



**FORUM V**  
**Chemical Safety**  
**for Sustainable Development**  
**IFCS**  
Budapest, Hungary  
25-29 September 2006

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*Chemical Safety for Sustainable Development*

**FORUM V**

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

**Budapest, Hungary**  
**25 - 29 September 2006**

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**FINAL REPORT**



## Table of Contents

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Forum V agreed action items and recommendations

Introduction  
Resolution on the Future of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)  
Topics for the future Forum of IFCS  
Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemical Safety  
Heavy Metals: need for further global action?  
    The Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium  
Toys and Chemical Safety

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### ANNEXES:

1. List of meeting documents (IFCS/FORUM-V/1 INF)
2. List of Acronyms (IFCS/FORUM-V/2 INF rev1)
3. IFCS Trust Fund - Budget of the IFCS Secretariat 2007-2008
4. IFCS Elected Officers and Government Forum Standing Committee Members
5. African Statement on the Dumping of Hazardous Wastes in Cote d'Ivoire
6. Participants List

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

#### **Introduction**

The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum V) was held 25-29 September 2006 in Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the Government of Hungary. Eighty-one governments participated in the meeting, together with representatives from twelve intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and sixty-four non-governmental organizations (NGO).

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum) is an innovative participatory mechanism with the purpose of providing an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues. The Forum provides countries and other stakeholders the opportunity to place issues on the international agenda and emphasize their special needs and concerns with respect to improving chemicals management. It was established in 1994 in response to a recommendation adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – UNCED, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

At Forum V the IFCS took stock of the progress achieved on the commitments and recommendations made at previous sessions and charted the course for work in a number of new areas. In light of the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in February 2006, Forum V considered the future role of IFCS as a contribution to the implementation of SAICM.

The Forum V recommendations and agreed action items are presented below.

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

### **The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,**

*Having met* in Budapest, at the invitation of the Government of Hungary, from 25 to 29 September 2006,

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

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

*Appreciating* the unique multi-faceted role that IFCS has played as a flexible, open and transparent brainstorming and bridge-building forum for Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations including from the private sector which has facilitated consensus building,

*Recognizing* the desirability of continuing to have such a forum,

*Having regard* to the need to use human and financial resources efficiently and to avoid duplication of functions and work areas in order to enhance the implementation of SAICM and to allow the continuation of the important role played by the IFCS,

1. *Requests* the IFCS Secretariat to establish and maintain a close working relationship and co-operation with the SAICM secretariat,
2. *Invites* the SAICM secretariat to participate in IFCS organised meetings as appropriate,
3. *Decides* to establish a working group to prepare a draft decision, inter alia through teleconferences, email and other communication aids, on the future role and functions of the IFCS, including options for its institutional arrangement and consideration of a joint secretariat with SAICM, mindful of the need to avoid duplication, its possible relationship to the ICCM, and its contribution to the implementation of the SAICM, for consideration at Forum VI,
4. *Decides* that membership and participation in the working group shall be limited to the members of the Forum Standing Committee (or the designee of a member of the Forum Standing Committee), and that the five regional SAICM focal points (or the designee of a region through the SAICM focal point) shall also be invited to participate as members of the working group,
5. *Decides* that, based on the recommendations of the working group, and before the next ICCM, Forum VI shall, if it so decides, propose a draft decision for possible consideration by the ICCM,

6. *Urges* for reasons of synergies and cost-effectiveness that consideration be given to further IFCS Forum meeting being held back-to-back with other relevant international meetings such as ICCM,

7. *Invites* all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources in support of the secretariat in the fulfilment of its functions.

## Topics for the future Forum of IFCS

1. **Nanoparticles, Nanomaterials, Nanotechnology: Opportunities and Challenges**<sup>1</sup>
  - Public dimension / dialogue with stakeholders (public, NGO, OECD and other IGOs, science, industry, trade unions, politics)
  - Support precautionary measures with respect to occupational health, consumer safety and the environment
  - Voluntary measures of industry (self-control principles, code of conduct, responsible care)
  - Promotion of national inventories on the usage of nanoparticles and development of exposure scenarios
  - Adaptation of the existing legislation, if necessary: threshold values
  - How to bridge the gap between industrial countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transitions.
2. **Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic Substances**<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Hazard assessment, risk evaluation and risk assessment
  - Risk management
3. **Heavy Metals**<sup>1</sup>
  - Arsenic
  - Chromium
  - Nickel
  - Mercury
  - Lead
  - Cadmium
  - Other toxic heavy metals
4. **Substitution/Alternatives**
  - Substitution as a principle<sup>1</sup>
  - Substitution of substances
  - Substitution of pesticides with links to poverty reduction
  - Substitution within product life-cycle (LCA)
  - Substitutions in the light of OPS Para 14 (d) (i)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> While these topics were proposed, some participants expressed concern with the proposals marked with a reference to footnote <sup>1</sup>. Some concerns also applied to sub-bulleted lists.

<sup>2</sup> One participant noted that this might be better addressed through SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) 14(d) objective regarding prioritization of such substances for assessment.

<sup>3</sup> "To ensure by 2020, that chemicals or chemical uses that pose an unreasonable and otherwise unmanageable risk to human health and the environment<sup>8</sup> based on a science-based risk assessment and taking into account the costs and benefits as well as the availability of safer substitutes and their efficacy, are no longer produced or used for such uses;"

<sup>8</sup> "Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies include: persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs): very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous systems: persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; those subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level."

