

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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

**Record of the Fourteenth Meeting,
18-19 December 2000, UNIDO, Vienna, Austria**

Participants:

IOMC Participating Organizations:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Mr J. Willis | UNEP (Chairperson) |
| Mr I. Obadia | ILO |
| Dr N. Van der Graaff | FAO |
| Dr T.J. Meredith | WHO |
| Dr Z. Csizer | UNIDO |
| Mr A. Halpaap | UNITAR |
| Mr C. Boljkovac * | UNITAR |
| Dr R. Visser | OECD |

Guest:

| | |
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| Mr J. Crayford | IMO |
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Secretariat:

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| Dr T.J. Meredith | WHO |
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**NOTE: AGENDA ITEMS ARE REPORTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER, NOT NECESSARILY IN THE
ORDER THEY WERE TAKEN UP**

DECISIONS AND AGREED-ON ACTION ITEMS ARE SUMMARIZED IN ANNEX A.

Item 1. Opening of Meeting

1. The Chairman welcomed participants. Dr Cziser gave details of a luncheon invitation from Mr A. Dambrosio, Managing Director, Sectoral Support and Environmental Sustainability Division, UNIDO.

Item 2. Approval of agenda (IOMC/IOCC/00.09 (Rev.2))

2. The proposed agenda was approved with the addition of two items: (i) update from POs on current and planned activities, to be a standing IOCC meeting agenda item; and (ii) election of a new IOCC Chairman.

Item 3. Review of Draft Record of 13th Meeting (IOMC/IOCC/00.08)

3. The draft record of the 13th meeting was approved. A preference was expressed for Microsoft Word versions of papers rather than Adobe Acrobat (PDF) versions, to include the IOMC Calendar of Events and Inventory of Activities.

Item 4. Review of Forum III (IOMC/IOCC/00.10 and IOMC/IOCC/00.11)

4. Following a review of the outputs of Forum III, held in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, 15-20 October 2000, including Priorities for Action Beyond 2000, it was agreed that:

- (i) in formulating an IOMC/IOCC response to IFCS, there would, in certain instances, be a need to specify a requirement for additional resources;
- (ii) IOMC/IOCC would only respond when IOMC was specifically mentioned (implicitly or explicitly);
- (iii) the response would indicate which IOMC POs were responsible, with a view to the IFCS secretariat taking the lead for follow-up, requesting further information from the PO(s) in question, as necessary; and
- (iv) that the action points should be put in a preamble to a letter of response from the Chairman, IOCC, to the President, IFCS.

The points agreed concerning Forum III "Priorities for Action Beyond the Year 2000" are attached as Annex B **[DN: further input from ILO required in text of Annex B]**.

Item 5. Role of GESAMP/IMO in relation to hazards resulting from chemicals transported by ship (IOMC/IOCC/00.12)

5. Mr John Crayford, International Maritime Organization (IMO) presented details of IMO's objectives, structure and activities. The principal objectives of IMO are to improve maritime shipping and to control maritime pollution. IMO has two main technical committees, dealing with marine environment pollution and maritime safety, respectively. There are also two Conventions of relevance to the environment, one dealing with maritime pollution and prevention, and the other with safety of life at sea. IMO has several committees that deal with aspects of chemical safety and, in addition, there is a Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), which itself has a range of subgroups. One of the functions of GESAMP is to develop hazard profiles for chemicals that are transported at sea.

6. Mr Crayford explained that there were several reasons why IMO wished to be considered for membership of IOMC, bearing in mind improvements in technology and environmental concerns, and also IMO's commitment to UNCED objectives. In the first instance, there was concern that in the absence of inter-agency coordination, toxicological evaluations undertaken by GESAMP/IMO were at

risk of reaching different conclusions from those made by other expert groups acting on behalf of IOMC POs. There would also be mutual benefit to be obtained from inter-organizational cooperation in the field of chemical safety with participation in and contributions to relevant PO committee work.

7. There followed a discussion of potential benefits to IMO and IOMC, respectively, touching upon, *inter alia*, a concern to avoid duplication of activities and a need for an "audit trail" to provide a listing of how conclusions concerning toxicological evaluations are reached. The process for IGOs joining IOMC, with the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), was explained to Mr Crayford, together with details of IOMC Coordinating Groups that might be of relevance to IMO activities.

