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Final Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FORUM II AGREED ACTION ITEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) to be held June 1997

1. A special session of the UN General Assembly will be convened in June 1997, five years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to review progress and priorities in implementing Agenda 21. At its first meeting, the Forum adopted detailed recommendations on priorities of action for the effective implementation of national and international efforts in the six Programme Areas of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. At its second meeting, in February 1997, the Forum has taken stock of its accomplishments and noted where progress has been slow or non-existent on the recommendations, charting its direction for the next three years.
2. The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS):

Reaffirms the importance of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and *recommends*, therefore, that UNGASS:

- *Recognize* that the sound management of chemicals is essential to sustainable development, and that it is a fundamental underpinning of human health, safety and environmental protection and in achieving success in many other chapters of Agenda 21.
- *Recognize* that the IFCS, established in response to the request of governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, has evolved to be the over-arching framework to develop and promote through a consensus building process international strategies and partnerships among national governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations for the sound management of chemicals.
- *Recognize* that governments alone cannot assure the sound management of chemicals. There is a critical role for voluntary industry efforts of responsible care and product stewardship, advocacy and community efforts by worker and public interest nongovernmental organizations, and the specialized work of intergovernmental and scientific organizations. The greatest achievements come when all parties work together in partnership.
- *Recognize* that substantial progress has been made through cooperation among partners in achieving the targets in Chapter 19, especially in relation to:
 - identifying the risks to human health and the environment posed by persistent organic pollutants;
 - accelerating the international assessment of the risks of chemicals;
 - implementing the voluntary procedures and in negotiating the legally binding

- instrument for Prior Informed Consent;
- developing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;
- moving toward a globally harmonized system for the classification and labeling of chemicals;
- the promotion of alternatives that reduce the need for using of chemicals (e.g., integrated pest management); and
- starting to deal with the problems of stocks of obsolete chemicals.

However, despite substantial progress much remains to be done and will need to continue to be a priority well beyond the year 2000.

- *Recognize* that scientific research will continue to uncover new facts and bring about a better understanding of the effects of chemical substances on human health and the environment. One example is the rapidly growing body of scientific research that indicates that a number of substances have the potential to interfere with normal body functions governed by the endocrine system. Such emerging issues need to be addressed through research that leads to strategic actions to deal with these risks.
- *Recognize* the leadership role of those governments and organizations that have furthered the work of the Forum by bringing together governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and the support of countries and organizations that have generously contributed by providing assistance to governments in need for their participation. Other countries and organizations are invited to join in promoting the sound management of chemicals through donation of funds or contributions in kind.
- *Recommend* that donors, including multilateral development banks, ensure that development policies, and investments in programs and projects that entail chemicals management include support for the necessary capacity building for developing countries and countries in economic transition to ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals.
- *Recommend* that national governments take leadership to enhance the efforts of all the partners in finding innovative ways to provide necessary resources for the sound management of chemicals. In particular, this should focus on improving safety, promotion of cleaner technology, adoption of pollution prevention concepts, and capacity building.

General:

IFCS Terms of Reference

3. The office of Rapporteur will be replaced by that of a Vice President. A rapporteur should be appointed for the duration of each IFCS meeting.
4. The newly-elected President and Vice Presidents will take office immediately after closure of the meeting.

Officers of the Forum and Members of the Intersessional Group (ISG)

5. Forum II elected Canada as President, and Argentina, Hungary, Mali, and the Republic of Korea as Vice Presidents. The newly elected members of the ISG are listed in **Annex 8**.
6. The roles and responsibilities of Officers and ISG members were agreed as presented in **Annex 9**.
7. The Officers of the Forum requested the continuing support and contribution of the immediate past President through an informal arrangement. It was so agreed.
8. To more accurately reflect the scope of its membership, the name of the Eastern European Regional Group was changed to Central and Eastern European Region.

National Focal Point

9. The Forum reviewed and agreed on guidelines for national focal points as listed in **Annex 10**.

Ad Hoc Working Group for the Agenda for Forum II

10. Recognizing the important role and responsibilities that labour groups have in implementing and progressing the activities and programmes in Chapter 19, Agenda 21, the Forum extended membership in the Working Group for the duration of its tenure (end of Forum II) to a representative of the labour nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Forum Standing Committee

11. The meeting agreed to the establishment of a Forum Standing Committee under the chairmanship of the President of the Forum to provide advice and assistance in managing the process of preparations for ISG3 and Forum III and to provide a mechanism for the IFCS to effectively and efficiently initiate the process for the IFCS to respond to new developments and issues as they may arise. Additionally the Forum Standing Committee is requested to monitor progress on the work of the IFCS. The Forum Standing Committee is not empowered to take decisions for the IFCS Officers, ISG or the Forum itself. It was agreed that it should be of no more than 20 members. The role and responsibilities, working procedures and composition of the Forum Standing Committee as agreed are presented in **Annex 11**.
12. The Forum agreed that the work for the full review of the Terms of Reference of the IFCS to be done for Forum III be undertaken by the newly-constituted Forum Standing Committee.
13. The benefit of enhancing the role of the President as a spokesperson for the Forum was recognized and, acknowledging that the issue of balanced representation and other related matters were complicated, the Forum requested that the issue of creating a fifth

office of Vice President to replace the President as a regional officer be reviewed in the context of the full review of the Terms of Reference for Forum III.

14. Forum requested that the Forum Standing Committee investigate the possibility of setting up an ongoing “twinning” fund to be used to assist countries requiring financial aid to participate in the IFCS meetings.

IFCS Meetings

Languages

15. After extensive consultation in regional groups and discussion in plenary, the Forum agreed on a general policy for operating languages covering simultaneous interpretation and translation of meeting documents and reports. The policy addresses full Forum meetings, ISG meetings as well as the work of the Forum Standing Committee. The agreed on policy is detailed in Annex 12.

Criteria for Meetings Held Under the Auspices of the IFCS

16. The Forum adopted provisional criteria for meetings to be designated under the auspices of the IFCS (**Annex 13**) and, in response to a request from Mexico, invited Mexico to submit a request for a proposed meeting on risk management to be held in late 1997.

Schedule

17. The proposed schedule for IFCS meetings was agreed as follows: ISG3 will be held in late 1998, Forum III in 2000, and tentatively ISG4 is scheduled for early 2002. The interest of Japan and Brazil in hosting ISG3 and Forum III respectively was noted with gratitude.

IFCS Award of Merit

18. It was agreed that an IFCS award of merit should be instituted. The agreed on criteria and mechanisms for nomination are presented in Annex 14.

Trust Fund

19. The Forum noted the 1996 expenditure report and approved the projected budgets for 1997 and 1998, allowing for necessary amendment in the light of Forum II decisions. It also asked that a summary of IFCS expenditures from its inception be presented to the next ISG meeting including an estimate of the supplemental expenditures and the total secretariat resources including the indirect or in-kind items.
20. The Forum acknowledged the generous contributions of a number of countries and organizations, both financially and in-kind.
21. The Forum acknowledged the substantial and beneficial contribution provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the host agency for the Secretariat and thanked

the Director-General for the generous offer to extend the arrangement through the year 2000 and Forum III.

PROGRAMME AREA A - EXPANDING AND ACCELERATING INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL RISKS

22. Forum II recommended that:
23. Governments and the chemical industry express their continued commitment to generating and evaluating data for the assessment of risk to man and/or the environment by the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in order to meet the target of evaluating 500 additional chemicals by the year 2000;
24. Partners of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), in collaboration with other partners, continue their efforts to develop a coordinated, step-wise process to address existing chemicals and pesticides with maximum sharing of the burden and maximum output of assessments;
25. Governments and regional organizations express their commitment to support IOMC Partner Organizations in producing international assessment documents, namely the Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) and the Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICAD) of the IPCS, and the Screening Information Data Sets (SIDS) Initial Assessment Reports of OECD. The suitability of including other international peer-review assessments addressing the risk to health and the environment as contributions towards meeting the IFCS targets will be evaluated by a group of stakeholders convened by IPCS and OECD, according to the criteria elaborated in the *Final Report of the Meeting on Coordination of Work on the Assessment of Existing Chemicals (ISG96/B12)*;
26. Governments working through OECD and with IPCS support these international programmes in their continuing efforts to support each other's work and minimize duplication of testing and assessing chemicals;
27. Governments, including national health and environment management systems, the chemical industry and other NGOs further intensify their efforts to develop a common basis for generation and interpretation of high quality data on the fate and exposure of chemicals as well as their effects on health and the environment and share the results of their work on the widest possible basis;
28. IOMC Participating Organizations, in cooperation with governments and NGOs, investigate the feasibility of establishing a clearing house to share information on research activities aimed at improving the understanding of the mechanisms of action by which chemicals cause adverse effects on health and the environment;
29. IPCS and OECD report to ISG3 on the progress with their work on harmonization of risk assessment methodologies and of terminologies used therein;

30. IOMC Participating Organizations, with the support of governments, industry and other NGOs, continue their efforts to develop health- and/or environment-based, peer-reviewed guidelines for exposure to chemicals in the workplace and ambient air, drinking water and food and assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the setting of national exposure limits;
31. Governments, while recognizing the present position of animal testing as the primary basis of reliable assessment and management of the risks of chemicals, continue to stimulate the development of alternative methods to toxicity testing in vertebrates and improve their support to recognized (inter)national centres dedicated to this work;
32. IOMC Participating Organizations continue to intensify their efforts to reach international consensus on alternative methods for testing and assessment, including the development of testing strategies, in order to further reduce the numbers of animals used in safety testing of chemicals and to minimise animal suffering;
33. Governments accept alternative methods for the testing and assessment of chemicals once these tests are sufficiently validated in accordance with agreed upon criteria;
34. IOMC Participating Organizations work together with developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop human and environmental exposure and effects data from those countries. Data collection should include the determination of special needs for research equipment and protection systems as they relate to climatic conditions. Governments and organizations will explore funding alternatives in order to promote such data generation. IOMC Participating Organizations should ensure that the specific conditions of those countries, such as exposure and environmental characteristics, are taken into account when selecting chemicals for testing and assessment. Particular attention should be paid to chemical substances that may be used in developing countries and countries with economies in transition but not used in developed countries;
35. IPCS and OECD make proposals related to testing and assessment of chemicals beyond 2000 for consideration by ISG3;
36. IOMC Participating Organizations promote the active participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the international process of review and assessment of chemicals with a view to increasing the capacity for this work in those countries.

PROGRAMME AREA B - HARMONIZATION OF THE CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

37. The Forum makes the following recommendations regarding the development of a globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS), and refers them to the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classifications Systems (CG/HCCS) for follow-up and implementation:
38. The GHS should be implemented through a non-binding instrument. However, eventual adoption of a binding version of the instrument is not to be precluded by this non-binding approach;
39. The principle that the GHS should not weaken the protections afforded by existing systems, and that classification and labelling should be based on the intrinsic properties of chemicals, is reiterated;
40. In the process of developing a proposal for a non-binding instrument, the IOMC CG/HCCS should take account of the UK and US papers so as to produce a practical mechanism that will address the maintenance and implementation requirements;
41. The scope of the Terms of Reference should be reviewed by the IOMC CG/HCCS during its June 1997 Consultation with a view to further clarify and describe the context of the system, prevent duplicative efforts and address other concerns;
42. National coordination should be improved to ensure that the work on a GHS can proceed as expeditiously and effectively as possible;
43. National priority should be given to resolving technical differences in the harmonization work, recognizing that all of the major existing systems will be required to change their approach in some respects;
44. Countries and stakeholder organizations should assist the harmonization effort by providing increased resources to the work;
45. The technical work on mixtures should be given a high priority and be accelerated;
46. The participation of interested and affected countries and organizations in the harmonization work should be encouraged;
47. The limited capacities and resources of a large number of countries, particularly developing countries and countries in transition, for implementing a GHS, including training courses and information campaigns to facilitate the understanding and use of the system, should be taken into account;
48. A report should be given to ISG3 which addresses the following:
 - A. elaboration of the approach to a non-binding legal instrument;
 - B. a programme of work for the implementation structure;

- C. clarification of scope;
- D. technical progress on criteria, hazard communication and mixtures; and
- E. identification of any additional resource needs or coordination difficulties that can be facilitated through the Forum.

PROGRAMME AREA C - INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON TOXIC CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL RISKS

- 49. The Forum recognized the importance of information sharing, in particular the work being done under the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure, and encourages the fostering of these efforts. Accordingly, the Forum recommended that:
- 50. IFCS partners rich in chemical information should make such information readily available to countries poor in such information using as wide a dissemination process as possible. IOMC Participating Organizations should consider ways of providing information in an easily understood format, including common terminology, data structure, and identification of ways to translate such information to the extent possible;
- 51. Recipient countries should notify information providers on the types of information needed, including those identified through the national profiles, and the most useful format;
- 52. Chemical information providers work with aid agencies to identify resources available to enable maximum accessibility to chemical information;
- 53. The Joint OECD/UNEP project on chemical information management develop a report on costs and other barriers to wide information exchange and suggest ways to overcome these barriers to the acquisition of essential information taking into account all existing infrastructure;
- 54. Industry provide freely its non-confidential information on chemicals for the use of all interested parties. Information on the intrinsic hazards of chemicals and the actual risks to human health and the environment should never be considered confidential and as complete information as available should be provided. When feasible, industry should also consider assisting in the provision of material and equipment, such as computer hardware needed to take advantage of all forms of information dissemination, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition unable to purchase this type of equipment;
- 55. NGOs participate in the collection and dissemination of information most pertinent to regions;
- 56. Countries give high priority to the establishment or strengthening of national and regional information centres and networks to receive and distribute information on chemical safety, and promote national awareness-raising in relation to the importance of chemicals management. Coordination between the different focal points working on chemical issues should be developed and supported;
- 57. All governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), NGOs, and international and

regional development banks place a high priority on supporting Internet connections for National Focal Points and other chemical safety offices in developing countries and countries in transition;

58. The Forum endorses the Global Information Network on Chemicals (GINC) project as an important initiative under the auspices of IOMC Participating Organizations. The Forum welcomes the Japanese initiative in promoting the GINC and invites interested governments, NGOs and IGOs to provide support to facilitate the GINC project. Consideration should be given to the need for regional workshops and outreach activities with an initial focus on the development of the Asia pilot;
59. Governments, IGOs, industry and other NGOs join forces in sharing with countries-in-need the existing information and experience on chemical management practices, following the example of the joint UNEP/OECD workshops on *New Industrial Chemicals Notification and Information Sharing for Asia and the Pacific*.

PROGRAMME AREA D - ESTABLISHMENT OF RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES

Obsolete Chemicals

60. The Forum invited countries to continue to develop national infrastructures to enable the sound management of chemicals in parallel to activities on disposal in order to ensure that the further development of new stockpiles might be avoided, and to work together with other countries of their region in developing solutions to this problem.
61. The Forum expressed its support for the initiatives by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Project on the *Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides in Africa and the Near East* in cooperation with other aid agencies and recommended that similar initiatives be taken in other regions of the world, in particular to determine the magnitude of the disposal problems of obsolete chemicals. Forum II recommended that technical guidelines on disposal and the prevention of the accumulation of stockpiles of pesticides published by IOMC Participating Organizations be made available to members of the IFCS. It invited FAO to provide regular updates on the status of its activities on disposal to meetings of the Forum and ISG.
62. Forum II invited FAO together with UNEP and other relevant IOMC Participating Organizations to evaluate further technologies alternative to high temperature incineration for the destruction, detoxification and containment of obsolete pesticides and hazardous industrial chemicals. Forum II invited the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to consider carrying out pilot projects.
63. Forum II urged all parties concerned (Governments, private industry, IGOs and NGOs) to cooperate closely. It endorsed the partnership between FAO and UNEP in establishing a working group on obsolete pesticides and chemicals and encouraged cooperation and coordination by that group with other IOMC Participating Organizations, in particular UNIDO and the Basel Convention Secretariat.
64. Forum II urged industry to take an active role in preventing further accumulation of stockpiles through product stewardship and similar programmes and to assist in disposal programmes.

65. The Forum noted the substantial funding requirement for disposal of chemicals. It welcomed the discussions among FAO and bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and between FAO and industry on contributions to the solution of accumulated pesticides and the avoidance of further accumulation. It recommended that countries identify the issue of disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and industrial chemicals as a priority when requesting or providing assistance.
66. Forum II invited FAO and other relevant IOMC Participating Organizations to report on progress in this area at ISG3.

Pesticides

67. IFCS should encourage countries through Regional Working Groups to share information and experience in the development and implementation of pesticide risk reduction activities and explore how to take this process forward. These discussions should build on the recommendations of the OECD/FAO Workshop on Pesticide Risk Reduction. The recommendations represent a wide range of examples of activities underway in countries in a variety of climatic zones and states of development.
68. Forum II considers that pesticide risk reduction activities offer excellent opportunities for partnerships among industry, IGOs and NGOs and recommends the building of such partnerships.
69. It is important that countries identify pesticide risk reduction activities and chemical management initiatives as priorities when seeking funding.
70. Forum II requests the IOMC Participating Organizations to report to ISG3 on progress with their activities in this field, together with a consideration regarding the feasibility of future work and related to the risk management of some agrochemicals.

Chemical Emergencies, Prevention and Preparedness

71. The Forum invites governments to develop policies and infrastructure, and international organizations, especially UNEP, to continue to develop programmes and support activities relating to chemical emergencies, prevention and preparedness.

Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

72. The Forum encourages the development of PRTRs as mechanisms for achieving sustainable development and reducing risks. Much progress has been achieved since the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, with the number of countries creating these systems growing each year. The IFCS will continue to monitor and encourage progress in this area.
73. The Forum invites the continued efforts of IOMC Participating Organizations to facilitate and encourage adoption of PRTRs at national and local levels throughout the world. In particular, the Forum supports the work of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and OECD in this area, and takes note of the need for assistance to developing countries and countries in transition in establishing PRTRs. The Forum supports public and labour NGO involvement in PRTR development and also recognizes the concerns of the chemical industry related to the need to tailor PRTRs

to local circumstances. PRTRs should consider various relevant forms of emissions, including industrial releases and diffuse sources. The Forum also recognizes that PRTRs can be an important tool in measuring progress of Responsible Care[®] programs.

74. More specifically, to carry this important work forward, Forum II recommends that UNITAR and OECD, in collaboration with the existing PRTR Coordination Group, assist lead agencies, identified by governments, in establishing PRTRs programs. Capacity building workshops, seminars and projects which may be organized should include elements of Community Right-To-Know and PRTRs, where appropriate.