- 5. Follow-up of the existing active topics**
  - Precaution (case studies / pilot studies) <sup>1</sup>
  - Chemicals and poverty reduction (focus on pesticides proposed)
  - Widening gap
  - Toys and chemical safety
  - Occupational health and safety
  
- 6. E-waste** <sup>1,4</sup>
  - Dialogue on multi dimensional aspects
  - Items not included under Basel such as products near end of life
  - Sharing experiences and technology such as recycling
  
- 7. Ecological sound and integrated pest and vector management (beyond alternatives)**
  
- 8. Drinking water: Contamination with Chemicals** <sup>2</sup>
  - Universal drinking water standards
  - Monitoring Strategies
  - Management Strategies
  - Capacity building in developing countries to implement standards and monitoring programs
  
- 9. Illegal Traffic in dangerous and toxic substances** <sup>5</sup>
  
- 10. SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) and Global Plan of Action (GPA)** <sup>1,2</sup>
  - “Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies include: persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs): very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous systems; persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; those subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level.”
  
- 11. SAICM Draft Global Plan of Action SAICM/ICCM.1/4 Table C items** <sup>1</sup>
  - Preparation of objective information report to support ICCM consideration of topics and items in table C of document SAICM/ICCM.1/4 <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Some participants noted that this issue might be linked to the “Metals” topic.

<sup>5</sup> Outcome of the UNEP Symposium on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals, Prague, Czech Republic (6-8 Nov. 2006) should be considered

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm>

## Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemical Safety

The Forum identified a series of potential next steps to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition that wish to utilize tools and approaches in applying precaution in domestic chemicals management activities. The Forum categorized the next steps into two general areas:

1. Provision of information to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on tools and approaches for making decisions in the face of uncertainty and/or applying precaution in the domestic context, including:
  - a. a portal (links to various tools rather than building an entire infrastructure) combining tools from various stakeholders to enable easy access by stakeholders;
  - b. tool-kits that outline a suite of tools and approaches for applying precaution that can be used by developing countries, countries with economies in transition, and other stakeholders and that describes how and why they may be applied depending on the context of their use;
  - c. practical case examples, both positive and negative, of the tools and approaches used by countries and other stakeholders; and
  - d. a list of contact points within countries and other stakeholders for further information on tools and approaches.
2. Capacity building/skill sharing initiatives to support application of tools and approaches for making decisions in the face of uncertainty and/or applying precaution in the domestic context, including:
  - a. joint capacity building workshops with a wide participation of stakeholders;
  - b. on-going dialogue across countries and stakeholders for sharing lessons and tools/approaches; and
  - c. pilot projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on applying tools/approaches for implementing precaution in chemicals safety in which all stakeholders can participate.

Recognizing the importance of mechanisms for:

- sharing information and lessons learned from case examples, both positive and negative;
- enhancing multi-sectoral dialogue; and
- capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the application of tools and approaches for making decisions in the face of uncertainty and/or applying precaution in the domestic context,

the Forum requests that actions be undertaken between now and Forum VI to implement the identified next steps with the intention of contributing to the implementation of the SAICM. Implementation of these steps should consider:

- 1) the scope of approaches and tools to be included in information sharing and skill-sharing mechanisms;
- 2) the varying domestic regulatory, policy and application contexts;
- 3) current initiatives conducted by intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and governments to minimize duplication of efforts and enhance collaboration;
- 4) ways to make existing tools more accessible to governments and other stakeholders in developing countries;

- 5) possible areas for national pilot projects; and
- 6) possible sources of voluntary financial support for implementing the identified actions.

The Forum invites and encourages IFCS participants to make available such information, assistance, and tools and approaches as described above.

## Heavy Metals: need for further global action?

### The Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium

*Having met in Budapest, at the invitation of the Government of Hungary at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety from 25-29 September 2006,*

*Recognizing the environmental and health effects of mercury, lead and cadmium worldwide,*

*Acknowledging the current and planned international actions to promote risk reduction of mercury, lead and cadmium in other fora such as UNEP, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNECE, OECD and the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM),*

*Mindful for example, of ongoing work in the UNEP global mercury programme and noting that global assessments on cadmium and lead are to be reported to the UNEP Governing Council in 2007,*

*Also mindful of the concern of developing countries regarding the exports of restricted products to those nations,*

*Further Recognizing that the risks from mercury, lead and cadmium need to be addressed by further global, regional, national and local actions, as appropriate,*

*Also recognizing that current efforts to minimize use and reduce releases of mercury have not yet fully addressed the global risks and need to be expanded and adequately supported,*

*Recognizing the importance of public awareness, communication, information exchange, education at all levels and capacity building for the implementation of risk reduction measures on mercury, lead and cadmium,*

*Reaffirming our commitment to the Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety and the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, and specifically to the key goals outlined in the Agenda 21, Chapter 19; the Forum III document *Priorities for Action beyond 2000*; the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation paragraph 23.g and the goals of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 14,*

