



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CHEMICALS

**Overview of international agreements/instruments, organisations and
programmes concerning chemicals management
(3rd edition)**



**Issued by UNEP Chemicals
Geneva, Switzerland
2001**

IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A co-operative agreement among UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR and OECD

Acknowledgements:

This is the third edition of this publication, which is updated annually. The first edition was based on the "Report on Enhanced Coherence and Efficiency among International Activities Related to Chemicals" that was presented to the 20th Session of the UNEP Governing Council (February 1999). The original report, as well as the updates, was developed under contract with Ms. Francine Schulberg, Consultant, San Francisco, USA.

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This publication is produced within the framework of the
Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 by UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO and OECD (Participating Organizations), following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen co-operation and increase co-ordination in the field of chemical safety. In January 1998, UNITAR formally joined the IOMC as a Participating Organization. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote co-ordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organizations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

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Copies of this report are available from:

UNEP Chemicals
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, GE
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 1234
Fax: +41 22 797 3460
e-mail: chemicals@unep.ch
Website: <http://www.chem.unep.ch>

UNEP Chemicals is part of UNEP's Technology, Industry and Economics Division



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INTRODUCTION

This publication is the third edition of “International Activities related to Chemicals”, a survey of legal agreements/instruments and international organisations/programmes involved with chemicals management.¹

This publication is designed to provide a brief overview of inter-governmental activities related to chemicals management for use by a wide range of possible readers in both the public and private sectors. It is not meant to be comprehensive, nor to provide detailed information. Rather, it can serve as a starting point for learning about international efforts to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of chemicals. It provides websites and contact information for all the relevant secretariats in order that interested readers can easily obtain additional information.

It is planned that this publication will continue to be regularly updated and re-issued. Therefore, UNEP Chemicals invites suggestions for improvements to both form and content, as well as any corrections to the information contained herein.²

Background

The first edition of this publication was developed in response to a request by the Nineteenth Session of the UNEP Governing Council (February 1997). At that time, the Governing Council considered various activities related to chemicals management, in light of the ongoing discussions concerning legal instruments related to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Rather than taking specific action in response to proposals to “enhance effectiveness” of the international, regional and national approaches to chemicals management, the Governing Council invited the Executive Director of UNEP, in close collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), to prepare a report outlining the roles and responsibilities of existing international legal instruments and organisations and evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of various options for enhanced coherence and efficiency. (see Annex I for Governing Council Decision 19/13D)

The report was presented to the Twentieth Session of the UNEP Governing Council (February 1999). During related discussions, many Governments noted that the report - especially its survey of international legal instruments and international organisations and programmes involved with chemicals management - was a very useful tool for their further consideration, and indicated that the survey could form the basis for a regular publication.

As a result, UNEP Chemicals published the report presented to the Twentieth Session of the Governing Council as the first edition of “International Activities related to Chemicals” (1999).

In mid-2000 (approximately one year after the first edition), UNEP Chemicals began the process of revising the survey of international activities by soliciting updated information from

¹ The first edition was published in 1999.

² Suggestions and information can be sent to the UNEP Chemicals office at:

11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Chatelaine
Geneva
Switzerland
e-mail: chemicals@unep.ch
fax: (41 22) 797 3460

the relevant Secretariats. UNEP Chemicals also decided to add to the second edition a summary of highlights during the past year, as well as a key word index.

In mid-2001, UNEP Chemicals began the process of preparing this publication, the third edition, by sending requests to all Secretariats to review and, as appropriate, revise the relevant texts.

Scope of this Publication

For purposes of this publication ‘chemicals management’ is defined broadly. While it focuses on the types of activities discussed in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21,³ it also addresses a number of related activities. This is due, in part, to the fact that the line between chemicals and pollution, and between chemicals and wastes, is not always clear. Furthermore, many organisations address issues not traditionally considered to be part of chemicals management but which have relevant elements. There are also many activities that support chemicals management programmes such as those facilitating access to information or those providing financial or other resources. In addition, there are several initiatives designed to, *inter alia*, improve the co-ordination and effectiveness of relevant instruments and organisations.

Thus, this publication addresses agreements, instruments, organisations and programmes concerned with:

- management of industrial and agricultural chemicals;
- chemical accidents and the transport of dangerous goods;
- management of hazardous wastes;
- pollution of the air, ozone depletion and climate change;
- pollution of seas and inland waterways; and
- biodiversity.

This publication does not include information on activities concerning a number of subjects related to chemicals management such as: prevention of various types of pollution; protection of the health of certain groups (e.g., women or children); pharmaceuticals; narcotics; and nuclear or radioactive materials.

This publication addresses only inter-governmental activities. There is a focus on global activities, although certain regional organisations with major programmes related to chemicals management have been included (e.g., the OECD and the UN/ECE)⁴. This publication does not include the many initiatives from individual governments, private sector organisations, community-based groups, and academic institutions.

Given the range of activities that could be included in the definition of chemicals management, and the number of organisations that undertake some relevant activities, this publication may have excluded some organisations or projects of possible interest.

³ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), Agenda 21, Chapter 19 on “Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.”

⁴ This publication also does not address the relevant activities of the European Commission, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, nor certain other regional agreements and programmes.

Format

Following this “Introduction,” the publication contains a short summary of “Major Developments” during the past year (mid- 2000 – mid-2001).

This is followed by the main body of the publication, arranged in two parts:

- Part I contains a short summary of nineteen international agreements and instruments. These are set out in chronological order from the date of adoption, beginning with those in existence for the longest period of time.
- Part II provides an overview of twenty-two international organisations and programmes, in alphabetical order based on the official name of the Secretariat. It is presented in three subparts:
 - Part II(a) addresses organisations and programmes that are members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC);
 - Part II(b) addresses other relevant organisations and programmes (including some that have only limited activities in the chemicals field);
 - Part II(c) addresses three co-ordinating mechanisms and programmes, designed, *inter alia*, to improve coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of work related to chemicals management.

Each of the 41 entries begins with Secretariat contact information including, where available, a contact person, mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers and web-sites. This is followed by general information describing the mandate, nature and scope of work, relationship with other organisations/programmes, and administrative matters.

Sources of Information

The information in this report is based primarily on information provided by the Secretariats of the conventions and organisations, supplemented with information from websites and official publications.

In mid-2001, UNEP Chemicals received updated information from most of the Secretariats of the 41 instruments, organisations and programmes described in this publication. The entries that have not been updated, or that have been updated without the participation of the relevant Secretariat, are indicated with a footnote.

