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Chemical Safety in a Vulnerable World

FORUM IV

**Fourth Session
of the
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety**

**Bangkok, Thailand
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Final Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Introduction

The Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum IV) was held 1-7 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted by the Government of Thailand. One hundred twenty-six governments participated in the meeting, together with 32 representatives from twelve intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and eighty-one representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO).

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum) is an innovative participatory mechanism with the purpose of providing policy guidance and strategies for the sound management of chemicals at the national, regional and international levels. The Forum provides countries the opportunity to place issues on the international agenda and emphasize their special needs and concerns with respect to improving chemicals management. It was established in 1994 in response to a recommendation adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – UNCED, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

At Forum IV the IFCS took stock of the progress achieved on the commitments and recommendations made at Forum III, such as the IFCS Priorities for Action Beyond 2000. Forum IV considered strategies and actions to achieve the agreed targets and also charted the course for work in a number of new areas.

The Forum IV recommendations and agreed action items are presented below.

Children and Chemical Safety

1. When assessing the protection of children, consideration should be given to chemical exposures that can occur during preconception, throughout gestation, infancy, childhood and adolescence.
2. Governments should prepare, through multi-stakeholder consultation, initial national assessments of children's environmental health and chemical safety. These assessments should identify the priority concerns and provide a basis for developing action plans to address those concerns. Governments should provide a progress report to Forum V. WHO is requested to develop, through multi-stakeholder consultation, guidance tools, and to assist at least three countries in different stages of economic development in each region to prepare the assessment and action plans by 2006.
3. Governments, with support from stakeholders, particularly WHO and UNICEF, should promote education and training on children's chemical safety, and where risks are identified, governments and stakeholders should commit to taking action to prevent or reduce exposure. Governments should also promote harmonized data collection, research, legislation and regulations, and consider the use of indicators of children's environmental health, and report back to Forum V in 2006. Governments should, when setting acceptable levels or criteria related to chemicals, take into consideration the potential enhanced exposures and/or vulnerabilities of children.
4. WHO is requested to support, collaborate with, and coordinate among research organizations and those supporting research (such as the European Commission, Science non-governmental organizations, the Global Health Research Forum, governments and others) to develop mechanisms to facilitate collaborative national and international research and share technology.
5. Governments and stakeholders should commit to sharing information on options for taking effective action to protect children from established chemical threats and from chemical risks where there is a degree of uncertainty. WHO is requested to convene a multi-stakeholder meeting to explore the mechanisms for collecting data and disseminating information that could be used to reduce uncertainty in risk assessments.
6. In addition, Forum IV requests the IFCS President to convey these recommendations to other meetings and fora.
7. In carrying out the recommendations set out in this priority, the stakeholders concerned should be guided by the full decision document and companion information paper that were developed by the Forum Standing Committee working group on children and chemical safety.

Occupational Safety and Health

Recalling the decision of Forum III to include in its priorities for action beyond 2000, the need to pay special attention to occupational safety and health concerns caused by chemicals, Forum IV:

I) urges ILO, WHO and FAO to strengthen their collaboration in this area and increase their participation in IFCS activities; and

II) urges the relevant Forum participants to initiate and implement measures to address the occupational safety and health aspects of chemical safety in the IFCS Priorities for Action as described in the following:

Programme Area A – Expanding and Accelerating International Assessment of Chemical Risks

Occupational exposures play a critical role in the international assessment of chemical risks. Data from workplaces are essential for improving knowledge and understanding of the prevalence, risk factors, dose-response relationships, effective intervention measures and appropriate techniques for monitoring the results of implemented prevention strategies.

A primary source of human exposure data available for risk assessment is epidemiological studies, particularly in the working environment. Work activities are generally carried out in organized and regulated environments, often with the involvement of health and safety professionals, enabling the recording and collecting of better-quality data more efficiently. Use of chemicals for which toxicological investigations have not been performed is common in various workplaces. Exposures to multiple chemicals and other physical agents are prevalent in many industries, although too little is known about combined exposure-response relationships.

IFCS should support and encourage all relevant parties to undertake steps for reporting and recording data essential for international assessment of chemical risks from workplaces, for facilitating national and international data collection measures, and for making the necessary data readily available to those undertaking assessment of chemical risks.

Recommended action items:

- Develop and implement relevant approaches standards and guidance material for recording, collecting and analyzing workplace data. These can be undertaken in conjunction with the implementation of the ILO List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation (No. 194), 2002, and the Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155), 1981.
- Develop, establish and enhance suitable measures for the monitoring of workplaces and for careful clinical surveillance of workers.
- Develop harmonized data elements for recording relevant workplace data in company-specific databases. Facilitate the collection of data for analysis with means to ensure that the data elements cannot be tracked back to specific workers, worksites or employers.
- Establish the role and responsibilities of employers, employees and governments in reporting, recording, collecting and assessing data from workplaces.

Programme Area B – Harmonization of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals has taken due consideration of chemicals in the workplace. In its implementation, however, there are areas that require emphasis and attention to specific needs with respect to workplaces.

Recommended action items:

- Develop and make available assistance, guidance, tools and other facilities necessary for the effective implementation of GHS in the workplace.
- Include relevant elements of GHS as an integral component of ILO's SafeWork Programme.
- Establish roles and responsibilities of employers, employees, chemical suppliers and governments, in the implementation of the GHS.

Programme Area C – Information Exchange on Toxic Chemicals and Chemical Risks

The populations involved and the characteristics associated with chemical exposures in the workplace present challenges and opportunities which demand special attention for effective information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks. Fundamental rights of workers – the right-to-know and the right-to-participate in health and safety decisions in the workplace - are important considerations in this regard. Putting reliable, effective and useful information into the hands of workplace participants can lead to intervention measures that can safeguard the health and safety of those occupationally exposed and also of the general public and the environment.

Recommended action items:

- Establish a means of developing and updating internationally evaluated sources of information on chemicals in the workplace by intergovernmental organizations, in forms and languages suitable for use by workplace participants.
- Make the information on workplace chemicals from intergovernmental organizations readily and conveniently available to employers, employees and governments.
- Strengthen the global information networks of the ILO and WHO in the sharing, exchanging and delivering of chemical safety information.
- Facilitate the development and updating of information on workplace chemicals by reliable sources in forms and languages suitable for workplace participants and the ready and convenient access to that information by employers, employees and governments.
- Promote the establishment of a National SafeWork Programme, including the ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions 170, 174 and 184.

- Implement an integrated approach to the safe use of chemicals in the workplace by establishing new mechanisms to expand and update ILO Conventions related to hazardous substances and linking these to various other actions, such as those associated with codes, information dissemination, enforcement, technical co-operation, etc.
- Establish approaches and methods to communicate relevant information from the results of international risk assessment to appropriate workplace participants and stipulate related roles and responsibilities of employers, employees and governments.
- Strengthen chemical safety related information dissemination among social partners and through public media at national and international levels.
- Stress the importance of the workers' right to know in all sectors (formal and informal).

Programme Area D – Establishment of Risk Reduction Programmes

Risk reduction programmes for chemical safety in workplaces are generally conducted as a subset of the overall occupational safety and health programmes. With respect to the sound management of chemicals, workplace risk reduction programmes offer wide-ranging opportunities for intervention at source, thereby extending the benefits beyond health and safety considerations within the enterprise to those of the environment and the public.

The ILO standards on workplace safety, health and the environment are a vital source of protection to people at work throughout the world. They fulfil the need for occupational health, safety and environmental policies at country levels to be supported by a universally accepted global formative framework. The ILO standards are also effective advocacy instruments for stakeholders seeking reforms at the country level.

IFCS should support and encourage the development, enhancement, updating and implementation of ILO's SafeWork standards, including supplementary consensus guidelines, codes of practice and other non-binding instruments influencing safe use of chemicals in the workplace.

Recommended action items:

- Facilitate the development, enhancement, updating and implementation of ILO Conventions and supplementary consensus instruments that help to promote the sound management of chemicals in the workplace.
- Pay special attention to the needs of workers in SMEs, the informal sector, migrant workers, self employed, waged workers and vulnerable groups, including children, young persons, women and elderly in addressing risk reduction programmes for chemical safety in the workplace.
- Implement the ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management System (ILO-OSH 2001) paying special attention to the safe use of chemicals.
- Implement the ILO National Safe Work Programmes, incorporating safe use of chemicals as an integral component.

- Enact and strengthen legislation to protect the health of workers and the public, covering the entire spectrum of work situations where chemicals are handled, including such sectors as agriculture and health.
- Address special chemical safety related problems of illegal work and illegal migrants.
- Develop system of health and environment impact assessment in chemicals handling and incorporate it in occupational safety and health programmes in countries as a pre-requisite to boost prevention efforts.
- Promote the necessary training and capacity to all people involved directly and indirectly with pesticides use and application in rural areas
- Apply the measures from ILO Convention 169 about work conditions of indigenous and tribal population in order to prevent the use of specially dangerous pesticides (art. 3).
- Enhance risk reduction programmes through the expansion of insurance coverage and compensation systems.

Programme Area E – Strengthening of National Capabilities and Capacities for Management of Chemicals

Capacity building is a most critical requirement for effective chemical safety management, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In this regard members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) can play a significant role in assisting these governments to improve the enforcement aspect of occupational safety and health policies in the production and use of chemicals in the workplace.

At the country level a variety of institutions and organizations contribute to the national occupational health and safety programme, which also incorporates risk reduction efforts with respect to chemicals in the workplace. Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals should take into consideration the needs for building the relevant strengths of the institutions and organizations engaged in chemical risk reduction activities in the workplace.

Recommended action items:

- Identify the particular demands and needs with respect to institutions and organisations responsible for workplace-related activities concerning chemical safety, and direct the capacity-building efforts accordingly.
- National government occupational safety and health policies should contain specific sections/text on chemicals management, with a clear emphasis on preventive measures. Government legislation should require that workplace risk assessments and hazard prevention measures are carried out, based on the recognized hierarchy of prevention and control measures.
- Establish integrated programmes for health and safety professionals and public health practitioners with emphasis on identification, assessment and control of occupational chemical risk factors in all workplaces (industrial, rural, business and services).

- Promote exchange of information on successful experiences and projects related to chemical occupational safety and health.
- Enhance international cooperation programmes aiming especially the national capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Hazard Data Generation and Availability

Forum IV adopted the following priority for action.

For all chemicals in commerce, appropriate information detailing the inherent hazards should be made available to the public, and generated where needed. Essential health, safety and environmental information should be accessible. Other information should be accessible according to a balance between the public right to know and the need to protect valid confidential business information and legitimate proprietary interests. Existing hazard information should be systematically identified, collected, validated and shared to ensure an equitable sharing of the burdens of assessment and interpretation, and to avoid duplicative testing, for both economic and animal welfare purposes. For the generation of new information, advancements in hazard identification and other relevant approaches that reduce the use of animals for toxicity testing should be applied.

Governments in cooperation with industry and other stakeholders:

- are encouraged to establish national priorities for information generation for chemicals that are not produced in high volumes, e.g. by using production/import volume inventories of chemicals in commerce and by collecting or generating other relevant information such as information on significant exposure;
- should agree to use appropriate measures, where necessary according to each country's own situation, to promote the timely generation of hazard information.

OECD is invited, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and enabling input from non-OECD countries via already established mechanisms, by Forum V, to have:

- established a detailed programme for an international repository on hazard information that would be available free of charge;
- agreed to timeframes for how industry, in cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders, will make accessible or generate hazard information for high production volume chemicals not addressed under existing commitments.
- established generally applicable guidelines on the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of governments, producing/importing enterprises and suppliers of chemicals concerning the generation, assessment and dissemination of hazard information;
- further harmonised data formats for hazard information;
- established recommendations on tiered approaches to addressing screening information requirements for chemicals that are not produced in high volumes;
- identified possible approaches for prioritisation for such chemicals that are not necessarily based on production volume but, for example, build on significant exposures.

IPCS and OECD are invited to have by Forum V harmonized terminologies to be used in hazard and risk assessment.

IPCS is invited to take the lead in the development of guidance on, and mechanisms for, collecting, disseminating and utilizing clinical and exposure data from human observations.

Governments, intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organisations and industry should encourage the use of the Internet as a tool for identifying and disseminating hazard information to the intended target groups in the respective tiers, preferably using existing databases, and free of charge.

In carrying out the recommendations set out in this *Priority for Action*, the stakeholders concerned should be guided by the full decision document and companion background annex that were developed by the Forum Standing Committee.

Acutely Toxic Pesticides

Recognising that poisoning of pesticide users and their communities, especially agricultural workers and small farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, must be prevented, national governments are hereby provided with guidance for sound risk management and reduction actions, in particular those related to acutely toxic pesticides.