1. *Call for IFCS participants to initiate actions that will address the health, including occupational health and the environmental impact of mercury, lead and cadmium;*
2. *Invite WHO and others to re-enforce, complement and widen actions towards this aim;*
3. *Urge IFCS participants to initiate, continue, and intensify actions, as appropriate, to address the excess supply of mercury on a global scale through a variety of possible measures, such as an export prohibition preventing excess mercury from re-entering the global market and a global phase out of primary production of mercury;*
4. *Call upon countries, regional economic integration organisations and stakeholder groups, in particular industry, to consider and, where appropriate use, a variety of activities, including environmentally sound use, storage, recycling and disposal of mercury, lead and cadmium and partnerships programmes and voluntary agreements, alongside more binding instruments, as appropriate, to promote management of problems related to mercury, lead and cadmium;*

5. *Invite* the UNEP Governing Council to initiate and strengthen voluntary actions at the global level for mercury, lead and cadmium, as appropriate, including partnerships and other activities;
6. *Also invite* the UNEP Governing Council to give high priority to considering further measures to address risks to human health and the environment from mercury and, measures, as appropriate, on lead and cadmium, by assessing the need for further action and considering a range of options, including the possibility of establishing a legally binding instrument, as well as partnerships, and other activities, in addition to ongoing discussions on these topics;
7. *Invite* the UNEP Governing Council to consider establishing a global mercury use and/ or release reduction goal;
8. *Urge* IFCS participants to support and contribute to the further deliberations of the ICCM in the framework of SAICM for the reduction of risks from mercury, lead and cadmium with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
9. *Further urge* IFCS participants to support and contribute to the Global Partnerships for Mercury Reductions;
10. *Urge* the ICCM in the framework of SAICM, taking into account possible decisions by the UNEP Governing Council, to consider actions at the local, national, regional and global levels for mercury, lead and cadmium, as appropriate, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
11. *Call upon* developed countries, and other countries that are in a position to do so, to support these activities.

Forum V participants thank the Government of Switzerland for its generosity and initiative in sponsoring a useful side event on heavy metals in Budapest, 23 September 2006.

## Toys and Chemical Safety

The Forum considered 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.

The Forum recommended the following action items:

1. Given the potential enhanced exposures and/or vulnerabilities of children to chemicals, the known hazards from certain chemicals already detected in some toys, as well as the incomplete information about chemicals in toys and their impact on child health, the Forum encourages the use of a full range of tools and approaches including prevention and precaution to ensure that toys are safe. Such tools and approaches should be used by
  - designers and manufacturers of toys,
  - decisions makers in supply and sales of toys, and
  - governments and regulators working in the area of toy safety.
  
2. Given the information gaps that exist, the Forum encourages dialog among governments, toy manufacturers including those in the informal sector in developing countries and countries in transition, retailers, consumer groups, and other stakeholders to:
  - identify chemicals of concern used in toys, and potential substitution options,
  - develop strategies for sharing information on chemicals commonly used in toys and adverse effects from their use,
  - encourage countries and regions to develop and share the results of surveillance of chemical content of toys with other countries and all stakeholders,
  - promote research on impacts of chemicals on product safety and children's health in the context of toy use, and
  - support educational efforts to increase awareness of issues of chemical safety and toys among critical groups such as parents and children, health care professionals, small and medium scale manufacturers and the informal sector.
  
3. Given the increasing international trade in toys (including on the internet) and existing differences in toy safety standards globally, governments and industry are encouraged to work towards developing guidance for toy safety and harmonization of international standards. Important areas to address may include:
  - determination and documentation of the chemical content of toys,
  - actions towards elimination of use in toys of substances, such as lead and mercury, that are likely to result in adverse toxic effects,
  - actions to protect children from exposure to hazardous chemicals in toys,
  - safety labelling.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### OPENING OF FORUM

1. The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum V) was held 25-29 September 2006 in Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the Government of Hungary. Eighty-one governments participated in the meeting, together with representatives from twelve intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and representatives from sixty-four non-governmental organizations (NGO). A list of participants is provided in Annex 6. Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert (Thailand) officiated as President, with Mr David Brown (USA), Prof Jamidu Katima (Tanzania), Prof Boris Kurlyandskiy (Russian Federation), Dr Ethelyn P. Nieto (Philippines) and Mr Julio Monreal Urrutia (Chile), serving as Vice Presidents. The Forum designated Dr Jules de Kom (Suriname) as Rapporteur for Forum V.

2. Participants were welcomed by opening statements from the President of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Senior Advisor on Health Economics of the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, who noted that transparency, openness and inclusiveness are crucial elements of the IFCS decision-making process and spirit, and Dr Katalin Szili, President of Parliament, Hungary, who highlighted the increased efforts of the Government to protect public health from chemical threats and urged participants to identify methods for ensuring safe chemicals management. Dr Lajos Molnár, Minister of Health, Hungary, highlighted measures to advance chemical safety, including developing chemical safety databases and increasing public awareness, especially among vulnerable groups. Dr Miklós Persányi, Minister of Environment and Water, Hungary, noted the role of the IFCS in the implementation of SAICM and recommended strengthening IFCS so that it may continue to be used to support the sound management of chemicals.

3. The opening session continued with keynote speakers. H.E. Dr Fatemeh Vaez-Javadi, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, noted the widening gap between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition in terms of capacity to manage chemical threats to human health and environment, and urged prioritizing support for information exchange and technology transfer. Dr Joel Forman, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA, addressed the consequences to children's health of early exposure to chemicals, underlining the high social and economic costs of harmful exposure, calling for a global public health policy on chemicals. Ms Virgie Dammay, Alliance of Peasants in the Cordillera Homeland, the Philippines, said that agrochemical use has resulted in high incidence of health impacts in farming communities, and introduced a sustainable traditional farming system promoted by her organization which does not use any synthetic chemicals and reduces health risk. Ms Anabela Lemos, Environmental Justice, Mozambique, reported on civil society efforts to stop unsafe chemical disposal methods in Mozambique, noting that informed civil society participation in chemical policy-making processes saves time and money, raises awareness and facilitates local people to be engaged in action.