PROGRAMME AREA E - STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

75. Taking note that, although progress has been made, implementation of Programme Area E has been slower than anticipated and further strengthening of national and regional capabilities and capacities is fundamental to achieve the sound management of chemicals; and
76. Recognizing the importance of partnerships in capacity building among developed countries and developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition, as well as among governments, IGOs and NGOs including industry, scientific, labour and public interest groups, the Forum:
 - A. Encourages countries to prepare and continuously update national profiles, using the UNITAR/IOMC guidance document, with the involvement of all concerned parties, and to use conclusions based on these assessments to define priorities to be addressed through national action programmes for strengthening chemicals management and invites UNITAR/IOMC Participating Organizations and countries to report back on progress to ISG3;
 - B. Invites international organizations and their regional offices to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in these efforts through technical and financial means;
 - C. Encourages UNITAR/IOMC Participating Organizations and governments to actively involve nongovernmental groups in the planning and implementation of the UNITAR/IOMC pilot capacity building programme for integrated chemicals management.
77. Encourages governments to establish interministerial committees or bodies, where such mechanisms do not yet exist, to facilitate the comprehensive treatment of chemical safety issues within the country and promote the involvement of all interested parties;
78. Invites the IOMC Participating Organizations, in concert with the Forum, to prepare guidelines on effective national legislation for chemicals management;
79. Requests governments and the IOMC Participating Organizations to give high priority to establishing or strengthening regional and subregional networks and cooperation, including the work of IFCS Regional Groups;

80. Invites environmental, public interest and labour groups to promote community awareness, cleaner production, technology transfer and sustainable alternative practices in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in addition to their work in developed countries;
81. Encourages international scientific organizations to help build capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the areas of enforcement, human health and environmental risk assessment, ecotoxicology, and classification of chemical substances, through training and other means;
82. Requests that IOMC Participating Organizations and other international organizations concerned with chemical safety incorporate the IFCS National Focal Points into their information networks, activities and meetings as appropriate, and provide timely notice of all relevant events;
83. Encourages governments to link all National Focal Points to the Internet and invites governments, IGOs, NGOs, multilateral and regional development banks to support Internet connections in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
84. Invites governments to encourage aid organizations and financing institutions to invest in the environmentally sound management of chemicals as part of their activities and to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and skills exist, or are sufficiently strengthened, when investments are made;
85. Invites the Forum Standing Committee to consider how the Forum may seek to influence those responsible for financial policy in aid organizations and financing institutions to direct money to capacity building programmes in the areas of management of chemicals;
86. Invites each IFCS Regional Group, as a concrete step towards the development of a strategic training and capacity building plan, to hold, together with the IOMC Participating Organizations, other international and regional organizations, multilateral development banks, foundations, bilateral development cooperation agencies, industry associations, scientific organizations, labour and public interest groups, a regional policy level workshop to:
 - A. Systematically assess common priority areas of concern drawing, inter alia, upon national profiles and the work of IFCS Regional Groups, including pragmatic steps to address these priorities;
 - B. Explore innovative approaches and financial mechanisms;
 - C. Facilitate partnerships for chemicals management capacity building at all levels;and report back on progress and outcomes to ISG3.
87. Invites countries which are in a position to do so to provide resources, both human and financial, for the preparation and successful completion of such policy-level workshops and other means to systematically strengthen implementation of Programme Area E;

88. Invites the Forum Regional Officers, together with IOMC Participating Organizations, to promote increased regional awareness among non-active IFCS countries on matters related to the Forum, with a view to increasing their participation in Forum activities.

EMERGING ISSUES

Mechanism for Addressing Emerging Issues

89. The Forum invites the President and the Forum Standing Committee to undertake preparatory work on new issues between meetings to enable informed decisions on these issues to be taken by the Forum and ISG.

Endocrine Disrupting Substances

90. The Forum agrees that a rapidly growing body of scientific research indicates that a number of substances have the potential to interfere with the normal functions of the body governed by the endocrine system. Countries and other IFCS partners have expressed concern about these findings, and many are investing significant resources into learning how and to what extent substances may be adversely affecting human health and the ecosystem via endocrine pathways. Considerable scientific uncertainty remains on the methodologies, exposures and effects of these substances. Therefore, new information and activities relevant to endocrine disrupting substances are rapidly emerging which calls for effective coordination of the various efforts.
91. To address the concerns of endocrine disruption requires an open and transparent mechanism for assuring cooperation among governments, IGOs, NGOs, and other interested parties. This effort calls for coordinating research, testing, assessment and sound management of endocrine disrupting substances, in ways that minimize duplication of efforts, make research and information more accessible to all interested parties on a global basis and recognize the special needs and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
92. Therefore, the Forum agrees on the need for investigating, in depth, the human, environmental and ecotoxicological aspects of endocrine disrupting substances and recommends the following:
93. The Forum requests IOMC Participating Organizations to:
 - A. Compile and harmonize the definitions and terms appropriate to endocrine disruption;
 - B. Promote coordinated research strategies and processes, identify research priorities and gaps for all relevant research disciplines;
 - C. Delineate testing methods, harmonize guidelines, identify testing priorities and gaps;
 - D. Adopt and maintain an inventory of research activities and other relevant and related information; and

E. Facilitate information exchange on:

- 1) existing and new evaluations of the scientific issues related to endocrine disruption;
 - 2) research and testing results;
 - 3) surveys and survey results;
 - 4) meetings, workshops and conferences; and
 - 5) actions and options to manage risks and hazards.
94. Furthermore, the Forum requests that the IOMC Participating Organizations report to the Forum Standing Committee and ISG3 on these efforts and their ability to support the work requested.
95. The Forum requests that the Standing Committee consider how to address urgent issues and new developments related to endocrine disruption and report to ISG3 on this effort.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Revised Terms of Reference for IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs

96. The recommendation of the Executive Board of the WHO and the Decision at the nineteenth UNEP Governing Council (GC) have clearly indicated that international action will be taken on POPs.
97. The UNEP GC Decision gave priority to the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) and subsequent negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on POPs¹, and urged governments to initiate action on the recommendations in the Final Report of the IFCS POPs Working Group² and to provide technical assistance, capacity building and funding to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to take appropriate action on POPs³.
98. To assist in preparing for the INC process and to focus efforts of governments to take action on POPs, Forum II agreed that the IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs should undertake the following tasks expeditiously while providing an opportunity for all IFCS participants to participate in its work:

¹UNEP Governing Council Decision 19/L.61, paragraph 15.

²UNEP Governing Council Decision 19/L.61, paragraph 14.

³UNEP Governing Council Decision 19/L.61, paragraph 18.

- A. Promote implementation, by IOMC Participating Organizations and other IGOs, NGOs and governments, of the recommendations in the Final Report of the IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs⁴, including those adopted in the recent UNEP GC Decision 19/L.61 and the recommendations of the WHO Executive Board to the World Health Assembly (WHA)⁵;
 - B. Facilitate information sharing, including possible regional workshops, to prepare governments for taking action on POPs, including the INC process, especially governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition: emphasis should be on scientific, technical and socio-economic information;
 - C. Provide, prior to the first INC meeting, scientific and technical information pertaining to the criteria and processes that will be developed in the INC process for selection of POPs in addition to the 12 specified in the UNEP GC Decision;
 - D. Characterize the issues for each of the 12 specified POPs that may have to be addressed by IGOs, NGOs and governments to design and implement action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment arising from the release of POPs;
 - E. Promote development of baseline data for sources, production and uses of the 12 specified POPs; and
 - F. Promote development of media/biota/human monitoring data for the 12 specified POPs.
99. The Working Group will complete its activities with the commencement of the first meeting of the UNEP INC and will report on its activities to ISG3.

Integrated International Instrument for the Sound Management of Chemicals

100. Noting the invitation by the UNEP Governing Council at its nineteenth session to the Executive Director to develop, in close collaboration with the IOMC Participating Organizations, a report outlining options for enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals (UNEP/GC.19/L.60), the Forum requested UNEP, in collaboration with the IOMC Participating Organizations, to expedite the work to make the report available in the third quarter 1998 to the Forum Standing Committee for review at ISG3. The Forum Standing Committee was requested to monitor progress on the work and to provide a report to the Forum at ISG3.

Chemicals of International Concern, other than POPs

⁴ IFCS/WG.POPs/Report.1, 1 July 1996

⁵ EB99.R25 Promotion of chemical safety with special attention to persistent organic pollutants, 22 January 1997.

101. The Forum noted that several countries expressed interest in working together in an open and transparent process with others (i.e. governments, IGOs and NGOs) to review chemical problems that pose significant health or environmental risks that are not being addressed under ongoing initiatives. Resources permitting, a workshop organized by the interested countries may be held in 1998 to discuss some of the issues; if possible, the report of the workshop would be developed for consideration by ISG3.

INTRODUCTION

1. The second meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), Forum II, was held 10-14 February 1997 in Ottawa, Canada, hosted by the Government of Canada with financial contributions from Health Canada, the International Development Research Centre and Environment Canada. Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the World Health Organization (WHO) also generously provided funding to the Forum to support the participation of many countries needing assistance. Eighty-three governments participated in the meeting, together with representatives from eleven intergovernmental (IGO) and 18 nongovernmental (NGO) organizations. A list of participants is given in Annex 17. Dr G. Bengtsson (Sweden) presided as President, with Mr Wu Baozhong (China), Professor G. Kanouté (Mali) and Dr G. Olaiz (Mexico) serving as Vice Presidents, and Professor B. Kurlyandski (Russia) serving as rapporteur.

2. The meeting was opened by Mr T. Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment Canada. He spoke of the important role of the Forum in addressing some of the most pressing issues for the planet, and stressed the need for partnership among countries, IGOs and NGOs, so that solutions to reduce the risks from chemicals in the world would cross borders as readily as the pollution.

3. The President thanked Mr T. Clarke for his words of confidence in the Forum, noted Canada's strong support of its work and thanked the Canadian government and Health Canada in particular for their hospitality as hosts. He reminded participants that chemical safety involved a careful balance of benefits and risks and difficult choices arose which should be discussed with a broad community involvement. The major strengths of the Forum are its ability to generate dialogue among a very broad range of participants representing all sectors of society and the unique potential to stimulate regional cooperation. Thus, the theme of Forum II was "*In Partnership for Global Chemical Safety*". There was also the potential for further progress by acting in concert with those responsible for other chapters of Agenda 21. The Forum must clearly state its aims and continue to operate in an open and transparent manner in order to have the full support of all Forum partners. It must also identify the most essential tasks and solicit the support necessary to implement them at the highest international level: the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) in June 1997 which was being convened as a five-year follow up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

4. A message from Mr N. Desai, Under Secretary General of the United Nations Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UNDPCSD), was delivered to Forum II. Mr N. Desai stressed the vital importance of environmentally sound management of chemicals for achieving sustainable development and the central and useful role the IFCS has to play in this area. He referred to the Forum's taking the lead in work on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and noted that Forum II would discuss many of the important emerging priorities to be considered by the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in their review of Chapter 19, Agenda 21 including voluntary measures that may be implemented as a complement to, or independent of, legally binding instruments, management and disposal of obsolete stocks of pesticides and other chemicals, and toxic chemicals that may elicit their adverse effects at low environmental levels. Mr N. Desai

expressed his confidence that Forum II would provide new inspiring guidance to the collective endeavours and looked forward to receiving its proceedings and recommendations. The Forum noted Mr N. Desai's comments with appreciation.

5. Dr R. Lonngren of Sweden was presented with the first IFCS Award of Merit, in recognition of his outstanding contribution towards the achievement of the goal of global chemical safety and his leading work in the establishment of IFCS.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS CONCERNING FORUM II

6. The provisional agenda (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.02w Rev.3) and detailed time schedule (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.04w Rev.3) were adopted as proposed.

7. The Forum noted that the Ad Hoc Working Group for the Agenda for Forum II, established at the second meeting of the Intersessional Group (ISG2), had worked very constructively and efficiently to make preparations for Forum II. Its efforts ensured a wide range of input to the development of the meeting agenda and have greatly facilitated the increased involvement of IFCS participants. Between ISG2 and Forum II, all regions except the Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG) had held IFCS regional meetings. Due to limited resources, these meetings were usually organized in conjunction with meetings convened by intergovernmental organizations and, thus, full representation had not always been possible. The regional meetings held immediately preceding Forum II were considered very beneficial.

8. Mr J. Willis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) gave a brief presentation on the outcome of the nineteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP GC) held in Nairobi, 27 January - 7 February 1997, which considered a number of chemical issues relevant to the work of the IFCS and specifically the agenda for Forum II. The Ad Hoc Working Group for the Agenda examined the *Information Note, Decisions of UNEP's 19th Governing Council Concerning Chemicals*, provided by UNEP, to ensure that specific issues with implications for IFCS were adequately addressed in the agenda for Forum II.

9. It was agreed that a drafting group composed of members from all groups of participants would be formed to produce a draft of the Final Report of Forum II and the revisions to the President's Progress Report. The reports would be reviewed and the recommendations and decision items agreed in plenary during the final session.

10. An exhibition on the use of the Internet to access information on chemicals was organized by Canada, USA and Japan at Forum II.

MEETING SUMMARY

THEMATIC SESSION: *IN PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CHEMICAL SAFETY*

11. *In Partnership for Global Chemical Safety* had been designated as the unifying theme for Forum II and various IFCS partners were invited to make short presentations on the topic as it applies to activities in their respective areas.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

12. Dr J. Buccini, Chair of the IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs, described the Working Group, set up in 1995 in response to UNEP Decision 18/32 to develop recommendations on international action for POPs (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.04B), as a model of good multistakeholder participation. Direct contributions from the governments of Canada and The Philippines and from industry associations supported the meeting arrangements while contributions to “twinning assistance” to support the participation of countries-in-need were made by Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the USA. The work of the IFCS during its meetings in Manila was largely facilitated by case-studies and other contributions received from a number of countries and organizations. Through an open meeting process, the Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs developed recommendations to implement international action to reduce risks to human health and the environment arising from the 12 specified POPs. The WHO Executive Board and UNEP GC endorsed the report in January and February 1997 respectively; the matter would be considered by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 1997. The UNEP GC adopted all the recommendations and called for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee by early 1998. Some IFCS countries expressed an interest in extending the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs to carry out supporting work until the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) was set up and maintain the momentum through the continued IFCS involvement.

Lead Risk Reduction

13. Dr R. Visser of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) presented the work that has been done through OECD on the reduction of risks from lead, one of five substances in the OECD risk reduction pilot project (IFCS FORUM-II/97.05B). The 3-phase process included the development of a status report by governments; a plan of action developed in partnership with governments, industry and NGOs; and a detailed action plan, adopted by OECD Environment Ministers in February 1996. Ministers agreed that work would be done in partnership with industry. The Declaration was being brought to the attention of non-member countries and international organizations. From this exercise, principles and criteria for selecting candidates for concerted OECD action have been developed. An Advisory Group on Risk Management has been set up within OECD to manage future work in this area.

Role of Science in Global Sustainable Development in the 21st Century

14. Dr J. Miyamoto of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), representing the scientific organizations, described the role of science in global sustainable development in the 21st century (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.07B). There was the potential to address areas such as environmental protection (cleaner technology, recycling), higher agricultural production (innovative irrigation, integrated pest management and integrated crop management), and disease prevention (improved sanitation and medicines). He stressed the importance of good science in risk assessment and of international collaboration and cooperation to achieve global sustainable development. IUPAC was collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO, the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and other organizations and programmes to provide assistance to less experienced scientists and regulators in the area of chemical safety.

Community Involvement

15. Mr J. Weinberg of Greenpeace International made a presentation on behalf of the public interest NGOs, describing how the successful outcome of the IFCS POPs process was based in large part on the full and equitable participation of the social partners. In these negotiations, the public NGOs were able to participate on an equal basis with industry and governments and as a result were able to more effectively make a contribution. Larger NGOs such as Greenpeace and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) operate internationally and thus had the ability to follow international chemical safety processes and activities. Smaller public interest NGOs lacked the resources to participate on such a scale, track processes, or use the information effectively. IFCS needed to reach out to these groups to ensure their effective and equitable participation in appropriate chemical meetings and activities. The best means of capacity building in NGOs was on-the-job training and future POPs negotiations could provide an excellent training opportunity.

Partnerships and Trade Unions

16. Mr R. Green of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mining and General Workers Union (ICEM) (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.01B) stressed that for partnerships with labour associations to work effectively, it was important that all parties concerned wanted the partnerships to succeed, shared similar goals and were able to exercise equal influence. He identified a number of reasons why stakeholders should have a community of interest in chemical safety, notably the disparity between the best and worst chemical use practices and in the resources available to ensure safety. He noted that partnerships should be considered as progress and not "selling out". Banning a chemical did not always result in damage to a user or producer and could be a mechanism for successfully promoting alternatives, such as CFC-free products. Equality was also an essential item and ICEM believed that companies should be challenged to accept the rights of workers to participate fully in decision-making processes. Partnerships should be dynamic, lead to concrete results and should not be considered a last resort but a preferred option.

Responsible Care[®]

17. Messrs. S. de Bree and M. Boyce of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) discussed the world-wide implementation of the Responsible Care[®] Programme which ICCA coordinates (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.02B). It is a collective action at international, national and local levels to share and promote best practices to reduce risk in all committed companies. It has now been adopted by companies in over 40 countries. Large international companies have pledged to assist small local companies to adopt the principles of Responsible Care[®]. This did not replace, but complemented, regulation and benefitted all stakeholders.

CONSIDERATION OF PROCEDURAL ISSUES

18. General matters concerning minor amendments to the IFCS Terms of Reference (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.07w; 08w), the roles and responsibilities of Forum officers and ISG members (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.05w), guidelines for National Focal Points (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.05w), continuing the Ad Hoc Working Group for the Agenda (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.22w) (renamed Forum Standing Committee), and the institution of an Award of Merit (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.09w) were discussed and agreed as indicated in the Executive Summary.

19. A number of participants emphasised the need to retain the aim to provide documents in six languages but acknowledged the difficulty of budgetary constraints. Although the Forum was not a United Nations (UN) body and thus not bound by its rules, the benefits of providing documents and working in all six official UN languages was generally recognized; the difficulty was clearly a resource issue and lack of sufficient funds or other contributions would necessitate compromise at various times. The issue was debated in plenary and in Regional Groups, seeking innovative solutions, for example a sponsorship or lead country approach. The recommendations of Forum II are reported in the Executive Summary.

TRUST FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

20. Dr M. Mercier, the Executive Secretary, introduced the financial statement (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10w); the Forum noted the 1996 expenditure report and approved the projected budgets for 1997 and 1998, allowing for necessary adjustment in the light of Forum II decisions and additional work that might arise. It also asked that a summary of IFCS expenditures from its inception in 1994 be presented to the next meeting of the ISG.

21. The Forum acknowledged the generous contributions of a limited number of countries and organizations, both financially and in kind. It noted that funding to support IFCS regional activities was an important issue needing fuller discussion. Forum II requested that the Forum Standing Committee investigate the possibility of setting up an ongoing “twinning” fund to be used to assist countries requiring financial aid to participate in IFCS meetings.

ELECTION OF IFCS OFFICERS AND ISG MEMBERS

22. Through a process of Regional Group consultations and with the facilitation of a Nominating Committee (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.08B), new IFCS Officers and ISG members were elected and assumed their positions at the close of Forum II. The new IFCS Officers and ISG members are listed in Annex 8. Canada was elected as the new President of the Forum and Mr R. Hickman, Health Canada, was appointed to the office.

PROGRAMME AREA A: EXPANDING AND ACCELERATING INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL RISKS

23. Dr P. Toft, WHO/IPCS, presented the working paper (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.11w.rev.1) on behalf of IPCS and OECD; the ICCA thought starter was presented jointly by Mr T. Jacob (ICCA) and Mr R. Koch (European Chemical Industry Council - CEFIC)(IFCS/FORUM-II/97.14B).

24. Congratulations were extended on meeting the 1997 target and the increased international coordination of work. Discussions centred on progress in meeting the target of 500 assessments by 2000 and setting further goals, and whether assessments other than IPCS comprehensive assessments and OECD initial assessments should be counted towards the targets. With respect to the latter, attention was called to the report requested by ISG2 on the processes used to produce other assessments and in particular their openness and transparency. The specific conditions and training needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition related to risk assessment and the need for data on chemicals not registered in developed countries were considered important issues to be addressed. The Forum acknowledged the desirability of common criteria to develop a worldwide list of priority chemicals for assessment and emphasised the need to develop and validate alternative methods to animal testing.

25. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

PROGRAMME AREA B: PROGRESS MADE TOWARD A GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM FOR THE CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)

26. Ms J. Silk, Chair, Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS) of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), introduced the working paper (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.12w.Rev1), commenting that harmonization of classification criteria should be completed by the end of 1997 or early in 1998 and that an Internet Web page was being developed to provide information on progress. Further work would address hazard communication.

27. The Forum supported the need for a GHS, and in general favoured a non-binding instrument as the most effective. A number of countries supported the non-binding option. The UK proposed that the GHS make full use of existing mechanisms available under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Committee of Experts on the Transport of

Dangerous Goods (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.15B). The need for coherence between the GHS and implementation of a prior informed consent (PIC) instrument was acknowledged. Participants also agreed that a GHS should not lower the level of protection given by current systems and that to be effective it should be implemented by all countries. A request was made to keep IFCS National Focal Points informed on progress. The IOMC CG/HCCS was requested to further clarify the scope of the GHS (e.g. inclusion of pharmaceuticals and food additives), review and supplement the membership of the coordinating group, and begin work on criteria for mixtures.

28. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

PROGRAMME AREA C: INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON TOXIC CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL RISKS

29. Ms F. Ouane-Keita, UNEP, introduced the working paper co-sponsored by Japan (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev.1) summarizing the activities of IOMC Participating Organizations. Mr T. Kaminuma of Japan described the Global Information Network on Chemicals (GINC, Annex 1 of IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev.1), which had been proposed by Japan at Forum I in 1994. GINC will provide pointers to existing chemical information sites, including those of some NGOs, through the Internet system. The European Commission announced a new CD ROM containing industry data which it would make available without charge to all Forum II participants on request during Forum II.

30. The Forum noted the recent workshop in Malaysia on *Sharing Information for New Chemicals Notifications and Assessments*, discussed the information requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, emphasized the need for national governments to institute national coordinating mechanisms for information exchange and identify the types of information needed, and stressed the need to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of information exchange.

31. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

PROGRAMME AREA D: ESTABLISHMENT OF RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES

Pesticide Risk Reduction and Disposal of Obsolete Chemicals

32. Dr R. Visser, OECD, introduced the paper on pesticide risk reduction co-sponsored by FAO (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.19w) and outlined the work currently underway in FAO, OECD, IPCS and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). At a workshop in 1995 in Uppsala, a number of projects that could be undertaken by governments, IGOs and industry had been identified. The Forum took note of FAO activities on a Code of Practice addressing Integrated Pest Management, the investigation of alternative test methods and its significant involvement in POPs work. Countries identified the need for public awareness programmes on the impact of chemicals and pesticides on human health and the environment, and on better methods in handling and storing pesticides. The establishment of a clearing

house for sharing information was suggested.

33. Dr N. Van der Graaff, FAO, introduced a paper on Disposal of Obsolete Chemicals, sponsored by FAO, UNEP and Mali (IFCS/FORUM-II/ 97.20w). Discussion focused on the role of product stewardship in addressing and preventing the problem and the need to identify emerging technologies providing effective on-site disposal. The Global Crop Protection Federation (GCPF) stated that the pesticide industry was committed to providing aid and resources to the problem of obsolete pesticides. Forum II was informed that the Executive Body of the Basel Convention had considered the issue of obsolete chemicals and determined that they would be controlled under the Basel Convention; Forum II called for better coordination between the Basel Convention secretariat, the IFCS, and all IGOs in dealing with the problem.

34. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

35. Mr A. Fernandez of Mexico introduced the working paper co-sponsored with the USA (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.18w), summarizing the achievements of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and OECD in promoting and facilitating PRTRs since Forum I and ISG1. There was general endorsement for the work that had been undertaken and the ongoing efforts. Industry NGOs noted the utility of PRTRs as useful instruments if they are tailored to local circumstances in countries; public interest NGOs noted the benefit of PRTRs for capacity building, strengthening public participation and information dissemination. While there was some support for a proposed working group, countries recognized that the existing OECD/UNITAR alliance could serve that purpose and progress would be reviewed at ISG3.

36. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

PROGRAMME AREA E: STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

Integrated Report on Programme Area E

37. Professor G. Ungvary of Hungary presented the integrated report on work under Programme Area E, which assessed progress since Forum I (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.15w Rev.3).

The paper was co-sponsored by Australia, China, Kenya, Mali and Mexico. Progress in capacity building, which is fundamental to progress in all programme areas, has been slow in most countries. Eleven proposals for action at the national, regional and global level were put forward in order to facilitate and accelerate capacity building and achieve the aims of Programme Area E; a thought starter co-sponsored by UNITAR and a number of countries expanded on the proposal to develop a “strategic training and capacity building plan” and proposed convening policy level workshops to address key outstanding issues in the area of chemicals management capacity building (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.16B).

38. Ms E. Phipps of UNITAR reported that of the eighty countries which had applied to participate in the UNITAR national profile project (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.16B), forty had been assisted with aid from Austria, Australia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the USA and the European Commission. The collaboration required for this project could be a key starting point for strengthening national capabilities and capacities. A meeting of stakeholders in Montezillon in August 1996 identified practical strategies for capacity building and, with the aid of Switzerland, a pilot project was underway to assist three countries to develop national action plans to address the priorities identified in their national profiles.

Bilateral Assistance Survey

39. Dr R. Visser of the OECD reported the results of a survey undertaken in response to a request by ISG2 (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10B). It complemented information issued in the IOMC Inventory of Activities (IOMC/IOCC 96.8) which summarized the activities supporting Chapter 19, Agenda 21, of IOMC Participating Organizations and UNITAR. The survey was to determine whether co-ordination of bilateral assistance programmes could be facilitated and the responses obtained suggested that there was clear potential for this. The results of the survey would be available in full on the Internet. OECD was considering updating these results periodically, if found to be of use to Forum members.

Capacity Building for Public Interest NGOs

40. On behalf of public interest NGOs, Mr B. Khan of WWF made a presentation emphasising the great need to build the capacity of public interest NGOs to enable them to contribute fully to the achievement of sound chemicals management. Governments should support the participation of NGOs in the decision-making processes and could contribute to raising public awareness and involvement. It was important for the Forum to endorse the need for building the capacities of NGOs and encourage other partners to take concrete steps, such as incorporating an NGO capacity building element into the pilot programme on training and capacity building to assist three developing countries in implementing national action programmes, which is being implemented by UNITAR and the IOMC Participating Organizations. The IFCS should also monitor the degree of NGO participation in chemical safety meetings at the national and regional levels and review how the Forum partners aid NGO capacity-building.

General Discussion

41. Several countries commented on the importance of developing national profiles referring to their own experience in the process and expressed great appreciation for the assistance they had received. Concern was expressed over the limited resources available for capacity building and it was noted that the inability of a country to manage chemicals safely could have effects beyond its national borders. There was general support for organizing regional policy-level workshops as proposed in the thought starter. The Forum noted with appreciation the offer of Indonesia to host such a regional workshop, and the offer of

support for this from Australia and UNIDO. It also noted with appreciation the offer of Mexico to host a workshop on strengthening capacities for developing countries. The European Commission commented that the European Development Fund could provide funding to specific qualifying countries (Lome Fund) for national programmes related to the disposal of obsolete pesticides or the management of pesticides and chemicals.

42. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

EMERGING ISSUES

43. Dr L. Goldman, USA, introduced the working paper (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.17w Rev.1), co-sponsored by Canada, ICCA, and the WWF. The Forum was asked to consider mechanisms to effectively address emerging issues, criteria for targeting hazardous chemicals beyond the POPs specified in UNEP GC Decision 18/32, endocrine disruptors, and the role of IFCS in efficient implementation of PIC, POPs and other future instruments.

Mechanism for Addressing Emerging Issues

44. The Forum, as the primary priority-setting and leadership body on sound management of chemicals, serves an important role in responding to emerging chemical safety issues and shaping global response strategies. In order to have greater flexibility to respond to various kinds of emerging issues, Forum II considered inviting the President and a group such as the Standing Committee, to take appropriate action between Forum and ISG meetings to gather and share information or develop response strategies. These efforts would support international action on priority concerns identified by the IFCS or facilitate future IFCS discussion, consensus and action. Initial concerns about a small group such as the Standing Committee, with limited regional representation, making decisions between Forum meetings were alleviated by the confirmation that the Standing Committee was not a decision-making body. The USA, Australia and Brazil, in consultation with other countries, were invited to develop a proposal which was later adopted (see Executive Summary).

Endocrine Disrupting Substances

45. A number of IFCS participants expressed concern over the growing body of scientific research that indicates a number of chemicals may interfere with the normal functioning of endocrine systems. It was generally recognized that although the body of information is growing, considerable scientific uncertainty remains and more research is needed. To accomplish this research efficiently, it is important for the Forum to initiate a process to share information and coordinate efforts to the extent possible. The important role of industry as a partner in these efforts was recognized. The USA and the European Commission announced a joint initiative to establish a working group on endocrine disruptors to look at research and future actions.

46. An informal 'brainstorming' session open to all participants developed a proposal inviting the IOMC Participating Organizations to carry out an extensive list of work on

endocrine disrupting chemicals and to report back to the Standing Committee of the Forum and ISG3 on their efforts and ability to support the work requested.

47. The recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

48. The Forum noted that the IFCS recommendations for international actions on POPs had been endorsed by the Executive Board of WHO and the nineteenth session of the UNEP GC.

The UNEP GC requested that the Executive Director prepare for and convene an INC with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument beginning with the twelve specified POPs and to establish at its first meeting an expert group to develop science-based criteria and a procedure for identifying additional POPs as candidates for international action.

49. In reviewing the work that had been accomplished on POPs, there was general support for continuing efforts to sustain the interest and maintain the momentum during the time period leading up to the INC, which would commence its work by early 1998. The efforts could be directed towards assisting governments to prepare for taking action on POPs and providing support in a number of areas to be considered by the INC. In extending the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs, activities would continue to be carried out through an open and transparent process involving all IFCS participants. In response to concern expressed by UNEP that the efforts of the IFCS may overlap with that of the INC, it was stressed that the IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs would feed into the INC process, supporting, not prejudging, the INC. The work would be undertaken expeditiously and would terminate when the INC convened its first meeting. The President invited Dr J. Buccini to solicit input from participants and submit a proposal to the meeting.

50. Japan pointed out the importance of maintaining coherence between regulatory methodologies that may be considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs and those being considered in the work under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (LRTAP); the UNECE has already begun detailed negotiations which would seem to have direct relevance to future discussions on POPs. It was further noted that the UNECE is not an open-ended forum for all IFCS participants.

51. The Forum took note that the work of the INC would be funded entirely through voluntary contributions and that 5 to 6 million US dollars would be needed over the next three years.

52. The Forum agreed to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on POPs and the recommendations as adopted unanimously are presented in the Executive Summary.

Integrated International Instrument for the Sound Management of Chemicals

53. The President noted that this issue was addressed at the nineteenth session of the UNEP GC. The Executive Director, UNEP, was asked by the UNEP GC to develop, in consultation with IOMC Participating Organizations, a report outlining options for more efficient coordination among international activities on chemicals and to present the report to the 20th session of UNEP GC and to IFCS. Participants emphasised the importance of having sufficient time to review the UNEP report before the ISG3 (tentative date November 1998) and requested that the report be completed by mid- 1998 so that IFCS participants could thoroughly review it before ISG3.

54. The Forum requested that the Standing Committee monitor the development of the report to ensure that links were made with other organizations and as appropriate prepare the item for discussion at ISG3.

Chemicals of International Concern, other than POPs

55. Some countries indicated support for addressing hazardous chemicals beyond POPs, while others were not against this issue, but cautioned the Forum on taking on too many projects noting that priority and resource issues eventually will have to be addressed. ICCA noted that the recent UNEP GC did not give this issue high priority.

56. The Forum noted that several countries (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and USA) had expressed concern that there may be chemicals that pose significant health or environmental risks that are not being addressed under ongoing initiatives. These countries were interested in working together in an open and transparent process with others (i.e. countries, IGOs and NGOs) to review the *Report of the Government-Designated Group of Experts on Further Measures to Reduce the Risks from a Limited Number of Hazardous Chemicals* and its annexes (UNEP/PIC/EG/1/3) “and consider taking actionand to report on such action to the Governing Council at its twentieth session” as stated in the recent UNEP GC Decision (UNEP/GC.19/L.57). This would start with an analysis of measures already in place and proceed in several steps. It could include some of the following:

- a) identification of health and environmental problems caused by chemicals that pose significant health and environmental risks that merit attention; and
- b) an overview of national, regional and international work to identify hazardous chemicals and to control risks from such chemicals of international concern other than POPs, taking into account chemicals that are subject to international legal instruments or activities.

57. The outcome of this effort should be a clear understanding of chemical problems that are considered to be insufficiently addressed at present and, as appropriate, proposed action or actions to be taken. The Forum also noted that, resources permitting, a workshop organized by the interested countries would be held in 1998 to discuss some of these issues. If possible, the report of the workshop would be developed for consideration by ISG3.

STATEMENT BY IOMC PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

58. On behalf of the IOMC Participating Organizations, Dr R. Visser, as the Chair of the IOMC Inter-organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC), announced that in the near future UNITAR would become the seventh participating organization of the IOMC. He expressed appreciation for the wide recognition that the IOMC Participating Organizations had acquired so rapidly as the coordinating mechanism for the activities of the international organizations, and also noted that the IOMC was frequently referred to in the recommendations concerning Programme Areas A-E of Chapter 19. The IOCC had already met during Forum II to consider the recommendations which would involve the IOMC Participating Organizations undertaking and/or providing assistance in their implementation. It would continue these discussions in April and expected to be able to inform the President of the Forum and the Standing Committee in June about the possibilities and challenges, as far as the IOMC Participating Organizations were concerned.

59. The IOMC Participating Organizations brought to the attention of the Forum that many of the recommendations would have resource implications for the member organizations or require changes to the priorities of current work. Each organization had its own governing body that determines its work programme. Therefore the implications and possibilities for implementing the Forum recommendations would have to be considered carefully by each organization. The IOCC felt that it was realistic to remind the meeting of the resource and organizational practicalities related to implementation of the recommendations of Forum II, including the general decline in resources available to international organizations; nevertheless it had already made a start in working toward a constructive and coordinated way of addressing the recommendations.

60. The Forum took note of the announcement of UNITAR joining the IOMC. Participants also noted the IOMC statement regarding implementation of the Forum II recommendations addressed to the IOMC Participating Organizations, and the offer to inform the President and the Forum Standing Committee about the ability of the organizations to act on those recommendations.

CLOSURE OF FORUM II

61. Mr A. Nymark, Associate Deputy Minister of Health Canada gave the closing address to Forum II. He thanked all participants for their obvious commitment and efforts to develop strategies for the sound management of chemicals and commented that the Forum was a true example of global partnership in action. He expressed his confidence that this partnership was laying the foundation for a safer future.

62. Dr G. Bengtsson thanked him for his remarks and again expressed the Forum's appreciation of the hospitality of the Canadian Government and, in particular, Health Canada and those responsible for local arrangements who had ensured the smooth running of daily business, which greatly facilitated the Forum's work. He thanked all who had contributed to the success of the meeting and, as his presidency came to an end, gave his best wishes to Mr R. Hickman as new President and to all Forum members in their continuing work for chemical safety.

63. Mr R. Hickman stated that the Forum was grateful to Sweden for their work in bringing IFCS into existence and also for Dr G. Bengtsson's excellent leadership. He looked forward to Dr G. Bengtsson's continued involvement in the work of the Forum. Mr R. Hickman thanked everyone for their contributions to Forum II, wished them a safe journey home, and declared Forum II closed.



Forum II

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

**Ottawa, Canada
10 - 14 February 1997**

List of Documents

Prepared by: IFCS Secretariat

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Proposed Provisional Annotated Agenda	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.02w Rev.3
Proposed General Time Schedule	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.03w
Proposed Detailed Time Schedule	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.04w Rev.3

Agenda Item 3

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Proposed Criteria for National Focal Points	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.05w
<i>Thought Starter:</i> Guidelines for National Focal Points	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.12B*
Proposed delineation of regional roles and responsibilities for officers and ISG members	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.06w
Terms of Reference	
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Proposal for continuing the Ad Hoc Working Group for the Agenda, Terms of Reference	<i>and</i> IFCS/FORUM-II/97.22w Rev 1
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Trust Fund Financial Statement

Trust Fund Financial Statement	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10w (<i>English only</i>)
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Election of officers and ISG members	IFCS/FORUM-II/97.08B*
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(Item included in Opening Address of the President which will be distributed as a room document)

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IFCS/FORUM-II/97.02B*
(SUMMARY)

Responsible Care - Status Report (FULL DOCUMENT)

IFCS/FORUM-II/97.02B (FULL DOCUMENT)

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(may be distributed as a room document at Forum II)
(IFCS/FORUM-II/97.03B)

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IFCS/FORUM-II/97.05B*

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IFCS/FORUM-II/97.14B*

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Programme Area B

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IFCS/FORUM-II/97.15B*

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Miscellaneous Documents

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INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

List of Acronyms	Revised and renamed as Annex 2 of Final Report (formerly information document 1)
Progress Report GHS	Information Document - 2
Assessment of the Risks to Human Health from Exposure to Environmental Chemicals: The Role of Animal Experimentation	Information Document - 3
IFCS Priorities for Action in implementing environmentally sound management of chemicals - Priorities for Action with specific targets dates of 1997 or prior, Status Report - Working Draft	Information Document - 4/ Annex 15 of Final Report
IFCS Priorities for Action in implementing environmentally sound management of chemicals and Recommendations and action items from Intersessional Group Meetings, Status Report - Working Draft	Information Document - 5/ Annex 16 of Final Report
National Poison Control Facilities, Harmonization of Data Collection, Prevention of Toxic Exposures - <i>Progress Report</i>	Information Document - 6

- * Background documents that are available in English, French and Spanish
- ** French and Spanish translation of Descriptive Text only

ANNEX 2

LIST OF ACRONYMS¹

Acronym	Full Name
APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level Sensibilisation et préparation aux urgences au niveau local Concientización y preparación para emergencias al nivel local
CCTTE	Computerized Listing of Chemicals being Tested for their Toxicological Effects (IPCS/IRPTC)
CD/ROM	Compact Disc/Read Only Memory Disque Compact Disco Compacto
CEC CCE CCE	Commission of the European Communities Commission des communautés européennes Comision de las comunidades europeas
CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council Conseil Européen de l'industrie chimique Consejo Europeo de la Industria Química
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CG/HCCS	Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (IOMC) Groupe de coordination de l'harmonisation des systèmes de classifications des produits chimiques Grupo de coordinación para la armonización de los sistemas de clasificación de los productos químicos
CICAD	Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents
CIS	International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (ILO) Centre International d'Informations de Sécurité et de Santé au Travail El Centro Internacional de Información sobre Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo
CMA	Chemical Manufacturers' Association (USA)
CSD CDD CDS	Commission on Sustainable Development (UN) Commission du développement durable Comisión sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
DGDs DGD DOD	Decision Guidance Documents Documents d'orientation des décisions Documentos de orientación des decisiones
DHA DAH DAH	Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UN) Département des affaires humanitaires Departamento de Asuntos Humanitarios

¹Previously issued as Information Document 1 at Forum II. This list has been updated to reflect Forum II documents for the Final Report in April 1997.

