessions of the Forum;
- The President chairs the Forum Standing Committee and has the authority to convene meetings either at his or her initiative or in response to requests from members of the Forum Standing Committee. The President will assist the secretariat in developing the proposed agenda for meetings and teleconferences.
- The President ensures that election of Officers of the Forum and members of the Forum Standing Committee are conducted in accordance with the Terms of Reference and the practices of the Forum. The President shall not serve as the representative of his or her government at IFCS meetings.
- The President actively promotes the IFCS in all regions of the world, and communicates information relating to the work of the Forum to governments, relevant NGOs and others on a regular basis.
- The President advises and assists the Vice-Presidents in the organization of regional and sub-regional meetings.
- The President shall consult the World Health Organization (WHO) on arrangements for the facilities and services to be provided by WHO for the IFCS Executive Secretary and other IFCS staff.
- The President provides advice and support to the Executive Secretary as required to ensure the orderly conduct of day-to-day business, including promoting awareness of the IFCS and seeking funding for its activities.

## **ANNEX 3**

### **Regional Roles and Responsibilities of Vice-Presidents**

## REGIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VICE-PRESIDENTS

In carrying out its work, the Forum emphasises regional and sub-regional cooperation. Thus, it is incumbent on the Vice Presidents of the Forum to:

- actively promote the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum) in their region/subregion, including recommendations from the Forum;
- communicate to governments, relevant non-governmental organizations and others information on IFCS matters;
- support the organization of sub-regional cooperation;
- foster good intersectoral contacts throughout the region/subregion, helping to promote an increased understanding of the various role and responsibilities of the different sectors;
- solicit and organize input from countries and other Forum participants in the region/subregion on issues and matters being addressed by the Forum, including the identification of regional/subregional priorities;
- represent regional views at Forum, Forum Standing Committee and other meetings;
- convene regional meetings, and support sub-regional meetings where appropriate, with broad participation, including that of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, between Forum meetings and, as appropriate, during IFCS meetings;
- organize regional efforts for election of officers of the Forum and members of the Forum Standing Committee;
- organize nomination and designation of regional representatives to IFCS *ad hoc* working groups, coordinating groups and committees, ensuring equitable geographical representation for the region; and
- work in close collaboration with the IFCS National Focal Points in their region.

## **ANNEX 4**

### **Guidelines for National Focal Points**

## GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

The following criteria are intended as guidelines to be adopted, as appropriate, according to organizational structures and coordinating mechanisms in each government.

1. Each government should have a single National Focal Point identified/communicated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to act as conduit for communication on IFCS activities and information dissemination.
2. The Focal Point should be a designated government position, not a person, and be at a sufficiently high policy level so that all national departments sharing responsibilities in chemical safety (health, environment, agriculture, industry, etc.) and their respective concerns can be fully addressed. If possible, it should be located in the Department or Agency that has the responsibility of coordinating national chemical safety activities. Some countries, however, may find it more appropriate for their country's needs to nominate a particular individual as Focal Point.
3. The Focal Point should establish intersectoral coordinating efforts and a mechanism for disseminating information within the country on IFCS activities to appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations and for providing national inputs into policy directions and recommendations of the IFCS.
4. The Focal Point should be prepared to provide the IFCS with the information and progress reports on national priorities with respect to the environmentally sound management of chemicals.
5. The Focal Point for the IFCS should liaise with focal points of the participating organizations in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant international organizations in the country to promote the sound management of chemicals. Their efforts can be assisted by expanded IOMC efforts to inform Focal Points of sponsored meetings.
6. Governments should seek to ensure continuity of National Focal Points. The Forum Secretariat should be advised of any changes. However before each session of the Forum, national governments should reconfirm the designated National Focal Points.
7. Where a government has not yet identified a National Focal Point, the Forum Secretariat should communicate through the Minister of Foreign Affairs until a Focal Point has been nominated.

## **ANNEX 5**

### **Forum Standing Committee Terms of Reference**

## FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

#### *Composition and elected members*

President

5 Vice-Presidents

1 IOMC (Chairperson of IOCC)<sup>1</sup>

4 NGOs<sup>2</sup> - industry, science, public interest, workers

2 Africa

2 Central and Eastern Europe

2 Latin America & Caribbean

3 Asia and the Pacific

3 Western Europe and Other Groups

Host Country for next Forum meeting

Immediate past president of the IFCS

This gives a total of 25 participants.

The Executive Secretary of the IFCS will support the Forum Standing Committee.

#### *Role and responsibilities*

- The Forum Standing Committee will guide the process of development of meeting materials and documents following the practice of lead country/sponsor/organization approach to preparing materials for agenda items.
- The Forum Standing Committee will assist the Secretariat of the IFCS in fund raising for the Trust Fund and for funds to support participation in IFCS activities ("twinning" arrangements).
- As needed, the Forum Standing Committee will provide initial input on significant new issues to be considered by the Forum, preparing needed relevant materials on the matter for dissemination to IFCS participants.
- The Forum Standing Committee will assist in regional efforts.
- The Forum Standing Committee will coordinate taking forward IFCS recommendations through national representatives to the governing bodies of international organizations, as appropriate.
- The Forum Standing Committee will coordinate transmittal of IFCS reports and information to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> IOMC - Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals  
IOCC – Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee

<sup>2</sup> Non-governmental organizations

- The Forum Standing Committee is not empowered to take decisions for the President, Vice-Presidents or the Forum itself.
- Except for the President who, as an independent chairperson acts in accordance with the recommendations of the Forum as a whole, members of the Forum Standing Committee will serve as conduits for the views of participant countries in their respective IFCS regions or respective NGO or IGO constituency. To the extent possible, consultations and discussions should be undertaken with those countries or organizations by members of the Forum Standing Committee. The Forum Standing Committee should actively support such efforts e.g. by allowing time for consultations or making meeting materials available.