4. The Opening Session continued with the presentation of the Special Recognition Award by the IFCS President, recognizing exceptional contributions to a special topic or activity related to chemical safety, and the Award of Merit recognizing overall contribution to chemical safety. Prof Dr Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand and the Chulabhorn Research Institute received the Special Recognition Award for exceptional efforts to increase scientific and technical capacities and capabilities for chemical safety through the work and achievements of the Chulabhorn Research Institute. The Award acknowledges with deep gratitude the special contributions to the goals of global chemical safety that have been made by the education and scientific exchange programmes at the Chulabhorn Research

Institute. The wide range of specialized training in science and technology particularly in toxicology provided by the Chulabhorn Research Institute substantively contributes to building the national and regional human resources and expertise which are an essential requirement for chemical safety. In accepting the award, Prof Dr Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn noted the need to enhance capacity building efforts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and the important role of the IFCS in facilitating capacity building so that concerned stakeholders may work more effectively to achieve chemical safety.

5. Mr Roy Hickman, Canada, and Prof Dr Ulrich Schlottmann, Germany, were awarded the Award of Merit. Mr Hickman was recognized for his substantive leadership role in the conceptualization and planning for the IFCS leading up to UNCED and following the adoption of Agenda 21 as well as his leadership as President of the IFCS from 1997 to 2000 overseeing the preparation of the IFCS Priorities for Action beyond 2000 and the Bahia Declaration. The value of these documents was recognized by the World Summit on Sustainable Development which called for them to be the basis for the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management. For over 30 years, Mr Hickman provided leadership and guidance on a wide range of chemical safety topics and issues serving as a member or chair of numerous regional and international committees and programmes in international organizations. Prof Dr Schlottmann was recognized for his active contributions over three decades to the advancement of chemical safety at the national, regional and international levels. Prof Schlottmann is in the unique position of participating in and contributing to the work of most international organizations and bodies working in the field of chemical safety. He has provided leadership and cross cutting policy input to guide international efforts and achievements working in the forefront. He was also the initiator of the European Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in 1989 which resulted in strengthening of health and environment linkages work in Europe. This approach has served as a model for other regions of the world. Through his personal commitment and dedication, Prof Dr Schlottmann has supported and promoted the sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries in economic transition. He was the catalysts for the establishment of the "Senior Professor Service for Sustainability and Chemical Safety", an UNESCO awarding winning partnership project building Curricular Master of Science Courses for Natural Scientists in the Developing Countries. Prof Dr Schlottmann delivered a message to Forum V from Mr Hickman who was unable to attend. In his message Mr Hickman stressed the substantive progress that has been made over the last decade and the importance of looking forward. Prof Dr Schlottmann in his remarks stressed the relevance of Forum V for deciding the future of IFCS, reviewed achievements of IFCS, and highlighted the IFCS' spirit of cooperation and openness.

## **PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS REPORT**

6. The IFCS President presented his progress report, an historical review on international chemicals management efforts and the 12 years since the establishment of IFCS concluding with his perspective for the future of global chemical safety. His report reflected on the IFCS accumulated valuable experience in global collaboration on chemical safety with the aim of helping all concerned to reflect on best practices and lessons learned and to identify the way forward to further achievement. The President cited the "Triangle that Moves the Mountain" strategy proposed by Prof Prawase Wasi, a prominent social thinker, as a model for the momentous tasks ahead. The strategy is a triangle working towards sustained and peaceful development and consists of knowledge generation and management, social advocacy and policy and political linkages and advocacy. He stressed that the most important characteristics of an effective mechanism are inclusiveness and equal partnerships, transparency, and a horizontal structure and process.

7. The IFCS President paid special tribute to Dr Georg Karlaganis (Switzerland), Prof Jamidu Katima (Tanzania) and Dr Romeo Quijano (Pesticides Action Network, Philippines) for their exceptional work and contributions to IFCS efforts.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS CONCERNING FORUM IV**

8. The IFCS Executive Secretary reported on preparations for Forum V. She noted the work of Forum Standing Committee (FSC), who met via teleconferences and three face to face meetings between Forum IV and Forum V. She also explained that the Forum V agenda was developed by the FSC following the IFCS practice of a lead sponsor approach. The Proposed Forum V Time Schedule was designed to provide regional groups with adequate time for discussion and formulation of regional recommendations to be brought forward to plenary.

#### **Proposed provisional agenda and time schedule**

9. The President presented the Proposed Provisional Agenda (IFCS/ForumV/01w), Proposed Provisional Annotated Agenda (IFCS/ForumV/02w), and Proposed General Time Schedule for Forum V (IFCS/ForumV/03w). He provided a brief introduction to the agenda items and highlighted the issues to be considered and actions requested.