Governments should, with the commitment and support of international, regional and local stakeholders, such as international organizations, scientific and medical communities, pesticide and agricultural industries, public interest groups, agricultural workers, labour unions, small farmers and indigenous peoples, take a variety of actions, best suited to their needs and capacities, such as:

I. Policy Actions

1) ratify and implement the internationally agreed Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;

2) fully implement the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as the basis for a comprehensive life cycle approach to pesticide management at national level;¹

3) promote a culture of compliance and accountability, and effective enforcement and monitoring programmes;

4) give appropriate priority to pest and pesticide management in their national development cooperation strategies in order to access technical and financial assistance, including appropriate technology;

5) base national decisions on acutely toxic pesticides on an evaluation of their intrinsic hazards, anticipated local exposure to the products, taking into account their common conditions of use and the need to reduce risks.

II. Regulatory Actions

1) promote Integrated Pest and Production Management;

2) prioritise the registration and/or use of formulation types suited to the conditions of use in the country;

3) ensure that product label statements have clear safety and use information;

4) establish licensing systems for the sound storage, distribution and application of pesticides;

¹ International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Revised Version adopted by the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the FAO Council in November 2002.

- 5) promote appropriate standards for application equipment, container and package design (e.g. size, shape, material), and procedures for maintenance and guidance for use of equipment;
- 6) establish mandatory or voluntary container return procedures, whichever is the most effective;
- 7) establish pesticide use surveillance and monitoring systems to gather information on common conditions of use and their impact on health and environment;
- 8) expand research and capacity for research on alternative pest control (both chemical and non-chemical) and crop production measures;
- 9) use the tools of the Rotterdam Convention in order to:
 - a. provide appropriate level of resources to Designated National Authorities,
 - b. identify and notify the Secretariat of the Convention of severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
- 10) prohibit or restrict availability (including the use of import and /or export controls as desirable) and use of acutely toxic pesticides (such as formulations classified by WHO² as Extremely Hazardous (class 1a) and Highly Hazardous (class 1b)) and/or those pesticides associated with frequent and severe poisoning incidents;
- 11) substitute acutely toxic pesticides with reduced risk pesticides and non-chemical control measures;
- 12) encourage industry to extend product stewardship and to voluntarily withdraw acutely toxic pesticides when poisoning incidents occur;
- 13) establish or enhance comprehensive national systems for surveillance and reporting of poisoning incidents affecting workers and communities, including:
 - a. training of waged agricultural workers, farmers, communities, and public health professionals to recognize pesticide poisoning symptoms and enable immediate intervention in the field,
 - b. education and resources for health care workers to treat health effects appropriately,
 - c. community and self surveillance monitoring and reporting mechanisms,
 - d. use of incident report forms established under Rotterdam Convention and WHO harmonized human data collection tools, and other available instruments; studies to estimate the under-reporting of poisoning incidents,
 - e. support and strengthen Poison Centers;
- 14) avoid the build up of stocks, and dispose of obsolete stockpiles using the best available technologies and practices in accordance with international agreements;
- 15) prioritize the procurement of least hazardous pest control measures and use best practices to avoid excessive or inappropriate supplies in donor assistance activities.

²World Health Organization, The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification 2000-2002, WHO/PCS/01.5, http://www.who.int/pcs/docs/Classif_Pestic_2000-02.pdf

III. Communication Actions

- 1) improve access to information on pesticides, particularly acutely toxic pesticides and alternative safer pest control measures by using the tools of the Rotterdam Convention and other information networks;
- 2) expand awareness raising, education and training appropriate to the public and user communities;
- 3) encourage and facilitate exchange of information, technology and expertise within and among countries by both public and private sectors for risk reduction and mitigation;
- 4) facilitate access to research results related to alternative pest control (both chemical and non-chemical) and crop production measures by pesticide users, those exposed to pesticides and extension services;
- 5) evaluate the efficacy of pesticide risk reduction programmes and alternative pest control methods currently implemented and planned by international organizations, governments, pesticide, agricultural and trade sectors and other stakeholders, and
 - a. distinguish programmes that have achieved significant and sustainable risk reductions from those which have not,
 - b. ensure that results are shared locally, regionally and internationally,
 - c. incorporate evaluation mechanisms and measures of progress in future programmes.

For future consideration:

- governments and stakeholders to consider liability and compensation issues.

Capacity Building Assistance

Recognizing the importance of sound management of chemicals in poverty eradication, Forum IV recommends the promotion of a dialogue with international development assistance institutions (including UNDP, World Bank) with the goal of integrating chemical safety issues into poverty reduction strategies and national sustainable development strategies, and relevant project activities.

Forum IV invites all governments to integrate chemicals safety policy into development cooperation activities, and promote chemical issues in the relevant governing bodies of international and intergovernmental organizations.

Recognizing the value of the WHO programme on health and sustainable development, Forum IV encourages all international organizations, including UNEP and the other IOMC partner organizations, to ensure and/or strengthen the integration of sustainable development and chemicals issues into all relevant activities, e.g. water, waste management, health, agriculture, trade.

Forum IV invites the private sector and civil society to participate actively in the above effort,

Forum IV invites countries, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, to consider the related counsel given below.

And request the FSC to report back on the outcomes of these activities to Forum V.

Counsel:

Forum IV request IFCS participants to take into consideration the following counsel:

A. All IFCS participants:

- a. Should actively seek means to ensure that countries in their economic and social development have core essential capabilities and capacities for the sound management of chemicals covering all stages of the lifecycle and achieve the goals set in the Bahia Declaration;
- b. Should promote, establish and maintain a structural dialogue with international development assistance institutions with the goal of integrating chemical safety issues into poverty reduction strategies and national sustainable development strategies, and relevant project activities;
- c. Should actively promote integration of sound chemicals management with other environmental management programmes (e.g., water, waste management, health, agriculture, trade) and to the social and economic dimensions of Agenda 21;
- d. Should promote chemical safety by identifying, describing and widely disseminating success stories of sound chemicals management programmes;
- e. Should explore the development of measurable indicators to assess progress in capacity building for the sound management of chemicals.

B. Countries and stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, where appropriate:

- a. Should incorporate chemical safety as an integral part of sustainable development policies, poverty eradication strategies, as well as the national development assistance plans and their implementation, including incorporating chemical safety issues into public education, in order to formally confirm that these issues are a country-driven priority;
- b. Should integrate chemical safety policy into development cooperation activities and take full advantage of existing opportunities when developing project proposals, including approaching already existing funding mechanisms (such as the GEF);
- c. Acknowledging the outstanding importance of direct development assistance and technology transfer from industrialized countries to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, should strengthen bilateral capacity building efforts;
- d. Should consider defining the financial and methodological mechanisms, including by using existing mechanisms, that can assist them to create and/or strengthen the necessary capacities to ensure chemical safety is achieved;
- e. Should apply a multi-stakeholder approach from the outset, including strengthening information flow between stakeholder groups, and the inclusion of organizations that represent local communities;
- f. Should incorporate an evaluation framework as part of the project proposal and implement it.

C. IOMC/international organisations:

- a. Should use all possible opportunities for linking the different elements of the chemical safety agenda through enhanced coordination and cooperation;
- b. Should use the momentum of a specific entry point, such as an multilateral environment agreement (MEA) or the globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS), to work with countries on the broader chemicals safety agenda;
- c. Should further develop training programmes on e.g. poison centres, ILO guidelines on compensation in the case of chemical poisoning, emergency preparedness, risk assessment and management, information reporting systems, education and training in precautionary measures, and concentrate efforts on training and long term relationships, avoiding one-time events with no structural context;
- d. Including GEF, World Bank, UNEP, WHO, OPCW and other international and intergovernmental organisations, should ensure and/or strengthen the integration of sustainable development and chemicals issues into all relevant activities, e.g. water and waste management, establishment of poison control centres;

- e. Including UNDP, World Bank, UNITAR and other intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, should facilitate national-level dialogues to assist with integrating chemicals management activities;
- f. Particularly UNITAR, should seek additional resources to assist countries with National Profile development and further development of guidelines on awareness-raising³.

D. OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC):

- a. Should promote the integration of sound chemicals management as an important element of human health and environment policy, and give full attention to linking sound chemicals management, in all stages of the life cycle, to other elements of sustainable development;
- b. Should by 2004, further develop the DAC guidelines on the Integration of Rio Conventions into Development Co-operation, issued in 2002, by ensuring the addition of all current and future chemical safety related conventions and agreements;
- c. Should promote an increase of support for developing countries for capacity building for the sound management of chemicals.

³ It was announced that the European Commission is supporting the UNITAR programme on the development of National Profiles, priority setting and information exchange in an additional 15 countries.

Addressing The Widening Gap Among Countries In Following Chemical Safety Policies

Since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – UNCED held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - the international community has developed numerous policies regarding chemical safety. Some have lead to conventions (namely the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm conventions). Some have resulted in policy guidelines for international organizations, regional arrangements, national governments, NGOs and other actors. The tide of events has lead some countries of the world to be left far behind, compared to some others, in the implementation of policies and conventions. The transboundary nature of threats by hazardous chemicals requires that all countries move towards the implementation of sound management of chemicals, more or less at the same pace. The current wide implementation gap is contrary to the main aim of these efforts and is counterproductive. Therefore, wide gaps that exist between developed countries and developing countries in their ability to pursue chemical safety policies need to be bridged

As a step to find a practical solution to this,

1. The Forum decided to establish an ad hoc Expert Group including interested observers with the objective to propose a systematic way of strengthening the sound management of chemicals in countries with an expressed need and requested the Forum Standing Committee to decide on the modalities for the ad hoc Experts Group. The group is mandated to propose a system by which a government could avail itself, if appropriate, of the expertise available within the group to identify areas in the country where there is room for improvement. Possible elements of such a system might include:

- A list of states with greater challenges in implementing chemical safety policies.
- Taking stock of all available capacities (e.g. as identified through National Profile process) to the extent possible and the specific and explicit demands of countries seeking support for strengthening their chemicals management.
- Preparing an indicative survey of the circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with regard to the challenges they face in the implementation of chemical safety policies. The survey would be based on already-existing information and on any input provided by countries concerned.
- On a voluntary basis, as funds are available, facilitation of visits to states that so request to evaluate the situation.
- Recommendations on actions in chemical safety to be taken by the requesting government and/or the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) organizations.

2. Countries requiring external assistance, OECD countries, non-governmental organizations and other institutions, and other IFCS participants, in particular the IOMC organizations, should give high priority to this undertaking in line with the general recommendation from IFCS Priority for Action E3⁴ to mobilize sufficient financial resources and technical assistance for the sound management of chemicals.

⁴ Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Priorities for Action Beyond 2000. Adopted at Forum III, 15-20 October 2000, Salvador Bahia Brazil.
(<http://www.who.int/ifcs/Documents/Forum/ForumIII/index.htm#priorities>)

3. Forum IV requested the Forum Standing Committee to review the implementation of the system in its regular sessions and report back to Forum V.

Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals Action Plan

Emphasizing the important contribution of the GHS to promote sustainable development, such as reducing barriers to trade, and to protect human health and the environment from dangerous chemicals in all countries;

Appreciating the work of the IOMC and the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (UN SCEGHS) in developing and adopting the GHS as an international instrument;

Reaffirming the WSSD recommendation that all countries are encouraged to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to have the system fully operational by 2008;

Noting the importance of minimizing the transition period to global GHS implementation;

Emphasizing the importance of developed countries with existing systems to modify these systems to adopt the GHS;

Noting Resolution 2003/64 of July 2003 of the UN Economic and Social Council;

Appreciating the activities of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Training and Capacity Building Programme for developing and transition countries, such as implementation of collaborative pilot projects in Zambia, South Africa, Senegal and Sri Lanka;

Aware of and supporting the UNITAR/ILO/OECD initiated WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS launched in 2002;

Welcoming the framework workplan of the WSSD GHS Partnership, adopted at the first meeting of Partners on 10 July 2003;

Emphasizing that GHS implementation has become one of the top priorities for capacity building for the sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

Encouraging developing countries to seek within their national development priorities to integrate chemical management, and in particular the GHS, into national poverty reduction strategies and/or their national sustainable development policies; and

Noting with concern that current financial and technical resources to support GHS capacity building are not adequate.

Forum IV:

Invites UNITAR/ILO, as the focal point for capacity building in the UN SCEGHS, in collaboration with the Sub-committee to develop a roster of GHS experts who could provide support on training and capacity building activities on the application of GHS classification, labelling, and safety data sheets by the end of 2004.

Encourages the WSSD GHS Partnership to aim for the following specific targets for capacity building activities of their framework workplan of the Partnership:

Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building Guidance and Training Materials

- GHS awareness raising, capacity building guidance and training materials (including GHS action plan development guidance, national situation analysis guidance and other training tools) prepared and pilot tested, and these outcomes endorsed by the UN SCEGHS, by the end of 2004.

GHS Capacity Development at the Regional Level

- At least two regional GHS workshops held and implementation strategies prepared by the end of 2005, taking into consideration regional economic integration arrangements.

