



Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
Global Partnerships for Chemical Safety

President: Mr Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla, Senegal
Executive Secretary: Dr Judy Stober

Mr Achim Steiner
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya

6 October 2008

Dear Mr Steiner,

In my capacity as President of the IFCS, I have the honour of transmitting to you the Dakar Resolution on the Future of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) adopted by the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum VI). Forum VI was held 15-19 September 2008 in Dakar, Senegal, hosted by the Government of Senegal. Your assistance, as convenor of the second session of the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM-2), in bringing this letter and the Dakar Resolution to the attention of the ICCM open-ended legal and technical working group and the Conference and submitting for consideration of the Conference the enclosed draft decision resolution on the International Forum on Chemical Safety is requested.

At the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-1, February 2006) governments and other stakeholders invited IFCS "to continue its important role in providing an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues, and to continue to contribute through this to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the work of other chemicals-related international organizations and institutions". At the fifth session of the IFCS (Forum V), held in Budapest, Hungary, from 25-29 September 2006, governments and other stakeholders acknowledged the unique and value added role IFCS has as a forum serving as a bridge between science and policy and for discussing issues and building consensus. Forum V recognized the desirability to continue to have such a forum and adopted a resolution on the future of IFCS agreeing to consider its future role and functions at its next session. The Forum V Resolution expresses appreciation for "the unique multi-faceted role that IFCS has played as a flexible, open and transparent brainstorming and bridge-building forum for governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations including from the private sector which has facilitated consensus building".

Forum VI considered proposals for the future role and functions of the IFCS, options for its institutional arrangement, its possible relationship to the ICCM, and its contribution to the implementation of the SAICM and the work of other chemicals-related organizations and institutions and adopted the Dakar Resolution on the Future of IFCS. The Resolution defines the future role and functions of the Forum and invites the International Conference on Chemicals Management to decide, at its second session, to integrate the Forum into the ICCM by establishing IFCS as an ICCM advisory body.

On behalf of the IFCS, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the valuable contribution and support your organization has provided to IFCS enabling its achievements. IFCS has played a substantive role in advancing actions in the area of chemical safety not only at the international level but also in countries. I believe IFCS has succeeded, and is prepared to continue doing so, in serving as an important and effective mechanism for strengthening SAICM and supporting its implementation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by 'C' and 'S'.

Mr Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla
President

Enc: Forum VI Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Final Report Executive Summary, Dakar Resolution on the Future of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) (IFCS/FORUM-VI/07w)

Draft Decision, Resolution on International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum) Submitted to second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2) by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Forum Standing Committee

cc: Mr Matthew Gubb, Coordinator, SAICM Secretariat, UNEP
IFCS Forum Standing Committee



Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
Global Partnerships for Chemical Safety

IFCS/FORUM-VI/07w
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10 October 2008

Contributing to the 2020 Goal

FORUM VI
SIXTH SESSION
OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Dakar, Senegal
15 – 19 September 2008

FINAL REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dakar Resolution on the Future of the
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

Dakar Resolution on the Future of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Dakar, at the invitation of the Government of Senegal, from 15-19 September 2008,

Having regard to the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) by the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM) on 6 February 2006,

Intending to contribute to the goal articulated in paragraph 23 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which aims “to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”,

Recalling the adoption at Forum V of the Resolution on the Future of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), which established a working group to prepare a draft decision on the future role and functions of the IFCS, including options for its institutional arrangement and consideration of a joint secretariat with SAICM, mindful of the need to avoid duplication, its possible relationship to the ICCM, and its contribution to the implementation of the SAICM, for consideration at Forum VI,

Commending the successful conclusion of the mandate of the working group,

Further recalling the invitation by the International Conference on Chemical Management to the Forum to continue its important role in providing an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues, and to continue to contribute through this to the implementation of the Strategic Approach and the work of other chemicals-related international organizations and institutions,

Appreciating the unique multi-faceted role that the Forum has played as a flexible, open and transparent brainstorming and bridge-building forum for Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations including from the private sector which has facilitated consensus building, taking into particular account the specific situations and interests of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing the desirability of continuing to have such a forum,

Acknowledging the need to use human and financial resources efficiently and to avoid duplication of functions and work areas in order to enhance international chemical safety by effective implementation of SAICM and achievement of the 2020 goal, complemented and supported by the Forum,