10. The Forum adopted the Proposed Provisional Agenda, together with the proposed Time Schedule.

11. A series of side events and informal lunchtime presentations on special topics were organized by several groups of participants. These included: Health and environmental concerns associated with heavy metals; global needs for further action? (sponsor Government of Switzerland), Essential tools for chemical safety - IPCS INCHEM and INTOX (sponsor WHO/IPCS), Resource tool- Sound management of pesticides and diagnosis and treatment of pesticide poisoning (sponsors WHO, UNEP, University Sains Malaysia), South to South Cooperation (sponsor SAICM secretariat), Asbestos - a global threat (sponsor ICFTU), Chemical Harm and Chronic Disease: An overview of recent studies linking toxic chemical exposures to health outcomes (sponsor IPEN), Global Chemical Database Initiatives (sponsor National Library of Medicine, USA), UNIDO activities on chemicals (sponsor UNIDO), GHS (sponsors UNITAR, ILO, OECD), Ecological sound and integrated pest & vector management (sponsor Pesticides Action Network)

#### **IFCS ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

##### **IFCS Financial Statement**

12. The IFCS Executive Secretariat presented the IFCS Financial Statement (IFCS/FORUM-V/04w). The report presented information on the IFCS Trust Fund for organizational and administrative arrangements, in-kind contributions, and the IFCS Twinning Funds (government and NGO). Contributions from Germany, Switzerland, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the International POPS elimination Network (IPEN) to the Twinning Funds to support participation at Forum V was acknowledged with appreciation. Following its consideration and decision on the future of IFCS (agenda item 5), the Forum approved the proposed budget for 2007-2008. (Annex 3)

13. During the discussion on the future of IFCS, Pesticides Action Network announced numerous pledges for financial support from non-governmental organizations and private individuals to support the future work of IFCS, and called upon other governments and non-governmental organizations to contribute. Germany reiterated its €103,000 pledge. Switzerland underlined its commitment to sound chemicals management, to a strong and efficient international chemicals regime, and to IFCS and announced a financial contribution of US\$50,000 annually to the core budget of IFCS, possible in kind contributions such as free meeting space in Geneva or work on specific issues such as has been done in the past e.g. for heavy metals, and possible additional financial support for specific activities such as for the side-event conference on heavy metals or the preparations of Forum V. Thailand announced a contribution of at least US\$75,000 over three years, subject to government approval. IPEN committed to raise US\$15,000 to ensure NGO participation at Forum VI, as it did at Forum V. The Alliance of Peasants In The Cordillera Homeland made a symbolic pledge of US\$10, saying that IFCS is an important forum for communicating the views of indigenous peoples. Financial contributions were announced by Trinidad And Tobago (US\$1000 annually), Tanzania (US\$1000), Philippines (US\$1000), International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) International (US\$500), ISDE Austria (€1000), Asociación Argentina Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AMMA) (US\$500,) Agenda For Environment And Responsible Development Tanzania (US\$1000), Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Toxicologists (US\$500), National Toxic Network Australia (US\$100), THANAL Kerala, India (US\$200), PAN International (US\$1000), Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (US\$100), Foundation for Realization of Ideas (FRI) Belarus (US\$100), Trade Unions (ICFTU) (US\$1000), Lowell Center for Sustainable Production (US\$1000 + in-kind staff time (100 hours)), Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Kenya (US\$100). Nigeria pledged to provide in-kind resources as well as an unspecified financial contribution. A number of private individuals also pledged financial and in-kind contributions: E. Nieto (US\$100 plus additional contribution in several months), F. Morales (US\$10), R. Quijano (US\$50), S. Rengam (US\$50), M. C. Colonzo (US\$50), A. Lemos (US\$50), J. Weinberg & family (US\$1000), G. Wisner & family (US\$100), B. Beeler & family (US\$100), S. Wibulpolprasert & wife (US\$500), J. Mourin (US\$50), M. Watts (US\$50), A. von Hildebrand & wife (€183), P. Chemin (€100 minimum), T. Fukushima (5000 Forint), A. Ogihara (2000 Forint), Japanese delegate (2000 Forint), G. Karlaganis & wife (US\$400), K. Shea (100 hours of work). In an informal donors meeting, representatives of Cyprus, France, Norway and the Republic of Korea stated they will discuss funding possibilities with government ministries. Japan indicated it would contribute in 2007 (level not to exceed 2006 contribution). Canada and USA offered in-kind contributions of support through the arrangements for FSC and working group teleconferences.

## **FUTURE OF IFCS**

14. Dr George Karlaganis (Switzerland), the lead sponsor of the agenda item, introduced the Forum V document “Thought Starter on Future of IFCS” prepared by the FSC, (IFCS/FORUM-V/02-TS). Dr Karlaganis explained that in light of the adoption of the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM), the Forum should discuss and agree on the role and function of IFCS in this renewed and strengthened international chemicals regime. The presentation laid out the history and successes of IFCS, and possible options for the future of IFCS. The function of the IFCS as a brainstorming and discussion forum, including discussion of new and emerging issues, was highlighted.

15. In the discussion, participants agreed upon the importance of a strong international chemicals regime that was cost effective and not duplicative. The value added role of IFCS contributing to the implementation of SAICM was stressed by the African, Latin American and Caribbean, and Central and Eastern European Regions. Many participants called for a

mutually supportive approach for SAICM and IFCS noting the need for both policy setting and brainstorming forums. The majority of the participants stressed the importance of continuing the IFCS as the open, transparent and inclusive process supporting interaction between governments and other stakeholders. One participant explained its proposal for sun setting the IFCS or merging it with the ICCM/SAICM. Most participants underlined the need for IFCS to continue as a forum serving as a bridge between science and policy and for discussing issues and building consensus in a more depoliticised framework than ICCM; issues such as the unresolved table C of the draft SAICM Global Plan of Action (of document SAICM/ICCM.1/4) and gaps in relation to Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. Several noted that while IFCS might be integrated with SAICM, this could not happen before ICCM2 in 2009.