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Acronym	Full Name
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union Union européenne Unión europea
ECETOC	European Chemical Industry Ecotoxicology and Toxicology Centre Centre européen d'écotoxicologie et de toxicologie de l'industrie chimique Centro Europeo de Ecología y Toxicología de la Industria Química
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN) Conseil économique et social Consejo económico y social
EHC	Environmental Health Criteria Critères d'hygiène de l'environnement Criterios de salud ambiental
EXICHEM	Existing Chemicals Database (OECD) Banque de données sur les substances chimiques existantes Banco de datos sobre productos químicos actuales
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
GCPF	Global Crop Protection Federation
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution Groupe mixte d'experts chargé d'étudier les aspects scientifiques de la pollution des mers Grupo Mixto de Expertos sobre los aspectos científicos de la contaminación del mar
GHS	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GINC	Global Information Network on Chemicals
IARC CIRC CIIC	International Agency for Research on Cancer Centre international de recherche sur le cancer Centro Internacional de Investigaciones sobre el Cáncer
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICCS CISC CISQ	International Conference on Chemical Safety Conférence internationale sur la Sécurité chimique Conferencia Internacional sobre Seguridad Química
ICEF	International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Union Fédération internationale des syndicats de travailleurs de la chimie, de l'énergie et des industries diverses Federación internacional de sindicatos de trabajadores de la química, de la energía e industrias diversas

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Acronym	Full Name
ICEM	International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mining and General Workers Union
ICFTU CISL CIOSL	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Confédération internationale des syndicats libres Confederación Internacional de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres
ICSC ICSC TISPQ	International Chemical Safety Cards Fiches internationales sur la sécurité des produits chimiques Fichas internacionales de Seguridad Química
IFCS FISC FISQ	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Forum intergouvernemental sur la sécurité chimique Foro Intergubernamental sobre Seguridad Química
IFPAAW FITPASC FITPAS	International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers Fédération internationale des travailleurs des plantations, de l'agriculture et des secteurs connexes Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores de las Plantaciones, Agrícolas y Similares
IGO OIG	Intergovernmental Organization Organisation Intergouvernementale Organización intergubernamental
ILO BIT/OIT OIT	International Labour Office/International Labour Organization Bureau international du Travail/Organisation internationale de Travail Oficina Internacional del Trabajo/Organización Internacional del Trabajo
ILSI	International Life Sciences Institute Institut international des Sciences de la Vie
IMO OMI OMI	International Maritime Organization Organisation maritime internationale Organización Marítima Internacional
INC	Intergovernmental negotiating committee
INTOX	Poison Information Database Management System (IPCS) Système de gestion des bases de données sur les intoxications aiguës Sistema de Gestión de Bancos de Datos sobre intoxicación aguda
IOCC	Inter-organization Coordinating Committee (IOMC)
IOMC	Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals Programme Interorganisations pour la gestion rationnelle des Produits Chimiques Programa Interorganismos para la Gestión Racional de las Sustancias Químicas
IPCS PISSC IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety Programme international sur la Sécurité chimique El Programa Internacional de Seguridad de las Sustancias Químicas

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Acronym	Full Name
IRPTC RISCPT RIPQPT	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals Registre international des substances chimiques potentiellement toxiques Registro Internacional de Productos Químicos Potencialmente Tóxicos
ISG	Intersessional Group (IFCS)
IUPAC UICPA UIQPA	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Union internationale de chimie pure et appliquée Unión Internacional de Química Pura y Aplicada
IUPHAR UIPHAR	International Union of Pharmacology Union Internationale de pharmacologie Unión Internacional de Farmacología
IUTOX UITOX	International Union of Toxicology Union internationale de toxicologie Unión Internacional de Toxicología
JECFA JECFA CMEAA	Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives Comité conjoint d'experts en additifs alimentaires Comité Mixto de Expertos in Aditivos Alimentarios
JMPR JMPR RCRP	Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues Réunion conjointe sur les résidus de pesticides Reunión Conjunta sobre Residuos de Plaguicidas
LRTAP	Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
NGO ONG ONG	Nongovernmental Organization Organisation Non Gouvernementales Organización No Gubernamental
OECD OCDE OCDE	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Organisation ce coopération et de développement économiques Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económico
PCB BPC	Polychlorinated Biphenyls Biphényles polychlorés
PIC PIC CFP	Prior Informed Consent (UNEP) Consentement préalable donné en connaissance de cause Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTRs	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RTDG	Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (United Nations) Recommandations relatives au transport des marchandises dangereuses Recomandaciones sobre transporte de mercancías peligrosas

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Acronym	Full Name
RID	Regulations for the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail Règlement du transport international de marchandises dangereuses par voie ferrée Reglamento para el transporte internacional de mercancías peligrosas por ferrocarril
SCOPE	Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment Comité scientifique pour les problèmes de l'environnement Comité Científico sobre los Problemas del Medio Ambiente
SGOMSEC	Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals Groupe scientifique des méthodologies assurant la sûreté de l'évaluation des substances chimiques Grupo Científico sobre Metodologías para la Evaluación de la Seguridad de los Productos Químicos
SIDS	Screening Information Data Sets (OECD) Dossiers de dépistage des risques [traduction libre] Series de datos para la selección de información
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act (USA) Loi relative au contrôle des substances chimiques toxiques Ley sobre el control de las sustancias químicas tóxicas
UN ONU ONU	United Nations Nations Unies Naciones Unidas
UNCED CNUED CNUMAD	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo
UNDP PNUD PNUD	United Nations Development Programme Programme des Nations Unies Pour le développement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo
UNDPCSD	United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
UNECE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN) Commission économique pour l'Europe Comisión Económica para Europa
UNEP PNUE PNUMA	United Nations Environment Programme Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
UNEP GC	UNEP Governing Council
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNIDO ONUDI ONUDI	United Nations Industrial Development Organization Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial

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Acronym	Full Name
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para la Formación Profesional y la Investigación
WEOG	Western Europe and Other Groups (IFCS)
WHA	World Health Assembly (WHO) Assemblée mondiale de la santé Asamblea Mundial de la Salud
WHO OMS OMS	World Health Organization Organisation mondiale de la Santé Organización Mundial de la Salud
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature [NGO; also known as World Wildlife Fund] Fonds mondial pour la nature Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza

FORUM II: AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP MEETING
February 13, 1997

Chair: Professor Kanouté, Mali
Rapporteur: Professor D. Mavoungou, Gabon

Programme Area A: Document 11w Rev.1
Expanding and Accelerating International Assessment of Chemical Risks

The African Regional Group endorses the general recommendations set out in the above document, and supports the proposals to create a group of experts, which includes African countries, to be responsible for assessment and extension and to examine the mechanisms for determining the responsibility of exporters of obsolete chemicals in the short-, medium- and long- terms (see Programme Area D).

Programme Area D: Document 15w
Establishment of Risk Reduction Programs

The group again supports the document presented by UNEP, FAO and Mali regarding POPs and obsolete chemicals and subscribes to the idea of releasing the financial resources required to conduct an inventory of hazardous products and to evaluate and identify such products. The funding must necessarily come from donor countries and industry, given that a strategic document for a short- and medium-term action plan is required at present, in view of the economic difficulties of Africa and the lack of awareness of decision-makers.

At the national level, the group understands the need to develop laws that take account of the specific nature of industrial products manufactured by African plants. In all scenarios, the development of a binding legal instrument was considered useful to the achievement of the objectives of the various programme areas.

The group listened with particular interest to Dr. Buccini's presentation on POPs and supports all of the proposals in their entirety. They are as follows:

- establishment of a working group
- information sharing
- subregional workshops, meetings of the IFCS aimed at collecting scientific data on POPs
- non-intervention in legal and administrative aspects of POPs
- establishment of POP identification criteria in relation to the scientific and socioeconomic data provided to UNEP and INC
- description of the issues associated with POPs and the problems they pose
- access to databases on POPs

FORUM II: AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP MEETING
February 12, 1997

Chair: Professor Kanouté, Mali
Rapporteurs: Professor D. Mavoungou, Gabon
Mr. Mohamed Bentaja, Morocco

Items on the agenda:

- Focal Points
- Intersessional group meetings
- Documents B, C, D and E
- Analysis of the document tabled by the United States

The African Regional Group meeting discussions focused on mechanisms that provide for adequate financial support in order to achieve the objectives of the various programmes. With respect to Programme Area B respecting the harmonization of the labelling of chemicals, it required greater, more sustained efforts that should lead to a recommendation.

In Programme Area C on chemical information exchanges, the African Regional Group promotes the implementation of information centres and the development of networks and a binding legal instrument. Clearly, information exchanges must be carried out in the working languages of the United Nations and the national languages to ensure that the information is accessible to everyone. The concepts of confidential and non-confidential information were raised with interest by the UNEP representative. The group agreed that increasing users' awareness of the information should be a concern of each government and not of the Forum. The Montreal Protocol and Basel Convention were cited as examples of an information network.

In view of the regional and subregional importance of Programme Area E, which deals with strengthening of national capacities for the management of chemicals, the African Regional Group endorses UNIDO's proposal to promote the safety of agrochemicals in the African Region (African and Arab).

The delegate from Gabon expressed his interest in non-organic pollutants.

REPORT OF ASIAN REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS

No report is included here as the group considered that all the points raised in their meetings had been fully discussed during Forum II.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS

Chairmen: Prof. Dr. Boris Kurljanski, Russian Federation; Prof. Dr. Gyorgy Ungvary, Hungary

Rapporteurs: Dr. Jerzy Majka, Poland; Dr. Romualdas Sabaliauskas, Lithuania

Delegates of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries (Belarus, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine) together with the representatives from Canada, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, the USA, WWF (NGO), UNIDO and UNITAR met at the Regional Group Meetings held on 9, 11 and 12 February, and:

- (1) elected Hungary, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and Slovakia as ISG members,
- (2) elected Hungary as the Officer representing CEE countries in the Bureau of the Forum,
- (3) elected the Czech Republic as a member of the Standing Committee,
- (4) elected Prof. Dr. Gyorgy Ungvary as a member of the Nominating Committee,
- (5) elected Prof. Dr. Boris Kurljanski and Prof. Dr. Gyorgy Ungvary as the Chairmen of the Meetings,
- (6) elected Dr. Jerzy Majka and Dr. Romualdas Sabaliauskas as the Rapporteurs of the Meetings ,
- (7) discussed the present situation in CEE countries and the developments since the CEE Regional Meeting in Budapest, 23 - 24 April 1996, as well as the future plans with special attention to future Regional Group meetings,
- (8) discussed the Provisional Annotated Agenda for Forum II, with particular attention paid to Programme Areas A - E,
- (9) discussed other matters specified in the report.

Discussion results

1. Present situation in CEE countries

According to the chosen way of the development of chemical safety systems, countries of the Region may be divided into three sub-regions:

i) Independent countries of the former Soviet Union

Countries (the Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan) have made considerable efforts to attain a modern chemical safety system and to introduce sound management of chemicals. However, the countries struggle with difficulties and problems in the control and regulation of dangerous substances, transportation of toxic chemicals, obsolete pesticides, information exchange and flow, etc. According to the Russian Federation, problems of chemical safety and sound management of chemicals require special attention from the International Organizations. To solve numerous problems regarding chemical safety, financial assistance is needed.

ii) Central European countries

In the Central European countries (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) significant progress has been achieved. The National Profile has been developed in the Czech Republic. In Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia the process of the development of the National Profiles is in its final stage and in the preliminary stage in Poland. A majority of countries have been helped directly through the UNITAR programme, which is very much appreciated. In some countries **Interministerial Committees** responsible for coordination of national activities in the field of chemical safety and sound management of chemicals have been established.

Significant progress has been achieved in harmonizing the legislation with that of the European Union, especially that concerning classification, labelling, packaging and notification of dangerous substances and preparations, as well as the PIC procedures. Some of the countries participate in the PRTR programmes.

iii) Baltic countries

Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) have achieved significant progress in developing chemical safety systems and sound management of chemicals. Primarily, activities have been focused on harmonizing the legislation with that of the European Union, and development of National Profiles.

2. Provisional Annotated Agenda for Forum II, countries' activity in Programme Areas A - E

The Provisional Annotated Agenda for Forum II was accepted. Activities of countries were surveyed during the pre-meetings. Slovakia and Slovenia presented summary reports. Significant progress in all or some Programme Areas and/or a high level of activity can be noted in other countries (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, the Russian Federation). The representative of WWF emphasized the significance of the activity of the Czech Republic in the field of PRTR. Further significant progress is needed in the Region in the following areas:

- information exchange and information flow
- co-operation with NGOs
- strengthening of the infrastructure of chemical safety
- financial support for sound management of chemicals
- bilateral, subregional and regional partnerships.

i) Programme Area C

Delegates of the Central and Eastern Europe Region accepted document IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev 1, prepared by the IFCS Secretariat and emphasized that chemical industry at the national level should be encouraged to provide non-confidential information on chemicals e.g. through their participation in intersectoral commissions or other similar bodies.

ii) Programme Area D

Delegates of the Central and Eastern European Region accepted documents prepared by the IFCS Secretariat, i.e. documents IFCS/FORUM-II/97.18w, IFCS/FORUM-II/97.19w and IFCS/FORUM-II/97.20w and emphasized the problem of obsolete pesticides in some countries of the Region. Extensive discussion of that problem revealed that both the financial and technical assistance of International Organizations may be necessary to solve this problem.

iii) Programme Area E

Delegates of the Central and Eastern European Region assessed the IFCS document IFCS/FORUM-II/97.15w Rev.3 "Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for the management of chemicals. Integrated report on Programme Area E" and accepted fully the view of the document, that implementation of the priorities of Programme Area E is of fundamental importance for the development of sound management of chemicals in the Region. Delegates accepted without changes the recommendations contained in points 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the document and decided to recommend changes to points 2, 5 and 8 as follows:

- point 2: the words "or other bodies" shall be added after the words "Interministerial Committees",
- point 5: the words "developing and developed countries" shall be changed to "developing countries and countries in economic transition on the one hand, and developed countries on the other",
- point 8: the words "and such coordination of meetings as" shall be deleted.

Points 1 and 11 are to be changed according to the proposal by UNITAR. UNITAR offered to help explore possibilities for financial and organizational support for a policy-level regional workshop to systematically address capacity building issues, as outlined in the proposed recommendations under Programme Area E.

3. Future Regional Group meetings

Slovenia and Hungary have agreed to host Regional meetings, in 1997 and 1998, respectively.

4. Other matters

Changing the name of the Region

The need for changing the name of the Region was discussed. Slovenia proposed, and Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia supported that the name '*EastEuropeanRegion*' shall be changed to '*CentralandEasternEuropeanRegion*'. Countries kindly request the Forum to modify the name of the Region.

Discussion on the Forum languages

Delegates of the Central and Eastern European Region, after thorough discussion, recommend that, despite the economic constraints, IFCS shall retain all six languages, both in simultaneous interpretation during the Forum sessions, as well as in translation of Forum Documents. At the same time delegates recommend IFCS to request Governments of states which need Forum documents to be translated into any of the six languages to contribute to the costs of such translations.

Technical and financial assistance offered by UNIDO

Delegates requested UNIDO to be instrumental in developing co-ordination and co-operation between the UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Croatia and the National Focal Points and/or Interministerial Committees in order to facilitate the establishment of an integrated mechanism for the sound management of chemicals in these countries.

Delegates recommended that UNIDO should further pursue its fund mobilization efforts for the implementation of the programme on the CEE Regional Network of Ecotoxicological Centres endorsed by the ISG2, Canberra, Australia, 1996. Delegates noted the efforts made by UNDP/UNIDO to join the work of UNECE, which is sponsored by the Czech Republic and Switzerland, in cleaning up seven selected sites in the Region polluted by hazardous chemicals as a pilot phase of a regional programme.

**EXPANDED AMERICAS REGIONAL WORKING GROUP
of the SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM on CHEMICAL SAFETY
8-14 February 1997, Ottawa, Canada**

INTRODUCTION

A series of meetings of the Expanded Americas Group under the Intersessional Group were held during the Second Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, 8-14 February in Ottawa, Canada. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Gustavo Olaiz of Mexico with the following countries participating: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, and the United States of America. Also participating were representatives from the Pan American Health Organization, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, WHO, WWF, UNITAR, and other organizations. Argentina was elected as the new Vice President and along with Brazil will represent the Region at the Standing Committee. Trinidad and Tobago will be alternate if another position opens up. New ISG members are Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil.

Five areas were discussed and the conclusions and the recommendations of the Group are the following:

A. EXPANDING and ACCELERATING INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT of CHEMICAL RISKS

Support the proposal to reduce the number of laboratory animals used for testing, and their suffering, as well as the proposal to adopt agreed alternative methods.

Reiterate the need of Working Groups to undertake risk assessments of chemical substances including the following considerations: a) participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, either individually or in regional groups; b) to keep in mind the conditions of exposure and the specific circumstances (climatic conditions and vulnerability of ecosystems) in these countries that can increase the risks; c) special needs of research concerning equipment for individual and group protection, as it specifically relates to climatic conditions of the tropics; d) chemical substances not used/approved in developed countries, but that represent a high risk in developing countries because of the conditions of exposure.

To support the previous proposals, it is recommended that developing countries and countries with economies in transition: incorporate in their National Profiles information concerning all these matters, including indicators such as: intoxications, accidents, illegal traffic, occupational risks etc., and update their National Profiles periodically.

Recommend the evaluation of potential effects on endangered species and vulnerable ecosystems both in assessing the risks of new and existing chemicals.

In relation to Item 9: Priority Actions: The Forum should promote research to improve the understanding of benefits stemming from the rational environmental use of chemicals, as well as of the adverse effects of chemicals with respect to: their intrinsic properties, association with other substances in chemical mixtures, different phases of their life cycle and interaction with the environment.

B. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS A GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM for the CLASSIFICATION and LABELLING of CHEMICALS (GHS)

Support the efforts to harmonize the classification and labelling of chemical substances, and understand that, even though at present it is not possible to adopt a legally binding instrument concerning this matter, the Forum should be open to work towards this end in the future.

C. CHEMICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

Recommend to assign to the National Focal Points the responsibility of coordinating necessary activities in order to establish information network systems concerning chemical safety issues, taking into account the needs and available infrastructure in countries of the region, identified in the National Profiles and Regional Profiles, with the assistance of international organizations, as appropriate.

Promote or improve communication mechanisms among Focal Points of IFCS to ensure the exchange and distribution of information based on available technology.

Recommend the establishment of national and regional information centers that serve as the core of the information network to receive and distribute updated information about chemical safety issues.

D. ESTABLISHMENT of RISKS REDUCTION PROGRAMS

18w: Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and the Sound Management of Chemicals: recommend the following to support risk reduction programs to: a) establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on PRTRs and link it to the National Focal Points; b) foster the creation of national PRTR systems; and c) encourage the integration of PRTRs in environmental policies;

19w: Pesticides Risk Reduction: recommend that activities be widened to include other chemical risk reduction activities using a “cradle to grave” approach. This would help to address the risk posed by all chemicals (including pesticides).

Recognizing that what the Forum could accomplish in this area will be a function of what other international organizations are doing, it is recommended that the Forum sponsor an inter-agency meeting with UNEP, FAO, (Basel Secretariat), etc., to agree on a definition of roles or division of labor among these agencies. This agreement could be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Forum and each agency.

In the above regard, it is recommended that the Forum conduct a SWOT analysis, which would determine how best it can operate in the context of: a) its own resources and mandate, and b) the operations of other related international agencies.

