



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

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
Global Partnerships for Chemical Safety

Mr Denis Aitken
Assistant Director-general
General Management
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

1 July 2009

Dear Mr Aitken,

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), I would like to express our deep appreciation for the valuable support that we have received through the provision of the secretariat services at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva since the establishment of IFCS in 1994. I wish to express our sincere gratitude to WHO for hosting the IFCS and enabling its achievements.

The Forum Standing Committee (FSC) has the responsibility to guide the work of IFCS between its sessions and to assist in fund raising efforts for the IFCS Trust Fund. In light of the decision of the International Conference on Chemicals Management not to integrate IFCS into the Conference as an advisory body at this time, the FSC met to consider the future work and arrangements for IFCS. Only a session of the Forum itself can modify the IFCS terms of reference or take a decision on the future of the IFCS. The last session of the Forum, Forum VI, decided that until ICCM integrates the Forum into ICCM, the Forum and the FSC will continue to operate under their respective terms of reference. At this time there are sufficient funds remaining in the IFCS Trust Fund to operate for approximately 4 months and IFCS has not received official pledges for future financial contributions. Thus, the FSC agreed to suspend its work for the foreseeable future and by doing so the result is to also "suspend" the work of the IFCS. The work of the FSC and IFCS may resume in the future if adequate resources are made available.

On the advice of the FSC, I am writing to request a suspension of the *Statement of administrative and financial arrangements relating to the provision of the Secretariat for the IFCS at the Headquarters of the World Health Organization* in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Statement. The FSC would be very grateful if WHO would agree to continue to host the IFCS website so that the wealth of information it contains is not lost.

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cc: IFCS Forum Standing Committee

IFCS has played a substantive role in advancing public health actions in the area of chemical safety not only at the international level but also in countries. I am confident that the success of IFCS in raising awareness and promoting the role and work of WHO will continue to have lasting impacts.

I look forward to receiving a response from WHO and in particular would welcome any suggestions on possible future arrangements for IFCS to support its continuing mandate and endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla
IFCS President