GHS Capacity Development at the National Level

- At least two pilot projects for National GHS Situation Analysis, Action Plan Development and Implementation per IFCS region completed and evaluated by the end of 2006 (with a view to having the GHS operational by 2008).

Calls upon countries, regional economic integration organizations, donor organizations, multilateral financial institutions and stakeholder groups, in particular industry, to make available sufficient financial and technical resources to support national and regional GHS capacity building projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.⁵

Invites the Forum Standing Committee of the IFCS to bring the FORUM IV GHS Action Plan to the attention of the UN SCEGHS, and to submit a progress report to FORUM V.

⁵ The Governments of Switzerland and Germany have indicated their intention to support various capacity building activities for GHS implementation.

Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products Resolution

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,

Recalling Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 on ‘Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products’,

Further recalling the Bahia Declaration and the Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 adopted at its 3rd Session in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, October 2000, by participating Governments, IGOs and NGOs,

Noting the decision of Forum III to undertake work on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products in accordance with Programme Area F of the Priorities for Action Beyond 2000,

Noting further that progress on this work has been slower than desired,

Aware of the concerns of all countries, in particular the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products,

Re-iterating its recommendations made at Forum III regarding prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products,

Noting the recommendation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in paragraph 23 of its Plan of Implementation on promotion of efforts to prevent international illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals,

Recognising the responsibility of all countries in the achievement of the widely shared goals of sustainable development,

Further recognising that the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products is the responsibility of all countries at different levels of partnerships,

Noting that progress on addressing the recommendations of Forum III on this issue will require political will as well as financial and technical resources,

Further noting the urgency for all governments to take action at the national level to address problems of illegal traffic in dangerous and toxic products in accordance with the recommendations of Forum III, including ratifying relevant international agreements, in particular the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

Reaffirms that the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products is an issue of global priority as addressed under Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, the Bahia Declaration, the Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 and the WSSD Plan of Implementation,

1. Invites UNEP to take the lead in initiating the actions requested by Forum III on the prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products.
2. Calls upon Governments and organizations that are in a position to provide the necessary technical and financial resources to do so as a matter of urgency to enable the full and effective implementation of this decision.
3. Invites the governing bodies of the participating organizations of the IOMC, in particular the UNEP Governing Council, to consider adopting a decision on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.
4. Requests UNEP, on behalf of the IOMC, to report to Forum V on the implementation of this decision.
5. Invites the World Customs Organization to participate in this activity.

Resources to Support IFCS Vice Presidents

The Forum elects countries to the IFCS Offices and Forum Standing Committee (FSC); a procedure adopted to ensure that required support is provided to enable individuals designated to carry out their responsibilities. The Forum stresses the importance of countries considering candidacy understanding the requirements of the IFCS position. This ensures the commitment being made is understood fully by the candidate.

Forum IV recognized that it may be very difficult for a developing country or country in economic transition to carry out the responsibilities of an IFCS Officer without external assistance. The Forum noted that the IFCS Secretariat could provide guidance as needed, but should not manage the funds.

The Forum considered what assistance could be given to a Vice President:

Noting that developing countries and countries in economic transition may lack the ability to provide the necessary resources to support a Vice President to perform the outstanding responsibilities in accordance with the roles defined by the IFCS,

Agreed that assistance could be acquired from donors in order to ensure the success in the implementation of the task of a Vice President. Such assistance could cover secretariat, communications, travel expenses, and meetings within their respective regions.

MEETING SUMMARY

OPENING OF FORUM

1. The Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum IV), was held 1- 7 November 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted by the Government of Thailand. One hundred twenty-six governments participated in the meeting, together with 32 representatives from twelve intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and eighty-one representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO). A list of participants is provided in Annex 13. Mr. H. Cavalcanti (Brazil) officiated as President, with Dr. G. Bengtsson (Sweden), Ing. M. Bolaños (Ecuador), Mr. S. Nakao (Japan), Mr. C. Sylla (Senegal) and Prof. G. Ungváry (Hungary) serving as Vice Presidents. The Forum designated Prof. M. Cikrt (Czech Republic) as Rapporteur for Forum IV.

2. In the presence of Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand, the participants were welcomed by opening statements from the President of the IFCS, Ms. K. Okaido, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Ms. S. Keyuraphan, Minister of Public Health of Thailand. In her opening address, Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn voiced concerns regarding the risks associated with increased dependence on chemicals, particularly in the agricultural sector. H.R.H Princess Chulabhorn commended the important role of the IFCS in ensuring that all concerned stakeholders work actively to achieve chemical safety. She presented Prof. G. Ungváry with the IFCS Award of Merit, and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) with the IFCS Special Recognition Award.

3. In her Special Honorary Lecture, Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn focused on existing and emerging chemical safety problems in Thailand and other countries in South East Asia. She called for enhanced capacity building activities in developing countries and noted the contribution of the Chulabhorn Research Institute in academic training and scientific exchange. In conclusion, H.R.H Princess Chulabhorn called for sustained efforts to develop the human resources and technical capacities needed for the effective management of chemicals in the region.

4. The second part of the Opening Session included a short video, a keynote presentation by Prof. C. Djerassi (Stanford University) and a panel discussion on the Theme of Forum IV, “Chemical safety in a vulnerable world”. Prof. Djerassi offered his personal perspective regarding chemical safety, based on his professional background. He proposed that, in the context of chemical safety, countries should be viewed not as developed and developing but as “geriatric” and “paediatric” to highlight the importance of population age distribution. He focused on the knowledge, financial and technical vulnerabilities related to chemical hazard and risk assessment, and on the difficulties in finding, accessing and interpreting scientific information. He proposed the establishment of a “Chemical Social Service Corps” with the mission to assist “paediatric” countries in strengthening their hazard and risk assessment capacities.

5. The panel comprised Mr. S. Sarangi (Sambhavna Trust, India), Mr. O. Amuko (IUF), Dr. L. Lotter (South African Chemicals and Allied Industries’ Association), Mr. G. Santana (National Oil Agency of Brazil) and Ms. Y-J. Lee (UN University). Prof. Djerassi served as

panel moderator. Each panellist provided a perspective on the issue of chemical safety in a vulnerable world based on their personal experience and view of the role played by various sectors or groups (business, labour, public interest, government, media, research and educational institutions, international community, younger generation) in contributing effectively to chemical safety measures. Mr. Sarangi called for international civil and criminal liability regimes and compensation mechanisms to address major chemical accidents. Mr. Amuko called on the Forum to assist agricultural workers in efforts to protect themselves from chemical poisoning. Dr. Lotter called for the provision of technical and financial assistance for capacity building, implementation of the globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS), and dissemination of information on chemicals. Mr. Santana stressed the need for new approaches to crisis management and capacity building to address organizational failures leading to crises. Ms. Y-J. Lee examined the need for a shift in attitude away from economic valuation of the environment. She also identified links between political corruption and pollution.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS CONCERNING FORUM IV

6. The President reported on preparations for Forum IV. He noted the work of Forum Standing Committee (FSC), who met twice face to face and conducted over 25 teleconferences between Forum III and Forum IV. He also explained that the Forum IV agenda was developed by the FSC following the IFCS practice of a lead sponsor approach. The time schedule was designed to provide regional groups with adequate time for discussion and formulation of regional recommendations to be brought forward to plenary.

7. The IFCS Secretariat introduced the FSC recommendation for the drafting process for the meeting report. It was agreed that a drafting group composed of lead sponsors and recorders for each of the agenda items would be formed to produce a draft of the Final Report of Forum IV. Working group reports would be reviewed and their proposed recommendations and decision items agreed in plenary during the final session. Subsidiary reports and reports of the Regional Group meetings would be included as Annexes to the Final Report.

Proposed provisional agenda and time schedule

8. The President presented the Proposed Provisional Agenda and Proposed Time Detailed Schedule for Forum IV (IFCS/ForumIV/01w and 04w). He highlighted the need for a thorough discussion of the IFCS input to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (“SAICM PrepCom1”) ,to be held in Bangkok immediately following Forum IV from 9-13 November 2003. He also highlighted new areas for discussion by the Forum, such as children and chemical safety and addressing the widening gap between countries regarding their capacities to implement policies on the sound management of chemicals. Nigeria, on behalf of the African Regional Group, with Bangladesh, Thailand, many Latin American countries and IPEN, requested Forum IV to address the topic of Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products (IFCS Priority for Action, Programme area F). The Forum agreed to add the subject to its Agenda. The Provisional Agenda was adopted as amended, together with the proposed Time Schedule. It was proposed and agreed, that Nigeria and the Vice President of the Latin American and Caribbean Region (LAC) convene an open-ended working group meeting on the illegal traffic issue during the week and report back to plenary.

Workshops and Lunchtime presentations

9. A workshop on the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) - Opportunities and Challenges of Implementation was held at Forum IV, sponsored by Canada, UNITAR, UN ECE, Finland, GTZ (Germany), Switzerland and ICCA. The workshop programme included presentations on the GHS, existing and planned capacity building activities and a moderated panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges related to the implementation of the GHS at the national level. Participants at the workshop prepared a GHS Action Plan that was submitted to Forum IV for its consideration (see below).

10. A series of informal lunchtime presentations on special topics were organized by several groups of participants. These included: Endocrine disruptors (PAN, SCOPE/IUPAC and IPCS), Acutely toxic pesticides – the perspective of industry (CropLife International), Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP Steering Group); Hazard data repository - initial work and ideas (ICCA); Switzerland's commitment towards chemicals management: Highlights of partnerships in Ecuador, Egypt and Vietnam (Swiss Development Corporation); Children and chemical safety – how to take action (WHO, ISDE, APAMT); Reviving the Minimata Disease (Thailand); World Library of Toxicology, Chemical Safety and Environmental Health (NLM, NIH, USA); Grant opportunities for collaborative research in environmental toxicology and epidemiology from the National Institute of Health (NIH, USA).

IFCS ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

IFCS Guidelines and Procedures

11. The President presented proposed amendments to the IFCS Guidelines and Procedures (IFCS/FORUM-IV/15w). The amendments related to the Regional Roles and Responsibilities for Vice Presidents and Guidelines for National Focal Points.

Regional Roles and Responsibilities for Vice Presidents:

12. The President stated that the proposed amendments aimed to clarify the Vice President's tasks of communicating and assisting National Focal Points in performing their responsibilities. Delegates requested clarification regarding the proposed phrase "having in mind the special features" of regions or subregions when fostering good intersectoral contacts. Delegates also discussed how the Vice Presidents would organize regional efforts concerning the election of IFCS Officers and FSC members. After consultation with the Vice Presidents, the President proposed that the text be changed to "having in mind the specific institutional and administrative framework of each country when fostering good intersectoral contacts." It was agreed that regional efforts for elections should take place in accordance with the IFCS Terms of Reference and general guidance from the President. The revised Regional Roles and Responsibilities for Vice Presidents adopted unanimously by Forum IV, are presented in Annex 8.

Guidelines for National Focal Points

13. Delegates considered the frequency of reporting requirements, the process for preparing a basic format for reporting and the process for identifying and informing on the designation of a

National Focal Point. The revised Guidelines for National Focal Points, adopted unanimously by Forum IV, are presented in Annex 9.

Guidelines for the Selection of Hosts

14. The President introduced a proposal on Guidelines and Criteria for Selection of Hosts (IFC/FORUM-IV/05w). The FSC had prepared the proposal in response to requests from several governments. A number of participants requested clarification on the conditions under which a Forum meeting could be cancelled and suggested that such a decision should be taken in cooperation with the host country. A proposal was also made to be less specific as to which ministry is expected to forward a proposal to host a meeting to the IFCS Secretariat. The Guidelines and Criteria for Selection of Hosts, adopted unanimously by Forum IV, are presented in Annex 10.

Resources for Vice-Presidents

15. Vice President N. Sylla presented a proposal on the need to secure resources to support the work of Vice Presidents from developing countries (IFCS/FORUM-IV/07W). The Forum elects countries to the IFCS Offices and FSC; a procedure adopted to ensure that required support is provided to enable individuals designated to carry out their responsibilities. The importance of countries considering candidacy understanding the requirements of the IFCS position was stressed. The IFCS Vice Presidents, noting the various situations in developing countries, recognize that it may be very difficult for a developing country to carry out the responsibilities of an IFCS Officer without external assistance.

16. It was suggested that calls for support from donors be broadened to include all donors, rather than bilateral assistance specifically. A proposal was also made to include reference to countries with economies in transition. A number of countries suggested that resources were also needed to support National Focal Points and that the issue should be considered.

17. Forum IV agreed unanimously that assistance could be acquired from donors in order to ensure the success in the implementation of the tasks of IFCS Vice Presidents. (Executive Summary)

IFCS Financial Statement

18. The IFCS Secretariat presented the IFCS Financial Statement (IFCS/FORUM-IV/06W). The report presented information on the IFCS Trust Fund for organizational and administrative arrangements, in-kind contributions, and the IFCS Twinning Funds (government and NGO). Contributions from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Thailand, United States, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), CropLife and ICCA to the Twinning Funds to support participation at Forum IV was acknowledged with appreciation. The Forum approved unanimously the proposed budget for 2004-2006, noting that variances may be necessary as a result of decisions taken by Forum IV. (Annex 11).

PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS REPORT

19. The IFCS President introduced his Progress Report, highlighting areas where progress had been achieved in implementing the IFCS Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 over the past three years, indicating where targets had not been achieved, and suggesting where efforts needed to be strengthened. He noted that a number of important and new issues have been brought forward for the Forum to consider, namely children and chemical safety, occupational safety and health, and addressing the widening gap between countries regarding their capacities to implement the sound management of chemicals. He suggested a number of topics that the Forum may wish to consider, in addition to specific decision items on the agenda for Forum IV, such as: defining the life cycle concept, consideration of interfaces with other bodies for the exchange of information, other vulnerable groups, and inviting individual sponsors for selected Priorities. He stressed the importance of providing useful input into the SAICM process. He also noted that more efforts are needed to better promote the work of the Forum. Delegates expressed their strong appreciation for the Progress Report.

POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS (PRTR) AND EMISSION INVENTORIES

20. Mr. G. Karlaganis (Switzerland) presented the progress report on PRTRs and Emission Inventories (IFCS/FORUM-IV/5 INF), prepared by the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group. He reviewed the basic elements of the PRTR process, noting that countries can design PRTR systems according to their specific needs. He said that experience had shown that establishing a legal framework requiring mandatory reporting was as the most effective method for organizing and advancing work on PRTRs. The goals set by Forum III have been partially met: cooperation has increased and PRTRs have been established in at least two countries in two regions. He stated that significant positive development was achieved at the international level. The UN ECE Protocol on PRTRs, signed in Kiev at the 5th Ministerial Conference on “Environment in Europe” by 35 countries, is now open for accession to all UN Member States. Mr. Karlaganis informed the Forum that the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group would promote PRTR awareness at the international level and the establishment of a clearinghouse for PRTR support activities.

CHILDREN AND CHEMICAL SAFETY

21. In response to requests from the Central & Eastern European Region, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), and the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES), the FSC included the topic of children and chemical safety in the Forum IV agenda and established an ad hoc working group chaired by Hungary to prepare the agenda item. Dr. J. Pronczuk (WHO, co-chair of the FSC working group) presented the Forum IV decision document “Protecting children from harmful chemical exposures” (IFCS/FORUM-IV/14w) describing environmental health risks to children, factors contributing to children's special vulnerabilities to chemicals, how exposure may occur and citing the uncertainties about the health effects of exposure to chemicals. She provided specific examples of action that could be taken by governments, individuals, parents, communities, organizations and industries to improve chemical safety for children. Dr. Pronczuk introduced the proposed Forum actions recommending governments prepare initial national assessments on children's health and chemical safety, the development of mechanisms to facilitate collaborative research, and the sharing of information on options for taking effective action to protect children from

established chemical threats and from chemical risks where there is a degree of uncertainty. The FSC working group had also prepared a companion paper to provide more detailed background information, scientific rationale and additional references for the decision document, (IFCS/FORUM-IV/11 INF).

22. All regions expressed support for the Children & Chemical Safety Decision Document. In statements of support, participants offered specific amendments to broaden and strengthen the recommended actions. Delegates stressed that chemical exposures can occur during preconception, throughout gestation, infancy, childhood and adolescence. Delegates identified issues that should be considered such as proper labelling of consumer and pharmaceutical products, training of health professional, education of parents, endocrine disruptors, and chronic poisoning from lead and arsenic. A number of delegates noted that a lot could be accomplished with a small amount of effort.

23. The recommendations presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

24. Dr. P. Abeytunga (Canada) introduced the decision document, “Occupational Safety and Health Issues” (IFCS/FORUM-IV/08w), prepared by a FSC ad hoc working group chaired by Trinidad & Tobago. The paper was prepared in response to the decision by Forum III to pay special attention to occupational safety and health (OSH) concerns as they relate to the different programme areas of the IFCS Priorities for Action. The proposed actions suggests specific ways to address chemical safety in the workplace and incorporated efforts within the current and expanding framework of IFCS’s action plans and priorities.

25. Participants made a number of suggestions for additions and changes to the document, such as: the need to cover workers in various sectors of economic activity, including agriculture, health practitioners, workers in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and in the informal economy, as well as self-employed workers; the need to highlight the role of the social partners; the importance of training and information exchange including workers right to know; the need to include a reference to the ILO convention No. 169 on Indigenous and tribal populations; and the need for integrated capacity building programmes.

26. The recommendations presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

HAZARD DATA GENERATION AND AVAILABILITY

27. IFCS Priority for Action A3 states that: “For all chemicals in commerce, appropriate data detailing the inherent hazards of those chemicals should be made available to the public. Highest priority should be given to hazard information for those chemicals that have greatest potential for substantial exposure.” In order to implement this priority, Forum III instructed the FSC to develop an additional Priority for Action that addressed: the role of industry and governments in implementing this priority; use of animal testing; and possible approaches that would see relevant data becoming available in the shortest possible time-frames.

28. Dr. G. Bengtsson (Sweden), chair of the FSC ad hoc working group mandated to prepare a proposal for a new Priority for Action, introduced the decision document, “Hazard Data

Generation and Availability” (IFCS/FORUM-IV/09w), providing an overview of the recommendations for Forum IV consideration. The proposed Priority aimed for action to make available and generate where needed, appropriate hazard information, while balancing the right-to-know and business confidentiality and applying new methods to reduce animal use. The Priority included recommendations addressing the establishment of an international repository for hazard data, prioritization and appropriate measures for information generation, guidelines for the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of government and enterprises and suppliers, tiered approaches for screening information and guidelines for cooperation and coordination in carrying out the work. In support of its work and the proposed actions, the FSC working group had prepared a detailed technical information paper available as an information paper (IFCS/FORUM-IV/09w Annex).

29. Regional groups and participants were generally supportive of the proposed recommendations. OECD stated that several ongoing activities supported the recommendations. The interventions included a number of suggested revisions and additional items such as: a timetable for deliverables; the possibility of national legislation regarding the generation of data; achieving the right balance between confidential business information and the right-to-know. One participant stated that there was a need to provide information on the active ingredients in consumer products, noting that this was not part of the current mandate under Priority A3 nor adequately addressed in other Priorities.

30. Participants agreed that the facilitation of global consistency and global collaboration in data generation and accessibility would have several advantages:

- Improved safe use of chemicals with respect to human health and the environment (through, for example, facilitating classification, labelling, and development of Safety Data Sheets), including increased transparency.
- Minimised use of laboratory animals for testing.
- Economy of testing and assessment.
- Reduced barriers to trade.

31. Forum IV adopted unanimously a new priority for action as presented in the Executive Summary.

ACUTELY TOXIC PESTICIDES

32. Forum III identified the issue of pesticide poisonings as a priority. In order to comprehensively address the problem of acutely toxic pesticides, Forum III requested the FSC *“to provide initial input on the extent of the problem of acutely toxic pesticides, and provide guidance for sound risk management and reduction, including options for phasing out where appropriate, and report to Forum IV.”*

33. Mrs C. Barnes (USA), chair of the FSC working group established to prepare the report, presented the findings and proposed recommendations contained in decision document “Acutely Toxic Pesticides Initial Input on Extent of Problem and Guidance for Risk Management” (IFCS/FORUM IV/10w). The working group conducted a qualitative analysis of the problem by reviewing the reports and published articles of numerous organizations, governments, epidemiologists and public health professionals selected according to agreed criteria. The report

focused on acute poisonings resulting from both occupational and community exposures to acutely toxic pesticides. While the sources and the data collection methods of the reports' authors varied considerably, the report notes the remarkable consistency of the conclusions regarding the possible causes of occupational and community pesticide poisonings. The assessment suggests that acutely toxic pesticides may pose significant public health problems for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and can present a spectrum of effects ranging from severe (e.g., fatalities, permanent or temporary impairment) to mild effects such as skin irritations. The working group concluded that the initial assessment presented an adequate basis for a discussion by the Forum to evaluate strategies and consider possible actions to reduce or better manage the risks associated with the use of acutely toxic pesticides.

34. Mrs Barnes presented the proposed recommendations developed by the FSC working group that urge national governments, with the commitment and support of stakeholders, to consider a variety of actions including: developing national policies for risk mitigation that restrict availability of toxic pesticides, establish use limitations, label and package improvements; examining the efficacy of current risk reduction programmes, expanding research on alternative pest control & crop protection measures; facilitating access to information, and, addressing the need for national surveillance & reporting systems.

35. Participants acknowledged the inadequacy of quantitative information on pesticide poisonings in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that figures from poison centres do not adequately reflect the extent of occupational poisonings. Regional Groups identified a range of issues and types of actions for consideration including: training for agricultural labourers and others applying pesticides to reduce the incidence of occupational poisonings; identification of products responsible for poisonings and restrictions on the availability of these products; establishment of sound surveillance of pesticide poisonings including enhanced ability to recognize and interpret poisoning data in the context of conditions of use in the field; supporting reduced use of pesticides and enhanced availability of alternative products, including non-chemical alternatives; ensuring that pesticides are suitably labelled and that packaging is appropriate for the agricultural workers and small scale farmers using the products; taking action to safely dispose of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and to prevent the accumulation of new stockpiles; and encouraging and facilitating the exchange of information by both public and private sectors. Industry was asked to provide improved hazard data on existing products, to make available the least hazardous products, and to further extend product stewardship.

36. In the discussions, the difficulties of enforcing regulatory actions to control pesticides in developing countries was recognized, and international organizations were asked to assist in strengthening national infrastructures. In addition to measures under the Rotterdam Convention, countries expressed a need for assistance to help exercise improved control over imported pesticides, and cooperation to prevent the import and export of banned pesticides. Several participants supported further consideration of problems relating to the chronic effects of pesticides, and the effect of pesticides on the environment.

37. The recommendations on policy, regulatory and communication actions presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously. The recommendations provide guidance for a range of risk management and risk reduction actions governments, with the commitment and support of other stakeholders, can take according to their needs and capacities.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP)

38. Dr. M. Kern (Germany, Chair INFOCAP Steering Group) presented a Progress Report on the development and operation of the INFOCAP (IFCS/FORUM-IV/3 INF). He outlined the goals, objectives and mandate of the Network, progress of work, promotional activities, and next steps related to the development of the Network. Delegates expressed strong support for INFOCAP, emphasizing the importance of designating Network Points of Contact and active participation by various parties involved in chemicals management through the contribution and use of information. The Forum requested that a progress report assessing participation in and the utility of INFOCAP be prepared for Forum V.

Review of Assistance for Capacity Building

39. Forum III requested the FSC to “review assistance given to countries to support capacity building for the sound management of chemicals and report back to Forum IV.” Dr. M. Kern (Germany), on behalf of the FSC ad hoc working group established to prepare the report, presented the results of the review reported in the decision document “Assistance for Capacity Building Report for Forum IV” (IFCS/FORUM IV/11w). The working group examined a selection of past and present capacity building projects identifying lessons learned and obstacles to successfully launching and carrying out such projects. The Forum was requested to endorse the report and consider the counsel offered in undertaking activities relating to capacity building for the sound management of chemicals.

40. Forum participants welcomed and agreed in principle with the counsel suggested for their consideration. A number of comments were made with the intent of strengthening the counsel. Several governments proposed that the Forum participants promote a dialogue with international development assistance institutions (e.g. UNDP) with the goal of integrating chemical safety issues into poverty reduction strategies and national sustainable development strategies, and relevant project activities. UNEP urged countries to consider making chemical safety a priority that is reflected in their World Bank country assistance strategies, as a means to confirm the country-driven nature of the issue. This could facilitate access to some 250 million USD in Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources (plus additional resources that can be leveraged) for 2002-2006 through the focal area on POPs.

41. The recommendations presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

Addressing the Widening Gap

42. In response to a proposal from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the FSC included the topic of the “Widening Gap Among Countries in Following Chemical Safety Policies” in the Forum IV agenda and established an ad hoc working group chair by the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare the agenda item. Mr. R. Mokhtari (Iran, chair of the FSC working group) presented the decision document on “Addressing the Widening Gap Among Countries in Following Chemical Safety Policies” (IFCS/FORUM IV/12w). Mr. Mokhtari highlighted obstacles faced by many

developing countries in meeting chemical safety requirements. The paper states that the transboundary nature of threats by hazardous chemicals requires that all countries move toward the implementation of sound management of chemicals, more or less at the same pace. The current wide implementation gap is contrary to the main aim of these efforts and is counterproductive. Therefore, ways need to be found to overcome the wide gaps that exist between developed countries and developing countries in their ability to pursue chemical safety policies. He stressed the need to strike a balance between developing further policies and helping those lagging behind. The proposal recommends that Forum IV request the FSC to establish an *ad hoc* Expert Group with the objective to propose a systematic way of strengthening the sound management of chemicals in countries with chemical safety problems. It is envisaged that such a system could evaluate challenges that each country is facing and also make recommendations on actions to be taken by countries on a voluntary basis.