Recommend that the Forum convene a Policy Dialogue with public, private sector and NGOs to agree on a Policy Framework on Chemical Risk Reduction. This dialogue may be used to formulate an agreement from the private sector, particularly chemical companies, on initiatives such as improvements to MSDS to include guidelines on chemical risk reduction through safe disposal of obsolete pesticides and chemicals.

Prior to determining its role in this area, the Forum should conduct an inventory of past and on-going work in chemical management. Ideally, this Inventory should be completed before the Inter-Agency meeting as proposed above.

Recommend to take into consideration the UNEP GC Decision (UNEP GC.19/L.57) in which, GC takes note of the Report of the Group of Experts on Further Measures;

An Ad Hoc Working Group should be established to review the Report of the Group of Experts and its annexes and consider taking actions, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations concerning issues related to risk reduction from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, including bans or phase-outs;

20w: Disposal of Obsolete Chemicals: takes note of the decision by the UNEP GC, and welcomes and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the 'Group of Experts on further measures to reduce risk from a limited number of hazardous chemicals', concerning unwanted stocks of pesticides and other chemicals, encourages the establishment of a working group on obsolete chemicals to work out the strategy and method of disposal.

E. STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES and CAPACITIES for the MANAGEMENT of CHEMICALS

Consider the importance of strengthening national capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through training programs, equipment, and effective data bases that include updated and available information about chemical products, their risks, usages, alternatives and clean technologies in order to ensure fundamental decisions

Emphasize training of personnel and existing technical experts on chemicals safety issues, especially to enhance the understanding of the concepts and criteria behind classification of chemicals and the implications of the harmonization of classification and labelling.

Request that IGOs incorporate the IFCS Focal Points into their information networks, activities and scheduled relevant meetings with the objective of maximising participation by all interested countries and ensuring efficient coordination.

The Forum Regional Officers together with the IOMC should encourage increased regional awareness from non-participating IFCS countries on matters related to the Forum.

International, regional and national financing agencies are invited to consider the IFCS recommendations and urged to define mechanisms to support the implementation of appropriate actions at the national and regional levels, both as part of existing national projects for industrial development and pollution prevention, and as part of new projects that involve aspects of chemical safety.

IOMC participating organizations, their regional and national offices, are invited to continue to support the IFCS Expanded Americas Group in the implementation of the mandate and agreements established by IFCS and ISG.

In relation to item 1: prioritize the focus of financial support by international cooperation to assist in the development and upgrading of National Profiles and ensure that the results be used to evaluate the existing national infrastructure for chemical substances.

In relation to item 3: this paragraph should be viewed in two parts: 1) IOMC should help to formulate effective national legislation, because this is a critical component for developing countries and countries in transition; 2) continuing need for legislation and international instruments directly linked to the trade of chemical products.

Emphasize the need for guidelines not only for international instruments but also for national legislation.

In relation to item 4: the Forum should invite governments, in cooperation with IOMC, to promote the organization of regional workgroups regarding prevention, control and mitigation of technological accidents and waste treatment, with emphasis on accidents involving chemical substances during transportation.

In relation to item 7: modification: " Encourage the scientific organizations ... in the areas of environmental enforcement, human health, risk assessment and ecotoxicology in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition....."

In relation to item 10: invite governments in developing countries, and in countries with economies in transition, to promote, with the support of IOMC and international financial institutions, regional workshops to identify funding alternatives for the implementation of IFCS activities and to prepare a report on this issue to ISG3.

WEOG (WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUPS) REGIONAL GROUP - REPORT

The Western European and Other Groups regional group met on four occasions during the Forum. In view of the Forum President's broader role to act on behalf of the Forum as a whole, it was agreed to elect Australia to act as temporary chair of the group for the duration of the Forum. The US was elected rapporteur.

Elections

Germany was elected as the group's representative on the Nominating Committee. Elections to the Bureau and to the Intersessional Group (ISG) followed. Canada was elected as the group's officer on the Bureau (and subsequently endorsed by the Nominating Committee and Plenary to take the Presidency at the end of the Forum). In addition to Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA were elected to the ISG.

Elections were also held for membership of the Forum Standing Committee. Canada is a member by virtue of its position as incoming President. Australia, Germany and the USA were elected as the other WEOG members.

Participation of NGOs and IGOs

The group agreed that meetings would be open to non-government organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) except when elections were being conducted.

Resources

The group considered the Forum's resources and funding and agreed to invite NGOs, especially those from industry, to attend one of the meetings for a discussion on ways in which resources might be mobilised to support the Forum, in particular through contributions to the Trust Fund. In the meeting that followed there was discussion over the ways in which industry resources might be made available and the limitations on the provision of funds and assistance, including constraints both in industry regarding what associations were willing to fund, and on what the Forum parties were willing to accept. The Group agreed to request that the President write to industry groupings asking that the possibility of providing assistance be reexamined.

Forum Standing Committee

The group gave considerable attention to the composition, terms of reference and working procedures of the Forum Standing Committee. The group agreed to the composition and proposed that the term of office should be from Forum II to Forum III. The group sought better lines of communication from the Standing Committee to the wider membership of the Forum. It agreed on arrangements for communication by WEOG representatives with other WEOG Focal Points, and proposed additions to the working procedures of the Standing Committee to ensure better communications more generally.

Language

The group agreed that as a matter of principle Forum business should be conducted in all six UN languages, but noted that budgetary constraints sometimes make this difficult in practice, and that compromises are necessary. It was suggested that regions and countries should seek opportunities to assist the Forum, especially with regard to translation of documents.

Future meetings

The group suggested that those countries with experience of hosting previous Forum and ISG meetings should offer to meet informally with those who were considering hosting such meetings in the future and offer the benefit of their experience and any lessons they had learnt. A meeting was held during the Forum for this purpose.

FORUM II - ELECTED OFFICERS AND ISG MEMBERS

- Africa:** Angola
Cameroon
Kenya
Mali (Vice President)
Morocco
Niger
- Latin America & the Caribbean:** Argentina (Vice President)
Brazil
Costa Rica
Mexico
Trinidad and Tobago
- Asia:** India
Islamic Republic of Iran
Japan
Malaysia
Republic of Korea (Vice President)
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
- Central & Eastern Europe:** Hungary (Vice President)
Lithuania
Russia
Slovak Republic
- Western European and Other Groups:** Australia
Canada (President)
France
Germany
The Netherlands
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

**REGIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR OFFICERS AND ISG¹ MEMBERS**

The Terms of Reference for the Forum state:

(7.3) "The Intersessional Group shall meet between sessions of the Forum....to deal with the work of the Forum between meetings. In particular, the Intersessional Group may make recommendations to the Forum, study special problems, and advise on the implementation of strategies and programmes as approved by the Forum."

In carrying out its work, the Forum emphasizes regional and sub-regional cooperation. Thus, it is incumbent on the **Officers of the Forum and other ISG countries** to:

- actively promote the Forum in their region/subregion,
- communicate to governments, relevant NGOs and others information on Forum matters,
- 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 ISG and other meetings.

In addition, the **Officers of the Forum** have the responsibility to:

- convene regional meetings with broad participation, including that of NGOs and IGOs, between IFCS meetings and, as appropriate, during IFCS meetings,
- organize regional efforts for election of ISG and officers of the Forum, and
- organize nomination and designation of regional representatives to IFCS *ad hoc* working groups, coordinating groups and committees, ensuring equitable geographical representation for the region.

¹ The ISG consist of the Officers of the Forum and not more than 26 Government Participants elected at each session of the Forum taking into account equitable regional and geographical representation.

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 country.

1. Each country should have a single National Focal Point to act as conduit for communication on Forum 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 countries' needs to nominate a particular individual as Focal Point.
3. The Focal Point should disseminate within the country information on Forum activities to appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations.
4. The Focal Point should be prepared to provide the Forum with the information and progress reports on national priorities with respect to the environmentally sound management of chemicals.
5. The Focal Point for the Forum should liaise with focal points of the Participating Organizations (UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, OECD) 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. Before each session of the Forum, national governments should reconfirm the designated position and contact name of the National Focal Point. The Forum Secretariat should be advised of any changes in the interim. Wherever possible, governments should seek to ensure continuity of National Focal Points.
7. Where a country has not yet designated a National Focal Point, the Forum Secretariat should communicate through the relevant Ministry of Foreign Affairs until a Focal Point has been nominated.

FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Composition and elected members

- President - Canada
- 4 Vice-Presidents - Argentina, Hungary, Mali, Republic of Korea
- 1 IOMC (Chairperson of IOCC)
- 4 NGOs - industry (ICCA), science (IUPAC), public interest (WWF), workers (ICEM)
- 1 Africa - Nigeria
- 1 Central and Eastern Europe - Czech Republic
- 1 Latin America & Caribbean - Brazil (to be replaced by Trinidad & Tobago if Brazil becomes host country for Forum III)
- 2 Asia - Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand
- 3 WEOG - Australia, Germany, USA
- Host Countries for next ISG and Forum meetings (Japan/ISG3, Forum III to be determined)

This gives a total of 20 participants.

In addition the Executive Secretary and the immediate past president of the Forum 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 Forum in fund raising for the Trust Fund and "twinning" arrangements.
- As needed, the Forum Standing Committee will provide initial input on significant new issues to be considered by the ISG or Forum, preparing needed relevant materials on the matter for dissemination to Forum participants.
- The Forum Standing Committee is not empowered to take decisions for the President, Bureau, ISG 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, in taking on a full review of the organizational, administrative and financial aspects of the Forum, will report back to ISG3 on progress in preparing its report to Forum III.

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 Forum Standing Committee will operate on the general principle of consensus; administrative decisions, as necessary to carry out the business of the Forum Standing Committee, will be decided on a case by case basis.
- 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.
- Except for extraordinary circumstances, each member will be responsible for funding their participation.
- 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 effectiveness of the work should be reviewed by the group and the review presented for consideration at Forum III, as an input to the up-coming discussions on a review of the Terms of Reference of the Forum.
- The Standing Committee will keep the Forum 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 Forum upon request.

IFCS MEETINGS - LANGUAGES

Forum meetings

Mandatory

- Simultaneous interpretation into the 6 UN official languages
- Final report translated into the 6 UN official languages
- All working documents will have the chapter “Issues for consideration and action required by the Forum” translated into the 6 UN official languages by the IFCS secretariat for distribution to the participants before the meeting of the Forum
- Agenda translated into the 6 UN official languages

Desirable

- If found desirable by some regions/countries to have the full working documents translated into any of the 6 UN official languages, the IFCS secretariat will endeavour to find countries/organizations who would be able to accomplish the task or provide the corresponding resources

ISG meetings

Mandatory

- Final reports translated into the 6 UN official languages
- All working documents will have the chapter “Issues for consideration and actions required by the Forum” translated into the 6 UN official languages by the IFCS secretariat
- Agenda translated into the 6 UN official languages

Desirable

- The host country will endeavour, according to its possibilities, to provide simultaneous interpretation into as many languages as possible.
- For the working documents, same option as for Forum meetings

Standing Committee

- Although the working language will normally be in English, the addition of more languages will be considered on a case by case basis
- The teleconferences will be held in English
- The agenda will be translated into the 6 UN official languages
- The working documents will be available in English
- The reports of the meetings and of teleconferences will be translated into the 6 UN official languages

Provisional¹**DESIGNATION AND CRITERIA FOR MEETINGS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF IFCS**

The IFCS is a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives of governments meet together with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider all aspects of the assessment and management of chemical risks. The purpose is to assist in policy and strategy development in a coordinated and integrated manner, foster understanding of issues and promote the required policy support.

The IFCS does not, in and of itself, carry out programmatic work, rather this is a task for the participants in the Forum whether governments, IGOs or NGOs.

The IFCS operates on the basic principle of *partnership* in the spirit of Agenda 21: in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals, governments and social partners, industry, scientific organizations, environmental, labour and public interest groups, need to be able to contribute and constructively work together. The transparency of the working procedures and the active participation of all members has resulted in a unique approach in dealing with global chemical safety issues.

IFCS meetings may be of a global, regional or subregional nature.

The decision on designation of a meeting as an IFCS meeting will be taken by the IFCS Bureau². A request for designation should be sent to the Secretariat. Based on the purpose and the partnership principle above, the following are proposed as general criteria and guidelines for designation of IFCS meetings:

- the subjects to be treated at, and the objectives of, the meeting are of direct relevance to, and in conformity with, the IFCS goals and purpose;
- the meeting is open to all IFCS participants, subject to the restrictions on voting given in the IFCS Terms of Reference;
- IFCS Bureau and Secretariat participate actively in the planning and organization of the meeting;
- sources of funding are assured and publicly/clearly defined. No economic responsibility must rest on IFCS, beyond any explicit commitments stated in the planning of the meeting.
- any report of a meeting held under the auspices of the IFCS will be circulated to all IFCS participants.

¹To be reviewed at Forum III.

²The term “Bureau” is used to collectively represent the Officers of the Forum

PROPOSAL: FORUM AWARD OF MERIT

<i>Establishment</i>	<p>Under the title “Award of Merit” a prize is established within the framework of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.</p>
<i>Prize</i>	<p>The prize shall consist of a plaque to be given to a person, or persons, who have made outstanding contributions to international activities on chemical safety. The prize shall be presented during the meeting of the Forum to the recipient or, in his/her absence, to a person representing him/her.</p>
<i>Proposal and selection of candidates</i>	<p>The Executive Secretary of the Forum will solicit nominations for the Award.</p> <p>Any participant in the Forum, as defined in paragraph 3 of the Terms of Reference, may put forward the name of any person whose candidature is thought worthy of consideration with a view to the Award.</p> <p>All nominations must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons on which it is based.</p> <p>The same candidature may be submitted on several occasions, if unsuccessful.</p> <p>No condition is made as to the age, sex, profession or nationality of the candidate proposed.</p> <p>The proposals, together with the complete candidature forms, should reach the Executive Secretary not later than eighteen months before the session of the Forum.</p>
<i>Prize Committee</i>	<p>The Committee shall be composed of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Forum. The Executive Secretary of the Forum will act as Secretary to the Prize Committee.</p> <p>The Committee will make, by majority of its members, a recommendation to the Forum Standing Committee</p> <p>Should the Forum Standing Committee not accept any of the proposals which have been put forward by the Committee, the matter should be referred back to the Prize Committee.</p>

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Candidature for the Award of Merit
(Please type or print all information clearly)

Name		
Address		
Nationality		
Date of Birth		
Sex:		
Qualifications	Give details in chronological order, starting with most recent qualification	
Date	Institution	Qualification obtained
PRESENT POSITION		
From:		
POSITIONS HELD	Give details in chronological order, starting with first position held	
Date	Position held	
AWARDS AND HONOURS	Including fellowships	
Date	Awarding body	Name of Award
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS	Give details of outstanding innovative work in the area of chemical safety which would qualify the candidate for the Award.	

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<p>Submitted by: Date of submission: Date of receipt in Forum Secretariat</p>	
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As requested at ISG 2, this paper is an initial attempt to provide very general information for tracking progress made on the IFCS Priorities for Action and the recommendations and action items made at the Intersessional Group Meetings. It is a working draft based on information that was readily available to the IFCS Secretariat; it is not intended to be a comprehensive, detailed account. The Ad Hoc Working Group for the Agenda for Forum II has made a request to the Regional Groups to provide information giving particular emphasis to programme areas D and E. As the implementation of Priorities for Action are first and foremost the responsibility of national governments, the Forum may wish to consider possible mechanisms for obtaining the relevant information on the progress of national activities, keeping in mind the limited resources available to the IFCS.

For more specific information on the activities of intergovernmental organizations, reference should be made to the various documents cited, the ISG 2 report Overview of Progress on Forum Recommendations on Priorities for Action (ISG/96.4, 25 January 1996) as well as the recently published IOMC Inventory of Activities, Summary Report, First Edition (IOMC/IOCC 96.8) and the Task Manager's Report on Chapter 19, Agenda 21 submitted to UNDP/CSD in November 1996.

IFCS Priorities for Action in Implementing Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals

Priorities for Action with specific target dates of 1997 or prior
Status Report - Working Draft

Priority for Action		Status
Programme area A: Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks		
A-1	Needs for different types of health and environmental risk assessments should be identified and criteria for setting priorities for the various types of risk assessments should be agreed. Applying these criteria, an initial list of chemicals (including those of high production volume) for risk assessment by the year 1997 should be established as soon as possible.	<p>IPCS has undertaken two (2) small surveys of national governments to gather information on the type of risk assessment information and documents needed; the first was in the fourth quarter of 1994 to obtain background information for the 1995 Joint IPCS/OECD Consultation on Priority Chemicals and Related Issues and the second was in the fourth quarter of 1995 to obtain input on the draft format and structure of the IPCS Concise International Chemical Assessment Document. Limited response was received to both inquiries.</p> <p>At the 1995 Joint IPCS/OECD Consultation general criteria for selection of priority chemicals for international assessment were defined.</p> <p>IFCS Regional Groups have been requested to put forth a regional list of priority chemicals including pesticides for international assessment.</p> <p>Establishment of a list of priority chemicals including pesticides awaits the availability and dissemination of the information to be published in the inventory noted in #3 below.</p>

Information Document - 4

Priority for Action		Status
A-3	An inventory of risk assessments that are planned, in preparation or completed should be established before the end of 1994.	UNEP/ECETOC Inventory of Critical Reviews on Chemicals was published in August 1996 (IRPTC/UNEP, United Nations Publication, ISBN 92-807-1528-3; ECETOC, Technical Report No. 71, ISSN 0773-8072-71)
A-6	Taking into account the results of the activities recommended in items 1 and 2 and making full use of the evaluations produced by United Nations bodies, OECD, and others, 200 additional chemicals should be evaluated by 1997.	See Forum II document IFCS/FORUM-II/97.11w Rev.1 for list of assessments proposed as contributing towards the target. Forum II to decide which types of international assessments will contribute to target. It is expected that the 1997 target will be met.
Programme area B: Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals		
B-1	The ongoing technical work on classification criteria should be strengthened to enable finalization by 1997. Continued work to harmonize classification systems and to establish compatible hazard communication systems, including labelling and safety data sheets, should be completed by 2000.	Status report on technical work to be provided to Forum II, see Information Document - 2. Work is on schedule toward meeting the deadlines of end of 1997 for harmonization of classification criteria and tests, and 2000 for hazard communication tools (labelling and data sheets). [Source: 1996 Task Manager's Report on Chapter 19, Agenda 21.]
Programme area C: Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks		
C-3	Relevant data available from international bodies should be consolidated, if economically feasible, by 1997 on CD-ROM or other appropriate electronic media, together with suitable searching and updating facilities.	See Forum II document IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev.1. Chemicals Information is available on a number of CD-ROMs published by international organizations: - IPCS INCHEM - IPCS INTOX - WHO/IARC Cancer - ILO CIS (under development)

Information Document - 4

Priority for Action		Status
C-7	All countries should have nominated, by 1997, designated authorities for participation in the PIC procedure.	As of November 1996, 148 countries are participating in the voluntary PIC procedure. [Source: Information from a communication from FAO re: IOMC Inventory of Activities and 1996 Task Manager's Report on Chapter 19, Agenda 21.]
C-9	All countries which export chemicals subject to the PIC procedure should have the necessary mechanisms in place by 1997, including implementation and enforcement provisions, to ensure that export does not take place contrary to importing countries' decisions. Importing countries should also establish the necessary mechanisms.	
C-10	In all developing countries and countries in economic transition, training should have been made available by 1997 in the implementation of the London Guidelines and the PIC procedure.	Through the FAO/UNEP Joint Programme for the Operation of PIC, and in collaboration with UNITAR, training has been provided to government officials and experts from relevant institutions in over 60 countries and other workshops are planned. [Source: IOMC Inventory of Activities, Summary Report, December 1996]

Priority for Action		Status
Programme area D: Establishment of risk reduction programmes		
D-1	In all countries chemical risks which are both readily identifiable and readily controllable should be reduced as soon as possible. In countries with sufficient resources, plans for the possible reduction of other chemical risks should be elaborated and enacted without delay. Industry, in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, has a particular responsibility to contribute to the implementation of risk reduction programmes. Governmental experience and progress in national risk reduction programmes shall be presented in a report by 1997 to serve as a basis for setting goals for the year 2000.	Proposal: <u>Forum II discussions and outcome recommendations and agreed on action items as well as the President's Progress Report could contribute to this priority for action.</u>
D-2	The feasibility and usefulness of extending pollutant release and transfer registers to more countries, including newly industrialized countries, should be evaluated and a report prepared by 1997.	See Forum II document IFCS/FORUM-II/97. 18w.