1. *Decides* that the Forum will contribute, within available resources, to the overall strategic approach to enhanced international chemicals management;
2. *Decides* that the role of the Forum is to provide an open, transparent, and inclusive forum for enhancing knowledge and common understanding about current, new and emerging issues related to sound chemicals management;
3. *Decides* that the functions of the Forum are to:
 - 3.1. Provide all stakeholders, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, an opportunity to share and acquire information through open discussion and debate;
 - 3.2. Provide an independent, objective source of synthesized information about chemicals management issues, including potential health, environmental and socioeconomic impacts and possible response actions; and
 - 3.3. Prepare and disseminate reports that reflect a state-of-the-art understanding of key subjects; are based on solid scientific evidence; ensure a balance of existing view points; and package accurate, relevant and important information in accessible language that educates and may stimulate action, particularly for ICCM;
4. *Encourages* the President, Vice Presidents, and Forum Standing Committee members to undertake all efforts to ensure that this Resolution receives adequate attention during the preparatory process of ICCM-2, and

authorizes the Forum Standing Committee to take any decisions with regard to the integration of the Forum into the ICCM;

5. **Invites** the International Conference on Chemicals Management to decide, at its second session, to integrate the Forum into the ICCM by establishing IFCS as an ICCM advisory body;
6. **Proposes** that the new name of the Forum will be the “International Forum on Chemical Safety,” which thus will continue to be known as “IFCS”;
7. **Invites** ICCM-2 to include in the new terms of reference and rules of procedure for the Forum the elements identified in the Annex;
8. **Invites** the ICCM to specify tasks for the Forum, such as the preparation of reports on new and emerging issues on chemical safety management, as substantial input for consideration of specific situations and interests, in particular of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, mindful of the need for adequate resources for these tasks;
9. **Recognizes** that successful integration of the Forum into ICCM will require sufficient human, financial and in-kind resources to ensure that the Forum can effectively serve its functions, and urges all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide such resources on a voluntary basis;
10. **Decides** that until ICCM integrates the Forum into ICCM as described in this Resolution, in particular in Paragraph 7 and its annex, the Forum will continue to operate under its current terms of reference, and the Forum Standing Committee will continue to operate under its current terms of reference;
11. **Requests** the IFCS Secretariat to support the Forum Standing Committee and to work closely with the SAICM Secretariat in the implementation of this Resolution;
12. **Invites** all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources in support of the IFCS Secretariat in the fulfillment of its functions.

Draft Decision

Submitted to second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2) by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Forum Standing Committee

Resolution

International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum)

The Conference,

Recalling its invitation at its first session to "the Forum to continue its important role in providing an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues, and to continue to contribute through this to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the work of other chemicals-related international organizations and institutions".¹

Noting that the role of the Forum is to provide an open, transparent, and inclusive forum for enhancing knowledge and common understanding about current, new and emerging issues related to sound chemicals management;

Noting further that the functions of the Forum are to:

- 12.1. Provide all stakeholders, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, an opportunity to share and acquire information through open discussion and debate;
- 12.2. Provide an independent, objective source of synthesized information about chemicals management issues, including potential health, environmental and socioeconomic impacts and possible response actions; and
- 12.3. Prepare and disseminate reports that reflect a state-of-the-art understanding of key subjects; are based on solid scientific evidence; ensure a balance of existing view points; and package accurate, relevant and important information in accessible language that educates and may stimulate action, particularly for ICCM;

Acknowledging the need to use human and financial resources efficiently and to avoid duplication of functions and work areas in order to enhance international chemical safety by effective implementation of SAICM and achievement of the 2020 goal;

Welcoming the invitation of the IFCS to integrate the Forum into the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) as an advisory body;

1. **Decides** to integrate the Forum into the ICCM by establishing the IFCS as an ICCM advisory body;
2. **Agrees** that the working methods for the Forum should include the key elements set out in appendix I to the present resolution;
3. **Recognizes** that successful integration of the Forum into ICCM will require sufficient human, financial and in-kind resources to ensure that the Forum can effectively serve its functions, and urges all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide such resources on a voluntary basis.

¹ Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), Annex IV, Resolution I/3, http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/iccm_sec.htm

Appendix I

Key Elements for Operation of the Forum

Representatives of governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other representatives from civil society, should all be entitled to attend and fully participate in Forum organized meetings (e.g. ad-hoc working groups, plenary, regional, etc.)

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

The Forum should, in addition to undertaking tasks assigned to it by the ICCM, be able to raise issues, including new and emerging issues, for discussion at the Forum in order to fulfil its role and functions and, in particular, to stimulate action by the ICCM.

The Forum should continue to follow the lead country/sponsor/organization approach to preparing materials for agenda items.

The Forum should meet during the ICCM intersessional period, in time to contribute to ICCM processes.

The bureau/standing committee of the Forum should comprise, government representatives and representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other groups in civil society.