43. The Proposal received broad support from the regional group as well as by national delegations and representatives of IGOs and NGOs. It was considered to form a concrete basis for action with participation of all players. In their interventions participants noted the importance of countries making chemicals management a priority in development assistance programmes and the strong need for governments to mobilize internal resources (not just external). Clarification on the proposal's scope concerning the development of a proposal for a system vs. implementation (where would it be institutionalized) was sought. Sweden suggested that it might be useful to carry out a pilot project once the system is established and stated it might consider funding support for the work. The work was also recommended as an important pillar for SAICM.

44. The decision and requested actions presented in the Executive Summary were adopted unanimously.

GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS) FOR CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

45. Ms. K. Headrick (Canada) introduced a proposed GHS Action Plan prepared by participants attending the GHS workshop. Delegates expressed general support for the Action Plan. The Action Plan emphasizes that GHS implementation has become a top priority for capacity building in developing countries and countries in economic transition. A number of participants raised concern about the 2008 target for implementation and the transition period for global implementation. Other participants called for additional assistance for implementation and Germany and Switzerland expressed their continued support for capacity building activities.

46. The GHS Action Plan presented in the Executive Summary was adopted unanimously.

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

47. Mrs. A. Olanipekun (Nigeria), Co-Chair of the *ad hoc* working group, presented a draft resolution on Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products. The *ad hoc* working group had discussed various reasons for slow progress including lack of resources, lack of political will and the need for governments to bring forward Forum recommendations to the governing bodies of international organizations.

48. The resolution invites UNEP to take the lead in initiating actions requested by Forum III, calls upon governments and organizations to provide the necessary technical and financial support and invite the World Customs Organization to participate in the work. The need for governments to bring this issue forward at relevant intergovernmental organization governing body, in particular the UNEP Governing Council was stressed. Delegates also reiterated the urgency of taking actions at the national level in accordance with the recommendations of Forum III.

49. The resolution presented in the Executive Summary was adopted unanimously.

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (SAICM)

50. Dr Wm. Sanders III (USA) chair of the FSC working group, introduced the Forum IV working paper entitled “Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - Forum IV Thought Starter on Gaps in the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000”(IFCS/FORUM IV/13w). In response to Decisions SS.VII/3 and 22/4 IV of the UNEP Governing Council and to the World Summit on Sustainable Development(WSSD), the FSC included the topic of the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management on the Forum IV agenda. An objective was to present the outcome of the Forum’s deliberations to the first PrepCom of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), to be convened 9-13 November 2003 in Bangkok, immediately following Forum IV. Dr Sanders explained that the paper was intended both to stimulate thinking about gaps in present global chemicals policy and to provide an analytical framework for the discussions. An Annex to the Thought Starter was a background document in tabular format that identified key themes in the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000, provided as an organizational aide in tracking discussion at Forum IV on gaps, obstacles to implementation and potential actions. The Thought Starter also discusses opportunities and enablers for change, financing and coordination.

51. Forum IV agreed to prepare a contribution to SAICM PrepCom1 using the Thought Starter as the basis for the document. It was agreed that the paper should be a compilation document incorporating the range of Forum participants’ viewpoints and not a negotiated document.

52. Participants at Forum IV examined and discussed SAICM at the regional group meetings and in several plenary sessions, bringing forward suggested revisions to the Thought Starter as well as a range of issues on policy, coordination and integration, multistakeholder involvement, technology transfer, production practices, role of science, and resource and financial mobilization, and numerous items dealing with gaps, obstacles and potential actions for inclusion.

53. Interventions stressed that the need for developing countries to “catch up” with developed nations in their capacity to manage chemicals is fundamental. The implementation gaps to be addressed and related needs for capacity building are substantial. Some countries stressed that, rather than adding to the current list of priorities, preference should be given to addressing gaps in implementation of current priorities. Other countries stressed the need to consider new

priorities along with setting concrete timetables to achieve targets such as for the 2020 WSSD goals. Some delegates emphasized the need for a fundamental change in the way we manage chemicals, and benchmarks against which to measure progress to achieve the sound management of chemicals envisioned by WSSD 2020.

54. Forum IV adopted unanimously the revised “Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - Forum IV Thought Starter on Gaps in the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000”(IFCS/FORUM IV/13w Rev2, 7 November 2003).

ELECTION OF IFCS OFFICERS AND FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

55. The Vice Presidents presented the regional group nominations for IFCS Officers and the Forum Standing Committee. The nominations were accepted by acclamation. The newly elected IFCS Officers and government members of the Forum Standing Committee are listed in Annex 12.

56. The President expressed gratitude to those governments who agreed to serve the IFCS in various capacities through Forum V.

57. Dr. P. Pothisiri (Thailand) thanked the Forum for the confidence it placed in Thailand to serve as the IFCS President and stated that the government was looking forward to working with participants to ensure substantial progress on the IFCS goals and targets by Forum V. He informed the Forum that the Government of Thailand designated Dr. S. Wibulpolprasert, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, to serve as the IFCS President.

FUTURE IFCS MEETINGS

58. The President introduced the room document “Thought Starter on SAICM International Conference on Chemical Management, Future IFCS and SAICM Meetings, Options for Timing and Venue” containing options for the scheduling and timing of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) and its impact on the IFCS and timing of Forum V. He referred participants to the room document presenting the letter from the Government of Hungary offering to host Forum V either in the second part of 2005, in the first quarter of 2006 or in the second half of 2006. Participants expressed appreciation to the Government of Hungary. Several participants noted the time needed to translate Forum recommendations into action and to adequately prepare the agenda for the next Forum. The Forum agreed to convene Forum V in Budapest in the second half of 2006.

59. The President informed the Forum that the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, had sent a letter to IFCS and the IOMC Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee in their capacity of co-conveners, proposing to hold ICCM in conjunction with the ninth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum scheduled for early 2006. The IOMC Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOMC/IOCC) had responded agreeing in principle that planning proceed on the basis of the proposal. In its response, the IOMC/IOCC stressed the importance that the conference should draw high-level representation from the widest range of sectors. The President proposed a response to Dr. Topfer, in line with that of the

IOMC/IOCC, underscoring the need for the highest representation of all sectors. The Forum agreed to the proposal.

60. Senegal offered to host Forum VI and requested support for this initiative. The President commended this proposal as a sign of confidence in the future of IFCS and support for the Forum from developing countries.

REVIEW OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ADOPTION OF THE FORUM IV REPORT

61. The Forum considered and agreed to the structure and content of the Forum IV Final Report. Participants adopted recommendations and agreed actions on the basis of the draft Executive Summary of the Forum IV Final Report. The finalization of the report was entrusted to the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

CLOSURE OF FORUM IV

62. Participants thanked the IFCS President and the IFCS Secretariat for their work and the host country for its hospitality. A large number of participants expressed their support for the IFCS as an effective mechanism for convening stakeholders, establishing priorities for action and raising awareness regarding the sound management of chemicals.

63. In his closing remarks as departing IFCS President, Mr. H. Cavalcanti expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work with the IFCS, noting that it was a privilege to be involved with such an innovative, effective body and to work with so many individuals clearly committed to the goals of chemical safety. He extended his support and best wishes to the new President.

64. The incoming IFCS President, Dr. S. Wilbulpolprasert, stated that he would fully support those who were dedicated to the safe use of chemicals and who join the Forum in the spirit of partnership. He stressed the importance of inclusiveness and suggested that while the IFCS does not have the financial influence of other organizations, it has social and spiritual power. He underscored the importance of knowledge generation, social movement and political linkages.

65. The President wished the participants a safe journey home and declared Forum IV closed.

ANNEX 1

List of Meeting Documents



1 INF Rev 1

Chemical Safety in a Vulnerable World

IFCS/FORUM-IV/1 INF Rev 1
Original: English
5 August 2003

FORUM IV

Fourth Session
of the
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Bangkok, Thailand
1 – 7 November 2003

List of Meeting Documents

Prepared by: IFCS Secretariat

For the protection of the environment and reasons of economy, this document is printed in limited number.
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to the meeting and not to request additional copies

List of Meeting Documents

Agenda Item	Subject	Document Title	Document No. IFCS/FORUM-IV/
1.	Opening of the meeting		
2.	Organizational matters concerning Forum IV		
	- report on preparations for Forum IV		
	- adoption of agenda	Proposed Provisional Agenda	01w
		Proposed Provisional Annotated Agenda	02w
	- adoption of provisional timetable	Proposed General Time Schedule	03w
		Proposed Detailed Time Schedule	04w
3.	IFCS administrative items	Guidelines and Criteria for Selection of Hosts	05w
		IFCS Guidelines and Procedures – proposed amendments	15w
		IFCS Financial Statement	06w
		Resources to support Vice Presidents - Proposal from IFCS Vice-Presidents	07w
4.	President's Progress Report	President's Progress Report	
5.	Children and chemical safety	Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures	14w
		Information paper - Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures	11 INF
6.	Occupational safety and health	Occupational Safety & Health Issues and the Work of IFCS	08w
7.	Hazard data generation and availability	Hazard Data Generation and Availability - Report for Forum IV	09w
		Current Practices and Proposals for Generation, Assessment and Accessibility of Hazard Data	09w Annex
8.	Acutely toxic pesticides - risk management and reduction	Acutely Toxic Pesticides - Initial Input on Extent of Problem & Guidance for Risk Management	10w
9.	Capacity building		
	- review of capacity building assistance	Assistance for Capacity Building - Report for Forum IV	11w
	- Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals	Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP) - Progress Report	3 INF
	- addressing the widening gap among countries in following the chemical safety policies	Addressing The Widening Gap Among Countries In Following Chemical Safety Policies	12w

10.	Strategic approach to international chemicals management	Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management (SAICM) Forum IV Thought Starter on Gaps in the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000	13w
11.	Election of IFCS Officers and Forum Standing Committee Members		
12.	Any other business		
13.	Review of conclusions and recommendations, adoption of Report of the Meeting		
14.	Closing of the meeting		

Other Documents	
Document Title	Document No. IFCS/FORUM IV/
List of Meeting Documents	1 INF Rev 1
IFCS List of Acronyms	2 INF
Fourth OECD Survey of Development Assistance for Capacity Building	4 INF
Report to Forum IV on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)/Emission Inventories	5 INF
Ongoing and Future Pollutant Release and Transfer Registries (PRTRs) Capacity Building Projects that the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has been Involved With or Supported	6 INF
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	7 INF
Conduct of Business in Plenary Sessions of the Forum, Regional Group Meetings, and <i>ad hoc</i> Working Groups	8 INF
Illegal Traffic A Status Report for IFCS Forum IV	9 INF
IOMC capacity-building activities	10 INF
Forum III Final Report – Selected Sections <i>Including the Bahia Declaration, Priorities for Action beyond 2000, IFCS Terms of Reference and other guidelines and procedures.</i>	IFCS/Forum III/23w

Reference Papers
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Background documents for the SAICM are available on the UNEP SAICM website at www.chem.unrp/saicm .
PrepCom 1 meeting papers will be distributed by UNEP and made available on the UNEP SAICM website.