*UNEP Chemicals
Geneva, Switzerland
December 2001*

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MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS 2000/2001

This section highlights some major developments during the past year (from mid-2000 to mid-2001) with respect to the international agreements and programmes addressed in this publication.

The information gathered for this annual update reveals that there continues to be strong commitment by governments, as well as non-governmental bodies, to work in international fora to help improve the sound management of chemicals worldwide. Therefore, during the past year, governments have entered into new agreements and ratified existing conventions, new international projects have been established and existing programmes re-invigorated, many workshops, seminars and training programmes have been held, and dozens of valuable publications have been issued.

Thus, this section will not attempt to summarise all the significant developments during the past year; almost all the entries in this publication contain up-to-date information about planned, on-going and completed activities. Rather, this section will focus on a limited number of activities that might be of particular interest, such as those that reflect new directions of work or that represent a milestone for an ongoing endeavour.

PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)

In the last several years, there have been a number of initiatives to address the threats to health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs), chemical substances that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food chain, tend to be highly toxic, and are transported worldwide to regions where they have never been produced or used.

The major development during the past year was the adoption of the **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants** (May 2001) (see Entry No. 19). As of 1 November 2001, the Convention has been signed by 105 countries and the EU, and ratified by two countries (Canada and Fiji).

The Convention sets out control measures covering the production, import, export, disposal and use of specified POPs. Governments party to the Convention are to promote the best available technologies and practices for replacing existing POPs while preventing the development of new POPs. Parties are to develop implementation plans for carrying out their commitments. Other provisions in the Convention relate to reporting, research, development, monitoring, public information and education. UNEP is Secretariat of the Convention.

The control measures apply to an initial list of 12 specified chemicals. The Convention establishes a POPs Review Committee with the authority to consider additional candidates for the POPs list, which will help ensure that the Convention remains dynamic and responsive to new scientific findings.

A number of international organisations are undertaking activities that support, or complement, the Stockholm Convention including activities designed to help assess the extent of the problems with POPs, or to provide training and assistance to countries to enable them to address the problems.

- **UN Environment Programme (UNEP):** In addition to providing the Secretariat to the Convention, UNEP also has a number of technical and policy support programmes related to POPs. These include: developing technical guidance; supporting capacity

building for countries, such as conducting workshops and assisting with country-based projects; implementing an information clearinghouse on POPs; and promoting a global monitoring network with a focus on POPs.

- **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** The Stockholm Convention designates the GEF as the principle entity of the financial mechanism for the Convention, on an interim basis. The GEF has developed Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities under the Convention, and has agreed to finance certain projects that meet those guidelines. A number of such projects have been funded. In addition, the GEF funds projects on persistent toxic substances under the International Waters Focal Area.

The following are examples of case studies from the GEF Portfolio on POPs:

- In Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Jamaica, a GEF grant (with the support of other donors) is helping countries develop and implement management practices and national regulatory systems to control the use of pesticides and promote the use of alternative pest control systems.
 - In Mexico and the nations of Central America, financing from the GEF and other donors is helping create a comprehensive action programme to phase out DDT and reduce the long-term effects of exposure to the chemical in the region.
 - In the Russian Arctic, a GEF-supported effort is working to assess the effects of POPs contamination on humans and their food supply, identify local sources of contamination that require urgent remedial actions, and address the broader issue of land-based coastal contamination.
- **World Bank:** The World Bank is currently assisting client countries to prepare for the Stockholm Convention. Under a Canadian POPs Trust Fund established at the World Bank and in its role as an implementing agency of the GEF, the Bank is working with countries in all regions to help them address the threats posed by POPs. To assist client countries further, the World Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding on POPs with UNEP Chemicals in order to ensure a more co-ordinated and effective approach to working with client countries on the POPs issue.
 - **UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):** UNIDO has been granted expanded opportunities by the GEF for implementing Enabling Activities programmes under the Stockholm Convention.
 - **UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR):** As part of the *UNITAR/IOMC Programme to Assist Countries in Developing and Sustaining Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals*, a skill package is being piloted for the development of implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention, in co-operation with the IOMC (see text on UNITAR below).

NEW INITIATIVES

Harmonized Classification Scheme

In 2001, *The Globalized System for Hazard Classification and Communication* was issued by the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard Classification and Labelling.

The international mandate for the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) that provided the impetus for the work was adopted at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, and the work was co-ordinated and managed under the auspices of the IOMC. The premise is that existing systems should be harmonised in order to develop a single, globally harmonised system to address classification of chemicals, labels, and safety data sheets. Furthermore, availability of information about chemicals, their hazards, and ways to protect people will provide the foundation for national programmes for the safe management of chemicals, leading to improved protection of health and the environment while allowing the benefits of chemical use to continue. Harmonisation should also have benefits in terms of facilitating international trade.

The technical focal points for completing the work were the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the UN Subcommittee of Experts for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSETDG). A new United Nations Subcommittee for the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals will be responsible for implementing and maintaining the GHS. The Subcommittee will provide additional guidance as needs arise, while maintaining stability in the system to encourage its adoption. The GHS will be revised and updated to reflect experience in implementing requirements into laws, as well as the experience of those doing the classification and labelling.

The GHS covers all hazardous chemicals and includes the following elements:

- harmonised criteria for classifying substances and mixtures according to their health, environmental and physical hazards of substances and mixtures; and
- harmonised hazard communication elements, including requirements for labelling and safety data sheets.

Mercury Assessment

In its Decision 21/5 (February 2001), the UNEP Governing Council called on UNEP, in co-operation with other IOMC members, to initiate an “expeditious, open, transparent and inclusive process” to undertake a global assessment of mercury and its compounds. The process is to, *inter alia*: compile and summarise existing information; describe sources of release of mercury to the environment; compile information about prevention and control technologies and practices; and describe scientific and technical needs. The report on the assessment should outline options for addressing significant adverse impacts (such as reducing the use, emission, discharges and losses of mercury and its compounds, improving international co-operation, and enhancing risk communication). The report is to be presented to the 22nd session of Governing Council in 2003.

The first step in the assessment is the collection and compilation of available information from all possible sources. UNEP sent a request for input to governments, intergovernmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations including industry, trade unions, academia and environment and public interest groups. As of 1 December 2001, information had been submitted by 53 governments, 9 intergovernmental organisations and 10 non-governmental organisations.

In order to help ensure an inclusive and transparent process, a Working Group on Global Mercury Assessment will be established with members from the various interested parties. The Working Group will, *inter alia*, review the draft assessment and assist in the preparation of options for possible international action.

