



INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

IOMC

**The Inter-Organization
Programme for the Sound
Management of Chemicals**



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Overview of Presentation

- What is the IOMC?
- Objectives of the IOMC
- The IOCC – The team and how it operates
- Activities of the IOMC
- Why the IOMC works well?
- Incentives for IGOs to participate in the IOMC
- Benefits for the IOMC outside partners



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What is the IOMC?

- **9 Organizations** active on chemical safety issues
 - Current membership:
UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, OECD
 - Observing organizations: World Bank and UNDP
- Established in **1995**, in response to the Rio Summit
- MOU signed by the Executive Heads of each organization
- Inter-Organization Co-ordinating Committee (IOCC) serves as main decision-making body

Objectives of the IOMC



To achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment

- By strengthening international **cooperation** in the field of chemicals
- By increasing the **effectiveness** of the programmes of the 9 organizations
- By promoting **coordination** of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately

The IOMC Vision Statement

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is the pre-eminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals.

The IOCC – the Team

Representatives of the 9 organizations

- **UNEP** – **Per M. Bakken**, Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch
- **ILO** – **Sameera Al-Tuwaijri**, Director, SafeWork Programme
- **FAO** - **Peter E. Kenmore**, Chief, Plant Protection Service
- **WHO** - **Tim Meredith**, Senior Adviser, WHO/IPCS
- **UNIDO** - **Heinz Leuenberger**, Director, Energy and Cleaner Production Branch
- **UNITAR** – **Craig Boljkovac**, Manager, Chemicals and Waste Management
- **OECD** - **Robert Visser**, Deputy Director, Environment Directorate
- **UNDP** - **Suely Carvalho**, Chief, Montreal Protocol Unit
- **World Bank** - **Steve Gorman**, GEF Executive Coordinator
- Secretariat: **Carolyn Vickers**, WHO & **Beatrice Grenier**, consultant

How does the IOCC operate?

- Coordinating Committee: representatives of the 9 organizations
- Two regular meetings per year (+ ad hoc meetings + teleconferences)
- Rotating Chair: ILO presently
- Administration and Secretariat: WHO presently
- Roles
 - to coordinate (planning, funding, implementation, monitoring)
 - to identify gaps or overlaps in international activities
 - to recommend common policies

Activities of the IOMC

- Scope of activities: **key areas of chemical safety** as described in Agenda 21, Chapter 19 and SAICM Global Plan of Action
- Exchange of information on international activities
 - IOMC Inventory of Activities
 - IOMC Calendar of Meetings
 - Selected publications (IOMC source guide for SAICM implementation, IOMC Guide for Developing a Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation)
 - Joint activities (GHS, ASP, PIC, PRTRs, POPs)
 - Joint information papers (e.g. for SAICM ICCM meetings)



Why the IOMC works well?

1. Formalized membership & institutional commitment (MOU)
2. Joint ownership and management (i.e. membership fee)
3. Shared responsibilities
 - Rotating chair
 - Lead organizations take on specific assignments
4. Scope of work clearly defined
5. Continuity and commitment of its members



Incentives for IGOs to participate in the IOMC

- Requests for coherent IGO approaches and coordination (e.g. COPs, SAICM, IFCS)
- Benefits of participation in the IOMC
 - Potential leverage of initiatives and policies of individual organizations and opportunity to identify opportunities early, e.g. for emerging issues/new activities.
 - Membership increases prestige and credibility (use of IOMC logo)
 - Issues can be resolved internally



Benefits for the IOMC outside partners

- One-stop shop for addressing requests

- Optimal coordination of activities and efficiency of decision-making process through:
 - Full consultation and permanent contacts
 - Joint planning
 - Avoidance of duplication among IGOs



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Thank you for your attention!

More @ www.iomc.ch

- IOMC Brochure
- Public reports of meetings