

RECORD OF THE SIXTEENTH IOMC/IOCC MEETING

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

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

**Record of the Sixteenth Meeting,
13-14 December 2001, FAO, Rome, Italy**

Participants:

IOMC Participating Organizations:

Dr J.S. Takala	ILO (Chairperson)
Mr C. Boljkovac	UNITAR
Dr T.J. Meredith	WHO
Dr W. Murray	FAO
Dr D. Piper	UNIDO
Dr G. Vaagt	FAO
Dr N. Van der Graaff	FAO
Mr H. Van der Wulp	FAO
Dr R. Visser	OECD
Mr J. Willis	UNEP

Secretariat:

Dr T.J. Meredith	WHO
Dr K. Gutschmidt	WHO

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.

Item 2. Approval of agenda (IOMC/IOCC/01.04 (Rev.1))

2. The proposed agenda was approved.

Item 3. Review of Draft Record of 15th Meeting (IOMC/IOCC/01.01(12 July 2001))

3. It was agreed to revise the report including Items 5, 7 and 8 of the report. With the relevant changes the report was approved.

Item 4. Report on and action items from the 38th and 39th meetings of the Forum Standing Committee (FSC)

4. Drs Meredith and Takala briefed the IOMC POs on the 38th FSC Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 3-5 October 2001. Action items for IOMC were discussed (IFCS/FSC/01.80rev2).

5. ***FSC request to IOMC POs to indicate which IFCS-specific items should be brought forward to their Governing Councils for consideration.*** It was considered that it sometimes causes problems if IFCS recommendations that address the IOMC are not reflected in the decisions of the respective IOMC POs governing bodies. IOCC recommended to improve communication between IOMC and IFCS. It was agreed that Dr Cavalcanti, President IFCS, will be invited to the next IOCC meeting in June. Furthermore, it was agreed that Members States themselves should bring IFCS-specific items forward to the relevant IOMC Governing Bodies. It was felt that IOMC POs cannot decide for their Member States. IOCC recommended that Members States will need to improve coordination at country level in order to identify and support IFCS items which should be brought forward to the relevant IOMC PO Governing Bodies.

6. ***FSC request to IOMC POs to provide an update to the FSC on their work on Priority A1.*** A general discussion took place concerning the reporting of IOMC PO activities at FSC (tele) conferences. It was agreed that no single IOMC PO is able to represent all other IOMC POs with regard to their activities. It was agreed that in preparation for its (tele)conferences, the IFCS secretariat should draw attention to agenda items in which relevant IOMC POs should be present for reporting. IOMC POs need to get early notice if they are to be asked to report at IFCS meetings. The IFCS secretariat should approach relevant IOMC POs directly or through the IOCC Secretariat which would then refer requests to the relevant Organization.

7. ***Prevention of Illegal Traffic.*** Mr Willis reported on the formation of an working group on the prevention of illegal traffic. UNEP (Mr Willis) requested that IFCS nominate working group members.

8. ***Chemical production decision-making.*** IOCC requests further information from the IFCS Secretariat concerning this agenda item.

9. ***Forum IV preparations (FSC working document: IFCS/FSC/01.68rev1).*** Forum IV will be held 1-7 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. Draft working/decision documents need to be provided by November 2002; final versions by 1 March 2003. Final information documents need to be submitted by 1 May 2003. It was agreed that the preparation of IOMC papers for FORUM IV will require good coordination among POs. It was agreed to discuss this issue at the next IOCC meeting. In the meantime, the Secretariat will contact the IFCS Secretariat to ask for full documentation (in electronic format) of FSC meetings to be sent to all IOMC POs. In addition, the IFCS Secretariat will be asked to send invitation letters to all IOMC POs inviting them to attend FSC teleconferences and meetings.

10. The report on harmonization of risk assessment and methodology has been submitted by WHO (IPCS) and circulated by IFCS Secretariat to IFCS Contact Points.

Item 5. Global Chemical Strategy

11. Mr Willis reported that the report on the need for a strategic approach to chemicals management is nearly finished. Some revisions will be made because of pending comments. The IOCC agreed that if a global strategy on chemical safety is being developed, it is beyond the work of a single Organization and UNEP should develop it jointly with IOMC POs and in collaboration with the IFCS. IOCC agreed that whenever there is an intergovernmental meeting on the strategy all relevant ministries also need to be informed.

Item 6. Global Mercury Assessment

12. Mr. Willis (UNEP) reported that the mercury project is in its information-gathering phase and that fund raising is being undertaken for a review meeting. In the event that funding will not be available for the review meeting, the draft will be sent out for comments. Dr Takala mentioned mercury releases from crematoria as a source of human exposure which might need to be considered in the assessment. IOCC awaits progress on this issue.