16. It was agreed to establish an ad hoc working group to further discuss the future of the IFCS and come back with a proposal for a resolution. The group was chaired by Dr Karlaganis.

17. The ad hoc working group presented its conclusions to the plenary on Friday, 29 September 2006. Forum V unanimously adopted a resolution on the future of the IFCS which notes the unique role that the Forum has in the international chemicals regime, recognizes the desirability for IFCS to continue to enhance the implementation of SAICM, the need to avoid duplication and use resources efficiently, and establishes a working group to prepare a draft decision for Forum VI on the future role and functions of IFCS including institutional arrangements and its possible relationship to ICCM. Forum VI, if it so decides, may propose a draft decision for possible consideration by the ICCM. The Resolution can be found in the Executive Summary.

#### **The Future of IFCS – possible future topics for the forum**

18. Dr George Karlaganis (Switzerland) presented possible topics for Forum VI. He proposed that the next meeting should have nanomaterials as a main theme, because this subject will increase in relevance in the years to come and the scientific and regulatory challenges are large. In addition it was proposed that several groups of priority substances could be a topic, such as PBTs, vPvBs, CMRs and endocrine disrupters. Metals, such as lead, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel could also be a topic. Furthermore, a continuation of topics on precaution, the widening gap, chemicals and poverty, and toys and chemical safety were proposed as possible further topics.

19. In the discussion, many participants supported the proposal of the topic of nanomaterials, while a few did not. OECD referred to its on-going work noting the difficult nature of the work and invited non-OECD countries to take part in the discussions. Many countries supported discussing priority groups of substances, including metals, and continuing the discussions on poverty reduction and chemicals management in a practical way and means of addressing the widening gap. Other topics proposed and supported by a number of participants included hazardous waste, in particular E-waste, the items in table C of SAICM document SAICM/ICCM.1/4, the groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies substitution listed in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and Global Plan of Action (SAICM/ICCM.1/7, 8 March 2006), and illegal trade. Several participants stressed the need to avoid duplication of work ongoing in other fora; a number of participants noted that IFCS would address different aspects of the topics and therefore not duplicate but be complementary and supportive of the work in other fora. The IFCS President reminded the Forum on the ICCM Resolution 3 in which "The Conference recognizing "the unique, multifaceted and significant role which the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety has played in the area of sound chemicals management at the international, regional and national levels, *1.Invites* the Forum to continue its important role in providing an open,

transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues, and to continue to contribute through this to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the work of other chemicals-related international organizations and institutions; 2. *Requests* the Strategic Approach secretariat to establish and maintain a working relationship with the Forum in order to draw upon its expertise."

20. In a subsequent plenary session, Dr G. Karlaganis presented an annotated list of possible topics for the next Forum meeting for consideration by the plenary. The list took into account the plenary discussions. Participants expressed support for a range of the topics in particular substitution/alternatives and linking the topic to poverty reduction, and nanoparticles/nanomaterials/nanotechnology. A number of participants supported focusing on 1 or 2 topics for an in depth discussion (e.g. nanoparticles and/or substitution/alternatives) for several days with the remainder of the time being devoted to other topics in shorter sessions.

21. The Forum considered several options for the process for selecting and preparing topics for the future Forum agenda. One participant favoured Forum V taking a decision, another proposed a consensus based process by the FSC, others expressed the view that the work should strive for consensus but should not be restricted by consensus. The majority supported a process in which the FSC would consider topics and guide the preparation process. The President called the Forum's attention to para 14 of the IFCS Terms of Reference that states: "14. Agenda: The Secretariat, in consultation with and under the guidance of the President of the Forum, shall prepare a Provisional Agenda for each session of the Forum, including a recommendation for the meeting rapporteur. Any participant in the Forum may request the Secretariat to include specific items in the Provisional Agenda prior to its distribution. The Provisional Agenda shall be communicated to all participants in the Forum at least two months before the opening of the session. After the communication of the Provisional Agenda and before the adoption of the Agenda by the Forum, participants may propose only items of an important and urgent nature." The President acknowledged the benefits of consensus and proposed that the IFCS Terms of Reference be followed and the FSC 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 taking into consideration the input and concerns provided by Forum V participants. The Forum agreed with the proposal.

22. The list of topics for the future Forum of IFCS agreed by Forum V is presented in the Executive Summary.

## **THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

23. Dr Michael Dreyer (Germany), lead sponsor of the agenda item, opened the session and introduced the session facilitator Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department for Protection of the Human Environment, WHO. Dr Neira underlined the important link between poverty and environmental health by mentioning the recent incident where WHO was called upon to assist in the response to the dumping of 5,000 tons chemical waste in 13 cities in Cote d'Ivoire with 70,000 seeking attendance in health care facilities and 8 deaths including children. Prof Lynn Goldman (USA) introduced the Forum V document "Poverty Reduction and the Sound Management of Chemicals" (IFCS/Forum V/04-TS). The following presenters made presentations on this subject:

- Prof Lynn Goldman (USA) "Public Health Perspective: Toxic and Poverty".
- Ms Jill Hanna (EU) "Persuading aid donors that sound chemicals management is part of poverty eradication – a European Commission perspective".