### *Working procedures*

- To the extent possible the Forum Standing Committee will undertake its work through correspondence and teleconferencing.
- The President and Executive Secretary will develop the proposed agenda for meetings and teleconferences in consultation with other members of the Forum Standing Committee.
- The working language will be English, with the provision of interpretation during meetings decided on a case by case basis.
- To provide for consistency and involvement, alternates should be designated to participate in meetings only as an exception. Members may, subject to prior discussion with the President, be accompanied at meetings by co-workers where their expertise is specifically required, keeping in mind that the effectiveness of the work of the group is best served by keeping the attendance as small as possible.
- A government member, when first joining the Forum Standing Committee will nominate another government, as agreed to in its regional group, to act as an alternate or substitute when necessary. The Executive Secretary could call on this alternate or substitute government, as appropriate.
- The President has the authority to convene meetings either at his or her initiative or in response to requests from members of the Forum Standing Committee.
- The Forum Standing Committee will keep the IFCS participants regularly informed on their work. Various means will be considered, including the issuing of a “news bulletin” letter as well as posting information on the Internet. The papers and records of the Standing Committee will be made available to the participants of the IFCS upon request.



## **ANNEX 6**

### **Priorities for Action beyond 2000**

## Priorities for Action beyond 2000

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum) is a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives from governments and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations consider and provide analysis and advice on the environmentally sound management and reduction of risks from chemicals. Where appropriate, IFCS makes recommendations to other organizations that have mandates to implement activities to improve the management of chemicals.

2. Recommendations for *Priorities for Action beyond 2000* follow. These recommendations deal with:

- Priorities for Action by governments;
- Work by which international bodies may develop effective tools for use by governments; and
- Ways in which stakeholders may demonstrate their commitment to chemical safety.

The Forum actively supports cooperation between international organizations and governments, and the implementation of international agreements nationally. It also encourages cooperation between countries, particularly within regions and sub-regions of the world.

The Forum encourages international organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to continue their efforts to enhance coordination of their activities aimed at strengthening capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and in the framework of an explicit demand-driven process to these countries for strengthening and integrating their chemicals management.

3. The efficient coordination of chemical safety endeavours by all participatory and concerned sectors is a prerequisite for successful results at the national level. The active participation of employers and workers, the mobilization of the non-governmental sector, and the strengthening of community 'right to know', are important facets in increasing chemical safety. Manufacturers, importers, formulators and industrial users should have the main but differentiated responsibility for generating and assessing data, as well as providing adequate and reliable information to users, governments and the public on the safety and safe use of their products for that part of the life cycle to which they contribute. Public authorities are responsible for establishing the general framework for the risk assessment procedures and controls.

4. Sound management of chemicals depends on a variety of factors including research, training, information and communications, implementing control measures, capacity building, financial and technical assistance, and the transfer of technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

It is recommended that additional educational programs and training courses be arranged at national and regional levels in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to provide a core of trained technical staff and policymakers. Specific efforts should be made to improve the coordination of activities in education, training and technical assistance.

5. Control of chemicals and pollution control initiatives should be closely integrated and the precautionary approach, as outlined in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration, should be applied<sup>1</sup>. The full range of risk reduction options should be considered, including encouraging, in particular, replacing more dangerous chemicals with less dangerous ones or using alternative processes.

6. To protect the health of workers, special attention should be paid to occupational health and safety concerns caused by chemicals. To protect the health of the general public, chemical safety issues regarding susceptible groups (e.g. persons of fertile age, pregnant women, fetuses, children, the sick and elderly) need to be clearly addressed in the assessment and management of risks.

Public interest non-governmental organizations have a valuable role as conduits of information, being well positioned to disseminate industry and government information to their communities and also to transfer the community concerns about toxic substances back to regulators and policy makers.

7. It is recognized that technical and financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition is important to accomplish the IFCS “Priorities for Action beyond 2000”.

Whilst recognizing that there are established mechanisms for bilateral and multilateral assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, there is a strong need to strengthen and broaden these arrangements in order to achieve effective management of chemical safety. Technical and financial assistance should be provided in a non-discriminatory way.

8. The order in which the following recommendations are presented is not intended to suggest their degree of importance.

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<sup>1</sup>Some countries preferred the word “*considered*”, the majority of participants adopted the word “*applied*”.

## **Programme Area A:**

### **Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks**

1. Common principles for harmonized approaches for performing and reporting health and environmental risk assessments should be developed as soon as possible. Such principles must be internationally accepted, thus permitting the full use of risk assessments performed by international and national bodies.

**By 2004, the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations should have ensured that recommendations for common principles for harmonized approaches should be available for terminology, cancer, and reproductive and developmental toxicology. Common principles for the approach to other specific toxicological endpoints, such as immunotoxicology, endocrine disruption, and ecotoxicology, should be adopted wherever possible.**

2. Hazard evaluation (i.e. the first step of risk assessment) should be carried out in accordance with the requirements of harmonized health and environmental risk assessments, including internationally recommended methodology, ensuring transparency and openness. These evaluations should be undertaken with the support of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). New alternative test methods which enable the use of fewer laboratory animals should be developed, standardized and validated.

**Hazard evaluations should be carried out in accordance with internationally recommended methodologies and in an open and transparent manner. In addition to ongoing national, regional and international evaluation programmes, through the industry initiative an additional 1000 chemicals hazard assessments will be provided by 2004, and the resulting information will be made available to the public in a timely manner.**

The goal of risk assessment is to estimate the likelihood of an adverse effect on humans, other species and/or on ecological systems. This requires knowledge of exposure and of the susceptibility of species or systems likely to be impacted; this can vary from one region to another. Test methods and data have been largely developed that are most relevant to the more temperate climatic regions.

**The cooperation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be sought to ensure that all relevant data, including exposure data, required to assess human and environmental risks are developed and assessed.**

3. For all chemicals in commerce, appropriate data detailing the inherent hazards of those chemicals should be made available to the public. Highest priority should be given to hazard information for those chemicals that have greatest potential for substantial exposures.

To implement this principle, the Forum Standing Committee should develop a proposal for an additional *Priority for Action* to be discussed at Forum IV. This *Priority for Action* should address:

- The role of industry in generating and assessing data;
- The role of industry and governments in making available, and easily accessible, to the public the results of tests and their interpretation leading to conclusions about the degree of hazard or risk involved;
- The desirability of reducing the use of animals for toxicity testing where other methods, that may give a similar assurance of safety, are available; and
- Possible approaches for ensuring that relevant data become available to the public and authorities in the shortest possible time-frame, considering incentives and/or restrictions that might serve this purpose.