UNEP - Emergency Response

UNEP has developed a “Strategic Framework on Emergency Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response” providing a framework for UNEP’s future work in the field of environmental emergencies. This effort reinforces UNEP’s capacity in assisting countries in responding, particularly jointly with OCHA, to environmental emergencies and contributing to the United Nations system-wide co-ordinated efforts in disaster reduction.

UNECE: New Legal Instrument on Civil Liability

Work has begun on the development of a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by industrial accidents in ECE member states. This instrument is being negotiated within the scope of two existing ECE Conventions: the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. Part of the impetus for this work was the mining accident at Baia Mare, which caused transboundary water pollution in January 2000.

RE-EXAMINING PRIORITIES AND MEANS FOR ACHIEVING IMPROVED CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and the Bahia Declaration

The Third Session of the Forum (Forum III), held in Salvador, in the State of Bahia, Brazil, from 15-20 October 2000, presented an opportune time to review progress made by national governments and the international community, and in particular achievements related to the programme of action for the sound management of chemicals included in Agenda 21, Chapter 19. The Priorities for Action beyond 2000, adopted unanimously by Forum III, express the participants’ commitment to the future direction of the IFCS. The Priorities are targeted at governments, international organisations and other stakeholders and emphasise the efficient co-ordination by all sectors. These recommendations address both immediate actions and goals to be achieved in the long-term, clearly delineating the goals and target dates.

Forum III adopted by acclamation the Bahia Declaration, a statement that reaffirms the commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Specifically, Forum III agreed to recommit to the challenges for chemical safety established in 1992 in Agenda 21, Chapter 19, and emphasised the essential role of sound management of chemicals in sustainable development. All IFCS partners -countries, international organisations, industry, labour unions, public interest groups- were called upon to actively participate in realising the IFCS Priorities for Action within a defined time frame. The Declaration recognises the responsibility of all sectors to work together and challenges countries and international organisations to achieve a number of goals for review at Forums IV (2003) and V (2005 or 2006).

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (UNEP)

The UNEP Governing Council, at its 21st Session in February 2001, adopted Decision 21/7, requesting UNEP, in consultation with Governments, the IMOC, the IFCS and other relevant

organisations and stakeholders, to examine the need for a “strategic approach to international chemicals management” and to prepare a report on this subject. This Decision represented the culmination of discussions on chemical safety by Governing Council since the mid-1990s. The report will be reviewed by Governments at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) and Seventh Special Session of Governing Council scheduled for Cartagena, 13-15 February 2002.

To prepare the report for the Governing Council, UNEP Chemicals circulated a questionnaire to solicit the views of interested parties. Sixty responses were received, including 43 from Governments. The number, and nature, of the responses testify to the importance attached to this subject by those receiving the questionnaire. .

The Governing Council will likely consider proposals for the further elaboration of a strategic approach, and may present a proposal on this subject to the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Environmental Outlook for the Chemicals Industry (OECD)

In 2001, the OECD published the OECD *Environmental Outlook for the Chemicals Industry*, a report that attempts to describe the current and future chemical industry, as well as the related environmental impacts that have occurred or might occur in the future. The objective is to provide information on the past and projected developments in the industry (including production, consumption and trade) and in environmental policy in order to provide a context for addressing the main issues associated with chemical manufacture and use, and for suggesting policy options for addressing data gaps and other concerns.

Among the conclusions of the report is that the current lack of information on the safety of chemicals on the market, as well as the amount of hazardous substances being released into the environment during use and disposal of chemical products, will pose a major challenge to policy makers over the next two decades. Despite considerable improvement over the last three decades in the control of toxic substances, concern is growing about chemicals detected in the environment that are persistent, can bioaccumulate and/or are toxic.

As a result, the Outlook indicates there is a need for:

- more information to fill the significant gaps in knowledge about the characteristics, effects and exposure patterns of chemicals on the market;
- a greater focus on the types and amounts of chemicals found in consumer products and released to the environment during use and after final disposal;
- more involvement of stakeholders (the public, workers and industry) in the chemical safety assessment and management process; and
- a greater focus on the chemical safety infrastructure in non-OECD countries.

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Many of the organisations and Convention Secretariats described in this publication are involved with the preparations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that is scheduled to take place on 2- 11 September 2002 (The Johannesburg Summit 2002). This Summit will provide an opportunity to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets for

better implementing the conclusions of the 1992 Rio Summit as spelled out Agenda 21 including Chapter 19 on "Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products."

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

UNITAR

With support of the Government of Switzerland, three countries (Ecuador, Senegal and Sri Lanka) are participating as Project Countries in the *UNITAR/IOMC Programme to Assist Countries in Developing and Sustaining Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals*, from 2001- 2003. A skills-building package on Action Plan development for any priority topic for sound chemicals management is being piloted as part of this Project. Application of this package for the development of Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is also being piloted in countries in co-operation with the IOMC. Project work with three countries to receive training and technical assistance to develop in-depth Action Plans on one priority topic of chemicals management commences in September 2001 with the support of the Government of the Netherlands.

The number of countries that have developed National Chemicals Management Profiles continues to increase. Support is being received from countries, IFCS and IOMC partners to encourage the development of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Development with IOMC of guidance and training on other specialised topics of sound chemicals management, including chemicals hazard communication and risk management plans for priority chemicals, is also underway.

FAO Code of Conduct

A process for updating/revising the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides was initiated in 1999. A draft version of the revised Code was circulated to governments, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and industry for comments in January 2001.

TO ASSIST THE READER

This publication provides an overview of international agreements, instruments, organisations and programmes related to chemicals management. It is expected to be updated on a regular basis.

For purposes of this publication, “chemicals management” is defined broadly. While it focuses on the types of activities discussed in Chapter 19 of UNCED Agenda 21, it also addresses a number of related activities, e.g., those dealing with water and air pollution, and hazardous wastes (see the “Introduction” for further elaboration of this point).

Given the range of activities that could be included within “chemicals management”, this publication may have excluded some organisations or projects of possible interest such as those dealing with pollution prevention or the health of certain groups of people (e.g., children or women). In addition, this publication has purposely not addressed activities related to pharmaceuticals or narcotics, nor to nuclear or radioactive materials.

This publication is designed to provide only summary information concerning the agreements, instruments, organisations and programmes described. Further information can be found at the web-sites identified, or by contacting the relevant Secretariats.