ANNEX 2

List of Acronyms

IFCS LIST OF ACRONYMS English - French - Spanish

Acronym	Full Name
ABIQUM	Brazilian Chemical Industry Association Associacion Bresiliénne de la Industrie Chimique Asociación Brasileña de la Industria Química
APELL APELL APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level Sensibilisation et préparation aux urgences au niveau local Concientización y preparación para emergencias al nivel local
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
CCPA	Canadian Chemical Producers Association Association canadienne des fabricants de produits chimiques
CDROM	Compact Disc/Read Only Memory
CEC CCE CCE	Commission of the European Communities Commission des communautés européennes Comision de las comunidades europeas
CEFIC CEFIC CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council Conseil Européen de l'industrie Chimique Consejo Europeo de la Industria Química
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon Chlorofluorocarbones Clorofluorocarbonos
CIA	U.K. Chemical Industries Association
CIS CIS CIS	International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (ILO) Centre International d'Informations de Sécurité et de Santé au Travail El Centro Internacional de Información sobre Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo

Acronym	Full Name
CITES CITES CITES	Convention on Traffic in Endangered Species Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres
CMA	Chemical Manufacturers' Association (USA)
CSD CDD CDS	Commission on Sustainable Development (UN) Commission du développement durable Comisión sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
DGDs DGD DOD	Decision Guidance Documents Documents d'orientation des décisions Documentos de orientación des decisiones
DHA DAH DAH	Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UN) Département des affaires humanitaires Departamento de Asuntos Humanitario
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC EC EC	European Commission Commission européenne Comisión europea
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECB BESC OESQ	European Chemicals Bureau Bureau européen des substances chimiques Oficina Europea de Sustancias Químicas
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC ECOSOC ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN) Conseil économique et social Consejo económico y social

Acronym	Full Name
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EEC	European Economic Communities
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EHC EHC EHC	Environmental Health Criteria Critères d'hygiène de l'environnement Criterios de salud ambiental
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
EU EU EU	European Union Union européenne Unión europea
EXICHEM EXICHEM EXICHEM	Existing Chemicals Database (OECD) Banque de données sur les substances chimiques existantes Banco de datos sobre productos químicos actuales
FAO FAO FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
FSC FSC FSC	Forum Standing Committee (IFCS) Comité permanent du Forum (IFCS) Comité Permanente del Foro (IFCS)
CROPLIFE GCPF FMPC FMPC	<i>NEW NAME AS OF 7 JUNE 2001</i> Global Crop Protection Federation Fédération mondiale de la protection des cultures Federación Mundial para la Protección de las Cosechas

Acronym	Full Name
GEF	Global Environment Facility Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial Fonds pour l'environnement mondial
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution Groupe mixte d'experts chargé d'étudier les aspects scientifiques de la pollution des mers Grupo Mixto de Expertos sobre los aspectos científicos de la contaminación del mar
GHS GHS GHS	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals Système mondial harmonisé de classification et d'étiquetage des produits chimiques Sistema Armonizado Mundial de Clasificación y Etiquetado de Productos Químico
GINC RMIPC GINC	Global Information Network on Chemicals Réseau mondial d'information sur les produits chimiques Red de Información Mundial sobre Sustancias Químicas
GTZ	German Society for Technical Cooperation
HPV	High Production Volume
IARC CIRC CIIC	International Agency for Research on Cancer Centre international de recherche sur le cancer Centro Internacional de Investigaciones sobre el Cáncer
ICCA ICCA ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations Conseil international des associations chimiques Consejo Internacional de Asociaciones de la Industria Química
ICCS CISC CISQ	International Conference on Chemical Safety Conférence internationale sur la Sécurité chimique Conferencia Internacional sobre Seguridad Química
ICEM ICEM ICEM	International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mining and General Workers Union Fédération internationale des syndicats de travailleurs de la chimie, de l'énergie et des industries diverses Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química, la Energía, la Minería e Industrias Diversas

Acronym	Full Name
ICFTU CISL CIOSL	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Confédération internationale des syndicats libres Confederación Internacional de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres
ICME ICME ICME	International Council on Metals and the Environment Conseil International des Métaux de l'Environnement Consejo Internacional de Metales y Medio Ambiente
ICSC ICSC TISPQ	International Chemical Safety Cards Fiches internationales sur la sécurité des produits chimiques Fichas internacionales de Seguridad Química
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFCS IFCS IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Forum intergouvernemental sur la sécurité chimique Foro Intergubernamental sobre Seguridad Química
IFPAAW FITPASC FITPAS	International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers Fédération internationale des travailleurs des plantations, de l'agriculture et des secteurs connexes Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores de las Plantaciones, Agrícolas y Similares
IGO OIG OIG	Intergovernmental Organization Organisation Intergouvernementale Organización intergubernamental
ILO BIT/OIT OIT	International Labour Office/International Labour Organization Bureau international du Travail/Organisation internationale de Travail Oficina Internacional del Trabajo/Organización Internacional del Trabajo
ILSI ILSI	International Life Sciences Institute Institut international des Sciences de la Vie
IMO OMI OMI	International Maritime Organization Organisation maritime internationale Organización Marítima Internacional

Acronym	Full Name
INC INC INC	Intergovernmental negotiating committee Comite de Negociation Intergouvernemental Comité Intergubernamental de Negociación
INFOCAP INFOCAP INFOCAP	Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for Sound Management of Chemicals Réseau pour l'échange d'informations sur le renforcement des capacités de gestion rationnelle des produits chimiques Red de Intercambio de Información sobre la Creación de Capacidad para la Gestión Racional de los Productos Químicos
INTOX INTOX INTOX	Poison Information Database Management System (IPCS) Système de gestion des bases de données sur les intoxications aiguës Systema de Gestión de Bancos de Datos sobre intoxicación aguda
IOCC	Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOMC)
IOMC IOMC IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals Programme Interorganisations pour la gestion rationnelle des Produits Chimiques Programa Interorganismos para la Gestión Racional de las Sustancias Químicas
IPCS PISSC IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety Programme international sur la Sécurité chimique El Programa Internacional de Seguridad de las Sustancias Químicas
IPEN RIEPOP RIECOP	International POPs Elimination Network Réseau international pour l'élimination des POP Red Internacional de Eliminación de los COPs
IRPTC RISCPT RIPQPT	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals Registre international des substances chimiques potentiellement toxiques Registro Internacional de Productos Químicos Potencialmente Tóxicos
ISG ISG ISG	Intersessional Group (IFCS) Groupe Intersessions (IFCS) Grupo de Enlace (IFCS)

Acronym	Full Name
IUCLID	International Uniform Chemicals Information Database
IUPAC UICPA UIQPA	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Union internationale de chimie pure et appliquée Unión Internacional de Química Pura y Aplicada
IUPHAR UIPHAR	International Union of Pharmacology Union Internationale de pharmacologie Unión Internacional de Farmacología
IUTOX UITOX IUTOX	International Union of Toxicology Union internationale de toxicologie Unión Internacional de Toxicología
JECFA JECFA CMEAA	Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives Comité conjoint d'experts en additifs alimentaires Comité Mixto de Expertos in Aditivos Alimentarios
JMPR JMPR RCRP	Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues Réunion conjointe sur les résidus de pesticides Reunión Conjunta sobre Residuos de Plaguicidas
LRTAP LRTAP LRTAP	Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Transport à longue distance des polluants atmosphériques Transporte de contaminantes atmosfericos a larga distancia
MARPOL	Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (otherwise known as MARPOL 73/78)
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NGO ONG ONG	Non-governmental Organization Organisation Non Gouvernementales Organización No Gubernamental
OECD OCDE OCDE	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económico

Acronym	Full Name
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee Comité d'aide au développement
OEH OEH OEH	Occupational and Environmental Health (WHO) Médecine du travail et Hygiène du milieu Salud Ocupacional y Ambiental
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PAN PAN PAN	Pesticide Action Network Pesticide Action Network (no official translation into French) Red de Acción en Plaguicidas
PCB BPC PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls Biphényles polychlorés Bifenilos policlorados
PHE PHE PHE	Protection of Human Environment (WHO) Protection de l'environnement humain Protección del Medio Humano
PIC PIC CFP	Prior Informed Consent Consentement préalable donné en connaissance de cause Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo
POPs POPs COP	Persistent Organic Pollutants Polluants organiques persistants Contaminantes orgánicos persistentes
PRTRs IETMP PRTRs	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Inventaire des émissions et des transferts des matières polluantes El Grupo Coordinador de Registros de emisiones y transferencia de contaminantes
SCOPE SCOPE SCOPE	Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment Comité scientifique pour les problèmes de l'environnement Comité Científico sobre los Problemas del Medio Ambiente

Acronym	Full Name
SGOMSEC SGOMSEC SGOMSEC	Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals Groupe scientifique des méthodologies assurant la sûreté de l'évaluation des substances chimiques Grupo Científico sobre Metodologías para la Evaluación de la Seguridad de los Productos Químicos
SIAR	Sids Initial Assessment Reports
SIDS SIDS SIDS	Screening Information Data Sets (OECD) Dossiers de dépistage des risques [traduction libre] Series de datos para la selección de información
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TSCA TSCA TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act (USA) Loi relative au contrôle des substances chimiques toxiques Ley sobre el control de las sustancias químicas tóxicas
UN ONU ONU	United Nations Nations Unies Naciones Unidas
UNCED CNUED CNUMAD	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo
UN CETDG UN CETDG UN CETDG	United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Comité d'experts en matière de transport des marchandises dangereuses Comité de Expertos en Transporte de Mercaderías Peligrosas
UNDP PNUD PNUD	United Nations Development Programme Programme des Nations Unies Pour le développement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo

Acronym	Full Name
UNECE UNC EE UNCEPE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN) Commission économique pour l'Europe Comisión Económica para Europa
UNEP PNUE PNUMA	United Nations Environment Programme Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Industrie et Environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Industria y Medio Ambiente
UNEP GC	UNEP Governing Council
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNIDO ONUDI ONUDI	United Nations Industrial Development Organization Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial
UNITAR UNITAR UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para la Formación Profesional y la Investigación
VCI	The German Chemicals Industry Association
WCO OMD	World Customs Organization Organisation Mondiale des Douanes
WEOG WEOG WEOG	Western Europe and Other Groups (IFCS) Europe de l'Ouest et autres groupes Europe occidental y otros grupos
WHA WHA WHA	World Health Assembly (WHO) Assemblée mondiale de la santé Asamblea Mundial de la Salud
WHO OMS OMS	World Health Organization Organisation mondiale de la Santé Organización Mundial de la Salud

Acronym	Full Name
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (NGO; also known as World Wildlife Fund)
WWF	Fonds mondial pour la nature
WWF	Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza

ANNEX 3

Report of African Regional Group Meetings

**AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP
MEETING REPORT
30 – 31 October 2003, 1-5 November 2003**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The African Regional Group meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) took place from 30 - 31 October 2003 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla, IFCS Vice President for the African Region, officially opened the meeting. In his opening statement, he thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting the meeting. Thereafter, he outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was mainly to formulate the African position on issues to be discussed during Forum IV.

In her remarks, Dr. Judy Stober, the Executive Secretary of IFCS expressed her satisfaction with the participation of delegates from IFCS African region in this essential meeting.

2. Election of the Meeting Officers

The group unanimously elected the following officers:

- a. Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal): Chairman:
- b. Mrs Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria): Vice-Chair
- c. Dr. Edith Clarke, Ghana and Mrs Marthe Rahelimalala, (Madagascar):
Rapporteurs

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with no amendments.

4. Participation

The list of participants is appended to the Forum's report.

5. Presentations and Discussions

5.1 Discussions were based on the Action Plan for Africa adopted at the Dakar Conference, 3-5 July 2002 and Priorities of Action beyond 2000 adopted at Forum III.

5.2 Country Reports

Country Reports essentially focused on issues including institutional arrangements (creation of Management Committees for Chemicals), legal and regulatory issues, development of a partnership with other stakeholders, creation of poison centers, establishment of information exchange networks on chemicals, search for alternatives to chemicals, disposal of obsolete pesticides, capacity building, etc.

5.3 Programs and Activities at Forum IV

This item was presented by the President of IFCS, Mr. Henrique Calvacanti. He pointed out the following areas were added to the initial six-targeted areas for action beyond Year 2000. These were:

- Protection of children from harmful chemical exposures
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Addressing the widening gap among countries in following chemical safety policies
- Strategic approach to international management of chemicals

Having met for two days the African group came up with the following suggestions.

5.4 Program Field E3 on Capacity Building

This topic was introduced by Mrs. Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria). The region agreed on the need for training, infrastructure and financing.

Mr. Mokhtari of Iran, brought up the issue of widening gaps between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The group strongly supported the initiative and recommended it be given priority.

5.5 Children and Chemical Safety (IFCS/FORUM IV/14w)

This topic was introduced by Dr Lilian Corra, by elaborating on the vulnerable nature of this group. After a thorough discussion the African Group fully supported the paper but requested the Forum address the special vulnerability of women. The group also stressed the need to cover such issues as the harmful effects of tobacco, leaded gasoline, very hazardous pesticides (e.g. Paraquat).

5.6 Hazard Data Generation and Availability

The topic was introduced Ms. Sara Bjorkquist, IFCS Secretariat. It focused on the implementation of activities to be undertaken by OECD and IPCS. The African group stressed a need for training for effective implementation of these initiatives.

5.7 Acutely Toxic Pesticides

This topic was introduced by Ms. Cathleen Barnes, focusing on harmonization of labeling, control of imported products, import licensing for equipment and products, responsibilities of producers and subsidies by governments for less polluting products. The African group stressed training, awareness raising needs, the need for governments to subsidize alternatives to encourage use of less toxic pesticides and establishment and strengthening of poison control centres

5.8 Occupational Safety and Health

The topic was introduced by Mr. Isaac Obadia, IFCS Secretariat, putting great emphasis on the necessity to create a policy and legal framework covering all sectors involved in the management of chemical products and expressing the wish to reinforce the

cooperation between IFCS and ILO. The African region accepted the paper, but recommended that issues regarding insurance and workmen's compensation for all workers in chemical industries should be given due consideration at national and international fora. In addition governments should be encouraged to embrace risk reduction initiatives.

5.9 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Mr. Ibrahima Sow, Senegal, introduced this topic with highlights of elements linked to the improvement of technical and financial support for developing countries. Recommendations centered on training and good governance.

5.10 Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products

Having established that Illegal Traffic was not on the Agenda of Forum IV, and recognizing its great importance for Africa, the group recommended this item for inclusion in the Agenda of Forum IV.