#### **Programme Area B:**

##### **Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals**

1. The Forum recognizes that global harmonization of the classification and labelling of chemicals greatly increases the protection of human health and our environment, as well as facilitating the flow of trade. Ongoing work will soon result in the completion of a globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals. This system will include classification criteria, related labelling systems, and guidelines for material safety data sheets, which comprise the hazard communications elements of the system. The Forum should provide mechanisms for consultation and participation of all countries in the development process of a harmonized system for classification and labelling.

**The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals should be agreed to by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals coordinating group for the harmonization of chemical classification systems and fully adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations prior to Forum IV.**

**Guidance and other tools necessary for the implementation of the GHS should be made available to interested parties prior to Forum IV.**

**All countries are encouraged to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to have the system fully operational by 2008.**

**All countries, subject to their capacities and capabilities, should take account of the development of the GHS in any proposed changes to**

**existing systems for classification and labelling, and in the implementation and enforcement of their chemicals legislation.**

**Programme Area C:**

**Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks**

1. All governments should be encouraged to identify and/or to establish arrangements for the timely exchange of information on chemicals. Through the effective operation of such arrangements, barriers to information exchange would be more easily overcome. Relevant information could then be communicated in a timely and appropriate manner and, where appropriate, in at least one of the six official languages of the United Nations in addition to the required language(s), to all relevant parties.

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations should take the lead for coordinating fundraising and implementation efforts to ensure that all government officials from developing countries and countries with economies in transition responsible for chemicals management have access to Internet and training on its use.

This type of arrangement may be described in a National Action Plan. It should include input from a broad range of stakeholders including all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the general public within the country. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations, and their regional structures, where relevant, should consider facilitating information exchange both within and between countries by issuing general guidance.

IFCS is called upon to support the initiative to eliminate 'barriers to information exchange for the sound management of chemicals' in order to enhance communication among national, sub-regional, regional and international stakeholders.

**By 2005, at least five countries in each region, and by 2010, most countries should have fully operational arrangements in place for the exchange of information on hazardous chemicals.**

2. The Forum recognizes the role of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade for information exchange on toxic chemicals.

**All countries are encouraged to ratify or accede to the Rotterdam Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by Forum IV. To this end, all efforts must be made to ensure that the necessary procedures are put into place so that countries can successfully implement the Convention in a prompt manner.**

3. The Forum recognizes the importance of providing all relevant parties with safety information on the hazardous properties of chemicals in an easy-to-access,

easy-to-read and easy-to-understand format. All countries are urged to establish mechanisms to this effect using procedures that are consistent with those concerning the safety data sheets of the 1990 International Labour Organization (ILO) Chemicals Convention (No.170). Industry should communicate with the public, especially by dissemination of information on hazards connected to chemical production.

**By 2004, most countries should have procedures in place to ensure that any hazardous material put into circulation is accompanied, at a minimum, by appropriate and reliable safety information that is easy to access, read, and understand, consistent with the safety data sheets of the 1990 International Labour Organization Chemical Convention (No. 170) and taking into account the development of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as it develops.**

The Forum recognizes the need to ensure that essential health, safety and environmental information is not withheld under confidentiality restrictions.

**Programme Area D:  
Establishment of risk reduction programmes**

1. To protect human health and the environment (including surface and ground water), countries should establish ecologically sound and integrated strategies for the management of pests and, where appropriate, vectors for communicable diseases.

**By 2004, most countries should have in place integrated and ecologically sound pest management strategies. Where appropriate, specific strategies for control of vectors (for communicable diseases) should be established.**

2. The identification, neutralization, and safe disposal of obsolete stocks of pesticides and other chemicals (especially polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) must be urgently facilitated by provision of technical and financial assistance particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. As well, future stockpiling of other obsolete pesticides and chemicals must be prevented. With respect to the final disposition of chemicals, the Forum and Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations should promote the use of techniques that minimize risks, *i.e.* less polluting and safer technologies.

**By 2004, countries should have established relevant action plans, and at least two countries in each region should have commenced implementation of their National Action Plans with respect to disposal, considering the outcomes of relevant international agreements.**

3. Special attention should be paid to persistent and bio-accumulating toxic chemicals.

**Work on a global convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) should continue with a view to reach agreement, by the end of 2000, on a strong and effective convention that will encourage countries to:**

- **Adopt it at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, to be held in Stockholm in May, 2001;**
- **Ratify it with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, preferably by 2004.**

**The Forum Standing Committee is requested to invite countries and regions to present at Forum IV risk reduction initiatives on other chemicals of major concern.**

4. Major industrial accidents must be prevented. National systems for emergency preparedness and response should be developed in all countries. Such systems would include strategies for educating and training personnel. In developing such mechanisms, significant international guidance can be found in documents prepared by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations<sup>2</sup>.

**By 2002, 70 or more countries should have implemented systems aimed at preventing major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness and response. These systems should be in accordance with international principles.**

5. Poisoning of pesticide users, especially agricultural workers and small farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, must be prevented. The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade will address aspects of this problem. However, in order to more comprehensively address the problem of acutely toxic pesticides, the Forum:

**Requests the Forum Standing Committee to provide initial input on the extent of the problem of acutely toxic pesticides, and provide guidance for sound risk management and reduction, including options for phasing out where appropriate, and report to Forum IV.**

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<sup>2</sup> Such as the 1993 ILO Convention (No. 174) on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, the OECD Guiding Principles on Accident Preparedness and Response, the programme on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL), the 1991 ILO Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, and the 1999 IPCS Public Health and Chemical Incidents guidance document. In addition guidance exists in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Convention on Trans-boundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.



**Urges countries to apply the existing mechanisms under the Rotterdam Convention to notify the Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention on severely hazardous pesticide formulations under conditions of use in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and request the Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention to report on progress to Forum IV.**

6. IFCS should support and encourage the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its efforts to revise the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides at its Biennial Conference in November 2001.