8. IOMC POs agreed that it would be appropriate for IMO to be invited to join IOMC, but did not feel that this was the case for GESAMP, this being a grouping of experts rather than of governments. Accordingly, a letter will be sent from the Chairman, IOMC, to the Secretary-General, IMO, confirming the invitation for IMO to join IOMC and drawing attention to relevant sections of the proposed MOU. On receipt of agreement from IMO, an MOU would be sent to the Secretary-General, IMO, for signature.

Item 6. Avoidance of potential duplication of activities

9. Mr J. Willis reported that UNEP had recently become aware of duplicative activities on the part of another IOMC PO and which had not been listed in the IOMC Inventory of Activities. The activities in question were discussed by IOMC POs with a view to determining both how to prevent and respond to such instances in the future. It was agreed that POs should consider the wording of the existing MOU between POs. It was also agreed that review of PO activities (for the past and for the forthcoming six months) should become a standing agenda item for IOMC meetings, and that the full text of the IOMC MOU should be available on the IOMC Website. Following the first examination of PO activities, agreement will be reached on the format and content for future presentations.

10. One activity in particular was discussed in some detail. This activity involves work undertaken by UNIDO, UNDP, the World Bank, UNEP and FAO on methyl bromide, in part related to the Montreal Protocol. It was agreed that IOMC POs should explore the possibility of World Bank and UNDP participation in IOMC. There was, in addition, agreement that the existing IOMC MOU between POs provided sufficient basis for a recommendation to the Director-General, UNIDO, from IOMC concerning coordination of PO activities. Mr Willis offered to provide a draft letter to the secretariat for signature by the Chairman IOMC/IOCC.

Item 7. Report on 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED

11. Mr Willis explained the nature and content of the report required by the UN CSD Secretariat are part of the follow-up to UNCED in preparation for Rio + 10 and for which UNEP was the Task Manager. The respective contributions of POs to the factual and analytical components of the report were agreed, with a timetable – draft proposals to UNEP by 25 December 2000, draft report from UNEP to other POs by 1 January 2001, for return by 9 January 2001 prior to onward transmission to UN/CSD.

Item 8. IOMC Information System

12. Dr R. Visser raised a number of problems encountered with the existing version of the IOMC Information System, including inconsistencies regarding terminology used within the Calendar of Meetings and Events and the Inventory of Activities. In addition, OECD had found difficulty in putting new data, a variable response from UNEP support staff in respect of problem-solving, and an apparent absence of the old Inventory database to facilitate input of new data. Other POs remarked on problems encountered with both the Calendar of Events and the Inventory of Activities with respect to data input.

13. It was agreed that UNEP would convene a two-day problem-solving meeting in Geneva, probably in January 2001, for IT personnel from other POs concerned with IOMC data entry. That

“problem-solving” meeting should agree a timetable for implementation of data entry with a view to all data entry being completed six weeks prior to the next IOCC meeting. UNEP agreed to poll other POs to identify convenient dates for the meeting. Each PO should aim to place details of meetings and activities for the next six months on the IOMC Website following each IOCC meeting. It was also agreed that the IOMC Trust Fund should be used to cover the cost of an OECD staff member attending that meeting.

14. The question of balance in data entries was discussed – for example, should a \$10 million programme be given the same weight as production of single documents – bearing in mind that the data sets in question are intended to serve as tools for coordination, as well as being there to inform countries. It was agreed that IOMC Activity Profiles should be a substantive agenda item for the next IOCC meeting.

Item 9. Review of IOMC Website

15. It was agreed that the IOMC MOU should be available on the IOMC Website, as should Terms of Reference for the new Coordinating Group on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and Other Chemicals. Items arising from the “problem-solving” meeting being convened by UNEP would be passed to Ed Mullin in his capacity as IOMC informatics consultant, as necessary.

Item 10. Coordinating Groups

A. IOMC Coordinating Group on Harmonized Classification Systems

16. Mr I. Obadia reported that good progress on the Harmonized Classification System had been made with a view to the activities of the CG being concluded by May 2001. The final work product would be submitted to the GHS Sub-Committee in late 2001.