Item 7. Cooperation on POPs, to include development of national implementation plans

13. A discussion took place on how to improve coordination and cooperation among IOMC POs to assist countries in developing National Implementations Plans (NIPs). Dr Van der Graaff reported that FAO is only involved in pesticide POPs and coordination is needed concerning non-pesticide POPs. Mr Willis (UNEP) mentioned the competitive nature of the GEF funding process vis à vis the desire for coordination among IOMC POs. UNITAR (Mr Boljkovac) emphasised its concern that existing UNITAR guidance is applied properly to improve consistency of NIPs. It was agreed that there is lack of coordination between IOMC POs, the World Bank and UNDP with regard to the preparation of NIPs using GEF resources. It was agreed to convene a meeting a) to develop modalities for increased coordination to implement NIPs; b) to define the technical excellence needed to implement NIPs; and c) to ensure the technical quality of NIPs. It was decided that such a meeting should be convened under the umbrella of the IOMC and that the chairman/secretariat IOCC should send invitation letters to IOMC POs, UNDP, World Bank and to Dr Buccini who was recommended as a facilitator for the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting will be organised as a 1-2 day retreat, meeting in the first quarter of 2002. Mr Willis offered to contact Dr Buccini to determine his availability, and to provide a first draft of the agenda and background information for the invitation letter.

Item 8. Report on the Consultation on the Public Health Response to Chemical Incidents

14. Dr Meredith reported on the above mentioned WHO consultation which took place in Geneva, 3-5 December 2001. A draft report has been send to IOMC POs. The consultation concluded that WHO with its mandate for promotion of human health should take the lead within the UN system in dealing with health aspects of chemical incidents (including those of deliberate origin); WHO should aim to establish and maintain an international response mechanism for chemical incidents. In doing so, WHO should build on existing functions and resources already available within other international organizations and Member States; WHO should broaden its existing communicable disease Outbreak Alert and Response System to cover outbreaks of chemical etiology; WHO should expand its information, guidance and training materials to cover acute and evident releases of, and exposure to, chemicals, chronic releases, and releases presenting in the form of illness (including those resulting from deliberate acts).

Item 9. IOMC Information System

15. *Calendar of Meetings and Events, Inventory of Activities and Summary Reports.* Dr Meredith reported the technical problems encountered with posting the relevant information on the web. The IOMC/IOCC recommended improved communication between UNEP and WHO contact points and urged

that a solution be found to the technical problems. This was also necessary because updating the inventory of Activities and Summary Reports should be an agenda item at each future IOCC meeting. It was decided that POs should report to the IOCC Secretariat any technical problems that arise. In addition, it was decided that POs should provide the IOCC Secretariat with updated information.

Item 10. Coordination of IOMC activities

16. It was agreed to discuss this agenda item at the next IOMC/IOCC meeting.

Item 11. Review of IOMC Website

17. The IOCC agreed that the IOMC Website needs to be updated in order to reflect the most recent IOMC-related information. The IOCC Secretariat will update the site and remind POs accordingly.

Item 12. Coordinating Groups -- Status/update reports

18. It was emphasised that IOMC work/involvement in the preparation of documents should be properly acknowledged by using the IOMC logo on the cover page of each document in question.

19. ILO reported on the Globally Harmonized Classification and Labelling System (GHS) work being completed and officially submitted to ECOSOC. It was recognized that the original mandate of the IOMC CG on GHS had been fulfilled and the question was raised regarding the need to revise the Terms of Reference (TOR). Agreement was reached that Mr Obadia, ILO, will be asked to review the current TOR for the next IOCC meeting.

20. Activities of the IOMC CG Group on PRTRs were presented by OECD. Capacity building activities have been undertaken, for example, in Chile (by UNITAR), the Russian Federation and Ukraine (by UNEP). A paper is being developed which will be discussed at FORUM IV.

21. The last Meeting of the CG on Chemical Accidents took place on 7 November 2001, at OECD, Paris. The final step in the preparation of the second edition of the Guiding Principles will be a review meeting in June 2002 for the Working Group on Chemical Incidents and all other interested parties to finalise the text, with a target date for publication at the end of 2002. Discussions took place on counter-terrorism for weapons of mass destruction, biological and chemical weapons. It was recognised that information exchange is the most important task of the IOMC CG in this area. Jim Makris, USEPA, was re-elected chair. With regards to the IOMC Calendar of Meetings and Events, OECD has prepared a form to cover meetings and events of relevant non-IOMC organisations. Regular notes will be sent to non-IOMC members to remind them to fill the forms in and return them to OECD.

22. The next meeting of the CG on Existing Chemicals and Industrial Pollutants, which will take at OECD on February 4, 2002, will discuss (i) apparent duplication between WHO/IPCS CICAD and OECD SIDs activities; and (ii) improved application of human data in risk assessment.

23. FAO (Dr Vaagt) reported on developments concerning the IOMC CG on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and other Chemicals. It was agreed that this group needs to redefine its focus and cover more than the African Stockpile project by starting to meet again next year. It was agreed that FAO should draft a paragraph on current developments, to be given to the IFCS Secretariat. Mr M Gub is to be appointed as the new UNEP focal point.

24. UNITAR (Mr Boljkovac) presented a proposal for the possible establishment of a CG for Capacity Building. Discussions took place on the role of such a group and alternative ways of coordination (e.g. on a case-by-case basis, through activity profiles, by developing a CD-ROM of all available IOMC guidance material). It was recognised that the Annotated Resource Guide provided a list of resources that could provide a starting point for coordination. Agreement was reached that UNITAR, in close cooperation with UNEP, OECD, FAO and WHO, will draft a further thought starter on this topic in advance of the next IOCC meeting.