**Following adoption of the revised Code, IFCS should (a) support and encourage governments to play an active role in its observance; and (b) work with the FAO and all main stakeholders to enable them to play an active role in monitoring progress on implementation of the Code.**

7. Poison centres, providing toxicological information and advice, should be established and strengthened, with relevant clinical and analytical toxicological facilities developed according to the needs identified and resources available at the level of each country. In developing these facilities, relevant international guidance can be found in the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) Guidelines for Poisons Control published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

**By 2002, poison centres should have been established in 30 or more countries that do not yet have such centres, and further strengthened in 70 or more countries where they already exist. Extensive progress should have been made on national systems for collection of harmonized data, including categorization by, for example, type of poisoning, chemical identity, structure, use or function.**

8. Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)/emission inventories are recognized in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 as an important tool to raise public awareness about potential chemical risks and as an effective environmental management tool to stimulate chemical risk reduction. Although PRTRs are designed to be country-specific, there are commonalities between national systems. Common characteristics of many successful PRTR programmes include: a listing of pollutants; environmental multi-media and/or integrated reporting of releases and transfers (i.e. to air, water, and land); reporting of data by source; reporting of data periodically (normally annually); and making data and information available to the public.

**By 2004, at least two additional countries in each IFCS region should have established a PRTR/emission inventory and countries without a PRTR/emission inventory should consider to initiate a national PRTR/emission inventory design process which involves affected and interested parties and takes into consideration national circumstances and needs.**

This priority is part of a broader Forum PRTR/Emission Inventory Action Plan which is annexed to the Forum III Final Report.

9. Governments and industry should consider, subject to domestic regulatory requirements, or as provided for in international agreements, granting the public's right-to-know the chemical constituents of consumer products, at least on a qualitative basis, in order to enable them to make informed consumer choices.

#### **Programme Area E:**

#### **Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals**

1. Countries should increase their efforts to systematically develop an integrated and coordinated approach to manage chemicals safely. Countries should therefore prepare and regularly update national profiles, identify capacity building priorities, and develop sound national action plans for them. Those countries that have completed a National Profile should make it as widely available as possible through such means as the UNITAR/ECB National Profile Internet Homepage.

**By 2002, National Profiles, based on a multi-stakeholder process, should have been developed by most countries.**

**By 2002, all countries should have designated an appropriate contact point (IFCS National Focal Point) and have established an intersectoral coordinating effort.**

2. National<sup>3</sup> policies or action plans should be developed through a multi-stakeholder process and based on information from the National Profiles. These policies/plans should be reviewed and revised from time to time as required. This should include information and details pertaining to all of the following:

- the development of effective national legislation, policies and enforcement,
- implementation of educational programmes and other projects designed to raise national awareness,
- capacity building related to risk reduction/risk management,
- strengthening institutional mechanisms and programmes,
- strengthening national information systems, networks, and Internet links.

Safer and cleaner technologies must be utilised to avoid, or to greatly reduce, risks from hazardous chemicals to the health and safety of workers, the general population, and to the environment. The development and use of these technologies should be in National Action Plans. Industry has a special obligation to participate in the implementation of risk reduction programmes.

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<sup>3</sup> Whenever in this text the term national is used, it means national or other institutional level as appropriate.

**Although risk reduction activities are primarily national responsibilities, regional and international risk reduction programmes are warranted for those problems that are sub-regional, regional and international in scope.**

**By 2005, national policies with objectives, priorities, strategies and action plans with targets for improving the management of chemicals should have been developed in most countries and regions.**

3. Countries requiring external assistance should include capacity building for the management of chemicals as a national priority for development assistance and coordinate among relevant ministries clear and well-defined requests for external additional resources. In programmes against poverty, for agricultural development etc, the dimension of environment should be included, and other ministries such as those of planning should be involved. The Forum urges donor countries and organizations to undertake to strengthen their assistance programmes, at both policy and technical levels, and to report progress through the OECD biennial reports on assistance.

**OECD countries, other IFCS participants, non-profit organizations, and other institutions, should begin to work immediately to mobilize sufficient financial resources and technical assistance for the sound management of chemicals, including technology transfer as appropriate, providing opportunities to all countries to support activities under all the Forum programmes of action.**

**The Forum Standing Committee should review assistance given to countries to support capacity building for the sound management of chemicals and report back to Forum IV.**

The Forum encourages coordination at international level of the various efforts to support strengthening of capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, integrating work on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), persistent organic pollutants (POPs), obsolete stocks, Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), pesticides etc. to the extent possible and based on the specific and explicit demands of countries seeking support for strengthening their chemicals management.

4. Enhanced access to information on various aspects of capacity building activities and needs related to the sound management of chemicals is a prerequisite for planning, implementing, evaluating and coordinating capacity building projects for the sound management of chemicals. As such it may also contribute to international, regional and national efforts to raise the awareness about the need for increased assistance to strengthen national capacities and capabilities for the sound management of chemicals.

**The Forum supports the development of an Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals within the framework of the IFCS and calls upon countries, international organizations, industry, labour unions, public interest groups and the academia to actively participate in this effort by 2003.**

**Programme Area F:**

**Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products**

1. The Forum requests that the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations establish a working group on illegal trafficking, drawing on the expertise of the Forum and considering recommendations given by the regional groups. This working group shall build upon ongoing activities within the IOMC participating organizations and shall assess illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous substances, review measures to detect and prevent illegal traffic, and make recommendations as to how its participating organizations may advance, add value to, and help integrate the work undertaken by other organizations, such as Interpol, the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the World Customs Organization. This assessment and recommendations shall be considered by Forum IV; interim reports on the progress of analysis should be made to the Forum Standing Committee in the following areas:

- national legislation and enforcement programmes;
- capacity to detect illegal import and export;
- resources and operational mechanisms for technical assistance for developing countries and for countries with economies in transition;
- the extent of illegal traffic at international, regional, sub-regional, and national levels, and the assessment of its impact at these levels;
- the extent of coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders;
- how international conventions related to the sound management of chemicals and national laws may be more effectively applied to the transboundary movement of chemicals.