The authors tried to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct and up-to-date. In most cases, the entries have been reviewed by the relevant Secretariat; where this was not possible, it is indicated by a footnote.

A **Key Word Index** is included as Annex II. It is designed to help the reader locate entries that relate to a particular subject of interest.

A **List of Acronyms** is included as Annex III.

PART I:

**INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS
RELATED TO CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT**

Agreements/instruments are presented in chronological order
by the date of adoption, starting with those adopted earliest.

(1)

REGIONAL SEAS AGREEMENTS

(see Entry No. 24(c): UNEP “Regional Seas Programme”)

**(2) EUROPEAN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE
INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS
BY ROAD (ADR)**

(see also Entry No. 34(b) on UNECE Transport of Dangerous Goods)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. O. Kervella
Chief, Dangerous Goods and Special
Cargoes Section
UNECE
Transport Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 917 2456
Fax: (41-22) 917 0039
E-mail: olivier.kervella@unece.org
Website:
<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

30 September 1957 (amended 1985)

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

29 January 1968

PARTICIPATION:

Signatories: 9, Parties 37 (as of 25 June 2001)

Open to all member States of the UNECE, other European States, and other member States of the UN, which may be invited to participate in the work of the UNECE for questions of specific interest to them. Not open to regional integration organisations.

OVERVIEW:

As a result of the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), developed by the UNECE, most States in Europe have agreed common rules for the movement of dangerous goods by road across their frontiers and through their territories. The abbreviated name "ADR" comes from key words in the French title.

The objectives of the ADR are:

- to increase the safety of international transport by road;
- to lay down provisions concerning classification, packaging, labelling, and testing of dangerous goods, including wastes, in harmony with requirements for other modes of transport, on the basis of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; and

- to lay down conditions for the construction, equipping and operation of vehicles carrying dangerous goods by road.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The ADR is based on the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (known as the “Orange Book”) with regard to the listing and classification of dangerous goods, their marking and labelling, and packaging standards. The classification system, designed to apply worldwide to all transport modes, assigns the goods to nine different classes according to the main type of danger they could present in transport, e.g. explosion, toxicity, etc.

The ADR also contains much more detailed provisions with regard to:

- the types of packaging which may be used;
- the consignment procedures;
- transport equipment (including vehicle construction and equipment);
- transport operation (training of drivers, supervision, emergency procedures, loading and unloading, placarding of vehicles).

The key Article is the second, which says in effect that, apart from some excessively dangerous goods, other dangerous goods may be moved internationally in road vehicles provided that the packaging and labelling are in accordance with Annex A to the Agreement and that the vehicle construction, equipment, and operation are in accordance with Annex B.

The annexes are regularly amended (generally every two years), on the basis of the regular updating of the UN Recommendations, in parallel with other agreements dealing with the transport of dangerous goods such as the RID, the IMDG Code, and the International Civil Aviation Organization’s Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air. The next series of amendments should enter into force on 1 July 2001.

Restructuring of ADR

The UNECE Working Party of the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting have been working since 1993 on the restructuring of RID, ADR, and ADN. The final structure is in line with that of the Model Regulations annexed to the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (12th revised edition). The restructuring work has been completed. The entry into force of the restructured RID and ADR is on 1 July 2001, with a transitional period for the application of the current RID and ADR until 31 December 2002.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Agreement does not provide for the establishment of a separate institutional mechanism. The UNECE Inland Transport Committee fulfills the function of a standing forum for deliberations relating to the Convention.

A UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods has been established. It meets twice a year and includes representatives of UNECE states, other international organisations, and non-governmental organisations.

Upon request of any Party, the UN Secretary-General convenes a Conference of Parties for revising or amending the Agreement.

The UNECE acts as Secretariat to the ADR.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

Every two years, the UN ECOSOC's Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods issues Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. All international instruments dealing with the transport of dangerous goods, as well as many national regulations, are regularly revised and amended on the basis of these recommendations. Annex III of the Basel Convention is all based on these Recommendations. This ensures co-ordination and harmonisation of provisions relating to classification, labelling, marking, packing and documentation of dangerous goods.

The UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods has a mandate to deal with all questions related to the inland transport of dangerous goods (road, rail, inland waterway) in the UNECE region and meets jointly with the RID Safety Committee.

**(3) INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE
PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS,
MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1978 RELATING
THERE TO (MARPOL 73/78)⁵**

(See also Entry No. 30 on IMO)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Secretariat	Tel:	(44-20) 7735-7611
MARPOL	Fax:	(44-20) 7587-3210
International Maritime Organization	E-mail:	info@imo.org
4 Albert Embankment	Website:	http://www.imo.org
London SE1 7SR		
UNITED KINGDOM		

DATE OF ADOPTION:

CONVENTION:	2 November 1973
PROTOCOL OF 1978:	17 February 1978

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

CONVENTION:		2 October 1983
Annex I:	(regulations for the prevention of pollution by oil)	2 October 1983
Annex II:	(regulations for the control of pollution by noxious liquid substances in bulk)	6 April 1987
Annex III:	(regulations for the prevention of pollution by harmful substances in packaged form)	1 July 1992
Annex IV:	(regulations for the prevention of pollution by sewage from ships)	Not yet in force
Annex V:	(regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships)	31 December 1988
Annex VI:	(regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships)	Not yet in force

⁵ The Secretariat to this Convention did not provide comments/updates to this text.

PARTICIPATION:

Convention: 118 Contracting States as of 31 October 2001 (95.90% of world tonnage). In addition, Hong Kong ratified as an associate member of IMO.

Open to all States. Not open to regional integration organisations.

Annex I & II: 110 Contracting States as of 1 May 2000 (94.23% of world tonnage)

Annex III: 93 Contracting States as of 1 May 2000 (79.39% of world tonnage)

Annex IV: 77 Contracting States as of 1 May 2000 (43.44% of world tonnage)

Annex V: 96 Contracting States as of 1 May 2000 (85.98% of world tonnage)

Annex VI: 2 Contracting States as of 1 May 2000 (4.86% of world tonnage)

OVERVIEW:

The 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships was modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, which is now one instrument known as MARPOL 73/78.

The objectives of MARPOL 73/78 are:

- to eliminate pollution of the sea by oil, noxious liquid substances, sewage and garbage from ships which might be discharged in the course of operations;
- to minimise the amount of oil, noxious liquid substances and packaged harmful substances which could be released accidentally in collisions or stranding of ships, including fixed or floating platforms; and
- to improve further the prevention and control of marine pollution.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

MARPOL 73/78 regulates marine pollutants discharged from ships. It covers all the technical aspects of pollution from ships except the disposal of waste into the sea by dumping and applies to ships of all types.