Priority for Action		Status
D-5	Countries should review their pesticides safety strategy in order to protect human health and the environment, including surface and ground water. To reduce pesticide risks, countries should consider promoting the use of adequate safer pesticides, as well as the decreased use by better management practices and the introduction of alternative pest management technologies. A progress report should be prepared by 1997.	See Forum II document IFCS/FORUM-II/97.19w. FAO conducts surveys on the capacities of countries to manage pesticides as a component of the FAO International Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides. The second survey was recently completed and is being published.
D-6	By 1997 not less than 25 more countries should have implemented systems for prevention of major industrial accidents in accordance with international principles such as those contained in the 1993 ILO Convention (No. 174) on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.	
D-7	By 1997 not less than 50 more countries should have introduced national systems for emergency preparedness and response, including a strategy for education and training of personnel, with the aid of, inter alia, the APELL programme and the ILO Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (1991).	APELL has been introduced in fifteen more communities since January 1995 and in over thirty countries since its inception in 1988. [Source: Final Report of the APELL Senior Level Expert Advisory Group Meeting held on 7-9 October 1996.]

Priority for Action		Status
D-8	By 1997 not less than 40 more countries should have established poison control centres with related clinical and analytical facilities, and good progress should have been made on harmonizing systems for recording data in different countries.	<p>Some 20 countries now have well-established national poisons control centres with the full range of clinical, analytical and other facilities, and a further 30 countries have established centres but which lack some facilities. Centres are being developed in a further 24 countries, and are being initiated in 9 other countries. [Source: August 1996 draft of 1996 Task Manager's Report on Chapter 19, Agenda 21.]</p> <p>In the context of the IPCS INTOX Project, common formats and controlled vocabulary for reporting calls to poisons centres have been established and work is in hand to develop harmonization of data on hospitalized poisoning cases. Work is also in hand on defining controlled vocabulary in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. A simple Poisoning Severity Score for grading poisoning cases has been developed and tested; work is ongoing to test a quantified severity grading scheme for hospitalized cases (TOX score). A harmonized format is being developed for annual reports of poisons centres.</p>
Programme area E: Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals		
E-2	National profiles to indicate the current capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals and the specific needs for improvement should be elaborated as soon as possible and not later than 1997.	Comprehensive national profiles have been developed or are being developed by several countries through the support of the UNITAR pilot project undertaken within the framework of the IOMC. A UNITAR/IOMC Programme to facilitate the preparation of national profiles provides guidance and assistance to countries who are interested in preparing National Profiles through a multi-stakeholder process; a grants programme will assist about 30 countries to develop comprehensive national profiles by 1997. General information from national governments is not available.

Information Document - 4

Priority for Action		Status
E-4	By 1997 mechanisms for ensuring liaison of all parties involved in chemical safety activities within a country should be established in the majority of countries.	Those countries developing national profiles with the assistance of the UNITAR/IOMC Programme noted above are required to set up coordinating mechanisms. General information from national governments, with the exception of information received from a few countries, is not available.

AS REQUESTED AT ISG 2, THIS PAPER IS AN INITIAL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE VERY GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TRACKING PROGRESS MADE ON THE IFCS PRIORITIES FOR ACTION AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS MADE AT THE INTERSESSIONAL GROUP MEETINGS. IT IS A WORKING DRAFT BASED ON INFORMATION THAT WAS READILY AVAILABLE TO THE IFCS SECRETARIAT; IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE, DETAILED ACCOUNT. THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II HAS MADE A REQUEST TO THE REGIONAL GROUPS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION GIVING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO PROGRAMME AREAS D AND E. AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES FOR ACTION ARE *first and foremost* THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, THE FORUM MAY WISH TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE MECHANISMS FOR OBTAINING THE RELEVANT INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES, KEEPING IN MIND THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE IFCS.

FOR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS CITED, THE ISG 2 REPORT *Overview of Progress on Forum Recommendations on Priorities for Action* (ISG/96.4, 25 JANUARY 1996) AS WELL AS THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED IOMC INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES, SUMMARY REPORT, FIRST EDITION (IOMC/IOCC 96.8) AND THE TASK MANAGER'S REPORT ON CHAPTER 19, AGENDA 21 SUBMITTED TO UNDP/CSD IN NOVEMBER 1996.

**IFCS PRIORITIES FOR ACTION
AND
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS FROM INTERSESSIONAL GROUP
MEETINGS**

STATUS REPORT - *Working Draft*

GENERAL ITEMS	STATUS
ISG I - RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS¹	
ISG I ■ THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE FORUM IS TO PREPARE A DETAILED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OUTLINING THE STATUS OF THE BUDGET AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS TO EACH FUTURE SESSION OF THE ISG AND FORUM AS A STANDING AGENDA ITEM.	REPORT PREPARED AS REQUESTED: ISG 2 DOCUMENT ISG/96.3REV.2 FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10w
ISG I ■ THE ISG EXPRESSES, TO THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE U.N. COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ITS CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSED CUT IN THE UNEP BUDGET FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT BY MORE THAN 50%. THIS REDUCTION WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE UNEP'S ABILITY TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE AGENDA 21, CHAPTER 19. THE ISG: - URGES ISG REPRESENTATIVES TO CONVEY THESE CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO THEIR COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MAY 1995 UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING; AND - REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE IFCS TO CONVEY THESE CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS ISG MEETING.	THE PRESIDENT WROTE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CSD, AND THE DIRECTOR, UNDP/CSD CONVEYING THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE ISG.
ISG I ■ AN INVENTORY OF PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS RELATED TO CHEMICAL SAFETY BEING CARRIED OUT BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS RECOMMENDED TO BE COMPILED BY ISG 2.	THE IOMC <i>Inventory of Activities, Summary Report, First Edition (IOMC/IOCC 96.8)</i> , WAS PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 1996 AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AND FORUM II PARTICIPANTS.
ISG I ■ AN INVENTORY OF BILATERALLY SUPPORTED INITIATIVES IN CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BY COUNTRIES.	OECD UNDER TOOK A SURVEY OF BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AID PROJECTS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING. THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ARE REPORTED IN FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10B.
ISG I ■ RECOGNIZING THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OF ESTABLISHING NETWORKING ARRANGEMENTS AMONGST COUNTRIES FOR THE WORK OF THE FORUM IN SOME REGIONS ARE CONSIDERABLE, THE ISG RECOMMENDED THAT THE IOMC DEVELOP A PROPOSAL ON HOW THIS SITUATION MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR PRESENTATION AT ISG 2.	

¹Note: The Final Report of the First Meeting of the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (ISG/95.11) did not designate numbers for the ISG agreed on action items in its Executive Summary.

<p>ISG 1 ■ THE PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD CHEMICAL SAFETY DAY WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ISG 2.</p>	<p>ISG 2 DEFERRED THE ITEM TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II; THE WORKING GROUP ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF SUCH AN EVENT, BUT DECIDED AGAINST IT AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE NEEDED.</p>
<p>ISG 1 ■ DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ASKED TO PREPARE AND CIRCULATE PAPERS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT ISG MEETING (<i>i.e.</i> ISG 2) DESCRIBING ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO CHAPTER 19 OF AGENDA 21 THAT RELATE DIRECTLY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY NEEDS.</p>	
<p>ISG 2 - RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">IFCS BUDGET</p> <p>(A1)² ISG-2 AGREED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET -- \$531,150 FOR 1996 AND \$688,904 FOR 1997 AS DESCRIBED IN THE WORKING PAPER (ISG/96.3.REV2).</p> <p>(A2) AS PART OF THE LONGER TERM ISSUE, ISG-2 AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF INDUSTRY SUPPORT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CONCERNS RAISED BY COUNTRIES AND SOME NGOs ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID UNDUE INFLUENCE AND THE NEED TO AVOID LONG TERM DEPENDENCE ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF FUNDING SOURCES.</p> <p>(A3) ISG-2 RECOMMENDED THAT GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IFCS BUDGET.</p> <p>(A4) THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II WILL CONSIDER WHETHER MORE FORMAL FUND-RAISING MECHANISMS ARE NEEDED.</p>	<p>EXPENDITURES WERE WITHIN AGREED ON BUDGET; SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10w.</p> <p>IN 1996 INDUSTRY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE TRUST FUND (10 000 USD, VCI), TWINNING SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORKING GROUP MEETING, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COSTS OF INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION OF THE IFCS POPs MEETINGS. LIMITED DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE CONCERNING THE SECONDMENT OF STAFF FROM INDUSTRY TO THE IFCS SECRETARIAT.</p> <p>CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED AFTER 1 JANUARY 1996 TO DATE: RECEIVED 469,318 USD PLEGGED 111,243 USD INCLUDES 1995 OUTSTANDING PLEDGE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FORUM II</p> <p>(A23) ISG-2 AGREED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II IN 1997. THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA WAS REQUESTED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ITS DISCUSSIONS:</p>	<p>THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP (WG) WILL REPORT ON ITS WORK TO FORUM II.</p>

²Note: Letter/number key as designated in the Final Report of the Second Meeting of the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (ISG/96.R.1 Rev. 3), Summary of Action Items, Conclusions and Recommendations.

<p>A WHETHER MORE FORMAL FUND-RAISING MECHANISMS ARE NEEDED FOR THE IFCS TRUST FUND.</p> <p>B CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF PRTRs ON THE AGENDA AND DEVELOP POSSIBLE MECHANISMS TO PREPARE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS ON PRTRs.</p> <p>C THE APPROPRIATE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC NGOS IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE 1997 FORUM II.</p> <p>D RECOMMENDATION ON ESTABLISHING A WORLD CHEMICAL SAFETY DAY, NOTING THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT COSTS AND CONSIDERING POTENTIAL LINKAGES TO WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY.</p> <p>(A23) E CONTINUING THE PRACTICE OF ASSIGNING KEY TOPICS OF CONCERN TO THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS OR TOPICAL WORKING GROUPS FOR DISCUSSION BEFORE CONSIDERATION IN PLENARY.</p> <p>(A24) THE ISG AGREED TO RECOGNIZE DR R. LÖNNGREN AT THE 1997 FORUM II MEETING FOR HIS INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL SAFETY PROGRAMMES AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREATION OF THE IFCS. OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL SAFETY WORK COULD BE RECOGNIZED AT FUTURE MEETINGS.</p>	<p>A REPORT ON PRTRs JOINTLY SPONSORED BY MEXICO AND THE USA IS INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II UNDER PROGRAMME AREA D.</p> <p>THE WG REVIEWED THE CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION AS A SCIENTIFIC NGO AND EXTENDED MEMBERSHIP ON THE WG TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC NGOS.</p> <p>THE WG ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF SUCH AN EVENT, BUT DECIDED AGAINST IT AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE NEEDED.</p> <p>THE PROPOSED DETAILED TIME SCHEDULE ALLOWS TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALL KEY TOPICS BY REGIONAL GROUPS, PRIOR TO FINAL DISCUSSION AND DECISION.</p> <p>THE FIRST IFCS AWARD OF MERIT WILL BE PRESENTED TO DR R. LÖNNGREN DURING THE OPENING SESSION OF FORUM II. A PROPOSAL FOR INSTITUTING AN IFCS AWARD OF MERIT HAS BEEN DRAFTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY FORUM II.</p>
<p>COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD) AND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY</p> <p>(A25) MEMBERS OF THE FORUM ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THE CHEMICALS ISSUES TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE CSD 4 MEETING, 16 APRIL - 3 MAY 1996, AND TO PROPOSE CHEMICALS AS ONE OF THE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE 1997 CSD MEETING AND THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 1997. THE PRESIDENT OF THE FORUM SHOULD ALSO APPROACH THE CHAIR OF THE CSD ON THE SAME ISSUE.</p> <p>(A26) IT WAS AGREED THAT A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, WORKING WITH THE PRESIDENT, WOULD BRING FORWARD THE TRANSLATED REPORTS FROM THE 1997 FORUM TO THE SPRING 1997 CSD AND JUNE 1997 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION.</p>	<p>SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN HAND AND WILL BE REPORTED ON AT FORUM II.</p>
<p>(A27) OTHER MEANS OF INFORMING THE CSD AND UNGA OF THE FORUM'S WORK WILL ALSO BE FOLLOWED, AS DISCUSSED IN ANNEX 12 (of the ISG 2 Final Report), INCLUDING PREPARING A PROGRESS REPORT DURING THE 4TH QUARTER OF 1996 AND TRANSMITTING IT TO THE CSD THROUGH A NATIONAL REPORT.</p>	<p>A PRESIDENT'S <i>Progress Report</i> HAS BEEN DRAFTED AND WILL BE FINALIZED DURING FORUM II FOR SUBMISSION TO CSD V AND THE UNGASS. SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.21w Rev.3.</p>
<p>GENERAL</p>	

INFORMATION DOCUMENT - 5

<p>(A28) RECOGNISING THE CRITICAL ROLE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS HAVE IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE FORUM, COUNTRIES WERE URGED TO UPDATE OR DESIGNATE A NATIONAL FOCAL POINT WHO HAS THE REQUISITE REPRESENTATION FOR THE IFCS.</p>	<p>CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR IFCS NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT FORUM II.</p> <p>LETTERS AS REQUESTED WERE WRITTEN TO THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP.</p> <p>THE PRESIDENT WROTE TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, FAO AS REQUESTED.</p> <p><i>Working Draft</i> STATUS REPORTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT FORUM II AS INFORMATION DOCUMENTS (Information Document - 4 and Information Document - 5).</p>
<p>(A30) ISG-2 REQUESTED THE PRESIDENT TO WRITE TO APPROPRIATE HEADS OF DELEGATION ASKING THEM TO BRING THE ISSUE OF UNEP FUNDING FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY PROGRAMMES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL AND ALSO WRITE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP TO ADVISE OF THIS IFCS INITIATIVE THROUGH HEADS OF DELEGATIONS.</p>	
<p>(A31) ISG-2 REQUESTED THAT THE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATE TO FAO THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF PARTICIPANTS THAT FAO WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND ISG-2 AND STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF FAO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE IFCS.</p>	
<p>(A32) IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE IFCS SECRETARIAT DEVELOP AN ON-GOING ACTION LIST AND STATUS REPORT TO TRACK PROGRESS ON THE ACTION ITEMS DECIDED AT EACH MEETING.</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS
<p>PROGRAMME AREA A: EXPANDING AND ACCELERATING INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL RISKS</p>	
<p>GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 1</p>	
<p>ISG 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SOME COUNTRIES ENDORSED THE OECD SCREENING INFORMATION DATA SETS (SIDS) PROGRAMME FOR IDENTIFYING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, BUT NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRONG COORDINATION MECHANISM WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT WITH IPCS. </p>	<p>A REPORT WAS PRESENTED TO ISG 2 ON THE <i>Meeting on Coordination of Work on the Assessment of Existing Chemicals, OECD (ISG96/BI2)</i>.</p> <p>FORUM II DOCUMENTS ON PROGRAMME AREA A REPORT ON EFFORTS IN THIS AREA (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.11w Rev.1 and IFCS/FORUM-II/97.06B).</p>
<p>GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 2</p>	
<p>(A15) ISG-2 NOTED THE REPORT OF THE OCTOBER 1995 IFCS MEETING ON COORDINATION OF WORK ON THE ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING CHEMICALS IN PARIS AND RECOMMENDS THE CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF THIS GROUP IN COORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENTS, TO ENSURE THAT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THERE IS NOT DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND OVERLAP IN DOCUMENT PREPARATION. THE GROUP SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE REGIONAL PARTICIPATION FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.</p>	<p>THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II AT ITS MAY 1996 MEETING DECIDED THAT IN VIEW OF ON GOING EFFORTS IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HOLD THE PLANNED OCTOBER 1996 IFCS MEETING ON COORDINATION OF PROGRAMME AREA A.</p>
<p>SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION</p>	
<p>A-1³ NEEDS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND CRITERIA FOR SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE VARIOUS TYPES OF RISK ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE AGREED. APPLYING THESE CRITERIA, AN INITIAL LIST OF CHEMICALS (INCLUDING THOSE OF HIGH PRODUCTION VOLUME) FOR RISK ASSESSMENT BY THE YEAR 1997 SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.</p>	<p>IPCS HAS UNDERTAKEN TWO (2) SMALL SURVEYS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE TYPE OF RISK ASSESSMENT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS NEEDED; THE FIRST WAS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1994 TO OBTAIN BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE 1995 JOINT IPCS/OECD CONSULTATION ON PRIORITY CHEMICALS AND RELATED ISSUES AND THE SECOND WAS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1995 TO OBTAIN INPUT ON THE DRAFT FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE IPCS CONCISE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT. LIMITED RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED TO BOTH INQUIRIES.</p> <p>AT THE 1995 JOINT IPCS/OECD CONSULTATION GENERAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PRIORITY CHEMICALS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT WERE DEFINED.</p> <p>IFCS REGIONAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO PUT FORTH A REGIONAL LIST OF PRIORITY CHEMICALS INCLUDING PESTICIDES FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT.</p> <p>ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF PRIORITY CHEMICALS INCLUDING PESTICIDES AWAITS THE AVAILABILITY AND DISSEMINATION OF THE INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE INVENTORY NOTED IN PRIORITY FOR ACTION A-3 BELOW.</p>