5.11 Elections

The Vice President outlined the nomination and election procedure. The nomination took place on 4th November 2003 installing the following officers and FSC members:

- Vice President: Tanzania
- FSC Members: Zimbabwe
Guinea
- Alternate FSC Members: Mauritius
Mauritania

ANNEX 4

Report of Asia and the Pacific Regional Group Meetings

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL GROUP
MEETING REPORT
1-3 November 2003**

Meeting Chair: Mr. Sadao NAKAO, Japan,
Vice-President, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)
Asia and the Pacific Region
Rapporteur: Mr. Park, Pong Gyun, Republic of Korea

The regional group met on 1 November (8:00-11:00), 2 November (13:00-16:00) and 3 November (13:00-16:00). The discussions were based around Forum IV agenda items. Only the key points from the discussions are noted below.

IFCS administrative items: Election of Regional Representatives for the IFCS

The candidate for the next Vice-presidency: The Philippines
The candidates for the FSC membership: Iran (confirmed), Fiji (confirmed), China and Japan to share the term of office.

Occupational Safety and Health

There were many proposals for this item (8W), especially for the recommendations in Annex 1. The following were the key issues identified as important to the region:

- Clear identification of the responsible organization such as WHO and ILO;
- Importance of implementing ILO convention 138 on Minimum Age of Employment, and ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor; and,
- The need to consider workers in SME as well as vulnerable groups (children, the elderly and women) in addressing the risk reduction programmes for chemical safety in the workplace.

Hazard Data Generation and Availability

The Asia Pacific Regional Group agreed with the overall direction of the recommendations on decision document 9W. The followings were the key issues highlighted during the discussion;

- Application of ISO/IEC 17025 to ensure the quality of the generated hazard data; and,
- The usefulness of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) international guiding principles for Biomedical Research involving animals in minimizing the use of test animals.

Acutely Toxic Pesticides – risk management and reduction

After active discussion, participants agreed to consider risk mitigation mechanisms such as establishing a surveillance and monitoring system on the use of Acutely Toxic Pesticides (ATP), prevention of stockpiling as well as safe disposal of obsolete ATP, suppression of import and export of banned ATP, and transfer of technology to reduce risks caused by the use of pesticides.

Capacity Building

All countries voiced the need for preparing the National Profiles for chemical management, and called for the support from the IOMC member organizations. In addition, the importance of the INFOCAP activities was advocated. Concerning the widening gap, all countries appreciated the insightful contents of the paper prepared by the working group.

Children and Chemical Safety

The participants recognized the threatened health of working children as an urgent issue to be overcome in the region and also stressed the need to consider multi-stakeholders' point of view in addressing children's health and chemical safety. The responsible organizations such as WHO and ILO are encouraged to take their leads.

GHS

The countries in this region fully agreed with the draft GHS action plan prepared by the Steering Committee for the GHS workshop, except for the need to identify the responsible organizations.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The group was engaged in the discussion on tier one question 1 and tier two questions in the document (13w). Migration of pollutant industry and chemical pollution caused by war were found to be the missing gaps in the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000. Therefore, the group recommended that program D (in Priorities for Action) should include appropriate prevention measures to address the migration of polluting industries and relevant studies on the effects of dangerous chemicals released by wars.

ANNEX 5

Report of Central and Eastern European Group Meetings

**CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP
MEETING REPORT
1-3 November 2003**

The CEE Regional Group had three meetings during Forum IV, which were held on 1, 2 and 3 November 2003, in Conference Room IV, according to the scheduled agenda. The meetings were chaired by Prof. Dr György Ungváry the IFCS Vice president Ms Dr Marta Ciraj, Slovenia and Ms Ivana Halle, Croatia, served as rapporteurs. All Forum IV Decision Documents received broad support from the region. The Regional Group recommended several modifications and additions to those documents. Representatives from the countries listed in Annex 1 attended the Regional Meetings and actively participated in the work.

Forum IV Decision documents: Comments and proposals

I. Children and Chemical Safety:

The Regional Group supported the document in the form it was presented.

II. Hazard Data Generation and Availability:

The Regional Group supported the document and recommended to the IFCS that more importance should be given in the document to communication efforts and particularly to the free accessibility of the relevant electronic data related to chemicals.

III. Acutely toxic pesticides:

The Regional Group supported the document and requested IFCS to include in the final document the following observations:

1. There is under registering and no correct data on the number of acute pesticide poisonings. This is due to inadequate regulation, agriculture structure as well as the definition of occupational diseases.
2. There is a close correlation between the organization, regulation to protect labour in agricultural work, education of agricultural workers, level of poverty in a country or amongst farmers and the number of acute poisonings caused by pesticides.
3. There is still problem with the evidence of chronic toxicity caused by long term exposure.
4. The problem of obsolete pesticides is still acute and all relevant activities adopted at Forum III should be continued and reported to the IFCS.

IV. Capacity building assistance:

The Regional Group supported the document and requested the IFCS to include in the final document the following observations:

1. Effectiveness of capacity building assistance is very low. One of the reasons is the poor intersectoral cooperation, coordination and information flow within the countries.
2. Effectiveness of capacity building depends on the basic knowledge of chemical safety – therefore chemical safety education is of great importance. Obligatory education on chemical safety is needed in the programs of elementary school.

3. Poor public awareness regarding chemical safety is still present.

4. There is a strong need for further cooperation with UNITAR on fostering intersectoral cooperation in the some countries and in the implementation of the relevant guidelines on raising public awareness regarding chemicals.

V. Addressing the widening gaps among countries

The Regional Group supported the document emphasizing that chemical safety is a global problem. Therefore, the developed countries should give support to those countries, which have lagged behind in the implementation of chemicals management policies and programmes. The Regional Group pointed out some additional observations, as follows:

1. The Regional Group notes that the solution to the widening gap is a key question for global chemical safety.

2. The Regional Group strongly believes that the solution to this problem is one of the most important pillars for the successful performance of SAICM.

VI. Regional roles and responsibilities for vice presidents

No additional comments were presented.

VII. Guidelines for national focal points

The Regional Group proposed the following amendments:

Point 4 should be changed to: “The Focal Point should be prepared to provide each year to the IFCS **and the regional vice president in December** information and progress reports on national priorities with respect to the environmentally sound management of chemicals on an annual basis in December. The basic format for **this report** should be established by the Secretariat **and adopted by the Forum Standing Committee.**”

Point 6 should be amended to: “Governments should seek to ensure continuity of national focal points **and immediately inform the Secretariat of any change that has occurred.**”

VIII. Occupational safety and health:

The Regional Group supported the proposal in the decision document and requested the inclusion, of the following additional recommendations:

1. Occupational health problems exist in small and medium enterprises and should be emphasized more for self employed people.

2. It is necessary to call attention to occupational health and safety in agriculture, as well as to occupational health and safety of people working in the health sector.

3. The occupational health problems connected with illegal work and illegal migrants should be addressed as well.

IX. *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*: see Annex II

X. Elections:

The final proposal of the Regional Group of candidates for IFCS Vice president, FSC members and alternates is as follows (adopted with consensus):

IFCS Vice President candidate: Russian Federation
FSC members: Republic of Slovenia and Republic of Kazakhstan
FSC member's alternates: Republic of Croatia and Poland.

Annex 1: List of countries attending the CEE Regional meetings

Albania
Armenia
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Croatia
Estonia
Hungary
Kazakhstan
Kyrgystan
Latvija
Poland
Russia
Slovenia
Uzbekistan

Annex II

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP REPORT ON Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The Regional Group:

- understands the SAICM document as the linkage to the Millennium goals (WHO) and WSSD document agreed in Johannesburg 2002. It seeks primarily to overcome the gaps between rich and poor, diminish poverty, and emphasize the need for global cooperation;
- agrees with the scope and goals of the SAICM document and will be engaged in the proposed further activities;
- expects that SAICM will cover the whole life cycle of chemicals (as an umbrella act or convention) preferably as a legally binding instrument;
- proposes that SAICM will respect (and overcome) the information gap on an international level, and foster the international information exchange on existing and new chemicals that are on the market during the whole life cycle.

ANNEX 6

Report of Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group Meetings

**LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL GROUP
MEETING REPORT
1-7 November 2003**

Within the context of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum IV) held in Bangkok, the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Group held several working meetings to address the issues identified as regional priorities and the topics proposed by Forum IV.

The President of IFCS, Dr. Henrique Cavalcanti, and the Vice-President of LAC, Mrs. Mercedes Bolaños, Ecuador, welcomed the participants to the regional meeting. The latter then made a presentation on IFCS activities and regional IFCS tasks between 2000 and 2003.

The following observations were made concerning revision of the items included on the Agenda for Forum IV:

- *Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures* (IFCS/FORUM IV/14w): Agreement with and support for the document was reiterated and a request was made to include other vulnerable groups, such as women.
- *Occupational Safety and Health Issues and the Work of IFCS* (IFCS/FORUM IV/08w): It was recommended that the document should be elaborated to include the experience of the WHO/ILO group on the issue. The word “relevant” was considered to be inappropriate and should be deleted and “use without risk” should be replaced with “use with minimal risk”. The right of workers to be informed both in the formal and informal sectors of the economy was stressed. Emphasis should also be placed on training workers so they could protect themselves in the event of exposure to chemicals in the workplace.

In reference to Programme Area A, the Group stressed the importance of combining monitoring and health surveillance in the workplace and proposed the following wording:

“Develop, adopt and improve appropriate measures for monitoring and health surveillance in the workplace”.

In reference to Programme Area C, the following recommendation should be included: “Develop and implement methodologies and analytical capacity for the biological surveillance of chemicals present in the work environment”.

In reference to Programme Area D, include in the second recommendation, “Grant ... in the workplace, promoting urgent application of, *inter alia*, ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour”. The following recommendations should also be included: “Promote specific training (professional training) of persons applying pesticides in rural areas” and “Implement the measures outlined in ILO Convention 169 on the conditions of work in indigenous communities to prevent the use of particularly dangerous pesticides” (Article 3).

In reference to Programme Area E, the following recommendations should be included: -“Establish integrated training programmes for professionals in government, public health and labour spheres in the area of health care of workers with emphasis on the acknowledgement, assessment and control of occupational chemical risk factors as well

- as of organic and psychiatric disorders caused by exposure to chemicals in agricultural, industrial, commercial and service-related work centres”;
- “Promote an exchange of success stories in the areas of safety and occupational health as they relate to exposure to chemicals in the workplace via publications, Internet, etc.”;
 - “ Open channels of international cooperation intended expressly to develop and strengthen national skills in developing countries”.
- *Hazard Data Generation and Availability* (IFCS/FORUM IV/09w): Special emphasis should be placed on making data that is available to the public free of charge and easily accessible.
 - *Acutely Toxic Pesticides*: The Rotterdam Convention should be applied to access information and limit category 1a and 1b cases. The use of lower risk pesticides and non-chemical measures should be encouraged, application techniques should be improved, surveillance systems should be designed, it should be mandatory for pesticides to be sold in receptacles adapted to conditions of use and IPM should be implemented. Appropriate measures should also be taken to handle and dispose of pesticides, receptacles and residues generated throughout their life cycle.
 - *Assistance for Capacity Building* (IFCS/FORUM IV/11w): The title of the document should be changed to “Assistance for capacity building and strengthening” and the body of the text under section IV (Councils) should be re-organized so that paragraph B becomes paragraph D, and the necessary changes should be made.
 - *Addressing the Widening Gap among Countries in Following Chemical Safety Policies* (IFCS/FORUM IV/12w): It was proposed that the document should include methodology and financial mechanisms to enable developing countries to build capacity in the area of chemicals management.
 - *Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals* (INFOCAP): Focal points should be identified.
 - *IFCS Guidelines and Procedures*: Proposed amendments (IFCS/FORUM IV/15w).
 - *Illegal traffic*: This is a priority issue for our region and the Forum should continue to address it. It was decided that a relevant working group should be established.
 - *SAICM* (IFCS/FORUM IV/13w).

On the subject of elections, the only country that had confirmed its candidature for the post of Vice-President of LAC was Chile. The delegate of Venezuela informed the meeting that he was awaiting confirmation from his country in order to submit its candidature.

The following countries presented their candidatures for posts on the IFCS Standing Committee: Ecuador, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. Bolivia, Brazil and Costa Rica presented their candidatures for the posts of alternate members.

Election nominations were held on Thursday 6 November.

ANNEX 7

Report of Western Europe and Other Groups Regional Group Meetings

**WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS REGIONAL GROUP(WEOG)
MEETING REPORT
2, 3 and 6 November, 2003**

Meetings of the Group were Chaired by the Vice President Gunnar Bengtsson (Sweden) and Rapporteur was Edward Kleverlaan (Australia).

1. The WEOG held regional meetings at Forum IV on 2,3 and 6 November 2003 under the Chairmanship of Vice President Dr Gunnar Bengtsson (Sweden).
2. Nominees for IFCS Officers and Forum Standing Committee (FSC).