MARPOL 73/78 provides a vehicle for the enforcement and administration of the detailed provisions contained in the five Annexes and in the two Protocols.

The five Annexes, which include the regulations to be followed by Parties, are organised according to the type of pollutant: oil, noxious liquid substances in bulk (e.g., chemicals), harmful substances in packaged form, sewage, and garbage.

MARPOL 73/78, in Annexes I, II and V, defines certain sea areas as “special areas,” which are provided with a higher level of protection than other areas of the sea.

In Annex I, “the Mediterranean Sea area”, “the Baltic Sea area”, “the Black Sea area”, “the Red Sea area”, “the Gulfs area”, “the Gulf of Aden area”, “the Antarctic area”, and “the North West European waters” (which took effect from 1 August 1999) are designated as special areas. In Annex II “the Baltic Sea area”, “the Black Sea area”, and “the Antarctic area” are designated as special areas. In Annex V, “the Mediterranean Sea area”, “the Baltic Sea area”, “the Black

Sea Area”, “the Red Sea area”, the “Gulfs area”, “the North Sea area”, “the Antarctic area” and “the Wider Caribbean region” are designated as special areas.

Several amendments have been adopted since MARPOL 73/78 entered into force including the following:

- 1992 amendments on new regulations 13F (Prevention of oil pollution in the event of collision or stranding) and 13G (Prevention of oil pollution in the event of collision or stranding – measures for existing tankers) and related amendments to Annex I, which entered into force on 6 July 1993;
- 1994 amendments on port State control of operational requirements, which entered into force on 3 March 1996;
- 1995 amendments to regulation 2 and the addition of a new regulation 9 of Annex V, which entered into force of 1 July 1997;
- 1999 amendments (entered into force 1 January 2001) which, *inter alia*, address concerns that oil pollution incidents involving persistent oil are as severe as those involving crude oil, so regulations applicable to crude oil tankers should also apply to tankers carrying persistent oils. In addition, an amendment to Annex II requires a shipboard marine pollution emergency plan for noxious liquid substances; and
- 2001 amendments to Annex I (entering into force 1 September 2002) bring in a new global timetable for accelerating the phase-out of single-hull oil tankers, with most to be eliminated by 2015 or earlier.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the IMO is responsible for administering MARPOL 73/78. It is also responsible for co-ordination with other IMO Conventions, relevant UNEP activities and other conventions (such as the Basel Convention).

The MEPC, which consists of all IMO Member States, is empowered to consider any matter within the scope of the IMO concerned with prevention and control of pollution from ships. In particular, it is concerned with the adoption of amendments to IMO instruments and measures to ensure their enforcement.

The 45th Session of the MEPC was held in October 2000, and the 46th Session was held in April 2001.

The IMO serves as the Secretariat to the Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Regulations for the “Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens” are being developed and may be introduced into MARPOL 73/78.

IMO is also working on a legal instrument to deal with a global phase-out of harmful TBT-based anti-fouling paint systems on ships.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

OECD made a provisional agreement on the harmonisation of the classification of substances as hazardous to the aquatic environment, in co-operation with IMO.

IMO is taking appropriate measures to reduce greenhouse gases emission from maritime transport in co-operation with the UNFCCC.

Regarding the matter of “Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)”, IMO communicated with relevant international organisations, including UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and informed them of the activities of IMO with a view to ensuring the necessary co-ordination.

**(4) CONVENTION ON LONG RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY
AIR POLLUTION PLUS PROTOCOLS**

(see also Entry No. 34(a) on UNECE Environment and Human Settlements)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

UNECE	Tel: (41-22) 917-2354/2370
Environment and Human Settlements	Fax: (41-22) 917 0621
Division	E-mail: keith.bull@unece.org or
Palais des Nations	air.env@unece.org
CH-1211 Geneva 10	Website: http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap
SWITZERLAND	

DATE OF ADOPTION:

13 November 1979 (see information on Protocols below)

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

16 March 1983 (see information on Protocols below)

PARTICIPATION:

48 Parties (as of 31 October 2001).

Open to member States of the UNECE, as well as States having consultative status with the UNECE and regional economic integration organisations, constituted by sovereign States members of the UNECE.

OVERVIEW:

The objective of this Convention is to protect man and his environment against air pollution and to endeavor to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution.

The Convention sets up an institutional framework, bringing together policy and research components. It establishes a number of co-operative programmes for assessing and monitoring the effects of air pollution.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention contains the following provisions:

- Parties to develop policies and strategies which will serve as a means of combating the discharge of pollutants, by means of exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring;
- Parties to co-operate in the conduct of research into and/or development of:

- ❖ technologies for reducing emissions of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants, including consideration of technical and economic feasibility and environmental consequences;
- ❖ instrumentation and other techniques for monitoring and measuring emission rates and ambient concentrations of air pollutants;
- ❖ improved models for understanding the transmission of long-range transboundary air pollutants;
- ❖ the effects of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants on human health and the environment, including agriculture, forestry, materials, aquatic and other natural ecosystems and visibility, with a view to establishing a scientific basis for dose/effect relationships designed to protect the environment;
- ❖ education and training programmes related to the environmental aspects of pollution by sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants.

Since its entry into force, the Convention has been extended by eight Protocols:

- Long-Term Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (adopted 1984). This Protocol provides that Parties share the costs of a monitoring programme for review and assessment of relevant air pollution in Europe. It involves collection of emission data for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds and other air pollutants, as well as measuring air and precipitation quality and modelling of atmospheric dispersion from sources.
- Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent (adopted 1985). This Protocol, which entered into force in 1987, provides for a 30% reduction below 1980 levels in sulphur emissions or transboundary fluxes by 1993. The Parties also agree to study the need for further reductions.
- Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (adopted 1988). This Protocol, which entered into force in 1991, provides for the control or reduction of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes to the 1987 level by December 1994. Parties also agree to apply national emission standards to new stationary and mobile sources and to introduce pollution control measures for existing major stationary sources and to make unleaded fuel sufficiently available by 1993. In addition, Parties agree to give priority to research and monitoring techniques in determining necessary reduction of emissions and to exchange information and facilitate exchange of technology to reduce nitrogen oxides emissions.
- Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (adopted 1991). This Protocol, which entered into force in 1997, was prepared to enhance the framework for the control of long-range transboundary air pollution. It contains basic obligations of the Parties to take measures to control and reduce national emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), making co-operative arrangements to control transboundary fluxes of such emissions, and co-operating to generate information to facilitate the control of such emissions. Parties agree to exchange technology for the control of emissions of VOCs and to undertake research and monitor the emission control arrangements. This Protocol offers flexibility to Parties, with options to select the base year and designate areas to apply the reductions within their countries.