2. The Forum recommends that governments elaborate national strategies of prevention, detection, and control of illegal traffic, including the strengthening of laws, judicial mechanisms, and the capacity of customs administrations and other national authorities to control and prevent illegal shipments of chemicals, by enhancing information systems, e.g. case reporting systems, training, and other practical measures. In particular, in line with Article 13 (1) of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, countries should give appropriate support to initiatives taken by World Customs Organization members aiming at the attribution of specific harmonized system codes for certain chemicals falling under the Rotterdam Convention and POPs, and enabling their comparison to environmental compliance data.

## **ANNEX 7**

### **PRTR/Emission Inventory Action Plan**

## **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)/Emission Inventory Action Plan**

Forum III participants, in:

*Recognizing* the contribution of PRTRs/emission inventories in raising public awareness on potential chemical risks and as an effective tool to stimulate chemical risk reduction and prevention/reduction of emissions;

*Reaffirming* the provision in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 calling for voluntary reporting of PRTR/emission inventories data in the absence of mandatory reporting requirements;

*Noting* that public dissemination of PRTRs/emission inventories data with right-to-know policies are core elements of, and driving forces for, sound environmental management;

*Stressing* the importance of providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for developing and implementing national PRTRs/emission inventories;

*Recommending* that the development of PRTRs/emission inventories should, as appropriate, build on and be linked to National Profiles, national action plans on priority chemicals, and existing national information systems;

*Recognizing* assistance provided by UNEP, UNITAR and through multi/bi-lateral cooperation;

*Recognizing* the important contribution of the OECD in areas such as data estimation and using PRTRs/emission inventories as a tool for environmental management initiatives (e.g. risk assessments) and welcoming any further initiatives in this area;

*Acknowledging* the efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe to develop a legally binding instruments on PRTRs in the context of the Aarhus Convention;

*Noting* with appreciation the ICCA's stated support for PRTRs/emission inventories programmes;

*Noting* the importance that full PRTRs/emission inventories data are eventually made publicly available in formats that encourage intra- and inter-national consistency, in multiple forms including searchable electronic databases accessible without cost on the internet as well as other electronic and paper forms;

*Emphasizing* that various international environmental agreements contain provisions on emission reporting; and

*Noting* the importance of tracking progress on the establishment of PRTRs/emission inventories world-wide,

- Encouraged countries without PRTR systems to take steps to initiate a process to design a national PRTR/emission inventory taking into account national circumstances and needs;
- Called for the establishment of a PRTR/emission inventory in at least two additional countries in each IFCS region by 2004;
- Called upon countries to involve all affected and interested parties in designing PRTRs/emission inventories and to ensure that all parties have the information and capacity to participate in an effective way;
- Urged countries to link reporting requirements under international agreements to national PRTRs/emissions inventories;
- Called upon the multi- and bi-lateral donor community to provide financial and technical assistance in response to national requests for PRTR/emission inventory related assistance;
- Called upon UNEP and UNITAR to increase technical and financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen national capacities and capabilities to design and implement national PRTRs/emission inventories;
- Requested ICCA to report to Forum IV on progress achieved in implementing ICCA policy on PRTRs/emission inventories, including possible interim voluntary public disclosure by ICCA members with facilities in countries without voluntary or regulatory PRTR/emission inventory systems; and
- Requested the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group to:
  - 1) Prepare a report for Forum IV, summarizing the status and progress in developing PRTRs/emission inventories;
  - 2) Investigate opportunities to engage countries that are not members of the OECD in work of the Group;
  - 3) Prepare a report addressing the linking of reporting requirements under international agreements to national PRTRs/emission inventories; and
  - 4) Coordinate the action called for above and prepare a consolidated report for review and possible further action at Forum IV.

## **ANNEX 8**

### **Lists of Documents**

- **List of Meeting Documents (IFCS/FORUM III/05 Rev2 INF)**
- **Forum III – Room Documents**





05 INF (Rev 2)

*In Partnership for Global Chemical Safety*

IFCS/FORUM III/05 INF (Rev 2)  
Original: English  
15 September 2000

**FORUM III**

**Third Session**  
**of the**  
**Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety**

**Salvador da Bahía, Brazil**  
**15 - 20 October 2000**

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**List of Forum III documents**

**Prepared by: IFCS Secretariat**

## LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Subject	Document Title	Document No.
1	Opening of the meeting		
2	Round Table <i>Partnerships for Global Chemical Safety</i>		
3	Organizational matters concerning Forum III		
	- report on preparations for Forum III		
	- adoption of agenda	Proposed Provisional Agenda	IFCS/FORUM III/01w
		Proposed Provisional Annotated Agenda	IFCS/FORUM III/02w
	- adoption of provisional timetable	Proposed General Time Schedule	IFCS/FORUM III/03w
		Proposed Detailed Time Schedule	IFCS/FORUM III/04w
4	IFCS administrative items	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety: Organization of Work and Terms of Reference	IFCS/FORUM III/06w
		Role of the President	IFCS/FORUM III/06w (Addendum )
		Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety: Financial Statement	IFCS/FORUM III/07w
5	Analysis of Progress	President's Analysis of Progress	IFCS/FORUM III/08 INF
6	Priorities for Action Beyond 2000	IFCS Priorities for Action Beyond 2000	IFCS/FORUM III/09w
7	Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products	Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products	IFCS/FORUM III/10w
8	Information exchange	Barriers to Information Exchange for the Sound Management of Chemicals	IFCS/FORUM III/11w
		Information Exchange for Chemical Production Decision-making	IFCS/FORUM III/13w

*In Partnership for Global Chemical Safety*

IFCS/FORUM III/05 INF

9	Emission inventories	Emission Inventories (Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers)	IFCS/FORUM III/14w
10	Awareness raising	Raising Awareness and Raising the Priority of Chemicals Management Capacity Building Issues at Political Levels	IFCS/FORUM III/15w
11	Capacity building network	Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals: Discussion on and Possible Adoption/Endorsement of a Draft Terms of Reference	IFCS/FORUM III/12w
12	Forum III Declaration	The Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety - <i>Draft</i>	IFCS/FORUM III/16w
13	Election of IFCS Officers		
14	Any other business		
15	Review of conclusions and recommendations, adoption of report of meeting		
16	Closing of the meeting		