Item 13. IOMC Administrative Arrangements for Secretariat

25. Discussions took place on the lack of Activity Profiles and Calendar of Meeting and Events postings on the IOMC Website. It was agreed that activity profiles and the Calendar of Events need to be updated regularly. The Secretariat agreed that this matter was of high priority to be resolved. The Secretariat was requested to estimate the time and resources required to make these services work within a few weeks following this meeting.

26. It was agreed that after the special meeting on NIPs for POPs, further communication between the Secretariat and POs is needed to clarify whether UNDP and the World Bank should also be considered to become POs of IOMC.

27. It was agreed to invite Ms Judy Stober (IFCS Secretariat) to agenda items of IOCC meetings relevant to IFCS.

28. It was decided to follow-up the letter of Chair IOCC to IMO.

29. It was agreed that Mr Achim Halpaap (UNITAR) would be the next Chair IOCC, effective 1 January 2002. UNIDO was notified that, in the normal course of events, they would be the next chair after UNITAR.

Item 14. Any other business

30. Dr Vaagt reported on the Code of Conduct. The current draft is available on the web. The text has been accepted except one paragraph.

Item 15. Agenda, date and place of the next meeting

31. The next meeting is scheduled for 27-28 June 2002, Geneva, hosted by UNITAR. A draft agenda will be circulated four weeks in advance of the meeting date and a workplan will also be circulated for comment around that time by the Secretariat.

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Annex A

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

**Sixteenth meeting
13-14 December 2001**

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Annex A-1

AGREED DEADLINES AND KEY DATES		
Date	Responsible PO	Action Item
January 2002	Secretariat, UNEP	Convene meeting to co-ordinate NIPs on POPs involving World Bank and UNDP.
February 2002	All IOMC POs	Post activity profiles, meetings and events on IOMC Website.
February 2002	Secretariat	Update IOMC Website.
February 2002	FAO	Draft a paragraph on the current developments of CG on Unwanted Stocks for IFCS Secretariat.
March 2002	ILO	Provide recommendations on the future role of CG on GHS.
April 2002	FAO	Arrange for CG on Unwanted Stocks to meet again to redefine its focus.
May 2002	UNITAR	Draft thoughtstarter on IOMC coordination of capacity building activities.
June 2002	All IOMC POs	The next IOMC/IOCC meeting will be held 27-28 June 2002, hosted by UNITAR in Geneva.

Annex A

Annex A-2

Responsible PO	Agenda Item
Item 3. Review of Draft Record of the Sixteenth Meeting.	
Secretariat	To finalize report of Fifteenth IOMC/IOCC meeting.
Item 4. Current status of IFCS discussions.	
Secretariat	<p>To ask Secretariat, IFCS, to identify and inform IOMC well in advance of meetings relevant to POs where they would be asked to report to IFCS.</p> <p>To ask IFCS to nominate working group members for the future Working Group on the Prevention of Illegal Traffic.</p> <p>To request from Secretariat, IFCS, further information concerning chemical production decision-making.</p> <p>To ask Secretariat, IFCS, to send invitation letters to all IOMC POs to participate in IFCS meetings and conferences.</p>
Item 5. Global chemicals strategy.	
UNEP	To involve POs and IFCS in future developments regarding a Global Chemicals Strategy.
Item 7. Cooperation on POPs.	
UNEP, Secretariat UNEP	<p>To convene meeting on NIPs for POPs (involving interested POs, World Bank and UNDP), January 2002, in proximity to Geneva.</p> <p>UNEP to provide agenda and background material for the meeting.</p>
Item 9. IOMC Information system.	
Secretariat All IOMC POs	<p>To solve technical problems posting information on the IOMC Website.</p> <p>To report any problem to the Secretariat which occur while trying to post information on the IOMC Website.</p> <p>To provide Secretariat with updated information.</p> <p>To post upcoming meeting and events on IOMC Website.</p> <p>To post updated activity profiles on IOMC Website.</p>
Item 11. IOMC Website.	
Secretariat	To update the IOMC Website.

Item 12. Coordinating Groups (CGs).	
ILO	ILO to provide recommendations on how to proceed with the CG on GHS.
FAO	FAO draft a paragraph on the current developments of CG on Unwanted Stocks for IFCS Secretariat. FAO to arrange for CG on Unwanted Stocks of Pesticides and other chemicals meets again and redefine its focus.
UNITAR	UNITAR (in collaboration with UNEP, OECD, FAO, WHO) to draft further thoughtstarter concerning the coordination of IOMC capacity-building activities.
Item 13. Administrative Arrangements.	
Secretariat	To prepare resource and budget plan for 2002. To invite Secretariat, IFCS, to all future IOCC meetings. To follow-up on IMO letter.
Item 15. Agenda, date and place of next meeting .	
	The next IOMC meeting will be held 27-28 June, hosted by UNITAR in Geneva. The agenda will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOMC-IFCS coordination, • coordination of IOMC activities, • coordination of the preparation of IOMC papers for FORUM IV.