- **Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (adopted 1994).** The Protocol, which entered into force on 5 August 1998, sets out measures to control and reduce sulphur emissions in order to protect human health and the environment. Its objective is to reduce sulphur emissions to ensure, as far as possible without excessive costs, that in the long run critical loads are no longer exceeded. Parties agree to control and reduce their sulphur emissions in order to protect human health and the environment, in particular acidifying effects, and to ensure that depositions of oxidised sulphur compounds in the long term do not exceed critical loads. Parties agree to reduce and maintain their sulphur emissions in accordance with time and levels specified and to make use of the most effective measures for the reduction of sulphur levels, and to apply emission limit values to all major new stationary combustion sources as well as major existing sources. Parties also agree to facilitate the exchange of technologies and techniques to reduce sulphur emissions and encourage research, development, monitoring and co-operation.
- **Heavy Metals (adopted 1998).** The Protocol has an objective to control emissions of heavy metals caused by anthropogenic activities that are subject to long-range transboundary atmospheric transport and are likely to have significant adverse effects on human health or the environment. It targets three particularly harmful metals: lead, cadmium and mercury. The Protocol obligates Parties to reduce their emissions of these metals below their 1990 levels (or an alternative year between 1985 and 1995). It aims to cut emissions from industrial sources, combustion processes and waste incineration. It sets stringent limit values for emissions from stationary sources and suggests best available techniques. The Protocol also requires countries to phase out leaded petrol. In addition, it introduces measures to lower heavy metal emissions from other products and proposes the introduction of management measures for mercury products.
- **Persistent Organic Pollutants (adopted 1998).** The objective of the Protocol on POPs is to control, reduce or eliminate discharges, emissions and losses of POPs. It focuses on a list of 16 substances, based on certain risk criteria, which includes 11 pesticides, two industrial chemicals and three by-products or contaminants. It bans the production and use of some products outright, while others are scheduled for elimination at a later stage. It severely restricts the use of several POPs and recognises that limited essential uses, for which there are no adequate substitutes, can be exempted. The Protocol also includes provisions for dealing with the wastes of products that will be banned. It obliges countries to reduce their emissions of specified POPs (PAHs, dioxins/furans, hexachlorobenzene) below their 1990 levels (or an alternative year between 1985 – 1995). It puts forward best available techniques to cut emissions. It also lays down specific limit values for municipal, hazardous and medical waste.

Both of the 1998 Protocols foresee the possibility of modifying the list of substances or the range of control and management actions without renegotiating the entire Protocol.

- **Abate Acidification, Eutrophication, and Ground-level Ozone (adopted 1999).** This Protocol sets emission ceilings for 2010 for four pollutants: sulphur, NO_x, VOCs, and ammonia. These ceilings were negotiated on the basis of scientific assessments of pollution effects and abatement options. The Protocol also sets tight limit values for specific emission sources (e.g., combustion plant, electricity production, dry cleaning, cars and lorries) and requires best available techniques to be used to keep emissions down. VOC emissions from such products as paints or aerosols will also have to be cut. In addition, farmers will have to take specific measures to control ammonia

emissions. Guidance documents adopted together with the Protocol provide a wide range of abatement techniques and economic instruments for reduction of emissions.

In addition to laying down the general principles of international co-operation for air pollution abatement, the Convention sets up an institutional framework associating research and policy. Six co-operative programmes for assessing and monitoring the effects of air pollution are in operation.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Convention establishes an Executive Body, composed of the Contracting Parties, to review implementation of the Convention and establish working groups as appropriate to prepare studies, documentation and recommendations related to the implementation of the Convention. It meets at least once a year; its 18th Session was held in November/December 2000.

The standing bodies established to provide scientific expert advice include:

- Working Group on Effects;
- Working Group on Strategies;
- EMEP Steering Group.

Each of these is composed of government experts and others.

In addition, in December 1997 the Executive Body established an Implementation Committee to review compliance by Parties. It is composed of five legal experts and four technical experts.

The Executive Secretary of the UNECE provides the Secretariat for the Executive Body of the Convention. It does so within the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division.

DEVELOPMENTS:

The focus of work will be on the review and extension of existing protocols; and implementation of and compliance with existing agreements. As called for in UNCED's Agenda 21, the experience of the Convention and its Protocols are being shared with other regions of the world.

The Executive Body in 1997 identified three core activities for long-term work: effects; atmospheric measurements and modeling; and integrated assessment, including modeling and economic benefits evaluation.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

Work on the development, or revision, of protocols is co-ordinated through the UNECE Secretariat with other competent bodies and conventions.

Notably, the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants provided a basis for the 2000 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants that seeks emission controls at the global level. (See Entry No. 19).

**(5) VIENNA CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE
OZONE LAYER AND THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON
SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Executive Secretary
The Secretariat for the Vienna
Convention and the Montreal Protocol
UNEP
PO Box 30552
Nairobi
KENYA

Tel: (254-2) 62-3850/62-3851
Fax: (254-2) 62-3601/62-3913
E-mail: ozoneinfo@unep.org
Website: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/>
<http://www.unep.ch/ozone>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

CONVENTION: 22 March 1985

PROTOCOL: 16 September 1987, amended London (1990),
Copenhagen (1992), Montreal (1997) and
Beijing(1999)

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

CONVENTION: 22 September 1988

PROTOCOL: 1 January 1989

AMENDMENTS: 1990 London Amendment: 10 August 1992;
1992 Copenhagen Amendment: 14 June 1994;
1997 Montreal Amendment: 10 November 1999;
1999 Beijing Amendment: not yet in force.

PARTICIPATION:

CONVENTION: 176 Parties (as of 11 May 2001)

Open to all States and regional economic
integration organisations.

PROTOCOL AND AMENDMENTS: 175 Parties (as of 11 May 2001)
(1990 London Amendment: 145 Parties;
1992 Copenhagen Amendment: 120 Parties;
1997 Montreal Amendment: 55 Parties
1999 Beijing Amendment: 5 Parties)

OVERVIEW:

By agreeing to the Vienna Convention, governments committed themselves to protect the ozone layer and to co-operate with each other in scientific research to improve understanding of the atmospheric processes.