It was agreed that WEOG would submit the following:

President:	no nominee;
Vice-President of WEOG:	United States;
FSC members:	Australia, Canada and Germany.

Switzerland proposed to act as an alternate FSC member but no final decision was reached on this issue.

3. Rapporteur: Australia (Edward Kleverlaan) accepted the role.
4. While the members of WEOG discussed all the meeting documents for the Forum IV agenda, the children and chemical safety, capacity building and the widening gap between countries and illegal traffic documents received much attention. There was general support for the themes expressed in most of the Forum IV documents and only minor revisions were proposed.
5. WEOG recognized the importance, complexity and difficulties of addressing illegal traffic and took the view that IFCS should address this matter further drawing on experience from WEOG countries and other information sources especially those relating to other illegal traffic issues (eg drugs, people smuggling, endangered species or hazardous waste) and the World Customs Organization. The Rotterdam Convention particularly, although the list of chemicals it deals with is limited, would provide a good mechanism to make headway against illegal traffic. The GHS was also mentioned in this regard (eg through its labelling aspects especially use of pictograms).
6. A significant proportion of the WEOG deliberations was devoted to the document 13w, "Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM)". Some countries felt that SAICM should be broad, focusing on all gaps (going beyond the Bahia Declaration and IFCS Priorities for Action) and across other relevant policy areas. Others suggested a more focused approach covering first and foremost gaps in implementation of current activities and in existing chemical management systems/instruments. Other key gaps are those in governance (institutional issues of safe chemical management at national and international

levels) or potential gaps in achieving the overall WSSD goal by 2020. There would be a need to consider the benefits of chemical use as well as the costs.

7. WEOG appreciated the offer of Hungary to host Forum V at a time yet to be determined. Some members were of the view that the timing should be agreed at Forum IV while others preferred to defer a decision.

ANNEX 8

Regional Roles and Responsibilities for Vice Presidents

REGIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VICE PRESIDENTS

In carrying out its work, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS or Forum) emphasises regional and sub-regional cooperation. Thus, it is incumbent on the Vice Presidents of the Forum to:

- actively promote the IFCS in their region/subregion, including recommendations from the Forum;
- communicate to governments, relevant non-governmental organizations and others information on IFCS matters;
- support the organization of sub-regional cooperation;
- foster good intersectoral contacts throughout the region/subregion, having in mind the specific institutional and administrative framework of each country, and helping to promote an increased understanding of the various role and responsibilities of the different sectors;
- solicit and organize input from countries and other Forum participants in the region/subregion on issues and matters being addressed by the Forum, including the identification of regional/subregional priorities;
- represent regional views at Forum, Forum Standing Committee and other meetings;
- convene regional meetings, and support sub-regional meetings where appropriate, with broad participation, including that of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, between Forum meetings and, as appropriate, during IFCS meetings;
- organize regional efforts for election of officers of the Forum and members of the Forum Standing Committee, in accordance with the IFCS Terms of Reference and general guidance provided by the President;
- organize nomination and designation of regional representatives to IFCS *ad hoc* working groups, coordinating groups and committees, ensuring equitable geographical representation for the region; and
- work in close collaboration with the IFCS National Focal Points in their region, assisted by the Executive Secretary as required.

ANNEX 9

Guidelines for National Focal Points

GUIDELINES FOR IFCS NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

The following criteria are intended as guidelines to be adopted, as appropriate, according to organizational structures and coordinating mechanisms in each government.

1. Each government should have a single National Focal Point identified by the respective Ministry or Department where the National Focal Point is located, or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as appropriate to act as conduit for communication on IFCS activities and information dissemination. The IFCS President and Executive Secretary will be in communication with governments in order to ascertain their position with regard to the nomination.
2. The Focal Point should be a designated government position, not a person, and be at a sufficiently high policy level so that all national departments sharing responsibilities in chemical safety (health, environment, agriculture, industry, etc.) and their respective concerns can be fully addressed. If possible, it should be located in the Department or Agency that has the responsibility of coordinating national chemical safety activities. Some countries, however, may find it more appropriate for their country's needs to nominate a particular individual as Focal Point.
3. The Focal Point, with guidance from the Secretariat, as required, should promote intersectoral coordinating efforts and develop a mechanism for disseminating information within the country on IFCS activities to appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations and for providing national inputs into policy directions and recommendations of the IFCS.
4. The National Focal Point should report at least once a year to the IFCS Secretariat on the progress in the implementation of the Priorities for Action and other matters concerning relevant chemical safety issues at the national level. The Forum Standing Committee, after consultation with governments, will approve the basic format to be used for the report. The IFCS Secretariat will propose this format.
5. The Focal Point for the IFCS should liaise with focal points of the participating organizations in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant international organizations in the country to promote the sound management of chemicals. Their efforts can be assisted by expanded IOMC efforts to inform Focal Points of sponsored meetings.
6. Governments should seek to ensure continuity of National Focal Points. The Forum Secretariat should be advised of any changes by the respective Ministry or Department where the National Focal Point is located, or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as appropriate. The representative of a government attending each session of the Forum is requested to inform the Secretariat, upon registration, about any new designation of their National Focal Point.
7. Where a government has not yet identified a National Focal Point, the Forum Secretariat should communicate through the respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs until a Focal Point has been nominated.

ANNEX 10

Hosting Meetings of the Forum – Guidelines and Criteria for Selection of Hosts

Hosting Meetings of the Forum Guidelines and Criteria for Selection of Hosts

Selection of a Host Country

1. The honour of hosting a Forum meeting is entrusted by the Forum Standing Committee (FSC) to a country, which is designated as the host country.
2. In awarding a country the right to host a future Forum meeting, the FSC shall take into consideration:
 - a country's ability to meet the criteria listed in Addendum A
 - the previous interest and involvement by the country in IFCS events and business
 - the desirability of geographical equity for IFCS meetings.
3. The FSC shall take reasonable steps to ensure that no other important international meetings related to chemical safety have been scheduled to conflict with the proposed timing of the Forum meeting.
4. The FSC reserves the right to cancel (and/or change venue of) a Forum if circumstances arise that necessitate such a decision.

Submission of Proposal

1. A proposal to the FSC to host a future Forum meeting must be submitted in writing and communicated to the IFCS Executive Secretary.
2. The proposal should include information relevant to the criteria certain listed in Annex A.
3. In addition, the proposal should include a written acknowledgement that the candidate has taken into account the financial and technical requirements for hosting a Forum meeting and is in a position to respect these requirements. It must state such financial guarantees that can be made to ensure a satisfactory Forum meeting. Such guarantees may be given by governments, the city where the Forum is proposed to be held, or by other specified third parties. No expenses relating to the hosting of a Forum are to be borne by the Forum Trust Fund. A general guidance list of the meeting technical and other requirement may be obtained from the IFCS Secretariat.
4. The proposal letter may be submitted at any time. The date of the proposal letter shall not accord any priority *per se* to any prospective host country.

Local Organizing Committee

Upon selection to host a Forum meeting, the host country shall appoint a local organizing committee.

1. The local organizing committee shall be entrusted by the FSC to lead the organization of all aspects that are the responsibility of the host government. The Executive Secretary, or designated representative(s), shall be in ongoing and frequent contact with the local organizing committee to provide advice and assistance. The chairperson of the local organizing committee shall immediately alert the Executive Secretary of any events or other difficulties that may significantly interfere with the smooth running of the Forum.
2. The local organizing committee shall report regularly to the FSC on all aspects of progress and shall take into account FSC advice and recommendations.
3. Post Forum Meeting: The local organizing committee, working with the secretariat, shall provide (within 6 months) an information report on the whole process, to be used as guidance for the next Forum host. The report should specifically address 'the levels at which things worked well, or not' and include a detailed summary of actual-costs.

IFCS Secretariat

1. The IFCS Secretariat is the body that holds the accumulated practical experience of Forum meetings; it provides the link for information exchange, guidance and advice between the Local Organizing Committee and the FSC. The secretariat plays a key operational role in organizing Forum meetings and bears (much of) the responsibility for a successful outcome. Consequently, the Secretariat will be in regular communication with the host country/ local organizing committee.
2. Prior to each Forum meeting and after the agenda and programme are set, the secretariat will issue a document detailing the meeting technical and other requirements to the local organizing committee. The document will cover the detailed daily logistics / requirements for the duration of the Forum meeting, and as such will constitute the reference working document for the local organizing committee. In view of the mandate of the Forum to address new and emerging issues as they arise, it is understood that it may be necessary to modify the meeting requirements to allow for the needed flexibility in the programme.
3. The technical and other requirements for Forum meetings are similar at the overall level, but the details may be expected to vary according to the specific meeting agenda and programme as well as local conditions. As examples for information purposes only, copies of Requirement documents from previous Forum meetings may be obtained from the Secretariat.

Addendum A

Criteria for Awarding the Right to Host a Forum Meeting

The following factors are to be taken into account by the FSC in awarding a country the right to host a Forum meeting. No priority is implied in the order of listing. In the event that more than one country has indicated a willingness to act as host for a Forum meeting during the same time period, the FSC will take these factors into account in selecting the host country.

Proposed Meeting Venue and Conference Facilities

Suitability of proposed venue for the meeting, e.g., hotels, conference facilities:

- 1) Location of conference facility (e.g., downtown, resort hotel, airport hotel, etc).
- 2) Size and number of meeting rooms available for plenary, regional and other meetings.
- 3) Facilities for simultaneous interpretation and translation in IFCS official languages.
- 4) Arrangements for work space for secretariat and delegates.
- 5) Availability of informatics equipment including internet/web access.
- 6) Availability of presentation equipment (e.g. data display shows, computers).
- 7) Availability of photocopying services.
- 8) Availability of exhibition space.
- 9) Adequate local support staff.
- 10) Availability and choice of hotels to accommodate delegates.
- 11) Catering arrangements on-site or in the immediate vicinity for delegates (refreshment breaks, luncheon).
- 12) Stability of utility services (e.g., electricity, air conditioning) and back-up arrangements.
- 13) Transportation
 - a) Airlines access from other countries and regions.
 - b) Local transportation, including transport of delegates on arrival in host city.
- 14) Accessibility of medical services.

History of previous IFCS meetings in the geographic region.

Type (e.g., Forum, ISG meeting, *Ad hoc* working group meetings) and date(s) of previous IFCS meetings in the geographic region/subregion.

Previous interest and involvement by the country in IFCS events and business.

Finances/Budget

1. Country estimate of costs associated with hosting a Forum meeting
2. Financial guarantees, including source(s) of funding.

Visa requirements and application procedures.

Year and time of year proposed for the meeting.

ANNEX 11

IFCS Trust Fund – Budget of the IFCS Secretariat 2004 - 2006

IFCS Trust Fund Approved Budget of the IFCS Secretariat (US\$) ⁶ 2004 - 2006						
	2004		2005		2006	
	Person Months	Costs	Person Months	Costs	Person Months	Costs
Executive Secretary	12	175,000	12	175,000	12	175,000
Professional staff	18	130,000	18	130,000	18	130,000
Secretarial/administrative financial staff	24	137,550	24	137,550	24	137,550
Temporary staff						
Consultants		50,000		100,000		50,000
Duty travel (staff and temporary advisors) ⁷		55,000		90,000		65,000
Document Production ⁸ - translation, word processing		8,000		35,000		9,000
- duplication, printing etc		30,000		30,000		30,000
Communications: - telephone (including teleconferences), fax, mailing		25,000		25,000		25,000
Equipment, supplies and miscellaneous operating expenses		20,000		25,000		20,000
Subtotal		630,650		747,550		641,550
Programme support costs (13%)		81,971		97,181		83,401
TOTAL		712,521		844,731		724,951

⁶ Budget figures are shown in US\$, actual costs are based on the Swiss Franc and thus are dependent on the exchange rate.

⁷ Travel expenses include travel costs for core IFCS Secretariat staff, all seconded/detailed staff (in Geneva and elsewhere), and temporary advisors.

⁸ Estimate assumes limited in-kind contribution received to support translation of IFCS papers and documents.

ANNEX 12

**IFCS Elected Officers and Government Forum Standing
Committee Members**

Forum IV

Elected IFCS Officers and Government Forum Standing Committee members

Officers

PRESIDENT	Thailand
VICE PRESIDENTS	Chile Russia Philippines Tanzania USA

Forum Standing Committee

Region	Member	Alternate
Africa	Guinea Zimbabwe	Mauritania Mauritius
Asia & the Pacific	Fiji Iran Japan/China	<i>To be announced</i> <i>To be announced</i> Term to be shared Japan to start.
Central & Eastern Europe	Kazakhstan Slovenia	Poland Croatia
Latin America & the Caribbean	Costa Rica Suriname	Bolivia Cuba
Western Europe & Other Groups	Australia Canada Germany	<i>Members will</i> <i>serve as alternates</i> <i>to themselves</i> <i>Switzerland is</i> <i>willing to serve</i> <i>to be confirmed</i>

ANNEX 13

List of Participants