Chemical Safety for Sustainable Development

FORUM V

Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Budapest, Hungary
25 - 29 September 2006

Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemical Safety
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.