17. It was agreed that the UNITAR/ILO room document that was tabled at Forum III on capacity-building for GHS implementation at country level needed discussion by IOMC/IOCC. In addition, an IOMC CG needs to be established. Some technical aspects of GHS implementation need to be resolved before fully-fledged capacity-building exercises can be undertaken, although certain strategic/pilot activities may be required at this early stage. FAO and OECD expressed a wish to be involved in early CG activities. It was agreed that this subject should be discussed as a specific agenda item at the next IOCC meeting.

B. IOMC Coordinating Group on PRTRs

18. IOCC noted the report of the CG that had been made available and which was introduced by Dr R. Visser. It was felt that the CG needed to apprise itself of UNIDO, UNEP and UNITAR PRTR activities in Egypt to avoid potential for duplication.

C. IOMC Coordinating Group on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response

19. Dr Visser provided a status report. IOCC agreed that OECD would enter data into the Inventory of Activities and Calendar of Events on non-IOMC organization activities, as requested by the CG. Dr Csizer reported on the UNIDO response to the Baia Mare incident and on planned future activities. In discussion, it was noted that whilst the CG cannot have a direct administrative role in the management of chemical accidents, it can, nevertheless, learn from incidents so as to improve PO coordination in the event of similar incidents occurring in the future.

D. IOMC Coordinating Group on Assessment of Existing Industrial Chemicals and Pollutants

20. Dr Visser provided a status report – some issues were about to arise, for example the role of CICADs in relation to the ICCA initiatives, but there had been no recent meeting of the CG.

E. IOMC Coordinating Group on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and Other Chemicals

21. IOCC approved the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) which had been prepared by the CG, but with the inclusion of UNIDO. It was agreed that these TOR should be posted on the IOMC Website, in common with other IOMC CG TORs. The UNIDO Africa Stockpiles project was discussed, ahead of a formal announcement in Stockholm, Sweden, 22-23 May 2001.

Item 11. IOMC Trust Fund Financial Statement

Item 12. IOMC Administrative Arrangements for Secretariat

Item 13. IOMC Trust Fund – Annual Level of Contribution

22. Agenda items 11 to 13 were taken together. The IOMC Trust Fund Financial Statement was noted and approved. It was agreed that the Secretariat could utilize \$40,000 per annum for a two-year period from the IOMC Trust Fund in support of secretariat functions, to include informatics requirements, travel, printing, photocopying and operational expenses. This arrangement would then be reviewed by IOCC. WHO would aim to recruit a short-term professional to assist Dr Meredith with the IOMC Secretariat functions, but if this did not appear to be possible in practice, then use of a consultant for this purpose would be considered. It was noted that the Secretariat also had to hand \$20,000 which had not been utilized in the second half of 2000. IOCC recognized, though, that additional resources might be required by the Secretariat should special requirements arise in relation to brochures, informatics or meetings. It was agreed that the annual level of contribution by IOMC POs should remain at \$10,000.

Item 14. Any Other Business

Election of new IOCC Chairman

23. OECD (Dr Visser) proposed ILO (Dr Takala) as the new IOCC Chairman. This proposal was seconded by UNIDO (Dr Csizer). IOCC agreed that it would aim for a 12-month chairmanship period only, with this arrangement to be reviewed in 12 month's time.

Updates on PO Activities

24. It was agreed that a discussion of updating of current and planned PO activities should be a substantive agenda item at the next IOMC meeting, and a standing item for subsequent IOCC meetings.

Item 15. Agenda, Date and Place of Next Meeting

25. The next IOCC meeting will be held in the week beginning 25 June 2001, hosted by ILO in Geneva. The agenda will include:

- ♦ IOMC Activity Profiles
- ♦ GHS implementation at country level
- ♦ Updates on current/future PO activities

26. UNIDO was thanked for hosting the 14th meeting of IOCC.

Annex A

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

**Fourteenth meeting
18-19 December 2000**

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Annex A-1

| AGREED DEADLINES AND KEY DATES | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Date | Responsible PO | Action Item |
| 25 December 2000 | All IOMC POs | Send draft proposals to UNEP for inclusion in report on progress achieved since UNCED |
| 1 January 2001 | UNEP | Draft CSD report to be sent to other POs for review |
| 9 January 2001 | All IOMC POs | Return comments on draft CSD expert to UNEP |
| 14 May 2001 | All IOMC POs | Completion of data entry to IOMC Calendar of Meetings and Events and Inventory of Activities |
| Week of 25 June 2001 | All IOMC POs | The next IOCC meeting will be held week beginning 25 June 2001, hosted by ILO in Geneva |