³ Numbering system - programme area followed by priority for action number

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
<p>A-1 (CONTINUED)</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>A REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPCS PILOT PROJECT FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ON CRITERIA FOR SELECTING CHEMICALS FOR PRIORITY ASSESSMENT WAS RECOMMENDED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE ISG 2.</p> <p>THE ISG RECOMMENDED THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PRODUCING ASSESSMENTS REVIEW THEIR DOCUMENTS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS ACCOMMODATING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ASSISTING DECISION-MAKING (E.G. CONCISE ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS, PRACTICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING CHEMICAL HAZARDS), AND REPORT TO THE NEXT ISG ON PROPOSED CHANGES</p>	<p>REPORTS WERE PRESENTED AT ISG2: <i>Assessment of Priority Chemicals</i>, IPCS (ISG96/B4) AND <i>International Risk Assessment, CICADs</i>, IPCS (ISG96/B5).</p> <p>REPORTS WERE PRESENTED AT ISG2: <i>Assessment of Priority Chemicals</i>, IPCS (ISG96/B4) AND <i>International Risk Assessment, CICADs</i>, IPCS (ISG96/B5).</p>	
<p>A-2</p> <p>HARMONIZED APPROACHES FOR PERFORMING AND REPORTING HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE AGREED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SUCH PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE BASED ON INTERNATIONALLY AGREED PRINCIPLES TO PERMIT THE FULL USE OF RISK ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED BY BOTH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES.</p>	<p>IPCS AND OECD ARE COLLABORATING ON MAJOR PROJECTS TO MEET THIS GOAL. THE WORK IS NOTED IN FORUM II DOCUMENTS IFCS/FORUM-II/97.11w Rev.1 AND IFCS/FORUM-II/97.06B.</p>	
<p>A-3</p> <p>AN INVENTORY OF RISK ASSESSMENTS THAT ARE PLANNED, IN PREPARATION OR COMPLETED SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE END OF 1994.</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>THE IRPTC/ECETOC INVENTORY OF CRITICAL REVIEWS OF CHEMICALS SHOULD BE COMPLETED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND INCLUDE MORE INFORMATION ON NATIONAL PESTICIDE DOCUMENTS. A REPORT ON PROGRESS TO THE ISG 2 BY THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES WAS RECOMMENDED.</p>	<p>UNEP/ECETOC INVENTORY OF CRITICAL REVIEWS ON CHEMICALS WAS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 1996 (IRPTC/UNEP, UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION, ISBN 92-807-1528-3; ECETOC, TECHNICAL REPORT No. 71, ISSN 0773-8072-71)</p> <p>REPORT ON PROGRESS WAS MADE TO ISG 2: <i>Inventory of Critical Reviews on Chemicals</i>, IRPTC/UNEP (ISG96/B6.Rev.1).</p>	
<p>A-4</p> <p>INDUSTRY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GENERATE AND SUPPLY DATA REQUIRED FOR RISK ASSESSMENT TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT.</p> <p>ISG I</p>		

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
	A WORKING PAPER, PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY, ON THE ISSUE OF DATA CONFIDENTIALITY WITH RESPECT TO FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL RISK ASSESSMENTS WAS RECOMMENDED FOR ISG 2.	
A-5	HUMAN EXPOSURE DATA, AND GOOD QUALITY HEALTH EFFECTS DATA FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE GENERATED.	
A-6	<p>TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDED IN ITEMS 1 AND 2 AND MAKING FULL USE OF THE EVALUATIONS PRODUCED BY UNITED NATIONS BODIES, OECD, AND OTHERS, 200 ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS SHOULD BE EVALUATED BY 1997.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>TO MAINTAIN AN ONGOING OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE TARGETS FOR PRIORITY CHEMICAL ASSESSMENTS, THE ISG RECOMMENDED THAT A REPORT BE AVAILABLE TO EACH FUTURE SESSION OF THE ISG AND FORUM.</p> <p>ISG 2</p> <p>(A 6) ASSESSMENTS CURRENTLY COUNTED AS MEETING THE IFCS TARGETS BASED ON CRITERIA ESTABLISHED AT THE PARIS MEETING ARE: IPCS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CRITERIA DOCUMENTS (EHC); IPCS CONCISE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS (CICAD); OECD SCREENING INFORMATION DATA SETS (SIDS). THE COORDINATING GROUP REFERRED TO IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH WAS REQUESTED TO PREPARE A PAPER FOR FORUM II IN 1997 WHICH OUTLINES THE PROGRESS IN PROGRAMME AREA A INCLUDING MEETING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT TARGETS OF 200 ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS BY 1997 AND ANOTHER 300 BY 2000. THE PAPER SHOULD ALSO EVALUATE THE TARGETED ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THE ISG WORKING PAPER ISG96.4 BY THE CRITERIA CITED AT THE PARIS MEETING, INCLUDING TRANSPARENCY OF THE REVIEW PROCESS, AND RECOMMEND WHICH ONES SHOULD COUNT AS INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENTS BASED ON THEIR RELATIVE CONFORMITY TO THOSE CRITERIA.</p>	<p>SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.11w Rev.1 and IFCS/FORUM-II/97.06B FOR LIST OF ASSESSMENTS PROPOSED AS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE TARGET. FORUM II TO DECIDE WHICH TYPES OF INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO TARGET. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE 1997 TARGET WILL BE MET.</p> <p>REPORTS WERE PRESENTED AT ISG2: <i>Assessment of Priority Chemicals</i>, IPCS (ISG96/B4) AND <i>International Risk Assessment, CICADs</i>, IPCS (ISG96/B5). REPORTS FOR FORUM II ARE NOTED ABOVE.</p> <p>SEE FORUM II DOCUMENTS NOTED ABOVE.</p>
A-7	IF THE TARGET IN ITEM 6 IS MET, ANOTHER 300 CHEMICALS SHOULD BE EVALUATED BY 2000.	SEE FORUM II DOCUMENTS NOTED ABOVE.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
A-8	THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR EXPOSURE LIMITS, INCLUDING THE SETTING OF SAFETY FACTORS, NEEDS TO BE HARMONIZED AND DESCRIBED. COUNTRIES SHOULD ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR EXPOSURE LIMITS FOR HUMANS AND FOR PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENTAL COMPARTMENTS FOR AS MANY CHEMICALS AS POSSIBLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HARMONIZATION EFFORTS AND THE POTENTIAL USE OF SUCH GUIDELINES.	IPCS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CRITERIA 170 "ASSESSING HUMAN HEALTH RISKS OF CHEMICALS: DERIVATION OF GUIDANCE VALUES FOR HEALTH-BASED EXPOSURE LIMITS" WAS PUBLISHED IN LATE 1994.
A-9	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE PROMOTED FOR THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MECHANISMS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS ON HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.	SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.06B. IT MAY ALSO BE NOTED THAT RECENTLY A NUMBER OF NEW EFFORTS (NATIONAL, REGIONAL, INTERNATIONAL) HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO COORDINATE RESEARCH ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS. THIS TOPIC WILL BE CONSIDERED AT FORUM II.
A-10	ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO FURTHER REDUCE THE USE OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS IN TOXICITY TESTING BY ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION AND USE OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS.	SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.11w Rev.1 and IFCS/FORUM-II/97.06B, AND FORUM II INFORMATION DOCUMENT - 3 ON "Assessment of Risk to Human Health from Exposure to Environmental Chemicals: The Role of Animal Experimentation".

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
PROGRAMME AREA B: HARMONIZATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS		
GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 1		
<p>ISG 1</p> <p>■ WITH RESPECT TO THE WORK ON HARMONIZATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF CHEMICAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS (CG/HCCS) IS REQUESTED TO STRENGTHEN ITS MEMBERSHIP, PARTICULARLY FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. - THE CG/HCCS IS REQUESTED TO PROMOTE AN INCREASE IN THE AWARENESS AMONG NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON THEIR WORK, IN PARTICULAR ON ITS SCOPE AND PROGRESS. SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD SERVE TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. - THE CG/HCCS IS REQUESTED TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE ON THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED. SUCH GUIDANCE SHOULD BE SENSITIVE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEEDS FOR INFORMATION ON THE PROCESS. 	<p>A REPORT WAS MADE TO ISG 2, "<i>Harmonization of Classification and Labelling</i>", ILO (ISG/96.6).</p> <p>FORUM II WILL CONSIDER THE TOPIC - SEE DOCUMENTS IFCS/Forum-II/97.12w Rev.1 and Information Document-2.</p>	
GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 2		
<p>(A I 4) ISG-2 MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CG/HCCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. CLARIFICATION OF THE INTENDED SCOPE FOR THE PROPOSED INSTRUMENT BY REVISION OF CG/HCCS TERMS OF REFERENCE. D. FOR THE CG/HCCS TO CONTINUE AWARENESS RAISING /INFORMATION ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES. 	<p>FORUM II WILL CONSIDER THE TOPIC - SEE DOCUMENTS IFCS/Forum-II/97.12w Rev.1 and Information Document-2.</p>	
SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		
<p>B-1 THE ONGOING TECHNICAL WORK ON CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO ENABLE FINALIZATION BY 1997. CONTINUED WORK TO HARMONIZE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS AND TO ESTABLISH COMPATIBLE HAZARD COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING LABELLING AND SAFETY DATA SHEETS, SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 2000.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>THE CG/HCCS IS REQUESTED TO REPORT BACK TO THE ISG 2 WITH A DETAILED REPORT ON TECHNICAL WORK AND ITS PROGRESS.</p> <p>B-1 (CONTINUED)</p> <p>ISG 2</p>	<p>STATUS REPORT ON TECHNICAL WORK TO BE PROVIDED TO FORUM II, SEE INFORMATION DOCUMENT-2.</p> <p>WORK IS ON SCHEDULE TOWARD MEETING THE DEADLINES OF END OF 1997 FOR HARMONIZATION OF CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND TESTS, AND 2000 FOR HAZARD COMMUNICATION TOOLS (LABELLING AND DATA SHEETS). [SOURCE: 1996 TASK MANAGER'S REPORT ON CHAPTER 19, AGENDA 21.]</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS
<p>(A 4.c) COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL WORK AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE RECOGNISING THAT NON-CONSENSUS ISSUES BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED.</p> <p>B-2 COUNTRIES SHOULD ENSURE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT CONSULTATION TO ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSISTENT NATIONAL POSITION ON HARMONIZATION OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE URGED TO UNDERTAKE A COORDINATED APPROACH IN FORMULATING NATIONAL POSITIONS ON HARMONIZATION.</p>	
<p>B-3 AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSLATING THE RESULT OF THE TECHNICAL WORK ON HARMONIZATION INTO AN INSTRUMENT OR RECOMMENDATIONS APPLICABLE LEGALLY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>THE CG/HCCS IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORT TO THE ISG 2 ON HOW PROGRESS COULD BEST BE MADE ON THESE POLITICAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY NON-CONSENSUS MATTERS.</p> <p>ISG 2</p> <p>(A 4a) FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR AN INSTRUMENT, INCLUDING FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE US PROPOSAL FOR A NON-BINDING INTERNATIONAL STANDARD AS A MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, FOR THE FORUM II IN 1997.</p>	<p>VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT WERE DISCUSSED AT ISG 2. TOPIC WILL BE CONSIDERED FURTHER AT FORUM II; SEE DOCUMENTS IFCS/Forum-II/97.12w Rev.1</p> <p>A REPORT WAS MADE TO ISG 2, "<i>Harmonization of Classification and Labelling</i>", ILO (ISG/96.6).</p> <p>A REPORT WAS MADE TO ISG 2, "<i>Harmonization of Classification and Labelling</i>", ILO (ISG/96.6).</p>

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS
<p>PROGRAMME AREA C: INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON TOXIC CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL RISKS</p>	
<p>GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 1</p>	
<p>ISG I ■ A REVIEW OF INFORMATION DELIVERY, INCLUDING AN INVENTORY OF NETWORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIORITY ACTIVITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF COUNTRIES, WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE ISG. IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE UNEP/IRPTC TAKE THE LEAD IN COORDINATING THE PREPARATION OF A REPORT FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ISG.</p> <p>ISG I ■ IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL SAFETY, THE ISG RECOMMENDED THAT A SEMINAR/WORKSHOP BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ISG 2. THE SEMINAR/WORKSHOP WOULD DISPLAY AND INTRODUCE AVAILABLE LITERATURE AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION.</p>	<p>UNEP/IRPTC PROVIDED A BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR ISG 2 ON "INFORMATION DELIVERY FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT" (ISG96/B7).</p> <p>AN INFORMATICS SEMINAR WAS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH ISG 2; IGOs (INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL), NGOS AND GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATED. AN INTERNET EXHIBIT WILL BE HELD DURING FORUM II.</p>
<p>GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 2</p>	
<p>(A17) THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE INFORMATICS SEMINAR, HELD 3-4 MARCH IN CANBERRA, HAS GIVEN GOOD BACKGROUND ON CURRENT INTERNET AND OTHER ELECTRONIC CAPABILITIES FOR SHARING CHEMICAL SAFETY INFORMATION, AND REQUESTED THAT THE IOMC CONSIDER THE ISSUES OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INFORMATION DISSEMINATION MECHANISMS IN COUNTRIES WITH VARYING DEGREES OF INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DEVELOP A REPORT FOR THE IFCS II MEETING. THE IOMC WAS ALSO REQUESTED TO COORDINATE WORK IN THIS AREA WITH INTERESTED COUNTRIES.</p> <p>(A18) THE Ad Hoc WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGENDA FOR FORUM II WAS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE NEED AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE INFORMATICS SEMINARS.</p>	<p>UNEP, AS SECRETARIAT FOR THE IOMC COORDINATING GROUP FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE, HAS PREPARED A PAPER IN COLLABORATION WITH JAPAN FOR FORUM II ON "<i>Chemical Information Exchange Activities</i>" (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev.1).</p> <p>AN INTERNET EXHIBIT WILL BE HELD DURING FORUM II.</p>
<p>SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION</p>	
<p>C-1 NETWORKS FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION CAPACITIES OF ALL GOVERNMENTAL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>NOTE WAS TAKEN OF THE PILOT ACTIVITY IN THE ASIAN REGION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL INFORMATION NETWORK ON CHEMICALS (GINC). COUNTRIES SUPPORTED THE UNDERTAKING OF WORK TO ESTABLISH A GINC IN ALL REGIONS.</p>	<p>A DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF GINC WILL BE PROVIDED TO FORUM II; SEE DOCUMENT "<i>Chemical Information Exchange Activities</i>" (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev.1).</p>

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
C-2	BOTH THE TYPES OF INFORMATION EXCHANGED AND THE METHODS OF EFFECTING THE EXCHANGE SHOULD BE TAILORED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MAJOR GROUPS OF USERS, TAKING DUE ACCOUNT OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND LITERACY LEVELS.	
C-3	RELEVANT DATA AVAILABLE FROM INTERNATIONAL BODIES SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED, IF ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE, BY 1997 ON CD/ROM OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ELECTRONIC MEDIA, TOGETHER WITH SUITABLE SEARCHING AND UPDATING FACILITIES.	SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w REV.1. CHEMICALS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON A NUMBER OF CD-ROMS PUBLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: - IPCS INCHEM - IPCS INTOX - WHO/IARC CANCER - ILO CIS (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)
C-4	SOURCES OF INFORMATION USEFUL TO RESPONDING TO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND ACCESS TO THESE SOURCES SHOULD BE READILY AND RAPIDLY AVAILABLE.	
C-5	REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORKS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL REGIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.	A DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF GINC WILL BE PROVIDED TO FORUM II; SEE DOCUMENT " <i>Chemical Information Exchange Activities</i> " (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.13w Rev.1).
C-6	NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON CHEMICALS SHOULD BE CREATED OR STRENGTHENED, ACCORDING TO NEEDS.	
C-7	ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE NOMINATED, BY 1997, DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PIC PROCEDURE.	AS OF NOVEMBER 1996, 148 COUNTRIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE VOLUNTARY PIC PROCEDURE. [SOURCE: INFORMATION FROM A COMMUNICATION FROM FAO RE: IOMC INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES AND 1996 TASK MANAGER'S REPORT ON CHAPTER 19, AGENDA 21.]

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
<p>C-8 WORK SHOULD CONTINUE TO EVALUATE AND ADDRESS PROBLEMS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY PIC PROCEDURE AND TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENTS CONCERNING THE PIC PROCEDURE.</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>CONCERNING THE ONGOING WORK OF UNEP AND FAO ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE (PIC), THE ISG SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF A LEGALLY-BINDING MECHANISMS WITH THE PROVISOS THAT;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FULL ACCOUNT WAS TAKEN OF EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING THE CURRENT VOLUNTARY SYSTEM; - THE ARRANGEMENT WAS RESTRICTED TO THE CURRENT SCOPE OF THE VOLUNTARY PIC PROCEDURE; - CRITERIA FOR INCLUDING CHEMICALS IN THE PIC PROCEDURE BE FURTHER EVALUATED; - COUNTRIES NOT YET HAVING DONE SO DESIGNATED THEIR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR PIC; - IMPORTING COUNTRIES ESTABLISH MECHANISMS TO RESTRICT, WHEN THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE, THE IMPORTATION AND MANUFACTURE FOR DOMESTIC USE OF PIC-DESIGNATED CHEMICALS; - A LEGALLY-BINDING APPROACH MAY INCLUDE VOLUNTARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION - TRAINING IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE MECHANISMS BE ESTABLISHED. 	<p>ISG I CONSIDERED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PIC PROCEDURE IN RELATION TO THE CURRENT REVISED LONDON GUIDELINES THROUGH A LEGALLY-BINDING INSTRUMENT AND THE EXTENSION OF THE PIC PROCEDURE TO A WIDER RANGE OF CHEMICALS. THE MEETING OFFERED GUIDANCE ON THESE ISSUES (SEE BELOW).</p> <p>FAO AND UNEP HAVE RECEIVED MANDATES FROM THEIR GOVERNING BODIES TO CONVENE A NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON PIC. A DRAFT TEXT OF THE CONVENTION WAS DEVELOPED AT THE FIRST TWO NEGOTIATING SESSIONS; TWO MORE MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 1997 WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING THE WORK BY THE END OF 1997.</p>	
<p>C-9 ALL COUNTRIES WHICH EXPORT CHEMICALS SUBJECT TO THE PIC PROCEDURE SHOULD HAVE THE NECESSARY MECHANISMS IN PLACE BY 1997, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS, TO ENSURE THAT EXPORT DOES NOT TAKE PLACE CONTRARY TO IMPORTING COUNTRIES' DECISIONS. IMPORTING COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY MECHANISMS.</p>		
<p>C-10 IN ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES IN ECONOMIC TRANSITION, TRAINING SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BY 1997 IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONDON GUIDELINES AND THE PIC PROCEDURE.</p>	<p>THROUGH THE FAO/UNEP JOINT PROGRAMME FOR THE OPERATION OF PIC, AND IN COLLABORATION WITH UNITAR, TRAINING HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS FROM RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS IN OVER 60 COUNTRIES AND OTHER WORKSHOPS ARE PLANNED. [SOURCE: IOMC INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES, SUMMARY REPORT, DECEMBER 1996]</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
C-11	THE CIRCULATION OF SAFETY DATA SHEETS FOR ALL DANGEROUS CHEMICALS BEING TRADED SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, AS PROMOTED BY THE RECENTLY AGREED CODE OF ETHICS ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CHEMICALS.	SOME 1300 INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL SAFETY CARDS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED SO FAR BY IPCS IN COOPERATION WITH THE EU. THEY ARE BEING TRANSLATED INTO 23 LANGUAGES AND WIDELY DISSEMINATED.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
PROGRAMME AREA D: ESTABLISHMENT OF RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES		
GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 2		
TREATMENT OF OBSOLETE CHEMICALS		
(A19)	ISG-2 AGREED TO THE FORMATION OF A SMALL CO-ORDINATING GROUP ON OBSOLETE CHEMICALS, COMPOSED OF MALI, GREENPEACE, AUSTRALIA, UNEP, GIFAP TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON EXISTING ACTIVITIES. A DIRECT REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE TO FAO FOR INFORMATION AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE CO-ORDINATING GROUP SO THAT EFFORTS ARE COORDINATED. THE GROUP WILL ASSESS THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE PROGRAMMES AND IDENTIFY FURTHER NEEDS.	A REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR FORUM II BY FAO, COSPONSORED BY UNEP AND MALI; SEE DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.20w.
(A20)	BASED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSESSMENT, THE IFCS SECRETARIAT MAY BE REQUESTED TO INVITE FAO TO CONSIDER CONVENING AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON OBSOLETE CHEMICALS WITH WIDE PARTICIPATION WHICH COULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FORUM II ON FURTHER ACTION AND THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS.	THIS MATTER IS ALSO BEING CONSIDERED BY THE NINETEENTH UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, JANUARY 1997.
SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		
D-1	IN ALL COUNTRIES CHEMICAL RISKS WHICH ARE BOTH READILY IDENTIFIABLE AND READILY CONTROLLABLE SHOULD BE REDUCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN COUNTRIES WITH SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, PLANS FOR THE POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF OTHER CHEMICAL RISKS SHOULD BE ELABORATED AND ENACTED WITHOUT DELAY. INDUSTRY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE, HAS A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES. GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE AND PROGRESS IN NATIONAL RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES SHALL BE PRESENTED IN A REPORT BY 1997 TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR SETTING GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2000.	
D-2	THE FEASIBILITY AND USEFULNESS OF EXTENDING POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS TO MORE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE EVALUATED AND A REPORT PREPARED BY 1997.	SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.18w.
	ISG 1	
	THE RESULTS OF THE UNITAR PILOT STUDIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS (PRTs) IN MEXICO, EGYPT AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE ISG TO BE SHARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.	A REPORT WAS PROVIDED TO ISG 2: <i>Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers - UNITAR Pilot Projects</i> (ISG/96.7a).