- Ms Sarojeni Rengam, (PAN - Asia and Pacific) “Poverty and Pesticides: protecting health and environment”.
- Mr Nelson Manda (Zambia) “Sound chemicals management in non-OECD countries”.

24. The discussion focused on the importance of chemicals management and its inclusion in the development dialogue between donors and recipients. The issues of the sound management of chemicals and poverty reduction should be discussed in various fora. It was remarked that the sound management of chemicals is largely missing in the poverty reduction strategy papers of the World Bank and that practical guidance is needed to assist countries to include this important issue in poverty reduction efforts. A number of participants stressed that the linkage between the sound management of chemicals and poverty reduction should be included when addressing individual chemicals management topics.

### **APPLYING PRECAUTION IN THE CONTEXT OF CHEMICAL SAFETY**

25. Dr Joel Tickner (Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, USA), co-lead sponsor of the agenda item, noted that despite the inclusion of precaution in several recent international chemicals agreements there is a continued need to improve understandings regarding the differences in domestic chemicals regulations and how decisions are made under conditions of uncertainty. He noted that the rationale for this session was to have an open discussion focusing on application of precaution, including tools and approaches for decision-makers (particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition) and potential next steps. The goal was not to define or redefine precaution but rather focus on its concrete application, thus leaving out discussion on legal and trade considerations except as they relate to application of tools and approaches for precaution in the domestic context or decision making under uncertainty.

26. The session began with a series of presentations from governments and other stakeholders from a range of regions about tools and approaches for applying precaution/decision-making under uncertainty with regards to chemical risks. The following presenters made presentations on this subject:

- Dr Joel Tickner “What the session is about, setting the scene”
- Dr Franz Perrez (Switzerland) “Tools and Approaches for Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemical Safety: Introduction”
- Ms Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden) ”PRIO - A tool that facilitates enterprises to practise precaution”
- Mr John Shoaff (USA) “Chemicals Reviews and Tools Case Study”
- Dr Jesus Marin Ruiz (Nicaragua) “Case Study: Precaution as applied in Nicaraguan pesticide control, and the chilling effect of a regional trade and integration agreement”
- Dr Romy Quijano (PAN – Philippines) “Case study: Applying precaution approaches”
- Mr Stephen Johnson (Boots Alliance, UK) “Chemicals in Consumer Products”
- Dr Joel Tickner “Summary of responses to questionnaire and interviews and opening of panel, reminder of session goals”

27. Some key themes from these presentations included:

- There exist numerous government, industry, and NGO tools and approaches for applying precaution in chemicals safety at the country, regional, and firm levels.
- Precaution is most often implicit although it is sometimes explicit in national chemicals policy or management regimes.
- Developing countries and countries with economies in transition need basic foundational tools/infrastructure, as well as capacity for their application and enforcement to apply

- precaution in practice. Yet, there are good examples from both developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on tools/approaches.
- Focusing on safer alternatives to potentially dangerous chemicals and implementation of goals for safer chemistry is an important focus of applying precaution.
  - There are clear differences between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition with regards to how precaution is applied in practice. For example, developed countries have more sophisticated computer based tools and developing countries and countries with economies in transition rely more on community based and monitoring processes.
  - Yet, stakeholders in both developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition face challenges, including:
    - Information
    - Institutional capacity
    - Trade – in particular, even when tools for applying precaution are in place, trade constraints may disallow their use,
    - Acceptance of non-traditional forms of knowledge.
  - In all cases scientific information and stakeholder engagement are critical for successful application of precaution.
28. In the discussion several points were raised by delegates with respect to tools and approaches for applying precaution in practice:
- Developing countries and countries with economies in transition have a strong interest in applying precaution, but face substantial challenges that inhibit its application in practice; in particular access to information, scientific facility, institutional capacity, and enforcement. What are some ways to help these countries develop these capacities?
  - Tools and approaches to apply precaution should ensure that risks are progressively reduced and risk shifting does not occur.
  - There are already some efforts to provide capacity to countries to support decision-making under uncertainty and these could be enhanced.
  - Tools and approaches to apply precaution should ensure protection of the most vulnerable populations, for example children.
  - Tools and mechanisms to ensure reliable information on chemicals to inform decision-making under uncertainty are critical (access to information/right to know).
  - Applying precaution can range from gathering better information to make more informed decisions to chemical bans.
  - Several stakeholders expressed a concern about the exclusive use of quantitative risk assessment as a decision-making tool and the need for new tools that better incorporate uncertainty.
  - The need for informal dialogue processes involving a range of stakeholders to improve decisions under uncertainty was noted by several delegates. This can involve the establishment of open, transparent scientific and stakeholder committees.
  - Application of precaution is not in contradiction with science. Rather it requires new tools to apply science and other sources of information (such as community knowledge) in decisions.
29. Several points were made with regards to country needs and next steps, including:
- There was general support among delegates regarding the value of applying precaution in chemicals safety.
  - Several developing countries and countries with economies in transition noted a need to build capacity and bridge the gap between developed and less developed nations with regards to tools and approaches for applying precaution in chemicals management. Several developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition indicated a desire to establish an ad hoc working group to stimulate information exchange on tools, information sources, and approaches. This could happen intersessionally.



































































