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Agenda item 2

Chemical Safety for Sustainable Development

IFCS/FORUM-V/02w
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15 August 2006

FORUM V
Fifth Session
of the
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Budapest, Hungary
25 - 29 September 2006

PROPOSED PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Prepared by: IFCS Secretariat

DECISION DOCUMENT

Chemical Safety for Sustainable Development

PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

convening on Monday 25 September 2006 at 10h00

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters concerning Forum V
 - designation of rapporteur
 - report on preparations for Forum V
 - adoption of agenda
 - adoption of provisional timetable
3. President's Progress Report
4. IFCS administrative items
5. Future of IFCS
6. Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction
7. Applying precaution in the context of chemical safety
8. Heavy Metals - need for further global action?
9. Addressing the widening gap among countries in following the chemical safety policies
10. Toys and chemical safety
11. Election of IFCS Officers and Forum Standing Committee Members
12. Future sessions of the Forum
13. Any other business
14. Review of conclusions and recommendations
15. Adoption of the report of the meeting
16. Closing of the Meeting

ANNOTATIONS

Languages:

Working documents: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

Simultaneous interpretation: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian interpretation for the plenary sessions and, as relevant, for Regional Group Meetings schedule for Sunday 24 September (15h00 to 18h00) and Wednesday 27 September 2006 (15h00 to 18h00).

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum V) will be opened by the IFCS President at 10h00 on Monday, 25 September 2006 at the Budapest Congress and World Trade Center.

Welcoming statements and addresses will be made by representatives of the Government of Hungary.

Keynote presentations focusing on various aspects of the theme of Forum V "Chemical Safety and Sustainable Development" will be given.

The IFCS Special Recognition Award and Awards of Merit will be presented to the 2006 recipients.

Agenda item 2: Organizational matters concerning Forum V

The Forum will designate a rapporteur. A brief report on the preparations for Forum V undertaken by the Forum Standing Committee will be made. The Provisional Agenda (IFCS/FORUM V/01w) and Time Schedule (IFCS/FORUM V/03w) will be presented for adoption. The President will provide a brief introduction to the agenda items, highlighting the issues to be considered and action requested.

Agenda item 3: President's Progress Report:

The President will present a Progress Report in the Opening Session. The report has been prepared to monitor progress made on the commitments and agreed targets in the Bahia Declaration, Priorities for Action beyond 2000 and other Forum recommendations and action items.

Agenda item 4: IFCS Administrative items:

A detailed financial statement (IFCS/FORUM V/04w) on the status of the budget, resources, and administrative arrangements will be presented.

Agenda item 5: Future of IFCS

In light of the adoption of the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM), the Forum is requested to review and agree on the precise role and function of

IFCS in this renewed and strengthened international chemicals regime. A Thought Starter has been prepared to provide a basis for the discussion of this issue (IFCS/FORUM V/02-TS).

Agenda item 6: The Sound Management of Chemicals and poverty reduction

The Forum is requested to consider the role of the sound management of chemicals as a fundamental component of poverty reduction strategies, important challenges to integration of sound management of chemicals in poverty reduction efforts, and actions that could be taken to integrate sound management of chemicals in poverty reduction efforts. A Thought Starter has been prepared to provide a basis for the discussion of this issue (IFCS/FORUM V/04-TS). This paper is presented to Forum V as part of the report on the recommendations on capacity building assistance made by Forum IV.

Agenda item 7: Applying precaution in the context of chemical safety

A Forum V Plenary Open Information/Discussion Session has been organized to advance open dialogue and understanding about how precaution is applied in practice with regards to chemical safety to protect health and environment and implementation of goals identified in IFCS declarations and recommendations and the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS). Through a series of practical case examples, tools and approaches for applying precaution in chemical safety decision-making as well as commonalities and differences in these approaches will be explored. A Thought Starter paper presents the rationale, objectives and organization of the session (IFCS/FORUM V/01-TS). An Information Background Document summarizes information collected on how governments and other organizations domestically apply precaution in chemicals management, lessons learnt and views on the challenges and most important needs for more effectively applying precaution (or making decisions in the face of uncertainty) and overcoming barriers in chemicals management decision-making (IFCS/FORUM V/6 INF).

Agenda item 8: Heavy Metals - need for further global action?

In conjunction with Forum V, the Government of Switzerland is organizing a side event workshop on 23 September 2006 on "Health and environmental concerns associated with heavy metals: global needs for further action?". The outcome of the side event will be brought forward to Forum V plenary. A discussion in Forum V plenary will provide an additional important opportunity to further examine the issues and problems to support country implementation of work on the heavy metals priorities. (IFCS/FORUM V/8 INF)

Agenda item 9: Addressing the widening gap among countries in following the chemical safety policies

To address the widening gap that exist between developed countries and developing countries in their ability to pursue chemical safety policies, Forum IV "decided to establish an ad hoc Expert Group including interested observers with the objective to propose a systematic way of strengthening the sound management of chemicals in countries with an expressed need and requested the Forum Standing Committee to decide on the modalities for the ad hoc Experts Group. The group (*was*) mandated to propose a system by which a government could avail itself, if appropriate, of the expertise available within the group to identify areas in the country where there is room for improvement. ... Forum IV requested the Forum Standing Committee to review the implementation of the system in its regular sessions and report back to Forum V." A progress

report on international efforts undertaken in response to the Forum IV decision and recommendations will be presented to the Forum (IFCS/FORUM V/4 INF).

The SAICM Secretariat will organize a lunchtime side event on Monday 25 September 2006 on South-South Cooperation. A brief report on the side event will be presented to the Forum for its information and possible further consideration.

Agenda item 10: Toys and chemical safety

The Forum is requested to consider potential chemical risks from toys linked to chemical exposures, the question of prevalence of chemical related harms, the current approaches taken to assess potential chemical risk, and actions to protect children from chemical harms from toys. A Thought Starter paper presents background information, a series of case studies to illustrate lessons learnt, successes, and controversies related to chemicals in toys and includes a series of questions to stimulate thinking and discussion. (IFCS/FORUM V/03-TS)

Agenda item 11: Election of IFCS Officers and governmental members of the Forum Standing Committee.

"At each session, the Forum shall elect, from among the representatives of the Government Participants, Officers consisting of a President and five Vice-Presidents. They shall take office immediately after closure of the session during which they are elected and hold office until the end of the session following their election." (*IFCS Terms of Reference para 6*)

"Elections of Officers of the Forum shall be decided by consensus; where consensus cannot be achieved, the election shall be decided by secret ballot." (*IFCS Terms of Reference para 12.2*)

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

Agenda item 12: Future sessions of the Forum

"Subject to availability of funds, it is expected that sessions of the Forum will be held at intervals of 2-3 years. Periodically, sessions will review progress on Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and the need for further sessions, as recommended by the Forum Standing Committee." (*IFCS Terms of Reference para 5*)

Agenda item 13: Any other business

The Forum may wish to consider other matters raised by participants in the course of the meeting.

Agenda item 14: Review of conclusions and recommendations

The participants will be invited to review and adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Forum V as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 15: Adoption of the report of meeting

The participants will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report of the Forum V as prepared by the Rapporteur. Consistent with the practice followed by previous sessions of the Forum, participants may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the results of the Friday plenary (29 September 2006) will be prepared by the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the secretariat, and incorporated in the session report under the authority of the President of Forum V. The final report of the session will be circulated after the closure of the session

Agenda item 16: Closing of the meeting

It is expected that Forum V will be closed by the President by 18h00 on Friday, 29 September 2006.