The objectives of the Convention are:

- to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting or likely to result from human activities which modify or are likely to modify the ozone layer;
- to adopt agreed measures to control human activities found to have adverse effects on the ozone layer;
- to co-operate in scientific research and systematic observations;
- to exchange information in the legal, scientific, and technical fields.

The basic goal of the Montreal Protocol is to protect the ozone layer by taking precautionary measures leading to total elimination of global emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge, taking into account technical and economic considerations and the needs of developing countries.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention established the following responsibilities:

- Parties to co-operate in research concerning substances and processes that modify the ozone layer and on human health and environmental effects of such modifications, and on alternative substances and technologies;
- Parties to co-operate in the systematic observation of the state of the ozone layer;
- Parties to co-operate in the formulation and implementation of measures to control activities that cause adverse effects through modification of the ozone layer and, particularly, in the development of protocols for such purposes;
- Parties to exchange scientific, technical, socio-economic, commercial and legal information relevant to the Convention, and co-operate in the development and transfer of technology and knowledge.

Annex I of the Convention sets out important issues for scientific research on, and systematic observation of, the ozone layer. Annex II of the Convention describes the type of information to be collected and shared.

The Montreal Protocol, adopted in 1987, has been adjusted five times (in London 1990, Copenhagen 1992, Vienna 1995, Montreal 1997, and Beijing 1999) and amended four times (at the London, Copenhagen, Montreal, and Beijing Meetings). The Montreal Protocol aims to reduce and eventually eliminate the emissions of man-made ozone depleting substances by ceasing its production and consumption.

The major provisions of the Montreal Protocol are:

- Parties to control annual consumption and production of listed substances or groups of substances. For each substance/group of substances identified in the five Annexes, base levels are established, with target dates for reduction and eventual elimination.
- The target dates differ between non-Article 5(1) Parties and Article 5(1) Parties, with the latter generally having a later compliance date. Article 5(1) Parties are developing countries classified at a Meeting of the Parties and whose annual per capita consumption of Annex A and Annex B substances are below the limits set in Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol.
- Parties are not allowed to import or export ozone-depleting substances from non-parties to the Protocol.

The Protocol also provides for exchange of technology and information, calculation of control levels and assessment and review of the progress achieved.

The London Amendment strengthened the control measures under the Montreal Protocol, added provisions related to technology transfer and extended the coverage to new substances. It added 12 new chemicals to the list of controlled substances and created a new annex comprising transitional substances.

The London Amendment also provided for the creation of financial mechanisms to assist developing countries. This includes a Multilateral Fund and other multilateral, regional and bilateral co-operation. The Fund meets the incremental costs of the developing country Parties to implement the control measures of the Protocol and finances all clearinghouse functions (country studies, technical assistance, information, training, and costs of the Fund Secretariat). The Fund, which became operational on 1 January 1991, is administered by an Executive Committee of the Parties.

The Copenhagen Amendment speeded up the phase-out dates for many ODS, added new substances to the list of controlled substances, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs), and methyl bromide, and confirmed financial arrangements for supporting the Multilateral Fund.

The Montreal Amendment provided for tightened restrictions on several destructive chemicals and included a phase-out schedule for methyl bromide. It also set up a licensing system to help Governments track international trade in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other controlled substances and to discourage illegal sales of these substances. The new system, based on licences issued by Parties for each import and export and on regular information exchange between Parties, had an effective date at the start of 2000.

The Beijing Amendment adopted new controls on the production of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Under the Protocol, they are to be phased out in developed countries by 2030 and in developing countries by 2040. The new amendment will, on entry into force, ban trade in HCFCs with countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol's 1992 Copenhagen amendment, which introduced the HCFC phase-out; this will provide an incentive to these countries to ratify as soon as possible.

The Amendment will also require developed countries to freeze the production of HCFCs in 2004 at 1989 levels (measured as the average of consumption and production levels) and developing countries to do so in 2016 with a similar baseline at the levels of 2015. Production of 15% above baseline will be permitted to meet the "basic domestic needs" of developing

countries. In addition, the production of bromochloromethane (a recently developed ozone-depleting chemical) is to be completely phased out in all countries by 2002. The Beijing amendment will enter into force after it has been ratified by 20 Parties. Currently (15 May 2001), only six instruments of ratification have been deposited with the Depository.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The governing body for the Vienna Convention is the Conference of the Parties (COP) held every three years (every two years until 1993), with its most recent meeting, the Fifth Meeting, held in November 1999. Its next meeting is scheduled for 2002.

The decision making body for the Montreal Protocol is the annual Meeting of the Parties (MOP). The last meeting of the Parties took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in December 2000.

An Implementation Committee has been created under Article 8 of the Protocol, consisting of ten Parties, and charged with considering and reporting to the Meeting of the Parties on any cases of non-compliance within the provisions of the Montreal Protocol and the decisions of the Parties. The committee makes recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, which is ultimately responsible for deciding upon and calling for steps to bring about full compliance with the Protocol, including measures to assist a Party's compliance.

The Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties and the Bureau of the Montreal Protocol meet intersessionally to consider policy and technical issues related to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and make recommendations for Parties' decisions.

With respect to scientific and technical matters, the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention (COP) established a meeting of Ozone Research Managers which meets every three years (every two years until 1993), composed of government experts on atmospheric research and on research related to health and environmental effects of ozone layer modification. This group, working closely with the WMO, reviews ongoing national and international research and monitoring programmes to ensure proper co-ordination and to identify gaps that need to be addressed. The group produces a report to the COP with recommendations for future research and expanded co-operation between researchers in industrialised and developing countries.

The Montreal Protocol in Article 6 established three Panels of Experts:

- the Scientific Assessment Panel, composed of government experts and others, charged with undertaking review of scientific knowledge every four years in a timely manner as dictated by the needs of the Parties;
- the Technology and Economics Assessment Panel, which includes many industrial and non-governmental representatives, analyses and evaluates technical and economic options for limiting the use of ODS, and estimates the quantity of controlled substances required by developing countries for their basic domestic needs and the likely availability of such supplies. The Panel also assesses the costs of technical solutions, the benefits of reduced use of controlled substances, and issues of technology transfer;
- the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel surveys the state of knowledge of impacts on health and environment of altered ozone levels and the resultant increased ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface.

The Assessment Panels include experts from the non-governmental sector.