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**IFCS/FORUM III/05 INF(Rev 2)**

Other Documents	
Document Title	Document No.
List of Meeting Documents	IFCS/FORUM III/05 INF
IFCS List of Acronyms	IFCS/FORUM III/17 INF
EDCs - Progress Report	IFCS/FORUM III/18 INF
Information on Procedures for Decision Making on Programme of Work and Budget for the IOMC Organizations	IFCS/FORUM III/19 INF
Third OECD Survey of Development Assistance Activities for Capacity Building	IFCS/FORUM III/20 INF ENGLISH ONLY
Simple Indicators of Progress	IFCS/FORUM III/21 INF ENGLISH ONLY
Global Harmonization of Classification and Labelling Systems (GHS) - Progress Report for the Period December 1998 - December 1999	IFCS/FORUM III/22 INF

### FORUM III - ROOM DOCUMENTS<sup>1</sup>

Ref: Agenda	Title	Prepared by	Languages
3	Organizational matters concerning Forum III		
	Conduct of Business in Plenary Sessions of the Forum	Forum Standing Committee	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian
7	Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products		
	Prevention of International Illegal Traffic of Toxic and Dangerous Products in the Central and East European Region	Hungary and Slovakia	English, French, Spanish and Russian
	Asian Regional Paper on Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Chemicals	Republic of South Korea	English, French, Spanish
	The Illegal Movement of Hazardous Products and Waste in Africa - the Case of Senegal	Mr I. Sow Senegal	English, French, Spanish
	Latin American & Caribbean Regional paper on illegal traffic	Ms J. Alvarez Uruguay	English, French, Spanish
	Western European and Other Groups regional paper on illegal traffic	Mr M. Penders USA	English, French, Spanish
10	Awareness raising		
	Experiences and Lessons Learned on Data Collection and Development of National Action Plans under the Montreal Protocol	The World Bank Montreal Protocol Team	English
	Awareness Raising and Raising the Priority of Chemicals Management Issues withint Governments of Countries with Economies in Transition	Hungary	English, Russian
	Raising Awareness and Raising the Priority of Chemicals Management Capacity Building at All Levels, The Thailand's Experiences	Thailand	English

<sup>1</sup> Room Documents were prepared by FORUM III participants as additional background information to facilitate the discussions and work of the Forum.

Ref: Agenda	Title	Prepared by	Languages
11	Capacity building network		
	Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals - Additional Information on Possible Network Services	UNITAR	English, French, Spanish
13	Election of IFCS Officers		
	Election Facilitating Committee	Forum Standing Committee	English, French, Spanish
General			
Information Session on GHS 19 Oct	Development of a Global Capacity Building Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing the GHS	UNITAR and ILO	English, French, Spanish
	Involvement of non-OECD countries in the OECD High Production Volume Chemical Programme	OECD	English, French, Spanish

## **ANNEX 9**

### **List of acronyms**

*To be incorporated at a later date*

## **ANNEX 10**

### **Report of African Regional Group Meetings**



## **Report of African Regional Group Meetings 12-18 October 2000**

### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 12 October 2000 by Mr Ousmane TOURE, National Director of Sanitation and of Pollution and Hazards Control of Mali, Vice-President of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS).

Mr Toure recalled the aims of Forum III and the need to harmonize the points of view of the African Group for the meetings of the Forum, at which important decisions would be taken for the following five years.

The representative of the Government of Brazil welcomed the African participants. He emphasized the importance of the meeting for his country, which shared the same concerns about chemical management as the other developing countries. Finally, he expressed the hope that the participants stay in Salvador would both pleasant and useful.

After the official opening, all the participants present in the room were introduced.

### **2. BUREAU**

The meeting elected the following members by consensus:

Chairman: Ousmane TOURE (Mali)

Rapporteurs: Dudley ACHU SAMA, Cameroon and Ibrahima SOW, Senegal.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without amendment.

### **3. PARTICIPATION FROM THE AFRICAN REGION**

(see annex 16, Final Report of Forum III)

#### **Countries**

South Africa, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

#### **NGOs**

International Union of Food, Agricultural and Allied Workers' Associations (IUFAW, Uganda Office), Voarisoa (Madagascar).

#### **Observers**

Hydrac company (Cameroon), OBEPAB (Benin).

#### 4. GENERAL

The summary presentations by countries on chemical safety activities were followed by a preliminary discussion which yielded the following conclusions:

(i) Despite the progress made with implementing the programmes of action of Forum II (increasing the number of national focal points, development of plans of action for management of chemicals, identification of priorities), it has to be recognized that much remains to be done:

- Some African countries have not yet produced their national profile and do not possess adequate environmental legislation;
- The capacity (human, technical, material and communications) required for ecologically sound management of chemicals is still weak, if not non-existent. Neither is coordination between the different actors very operational.

(ii) Since its creation, IFCS has made tremendous progress by developing a strong partnership on chemical management with the chemical industry, Governments, trade unions and NGOs, etc. Nevertheless, there are still a number of black spots: the potential impact on the health of populations and on the safety of workers involved with the production, manipulation and handling of chemicals is still considerable.

(iii) The impact of chemical pollutants on the environment (water, air, soil, etc.) and on the health of the population is still poorly understood in Africa.

(iv) Prevention of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous chemicals requires special attention at this Forum, and should be one of the main priorities for action.

In the light of the foregoing, the African countries must give careful consideration to the mechanism to ensure them access to the funding required for the implementation of the priority programmes identified within the framework of Forum III. IFCS should act as a catalyst in this respect.

#### 5. PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKING GROUPS

The group appointed the following delegates to represent it on the Election Facilitating Committee and on the working groups set up during Forum III:

- Guinea, for the election facilitating committee;
- Nigeria, for the Bahía Declaration;
- Zambia, for the illegal traffic in dangerous chemicals;
- Nigeria, for priorities for action for 2000 and beyond.

The African Group fully supports the resolutions adopted at these different meetings.

