

**INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF
CHEMICALS
(IOMC)
INTER-ORGANIZATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
(IOCC)**

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

The 44th meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the IOMC was held on 4-5 November 2015 at OECD, in Paris. Bob Diderich (OECD) chaired the meeting.

The IOMC meeting began with a report from the SAICM Secretariat on the outcome of ICCM4 and the SAICM Secretariat's plans for follow-up, which include an evaluation of progress, a strengthened approach to engagement with stakeholder groups, a round of regional meetings, and an inter-sessional process for continuing international efforts towards the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020. The IOMC welcomed the SAICM Secretariat's offer to provide regular teleconference briefings on this and other ICCM4 follow-up in addition to the briefings provided at IOMC meetings.

The IOMC agreed to undertake a variety of actions to contribute to the SAICM evaluation and beyond 2020 process, to provide information for the overall orientation and guidance, to develop indicators of progress, and to further work on the emerging policy issues, notably on two new issues: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, and highly hazardous pesticides.

The IOMC heard reports on progress with implementation and ratification of the Minamata Convention on mercury as well as with the IOMC mercury group, which coordinates IOMC initiatives related to mercury. At the request of the interim secretariat for the convention, the IOMC participating organizations agreed to report on their activities related to the convention at the seventh intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC7).

The IOMC heard reports on progress with the IOMC toolbox on chemicals management and with the UNEP Special Programme on financing chemicals and waste. It received updates on the latest Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Conference of the Parties, and on activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The IOMC and the BRS Secretariat agreed that the latter's attendance at IOMC meetings was useful and IOMC agreed to continue the practice. The IOMC also agreed to continue to exchange information and cooperate with OPCW.

The meeting received an update on the Environmental Management Group (EMG) Issues Management Group on Chemicals Management (IMG), whose mandate had been extended for a year. To further cooperation with the IMG, the IOMC confirmed its plans to hold a 1-day special event on 10 May 2016, to discuss implementation of the OOG, the SDGs, innovation (requiring chemical safety), collaboration, and follow-up. IOMC also agreed to consider opportunities for "mainstreaming" chemicals into environmental and development issues and to invite the UNHCR Special Rapporteur on Toxics to its next meeting. Finally, the IOMC agreed to continue its work to improve indicators for chemicals, and to co-convene with UNEP an international expert/stakeholder workshop on chemical-related SDGs,

The 45th IOMC meeting will be hosted by UNEP in Geneva on 11-12 May 2016. The 46th IOMC meeting will be hosted by UNIDO in Autumn 2016.