

**Advance text from Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its second session held 11-15 May 2009**

**Resolution II/5: Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives**

*The Conference,*

*Recognizing* the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list perfluorooctyl sulfonate and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride,

*Recognizing also* that further scientific research may be needed to show whether certain other perfluorinated chemicals are persistent, widely present in humans and the environment, have a long half-life in humans, and possibly cause adverse effects in humans and the environment,

*Mindful* that the development of alternatives to replace these chemicals, or new processes and technologies to reduce and eliminate their presence as impurities in products, has been a significant technical challenge and that additional challenges exist in countries at different levels of development,

1. *Invites* the other organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as part of their mandate and work programme, together with Governments and other stakeholders to consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible;

2. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders participating in the stewardship programme also to work with the organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, to contribute to:

(a) Information-gathering activities, such as the recently developed Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development survey of product content and environmental release information on perfluorinated sulfonate, perfluorooctanoic acid, their related substances and products and mixtures containing these substances;<sup>1</sup>

(b) Information exchange on alternatives currently in use, including short-chain-length fluorocarbons, and potentially safer alternative substances or technologies for their use; on criteria for alternatives; on the necessity and possibility of technology transfer; on progress in and examples of regulatory actions and voluntary programmes; on monitoring; on emissions; on exposure; on environmental fate and transport; and on the potential effects of perfluorinated chemicals and alternatives on human health and the environment;

3. *Invites* the secretariat to make such information available to all stakeholders, for instance, by using the information clearing-house of the Strategic Approach or similar mechanisms that are open and accessible to all stakeholders and to facilitate their participation in the stewardship programmes;

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<sup>1</sup> May be consulted by following the internet link:  
[www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cheminprod\\_dec08/PFCWorkshop/Presentations/HHarjula - OECD - PFC 2009 survey Geneva 09.pdf](http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cheminprod_dec08/PFCWorkshop/Presentations/HHarjula - OECD - PFC 2009 survey Geneva 09.pdf)

4. *Notes* that such work may contribute relevant information to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and also complements activities associated with the Strategic Approach emerging policy issue on chemicals in products;

5. *Invites* the stewardship programmes to submit a report on progress, consider comments, and invite further actions at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

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