## 6. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At the conclusion of the debates, the African Group had identified recommendations, which were carried forward to the Working Groups and Plenary, relating to the following six programme areas:

- Activity A: Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;
- Activity B: Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals;
- Activity C: Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;
- Activity D: Establishment of risk-reduction programmes;
- Activity E: Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for the sound management of chemicals;
- Activity F: Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

## 7. NOMINATION OF IFCS OFFICERS AND FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Group nominated the following officers to represent Africa on the bureau and on the Standing Committee through Forum IV:

**Vice-President:** Senegal.

### **Members of the Standing Committee**

1. Nigeria
2. Madagascar

Malawi and Angola were designated as alternates for Nigeria and Madagascar.

## **ANNEX 11**

### **Report of Asia and the Pacific Regional Group Meetings**

## **Report of Asia and the Pacific Regional Group Meetings 15-18 October 2000**

Meeting Chair: Mr. Geum-Su Seog, Republic of Korea, Vice-President, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), Asia and the Pacific Region  
Moderator: Mr. Suho Seong, Republic of Korea  
Rapporteur: Dr. Jarupong Boon-Long, Thailand

The regional group met on 15 October (09:00-12:30), 16 October (14:30-18:00), 17 October (09:00-12:30) and 18 October (09:00-12:30). The discussions were based around Forum III agenda item numbers 4, 6-8 and 11-13. Only the key points from the discussions are noted below.

### **Agenda Item 4: IFCS Terms of Reference**

The group felt that the current composition of the Forum Standing Committee (FSC) does not provide equitable regional and geographical representation. There should be greater representation from developing country regions.

It was agreed that the name of the region should be changed to Asia and the Pacific.

### **Election of Regional Representatives in the IFCS**

The group nominated Japan as IFCS regional Vice-President and the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran as FSC members. Following the decision by the Plenary to increase regional representation, a fourth FSC member was selected. It was agreed that this should be a shared role between Republic of Korea and Papua New Guinea. The former country would hold office for the first half of the term and then PNG would take over through to Forum IV.

### **Agenda Item 6: Forum Priorities for Action beyond 2000**

There were many proposals for wording changes for this item arising out of the August regional meeting and discussions at Forum III. These were submitted to the Forum working group by the nominated representatives from Iran and Thailand.

The following were the key issues identified as important to the region:

#### **Programme area A**

- Addition of immunotoxicology, endocrine disruption and ecotoxicology to the list of toxicological endpoints for common principles for harmonized approaches
- The need for transparency and openness in hazard evaluations
- Involvement of developing countries in hazard evaluations
- Technical and financial support to enable developing country participation

#### **Programme area B**

- The proposed timetable should allow differences in capacities and capabilities

Programme area C

- Insertion of a longer-term target for exchange of information on hazardous chemicals

Programme area D

- IPM strategies should be ecologically sound
- Need to be clear about the types of data to be collected

Programme area E

- There is a need for a multilateral mechanism to enhance capacities of developing countries for participation in chemical safety activities

**Agenda Item 7: Prevention of Illegal International Traffic**

The meeting discussed and endorsed the regional position paper provided as a room document. The key recommendations from the paper were the need for an expert meeting on the subject, selected case studies, the role of NGOs in raising awareness and the importance of implementing the Rotterdam Convention.

**Agenda Item 8: Information Exchange**

The meeting discussed the meeting paper 11w and generally supported the proposals but felt that there was a need to include other communication systems such as fax, telephone and letter.

The meeting also supported paper 13w in general but some delegates were concerned about the reference to the Responsible Care initiative. It was felt that additional wording should be used in the recommendations to clarify the concept.

**Agenda Item 11: Capacity Building Network**

Discussion of this item centered around the proposed scope of the network, priorities for the network services. The general concept was supported.

**Agenda Item 12: Bahia Declaration**

The following additions and amendments were proposed:

- The need to recognize the wide diversity of needs of countries from developed to developing
- The need to recognize that protection of health and environment should be the primary consideration in dealing with chemical issues
- There was no need to specify target dates for individual goals
- The need for a multilateral mechanism to enhance capacities of developing countries for participation in chemical safety activities

A proposal to include reference to the precautionary principle was also considered. However, the meeting could not reach agreement on this matter.

## **ANNEX 12**

### **Report of Central & Eastern European Regional Group Meetings**

## **Report of Central & Eastern European (CEE) Regional Group Meetings 15-18 October 2000**

The meeting was attended by the representatives of 14 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

Participants of the meeting expressed their gratitude to the Brazilian government, in particular, for the excellent preparatory work and organization of the meeting.

Prof. Ungvary, Vice-President of IFCS opened the meeting, and welcomed the participants.

### **Appointing rapporteurs for the group**

Dr. Rusnak of Slovakia and Dr. Tompa of Hungary were proposed and elected as rapporteurs for the CEE regional group.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The programme of the Meeting was carried out according to the "Detailed Time Schedule" (04w Agenda item 3) and the President's instructions (Briefing Note for Vice-Presidents).

### **The program of the meetings:**

1. Work schedule
2. Appointing a rapporteur for the group
3. Introduction and discussion of agenda items 3 and 4
  - (a) Forum Standing Committee (FSC) Terms of Reference
  - (b) Election Process
  - (c) Role of the President
  - (d) Regional Roles and Responsibilities of Vice-Presidents
  - (e) Guidelines for National Focus Points
  - (f) Forum Standing Committee
4. Election Facilitating Committee
5. Nomination of officers and members of the FSC
6. Agenda item 6 (Priorities for Action Beyond 2000)
7. Agenda item 7 (Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products)
8. Agenda item 8 (Barriers to Information Exchange for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and Information Exchange for Chemical Production Decision - Making)
9. Agenda item 9 (Emission Inventories)
10. Agenda item 10 (Raising Awareness and Raising the Priority of Chemicals Management Capacity Building Issues at Political Levels)
11. Capacity Building Network



### **Election Process**

Ms. Manuela Godden (IFCS Secretariat) and the Vice-President acquainted the participants with the process for the election on the basis of the relevant Room Document (IFCS/FCS/00.44).

Mr. Fran Marovic (Croatia) was elected to the Election Facilitating Committee. Hungary was nominated as Vice-President. Russian Federation and Slovenia were nominated as the members of the Forum Standing Committee. Participants took into consideration the sub-regional distribution of the region.