**ANNEX 3**

**IFCS Trust Fund - Budget of the IFCS Secretariat 2007 - 2008**



<b>IFCS Trust Fund</b>				
<b>Approved Budget of the IFCS Secretariat (US\$)</b>				
<b>2007 - 2008</b>				
	<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>	
	<b>Person Months</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Person Months</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Executive Secretary	12	182,000	12	182,000
Professional staff				
Secretarial/administrative financial staff	24	160,000	24	160,000
Temporary staff				
Consultants		30,000		30,000
Duty travel (staff and temporary advisors) <sup>9</sup>		20,000		25,000
Document Production - translation, word processing		10,000		35,000
- duplication, printing etc		1,000		1,000
Communications: - telephone (including teleconferences), fax, mailing		5,000		5,000
Equipment, supplies and miscellaneous operating expenses		5,000		15,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>413,000</b>		<b>453,000</b>
Programme support costs (13%)		53,690		58,890
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>466,690</b>		<b>511,890</b>

<sup>9</sup> Travel expenses include travel costs for core IFCS Secretariat staff, all seconded/detailed staff (in Geneva and elsewhere), and temporary advisors.



**ANNEX 4**

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



## FORUM V

### ELECTED IFCS OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Hungary
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	Tanzania (United Republic of) Iran (Islamic Republic of) Slovenia Suriname Switzerland

#### FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE

<b>REGION</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ALTERNATE</b>
Africa	Burkina Faso Zambia	Angola Malawi
Asia & the Pacific	China Korea (Republic of) Thailand	<i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i>
Central & Eastern Europe	Belarus Latvia	<i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i>
Latin America & the Caribbean	Brazil Chile	Argentina <sup>1</sup> Haiti <sup>1</sup>
Western Europe & Other Groups	Austria Germany USA	<i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i>

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<sup>1</sup> Regional alternate



**ANNEX 5**

**African Statement on the  
Dumping of Hazardous Wastes in Cote d'Ivoire**



## **AFRICAN STATEMENT ON THE DUMPING OF HAZARDOUS WASTES IN COTE D'IVOIRE**

### **Submitted by the African Region**

1. In August 2006 an illegal shipment of toxic wastes comprised of 581 tonnes of gasoline cargo residue contaminated with hydrogen sulphide and organochlorines was illegally dumped in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire. This shipment which originated from Estonia was meant to have been disposed of in Amsterdam. However, the shipment was rejected in Amsterdam by the Netherlands Authorities because of complaints of "noxious smells".
2. Following the rejection, the shipment of toxic waste found its way to Abidjan as an alternative disposal destination and was illegally dumped in several dump sites around the city. After the dumping, a human tragedy was reported with over 16,000 poisoned people with vomiting, nausea, and respiratory difficulties among other health effects. Six people among them children died from the toxic exposure.
3. We the countries of the African region, participating in the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), held from 25-29 September 2006 in Budapest, Hungary, express sympathy and solidarity with the people of Côte d'Ivoire, and condemn this practice of rejecting, exporting and dumping hazardous waste in Africa which violates international agreements and undermines human dignity.
4. The tragedy makes clear the urgent need for Governments and all stakeholders to commit to working together to ensure that a similar tragedy never happens again.
5. We therefore send this strong message from the current Forum that Africa will not tolerate being the dumping ground for hazardous waste from any source and that this type of activity is unacceptable at any time.
6. This Forum should note that the issue of "prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products", which is yet to be adequately addressed has been on the global agenda since 1992 Rio. We therefore welcome the organization of the Symposium on illegal traffic by UNEP through the support of the Government of Germany in Prague, Czech Republic from 6-8 November 2006. We believe that the workshop will provide starting points for the work that needs to be done by both developed, countries with economies in transition and developing countries.
7. In addressing the current situation in Cote d'Ivoire, the African region recommends that:
  - a) Investigations be undertaken to determine those liable in this event for contravening the principles of International Treaties and Conventions relating to the movement and dumping of chemical waste, and instituting strict penalties to discourage future practices of illegal dumping of hazardous waste.

b) Those that are found to be responsible must be liable to pay for a full assessment of the health and environmental impacts, cleanup and remediation, health care, and compensation to those affected by the dumped toxics.

c) Relevant UN agencies, the EU and other developed countries provide assistance to Cote d'Ivoire on monitoring of the situation in view of the long-term adverse effects to human health and the environment.

d) There is need for further global discussion on the applicability of the "liability and compensation" and "polluter pays" principles which are important elements excluded from the Global Plan of Action and placed in Table C in the "List of activities for which consensus was not reached at the 3rd Preparatory meeting for SAICM".

e) All governments who ratified the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Toxic and Hazardous Wastes and other stakeholders especially from the developed countries should keep their obligations under the Convention and other related international and regional agreements.

f) Developed countries should implement illegal trafficking controls in their territories diligently in order to prevent illegal dumping of hazardous wastes and goods in developing countries.

8. In recognition of the gravity of illegal traffic as a regional priority, support is being sought for projects under SAICM to cover five key areas of activities, which will include:

- Establishment of sub-regional management and monitoring systems to prevent illegal traffic;
- Establishment of mechanisms to promote cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders;
- Establishment and maintenance of information networks;
- Development and implementation of the necessary regulatory frameworks with penalties for contravention;
- Establishment of the necessary import and export control mechanisms and strengthening of customs enforcement capacity.

9. The African region therefore request the IFCS to constitute a working group to look at the challenges of illegal traffic for developing countries and present a report to Forum VI, taking into account the outcome of the symposium on illegal traffic organized by UNEP in November 2006.