Annex A

Annex A-2

| Responsible PO | Agenda Item |
|---|--|
| Item 4. Review of Forum III and formulation of IOMC response | |
| All IOMC POs Secretariat | Secretariat to provide draft letter of response for review by IOMC POs and, ultimately, for signature by Chairman, IOMC/IOCC, taking account of points agreed as set out in paragraph 4 and Annex B of the meeting report. |
| Item 5. Role of GESAMP/IMO in relation to hazards resulting from chemicals transported by ship | |
| Secretariat | Secretariat to provide draft letter to Secretary-General, IMO, from Chairman, IOMC/IOCC, inviting IMO to join IOMC through signature of an MOU. |
| Item 6. Avoidance of potential duplication of activities | |
| All IOMC POs Secretariat | POs to consider full implications of current MOU wording and Secretariat to ensure that full text of IOMC MOU available on IOMC Website. Review of IOMC and PO activities for past and forthcoming six months to become standing agenda item for IOMC/IOCC meetings. |
| UNEP | Mr Willis to provide draft letter for Chairman, IOMC/IOCC to the Director-General, UNIDO, concerning the need to avoid duplication of IOMC PO activities, based on existing IOMC MOU. |
| Item 7. Report on ten-year review of progress achieved since UNCED | |
| UNEP | UNEP to provide draft CSD report to other POs by 1 January 2001, based on draft paragraphs provided by POs by the deadline of 25 December 2000. |
| All other POs | POs to return comments on draft report to UNEP by 9 January 2001. |
| Item 8. IOMC Information System | |
| UNEP | UNEP to convene a two-day "problem-solving" meeting for other PO secretariats to resolve data-inputting difficulties and to agree a timetable for implementation of data entry by at least six weeks prior to the next IOCC meeting. |
| Secretariat | IOMC Activity Profiles to be a substantive agenda item for the next IOCC meeting. |

| Item 9. IOMC Website | |
|--|---|
| Secretariat | IOMC MOU and Terms of Reference for the Coordinating Group on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and Other Chemicals to be available on the Website. |
| UNEP | Items arising from “problem-solving” meeting on the IOMC Inventory of Activities and Calendar of Meetings and Events to be passed to Ed Mullin, as necessary |
| Item 10. Coordinating Groups | |
| All IOMC POs | <u>IOMC Coordinating Group on Harmonized Classification Systems:</u> |
| Secretariat | GHS implementation at country level to be a substantive agenda item at the next IOCC meeting, covering <i>inter alia</i> the ILO/UNITAR Forum III document, the establishment of a new CG and pilot GHS implementation activities. |
| UNIDO, UNEP, UNITAR | <u>IOMC Coordinating Group on PRTRs:</u> UNIDO, UNEP and UNITAR to apprise CG of activities in Egypt to avoid potential for duplication |
| OECD | <u>IOMC Coordinating Group on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response:</u> OECD to enter data into the Inventory of Activities and Calendar of Meetings and Events on relevant non-IOMC organization activities, on request from the CG. |
| UNEP | <u>IOMC Coordinating Group on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and Other Chemicals:</u> |
| Secretariat | UNEP to pass electronic copy of agreed TOR to the Secretariat for posting on the IOMC Website. |
| Item 12. IOMC Administrative Arrangements for Secretariat | |
| WHO | WHO to recruit Short-term Professional to assist with IOMC secretariat functions |
| Secretariat | |
| Item 14. Any Other Business | |
| ILO | <u>Election of new IOCC Chairman:</u> |
| All other POs | ILO to assume Chairmanship of IOCC/IOMC for a 12-month period. All POs to review this arrangement in one year's time. |
| Secretariat | <u>Updates on PO activities:</u> Discussion of updates on current and planned PO activities to be a substantive agenda item at the next IOCC meeting and a standing item for subsequent IOCC meetings. |
| Item 15. Agenda, date and place of next meeting | |
| | The next IOMC meeting will be held in week beginning 25 June 2001, hosted by ILO in Geneva. The agenda will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ IOMC Activity Profiles ♦ GHS implementation at country level ♦ Updates on current/future PO activities |

Annex B

Points Agreed Concerning Forum III “Priorities for Action Beyond the Year 2000”

Background

A response is given to each of those items that fall to IOMC organizations, explicitly or implicitly. In each specific instance, IOCC would see the IFCS Secretariat as taking the lead in initiating follow-up, contacting as necessary the respective IOMC organisation(s) for further information. In certain instances, there will be a need for additional resources for new or continuing work to be undertaken. When that is the case, the attention of IFCS Member States should be drawn to that need by the IFCS Secretariat, so that appropriate representations can be made at the Governing Bodies of IOMC Participating Organizations (POs).