### **The tone of the meeting**

The tone of the meeting was co-operative and friendly. Each document was presented briefly by the Vice-President or another member of the group, then discussed in detail. Discussion was constructive and lively.

Some members of the Region participated in different *ad hoc* working groups (e.g. Priorities for Action beyond 2000, Bahia Declaration, Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products). Azerbaijan gave a report on the oil industry in the country. Rapporteurs prepared reports on the daily activity of the regional group. These reports were presented to the FSC or the Plenary session.

In the case of those topics that were prepared by the CEE countries (e.g. Priorities for Action beyond 2000, Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products in CEE, Raising Awareness and Raising the Priority of Chemical Management Issues within countries with economies in transition), the interest was particularly high. For these topics the members of the CEE Region attached modifying and new recommendations.

### **Closing remarks**

The Vice-President gave a brief summing-up and noted the meeting's success in helping to prepare participants for their future activities in the field of chemical safety. He expressed his appreciation to the rapporteurs, to Mr. Karel Blaha for his active help in the coordination of regional meetings; to Dr. Kovacicova for the active contribution in preparation of one of the room documents (Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products in CEE). Finally, the Vice-President expressed his hope that Hungary would be able to organize FORUM IV, and his appreciation to each member of the region for their active work, for their support and confidence in electing him as a Vice-President, and for their unanimous support for Hungary in obtaining the right to host FORUM IV.

## **ANNEX 13**

### **Report of Latin American & Caribbean Regional Group Meetings**

## **Report of Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group Meetings 15-18 October 2000**

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group held several meetings during Forum III. The meetings were attended by representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela, representatives of other regions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The meetings were coordinated by Argentina and Brazil. Brazil also served as rapporteur at the working sessions of the regional group.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the agenda items of the Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), with a view to agreeing on common positions to be put forward at the third session of the Forum, and to elect the regional Vice-President and the members of the Standing Committee and their alternates.

The regional group reaffirmed the Forum's status as a valuable mechanism for fostering cooperation to integrate national and international efforts on behalf of chemical safety. The Forum is not an international agency and its recommendations are not legally binding. Consequently, its documents should reflect this spirit of cooperation and not constitute texts for negotiation between delegations.

The region expressed its intention to make every possible effort to fulfil the Forum's goals and to attain the objectives identified based on the understanding that the Forum is a valuable tool for achieving chemical safety. The importance of sub-regional and regional coordination and cooperation were reiterated as being of strategic importance to balanced progress on all issues relating to chemical safety.

The regional group reviewed all the decision documents relating to priorities for action, emission inventories, illegal traffic, barriers to information exchange, exchange of information for decision-making, the harmonized classification and labelling system and training, and agreed on objective proposals for all the texts and their recommendations. The Group also actively participated in the discussions on the Bahía Declaration, the main policy document from this session of the Forum.

The Region also evaluated and approved the documents on the organization of work, the terms of reference of the Forum and Standing Committee, guidelines for national focal points and on the role and responsibilities of the Vice-Presidents. On the basis of these documents, and reiterating the need for the support of all countries to enable the representatives to perform their functions in a coordinated and effective manner, the Region adopted the following decision:

Vice-President – Ecuador

Standing Committee – Honduras (member) El Salvador (alternate)  
Trinidad and Tobago (member) Argentina (alternate)

## **ANNEX 14**

### **Report of Western and European and Other Groups Meeting**

## **Record of Decisions Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG) Regional Meetings 15-18 October 2000**

1.

The WEOG had regional meetings at Forum III on October 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2000.

2.

The IFCS President, Mr. Roy Hickman, pointed out that the role of the President was one of representing the Forum, and not a particular region. It was agreed, therefore, that Dr. William Sanders of the United States would preside over the WEOG regional meetings.

3.

Designation of WEOG Representatives to Forum III Working Groups

It was approved that the WEOG representation would be as follows:

Election Facilitating Committee:	France (Laurence Musset)
Prevention of Illegal Traffic:	United States (Pep Fuller)
Bahia Declaration:	Australia (Pamela Harris)
	Germany (Wilfrid Malhmann)
	United States (David Strother)
Priorities for Action:	Canada (Jean-Louis Wallace)
	Denmark (Lisbet Seedorff)

4.

Nominees for IFCS Officers and Forum Standing Committee (FSC)

It was agreed that WEOG would submit the following:

President:	no nominee
Vice-President of WEOG:	Sweden
FSC members:	Australia (Switzerland as alternate)
	Germany (United Kingdom as alternate)
	United States (Canada as alternate)

5.

Rapporteur: Canada (Steve Clarkson) accepted the role.

6.

The members of WEOG appreciated the offers of both Thailand and Hungary to host Forum IV in 2003. It was agreed that Belgium would represent WEOG on the informal group, established by the Forum Standing Committee, to seek resolution of the host country for Forum IV. The members were of the view that time was not so short that a decision was required before the conclusion of Forum III.

7.

The WEOG discussed the meeting documents for Forum III. Although there was general support for the themes expressed in the documents, a number of revisions were proposed to them. These proposals were conveyed to the drafters of the documents or the appropriate working group. A significant proportion of the WEOG deliberations were devoted to document 09w, "Priorities for Action".

## **ANNEX 15**

### **IFCS Elected Officers and Forum Standing Committee Members**

## FORUM III

### ELECTED IFCS OFFICERS AND FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Brazil
VICE PRESIDENTS	Ecuador Hungary Japan Senegal Sweden

#### FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE

REGION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE
Africa	Madagascar Nigeria	Malawi Angola
Asia & the Pacific	China Iran Republic of Korea/ Papua New Guinea <sup>1</sup>	<i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i>
Central & Eastern Europe	Russian Federation Slovenia	Czech Republic Slovakia
Latin America & the Caribbean	Honduras Trinidad & Tobago	El Salvador Argentina
Western Europe & Other Groups	Australia Germany United States of America	Switzerland United Kingdom Canada

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<sup>1</sup> Shared term with change of representative at mid-term



## **ANNEX 16**

### **List of Participants**

*To be incorporated at a later date*