

Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee

Summary Record of the Eleventh Meeting

The eleventh meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the IOMC was held 3-4 May 1999 at UNEP Chemicals, Geneva.

Standard Operating Procedures for IOMC Coordinating Groups (CG) were agreed and will be posted on the IOMC website. Each IOMC Coordinating Group will be requested to review and revise as necessary their Terms of Reference (TOR) in light of adopted Standard Operating Procedures. Information on IOMC Coordinating Groups, including TOR, list of members and designated representatives will be posted on the IOMC website.

Reports from the IOMC CGs were reviewed. Membership in the PRTR CG was agreed for Mexico, Norway, Slovakia, the European Commission and the Commission on Environmental Co-operation. There was a general discussion concerning possible future mandates for the CG on information exchange. There was general agreement among the IOCC members that the mandate originally given to the CG was too broad. There was a discussion on what a group could realistically be expected to do. Suggested topics a group could address included updates of the Inventory of Information Sources on Chemicals produced by UNEP, common Internet access to IOMC member websites (IOMC Internet Gateway), development of an IOMC brochure listing information/publications available from member organizations, ongoing IOMC discussion group on information exchange activities. It was agreed to dissolve the CG on Chemicals Information Exchange and establish a network/working group of focal points; each IOMC organization will designate a focal point for information exchange and a web master. The Working Group will function primarily by email and telephone. To initiate the Group, UNEP will convene a meeting of the designated focal points. Two items were discussed concerning the capacity building aspects of information exchange: 1) the information distribution policies of the IOMC organizations and 2) building infrastructure for information dissemination and gathering. A number of issues were discussed and it was agreed to include the items on the agenda of the next IOCC meeting.

The IOMC Calendar component of the IOMC Information System under development was demonstrated. The will be put on the IOMC website in July 1999 and provide routinely updated information on the IOMC Calendar of Events and Meetings.

In response to a request from ICCA for a dialogue on chemicals international activities to explore how ICCA may keep better informed on international work and further engage themselves in international work, the IOCC agreed that an informal discussion session be arranged with ICCA and other industry NGO representatives after the next IOCC meeting. The IOCC Chair will write to the environment, labour and science NGOs that have participated in the IFCS informing them of the meeting and asking if there is any interest in holding similar discussions with their groups.

The next IOCC meeting will be held 2-3 December 1999 at OECD, Paris. The agenda will include a discussion on a proposed Capacity Building Network, outcome of the Thematic Workshop on Legislation and Policies, information exchange: capacity building and dissemination of information issues, and Forum III matters.