Programme Area A:

A1

Work is currently in hand on the part of WHO, ILO and UNEP, through the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), and OECD, in order to meet the 2004 deadlines. The relevant POs would be pleased to respond to requests for information on progress with that work.

A2

Both IPCS and OECD have ongoing programmes that support the general principles stated concerning hazard evaluations. Both organizations would be pleased to respond to requests for further information.

A3

On behalf of IOMC, OECD, UNEP, FAO and ILO/WHO (through IPCS) would wish to be given the opportunity to participate in this initiative.

Programme Area B:

B1

GHS for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals – ILO has the lead amongst IOMC POs for this activity and would be pleased to report on progress made within the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS) in support of the stated objectives.

CG/HCCS reports are available at the following website:
http://www.who.int/iomc/cg.html#chem_label.

Guidance and tools for implementation of GHS, with a view to being fully operational by 2008, subject to capacities and capabilities of individual countries – ILO, on behalf of CG/HCCS, can provide details of tools currently available. The joint ILO & UNITAR project on the development of a global capacity building programme is in support of these aims, though project activity is subject to the availability of additional budgetary resources.

Programme Area C:

C1

UNEP aims to convene a working group in the first part of 2001 to discuss the joint UNEP/US EPA internet project in Africa, with a view to integrating the internet work of other IOMC POs.

C3

[DN: ILO offered to draft a form of words related to increasing awareness]

Programme Area D:

D1

FAO considers the provision of knowledge to farmers, so that they can make informed decisions on pest management and, where appropriate, pesticide use, the primary objective in integrated pest management. Methodologies that were developed and are applied in Asia, are now extended to Africa and South America, through the IPM facility, an entity sponsored by Worldbank, FAO, UNEP and UNDP and located at FAO. The IPM facility also cooperates with WHO and the UNEP POPs Secretariat to integrate vector control in IPM programmes.

D2

IOMC has established a Coordinating Group on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and Other Chemicals, whose terms of reference can be found as Attachment I.

D3

The POPs negotiations were successfully concluded in Johannesburg on 10 December 2000. UNEP is convening the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to adopt and sign the Stockholm Convention on POPs on 22-23 May, 2001. UNEP will promote ratification of the treaty thereafter.

D4

IOMC has established a Coordinating Group on Chemical Accident Prevention, whose terms of reference can be found as Attachment II.

D5

Acutely toxic pesticides - WHO, through IPCS, will be pleased to consult with the Forum Standing Committee (FSC) and the IFCS Secretariat on how best to provide sound human epidemiological data on toxicity resulting from exposure to pesticides.

Severely hazardous pesticide formulations – The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat (UNEP/FAO) stands ready to report on progress at Forum IV, and to respond to requests for information beforehand.

D6

FAO welcomes the proposed participation of IFCS in the implementation of the planned revision of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

D7

WHO, through IPCS and its INTOX Programme, is fully supportive of achieving this goal, provided that available resources permit.

D8

IOMC has established a Coordinating Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, whose published terms of reference can be found as Attachment III.

Programme Area E:

E1

UNITAR will continue to support the development of national profiles, subject to the availability of resources and in coordination with other IOMC POs.

E3, paragraph 3

OECD will continue to provide reports on bilateral Development Assistance Activities for Capacity Building. In addition, IOMC will provide a coordinated report on capacity building activities of IOMC POs, including the relevant OECD report and work in WHO regions.

E3, paragraph 4

IOMC already provides a means of coordination of this work, but if the Forum has particular aspects of coordination in mind, IOCC/IOMC would be pleased to discuss them.

E4

IOMC POs are supportive of this initiative and would of course be pleased to participate.

Programme Area F:

F1

UNEP, on behalf of IOMC, has agreed to take the lead on this area.

F2

FAO and UNEP, on behalf of IOMC, will actively support this process.