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
D-3	<p>AS A PARTICULAR PRIORITY, THE RECENTLY AGREED CODE OF ETHICS ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CHEMICALS SHOULD BE APPLIED WIDELY BY INDUSTRY IN ALL COUNTRIES WITHOUT DELAY.</p>	
D-4	<p>EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF CLEAN TECHNOLOGY REGARDING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF CHEMICALS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>THE WORK TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES REGARDING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF CHEMICALS, PARTICULARLY THE PLANS TO CREATE CLEAN TECHNOLOGY CENTRES IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WAS NOTED. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WORK WAS ALSO NEEDED IN OTHER COUNTRIES.</p>	
D-5	<p>COUNTRIES SHOULD REVIEW THEIR PESTICIDES SAFETY STRATEGY IN ORDER TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING SURFACE AND GROUND WATER. TO REDUCE PESTICIDE RISKS, COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSIDER PROMOTING THE USE OF ADEQUATE SAFER PESTICIDES, AS WELL AS THE DECREASED USE BY BETTER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ALTERNATIVE PEST MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES. A PROGRESS REPORT SHOULD BE PREPARED BY 1997.</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>COUNTRIES WERE REQUESTED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN REDUCTION IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES.</p> <p>THE ISG INVITES THE OECD IN COOPERATION WITH FAO TO REPORT TO ISG 2 ON THE OUTCOMES OF THEIR JOINT PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION WORKSHOP</p>	<p>SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT "<i>Pesticide Risk Reduction</i>" IFCS/FORUM-II/97.19w. FAO CONDUCTS SURVEYS ON THE CAPACITIES OF COUNTRIES TO MANAGE PESTICIDES AS A COMPONENT OF THE FAO INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PESTICIDES. THE SECOND SURVEY WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AND IS BEING PUBLISHED.</p> <p>A REPORT WAS MADE TO ISG 2: <i>Pesticide Risk Reduction</i>, OECD/FAO (ISG96/B8).</p>
D-6	<p>BY 1997 NOT LESS THAN 25 MORE COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE IMPLEMENTED SYSTEMS FOR PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THE 1993 ILO CONVENTION (No. 174) ON THE PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UN/ECE) CONVENTION ON TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
<p>D-7</p> <p>BY 1997 NOT LESS THAN 50 MORE COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE INTRODUCED NATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, INCLUDING A STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL, WITH THE AID OF, <i>inter alia</i>, THE APELL PROGRAMME AND THE ILO CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS (1991).</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>GOVERNMENTS WERE URGED TO MAKE USE OF THE ILO CODE OF PRACTICE IN PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, THE UNEP/APELL PROGRAMME AND THE VARIOUS GUIDELINES OF OECD, IPCS, UNEP AND WHO AS MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING CHEMICAL ACCIDENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.</p>	<p>APELL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN FIFTEEN MORE COMMUNITIES SINCE JANUARY 1995 AND IN OVER THIRTY COUNTRIES SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1988. [SOURCE: FINAL REPORT OF THE APELL SENIOR LEVEL EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 7-9 OCTOBER 1996.]</p>	
<p>D-8.</p> <p>BY 1997 NOT LESS THAN 40 MORE COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE ESTABLISHED POISON CONTROL CENTERS WITH RELATED CLINICAL AND ANALYTICAL FACILITIES, AND GOOD PROGRESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE ON HARMONIZING SYSTEMS FOR RECORDING DATA IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.</p> <p>ISG I</p> <p>SEVERAL COUNTRIES REQUESTED REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO INTRODUCE THE IPCS/INTOX POISONS INFORMATION PROJECT AND PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POISON CONTROL FACILITIES IN COUNTRIES.</p>	<p>SOME 20 COUNTRIES NOW HAVE WELL-ESTABLISHED NATIONAL POISONS CONTROL CENTRES WITH THE FULL RANGE OF CLINICAL, ANALYTICAL AND OTHER FACILITIES, AND A FURTHER 30 COUNTRIES HAVE ESTABLISHED CENTRES BUT WHICH LACK SOME FACILITIES. CENTRES ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN A FURTHER 24 COUNTRIES, AND ARE BEING INITIATED IN 9 OTHER COUNTRIES. [SOURCE: AUGUST 1996 DRAFT OF 1996 TASK MANAGER'S REPORT ON CHAPTER 19, AGENDA 21.]</p> <p>IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IPCS INTOX PROJECT, COMMON FORMATS AND CONTROLLED VOCABULARY FOR REPORTING CALLS TO POISONS CENTRES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WORK IS IN HAND TO DEVELOP HARMONIZATION OF DATA ON HOSPITALIZED POISONING CASES. WORK IS ALSO IN HAND ON DEFINING CONTROLLED VOCABULARY IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH. A SIMPLE POISONING SEVERITY SCORE FOR GRADING POISONING CASES HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND TESTED; WORK IS ONGOING TO TEST A QUANTIFIED SEVERITY GRADING SCHEME FOR HOSPITALIZED CASES (TOX SCORE). A HARMONIZED FORMAT IS BEING DEVELOPED FOR ANNUAL REPORTS OF POISONS CENTRES.</p> <p>WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES, IPCS CONTINUES TO ORGANIZE SUCH WORKSHOPS.</p>	
<p>D-9</p> <p>PRIORITY ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO FINDING AND INTRODUCING SAFE SUBSTITUTES FOR CHEMICALS WITH WHICH HIGH AND UNMANAGEABLE RISKS ARE ASSOCIATED. GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRIES AND USERS OF CHEMICALS SHOULD ALSO DEVELOP, WHERE FEASIBLE, NEW LESS HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND NEW PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGIES WHICH EFFECTIVELY PREVENT POLLUTION.</p>	<p>REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE IFCS EFFORTS ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS - SEE FORUM II PAPER IFCS/FORUM-II/97.04B.</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS
<p>D-10 WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES ARE PRIMARILY NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, INTERNATIONAL RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES COULD ALSO BE WARRANTED FOR THOSE PROBLEMS THAT ARE INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>AS A RESULT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA TO DETERMINE IF A CHEMICAL WAS SUITABLE AS A PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANT (POP) CANDIDATE, AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND OTHERS RECOMMENDED THAT A LIST OF POPs BE PREPARED WITH A SUMMARY OF THEIR USES AND MEANS OF DISPOSAL. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE CRITERIA WERE BEING DEVELOPED THROUGH THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (LRTAP) WITH FURTHER PROGRESS BEING CARRIED FORWARD BY A PHILIPPINES/CANADA CO-SPONSORED WORKSHOP IN JUNE 1995.</p> <p>THE ISG ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL OF THE USA, MAURITIUS AND SLOVAKIA RECOMMENDING THAT CANADA AND THE PHILIPPINES HOLD A MEETING, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR JUNE 1995 TECHNICAL EXPERTS MEETING ON POPs IN VANCOUVER, TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF COORDINATING AND CHANNELLING POSSIBLE GLOBAL ACTIONS ON POPs. THIS MEETING, IN ADDITION TO GOVERNMENT EXPERTS, SHOULD INCLUDE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL BODIES. IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT DEFINITION OF A PROCESS TO EXAMINE THE LINKAGES BETWEEN GROUPS ADDRESSING POPs IN AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 17 AND 19 BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA.</p> <p>ISG 2</p> <p>PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)</p> <p>(A6) THE MEETING AGREED THAT THE AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ON TASKS A) AND B) OF DECISION 18/32 IS SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON THE 12 SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES (SEE FOOTNOTE IN PARAGRAPH 32 FOR DESCRIPTION OF TASKS).</p> <p>(A7) RECOGNIZING THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVING THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION BASE, THE MEETING AGREED THAT AN "OPEN FILE" BE CREATED TO PROVIDE FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING OF PEER REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON TASKS A) AND B) I.E. THE CHEMISTRY, TOXICOLOGY, TRANSPORT PATHWAYS, ORIGIN, TRANSPORT AND DEPOSITION OF THE 12 SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES ON A GLOBAL SCALE.</p> <p>(A8) THE MEETING CONCLUDED THAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED ON THE 12 SPECIFIED POPs TO COMPLETE THE TASKS IN PARAGRAPHS C), D) AND E) OF DECISION 18/32 AND TO ADDRESS SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION (SEE FOOTNOTE IN PARAGRAPH 32 FOR DESCRIPTION OF TASKS).</p>	<p>REFERENCE IS MADE TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THE IFCS EFFORTS ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS - SEE FORUM II PAPER IFCS/FORUM-II/97.04B. - FORUM II DOCUMENT ON "<i>Emerging Concerns</i>" IFCS/FORUM-II/97.17w Rev.1. <p>A REQUEST WAS MADE, BUT THE ORGANIZERS CONCLUDED THAT A DIFFERENT VENUE WOULD BE NEEDED TO PROGRESS THE PROPOSED ISSUES.</p> <p>SEE FORUM II PAPER: "<i>Persistent organic pollutants - a status report</i>" IFCS/FORUM-II/97.04B.</p>

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS	
<p>(A9) UNEP OFFERED TO SERVE AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL INFORMATION AND WILL ISSUE PERIODIC UPDATES ON THE CONTENTS OF THE FILE.</p> <p>(A 1 0) AN IFCS WORKING GROUP ON POPs WAS ESTABLISHED BY ADOPTING THE <i>Ad Hoc</i> WORKING GROUP ON POPs THAT WAS SET UP BY UNEP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (IOMC).</p> <p>(A 1 1) AN IFCS SPONSORED MEETING WILL BE HELD IN JUNE 1996 IN THE PHILIPPINES TO ADDRESS TASKS C) AND D) OF DECISION 18/32. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN MEETING OF THE IFCS WORKING GROUP ON POPs TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING ON TASKS C) AND D), TO ADDRESS TASK E) OF DECISION 18/32 AND TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL ACTION, INCLUDING SUCH INFORMATION AS WOULD BE NEEDED FOR A POSSIBLE DECISION REGARDING AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL MECHANISM ON POPs (SEE FOOTNOTE IN PARAGRAPH 32 FOR DESCRIPTION OF TASKS).</p> <p>(A 1 2) THE IFCS WORKING GROUP ON POPs WILL SUBMIT A REPORT CONTAINING INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE JUNE MEETINGS TO ALL IFCS PARTICIPANTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENTS BY JULY 31, 1996. A SUMMARY OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE REPORT TO UNEP AND WHO BY AUGUST 31, 1996.</p> <p>(A 1 3) CRITERIA FOR ADDING POPs TO THE LIST WILL NOT BE DEVELOPED BY IFCS IN 1996, SINCE OTHER GROUPS WILL ADDRESS THIS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. HOWEVER, A PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE-BASED CRITERIA SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL (UNEP GC) AND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA), AND SHOULD BUILD UPON ONGOING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE UNDER THE UN ECE LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (LRTAP) CONVENTION. THE MEETING REQUESTED THE UK TO CONSIDER DRAFTING A PROPOSAL FOR THIS PROCESS BASED ON THE WORK OF THE UN ECE PREPARATORY WORKING GROUP ON POPs.</p>		
D-11	<p>ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE PAID TO ENSURING THAT ALL COUNTRIES INTRODUCE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT UN RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND TO ENSURING THAT THIS LEGISLATION IS REGULARLY UPDATED WHENEVER THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REVISED, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING SYSTEMS.</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS
<p>PROGRAMME AREA E: STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS</p>	
<p>GENERAL ITEMS - ISG 2</p>	
<p>(A21) KEY AREAS AND ACTIVITIES WERE IDENTIFIED AND PROPOSALS MADE FOR THE EFFORTS OF EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>A ICCA TO REPORT ON PROGRESS IN ITS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN CAPACITY BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,</p> <p>B GIFAP TO WIDELY DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON ITS EFFORTS TO TRAIN GOVERNMENT, LOCAL INDUSTRY AND FARMERS IN THE SAFE USE OF CROP PROTECTION CHEMICALS,</p> <p>C IFCS SECRETARIAT TO FACILITATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THE DISTRIBUTION TO ALL IFCS MEMBERS A LISTING OF ALL DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELATING TO ALL PROGRAMME AREAS OF CHAPTER 19, - THE AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICTS IN SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE OF RELEVANCE TO IFCS MEMBERS, - BETTER USE OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES OF IOMC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER EXISTING REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL NETWORKS TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN IFCS ACTIVITIES; <p>D OECD TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME TO FACILITATE CO-ORDINATION OF CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TO DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO IFCS MEMBERS;</p> <p>E IOMC TO CO-ORDINATE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PREPARE A PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE 1997 FORUM II ON REGIONAL NEEDS BASED ON COUNTRY NATIONAL PROFILES.</p>	<p>THE LIST OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS HAS BEEN MADE READILY AVAILABLE. VARIOUS REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DISSEMINATED INCLUDE INFORMATION ON DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY IGOs OR WHERE TO OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION.</p> <p>THE IOMC CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS.</p> <p>ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, IFCS REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A REGIONAL MEETING ORGANIZED BY AN IGO ON A SPECIAL TOPIC.</p> <p>AS AN INITIAL EFFORT, OECD HAS UNDER TAKEN A SURVEY OF BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AID PROJECTS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING; SEE FORUM II DOCUMENT IFCS/FORUM-II/97.10B.</p> <p>THE IOMC IS PREPARING AN ANALYTICAL REPORT ON THE RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF ITS PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS AND UNITAR. THE REPORT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1997. INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL PROFILES IS AWAITED.</p>
<p>(A22) IN VIEW OF THE LARGE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON CAPACITY BUILDING, UNITAR OFFERED TO CENTRALLY COLLECT THE INFORMATION.</p>	<p>THIS WORK IS BEING DONE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IOMC PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE <i>Pilot Programme to Assist Three Developing Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management.</i></p>

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		
E-1	<p>THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES TO MANAGE CHEMICALS IN A GREAT NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REQUIRES, IN ADDITION TO FUNDING AND SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INNOVATIVE THINKING AS TO HOW TO MAKE BEST USE OF EXISTING SYSTEMS. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. EFFICIENT REGIONAL COOPERATION IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.</p>	<p>OECD HAS CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AND PRODUCED A REPORT OF THE RESULTS FOR FORUM II (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.16w).</p> <p>IOMC INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES SUMMARY REPORT AND THE ANALYTICAL REPORT ON CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES SHOULD GREATLY FACILITATE THIS WORK.</p>
E-2	<p>NATIONAL PROFILES TO INDICATE THE CURRENT CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND THE SPECIFIC NEEDS FOR IMPROVEMENT SHOULD BE ELABORATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NOT LATER THAN 1997.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>IT WAS PROPOSED THAT COUNTRIES COMPLETE THEIR NATIONAL PROFILES TO INDICATE CURRENT CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS BY ISG 2 AND INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WAS ENCOURAGED TO FACILITATE THIS TASK.</p> <p>ISG 2</p> <p>(A5) UNITAR COMMITTED TO REVISING THEIR GUIDANCE DOCUMENT TO INCREASE ITS FLEXIBILITY TO ACCOMMODATE VARYING NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO INCLUDE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING A MINI-PROFILE AS AN INITIAL STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PROFILE. THE REVISED DOCUMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE END OF MAY 1996.</p>	<p>GENERAL INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OR REGIONAL GROUPS IS AWAITED.</p> <p>COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PROFILES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OR ARE BEING DEVELOPED BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITAR PILOT PROJECT UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IOMC. A UNITAR/IOMC PROGRAMME TO FACILITATE THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PROFILES PROVIDES GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PREPARING NATIONAL PROFILES THROUGH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESS; A GRANTS PROGRAMME WILL ASSIST ABOUT 30 COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PROFILES BY 1997.</p> <p>THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT WAS REVISED AND DISSEMINATED TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS RELEVANT IGOS AND NGOS.</p>
E-3	<p>COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES FOR CHEMICAL LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT SHOULD BE ELABORATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT, <i>inter alia</i>, THE PRINCIPLES OF THE 1990 ILO CHEMICALS CONVENTION (No. 170).</p>	

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION		STATUS
E-4	<p>BY 1997 MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING LIAISON OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN CHEMICAL SAFETY ACTIVITIES WITHIN A COUNTRY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES.</p> <p>ISG 1</p> <p>THE NEED WAS REEMPHASIZED FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATION AMONG RELEVANT MINISTRIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL CHEMICAL SAFETY POLICIES AND LEGISLATION.</p> <p>ISG 2</p> <p>(A29) NOTING THAT INTERSECTORAL COORDINATION IS CRUCIAL TO IFCS WORK, ISG-2 ENCOURAGED COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NATIONAL COORDINATION AND REGIONAL NETWORKS.</p>	<p>GENERAL INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OR REGIONAL GROUPS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM A FEW COUNTRIES, IS AWAITED.</p> <p>THOSE COUNTRIES DEVELOPING NATIONAL PROFILES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITAR/IOMC PROGRAMME NOTED ABOVE ARE REQUIRED TO SET UP COORDINATING MECHANISMS.</p>
E-5	<p>FURTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND TRAINING COURSES SHOULD BE ARRANGED AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL TO PROVIDE A CORE OF TRAINED PEOPLE, BOTH TECHNICAL STAFF AND POLICY MAKERS, IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION.</p>	
E-6	<p>EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.</p>	SEE E-1 ABOVE.
E-7	<p>AS A LONGER TERM OBJECTIVE, CHEMICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL COUNTRIES, COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION SHOULD BE ENACTED AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES BE IN PLACE.</p> <p>CONTINUED CAMPAIGNS TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CHEMICAL RISKS AND THEIR PREVENTION SHOULD BE RUN.</p>	<p>AS A GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHERS, IPCS IS DEVELOPING PROTOTYPE MATERIAL FOR USE IN PUBLIC AND SPECIFIC POPULATION GROUP INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS AND POISONING PREVENTION ACTIVITIES; THE MATERIAL IS CURRENTLY BEING FIELD TESTED IN TWO COUNTRIES.</p>

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	STATUS
<p>PROGRAMME AREA F: PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS</p>	
<p>UNTIL CONTROL LEGISLATION IS IN PLACE IN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER LEGAL INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO HALT ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS, ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, INCLUDING STRENGTHENING OF THE PIC PROCEDURE.</p>	