The Multilateral Fund established in Article 10 of the Montreal Protocol has an Executive Committee consisting of 14 Parties (seven developing countries and seven industrialised countries). The Committee is responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of specific operational policies, guidelines, and administrative arrangements, including approving ozone phase-out projects and disbursement of resources for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Fund.

To assist the work of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund, two Subcommittees and one subgroup have been created from among the members of the Executive Committee. The Subcommittee on Project Review provides advice on project approval and related issues. The Subcommittee on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Finance advises on project implementation and financial matters, and the subgroup on the Production Sector prepared guidelines for the determination of eligible incremental costs for the phase-out of ODS production and has proposed the agreements for the Chinese and Indian production sectors approved by the Executive Committee.

DEVELOPMENTS:

China is now the world's largest producer and consumer of CFCs and halons, while India is the second largest producer of CFCs among developing countries. The Protocol's Multilateral Fund has allocated money to help China and India close down their production facilities for these chemicals by the year 2010.

The Eleventh Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in Beijing, China concluded by adopting the Beijing Declaration reaffirming the political commitment of the world's governments to accelerating the phase-out of substances that destroy the stratosphere's protective ozone layer.

The Declaration states that, despite the success so far of the Protocol, governments "cannot afford to rest on our laurels, since scientists have informed us that the ozone hole has reached record proportions and that ozone layer recovery is a long way from being achieved." The Declaration also appeals for continued efforts to "address illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances."

The Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, agreed in Beijing in December 1999, has not yet entered into force. The Amendment provides, among other things, for the addition of a new substance with an ozone depleting potential (namely, bromochloromethane) to the list of substances with phase-out schedules in Annex C, and extended the controls on HCFCs (Annex C, group I substances) to production in addition to the revised controls on consumption.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

With respect to financial support for national activities, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, as indicated above, is the financial mechanism established by amendment to the Protocol. The Multilateral Fund has collected more than 1.2 billion US dollars from which UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank as Implementing Agencies prepare projects, based on the national country programmes in more than 107 countries. In addition, the GEF has, as one of its four focal areas, activities to reduce ozone-layer depletion. (see Entry No. 28). It established an Operational Strategy for Ozone in 1995, which ensures that the GEF and the Multilateral Fund operations are complementary. GEF has approved more than US\$138 million for projects for the phase-out of ODS in 14 countries with economies in transition (CEITs) that are not Article 5 Parties, and which have ratified the London Amendment to the Protocol.

Other international organisations provide technical support for the implementation of the Protocol including, for example, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which together with UNEP plays a central role in providing scientific support to the Convention and Protocol including harmonising the policies and strategies on research. In addition, the World Customs Organization (WCO) facilitates, through the application of customs codes, the implementation of the provisions relating to trade of ODS and elimination of illegal traffic.

**(6) BASEL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS
WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Basel Convention
(SBC)
International Environment House
15 chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41 22) 917 8218
Fax: (41 22) 797 3454
E-mail: sbc@unep.ch
Website: <http://www.basel.int/>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

22 March 1989

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

5 May 1992

PARTICIPATION:

148 Parties (as of August 2001)

Open to all States and political and/or economic regional organisations.

OVERVIEW:

The Convention is the response of the international community to the problems caused by the annual worldwide production of millions of tonnes of wastes which are hazardous to people and the environment because they are toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic or infectious. This Convention strictly regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and establishes obligations for its Parties to ensure that such wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

The main principles of the Basel Convention are:

- transboundary movements of hazardous wastes should be reduced to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management;
- hazardous waste generation should be reduced and minimised;
- hazardous wastes should be treated and disposed of as close as possible to their source of generation; and

- efforts should be made to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition with the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes they generate.

In order to achieve these principles, the Convention aims, through its Secretariat, to control the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, monitor and prevent illegal traffic, provide assistance for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, promote co-operation between Parties in this field, and develop Technical Guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention establishes the following responsibilities:

- Parties can decide to prohibit the import of hazardous or other wastes. They shall inform other Parties of the decision. These other Parties, once informed, shall not permit the export of hazardous wastes to those Parties that prohibited the import.
- Parties are to prohibit the export of hazardous and other wastes if the State of import does not consent in writing to the specific import. States of export shall not allow the generator of hazardous or other wastes to commence transboundary movement until they receive written confirmation of the consent.
- Parties are to prohibit all persons under their jurisdiction from transporting or disposing of hazardous or other wastes unless they are authorised or allowed to perform such types of operation.
- Parties are to designate competent authority(ies) as focal points to receive notifications.
- Parties are to co-operate with the objective of achieving environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.
- In case of an accident during the transboundary movement of hazardous or other wastes, or their disposal, that is likely to present risks to human health and the environment in other States, those States must be immediately informed.

There is an arbitration procedure for settling disputes between Parties.

A decision to amend the Convention was adopted in September 1995 (not yet in force) in order to ban exports of hazardous wastes for final disposal, recovery or recycling from countries listed in a new Annex VII (Parties and other States which are members of OECD, EC, Liechtenstein) to non-Annex VII countries. The main reason is that Parties recognised that transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, especially to developing countries, have a high risk of not constituting environmentally sound management of hazardous waste as required by the Convention.

The Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted during the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December 1999. The main provisions of the Protocol are:

- the Protocol shall apply to damage due to an incident occurring during transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal, including illegal traffic. Exceptions to the application were also defined;

- it adopted the strict liability regime on the notifier;
- obligation for preventive measures;
- right of recourse for a liable person;
- establishment of financial and time limits for liability;
- insurance and other financial guarantees;
- financial mechanisms for damage and compensation.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Basel Convention and is composed of representatives of all Parties. The COP has met five times since the Convention entered into force in May 1992, most recently in December 1999 coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. The next meeting of the COP is scheduled for 2002.

There have been subsidiary bodies established including a Technical Working Group (TWG) responsible for the preparation of technical guidelines and for the classification and hazard characterisation of wastes. In addition, the COP established an Expanded Bureau and the Working Group for Implementation to monitor implementation and make recommendations to the COP. A Legal Working Group consisting of legal and technical experts was also established to consider legal matters such as those related to illegal traffic, bilateral and multilateral agreements, settlement of disputes, monitoring of compliance with the obligations under the Convention, and liability and compensation for damage resulting from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal.

DEVELOPMENTS:

The Fifth COP that met from 6 – 10 December 1999 in Basel, Switzerland to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Basel Convention, adopted a number of decisions to facilitate implementation of the Convention. In particular, it adopted the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and an associated decision to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in cases of emergency and compensation on an interim basis by enlarging the scope of the Technical Trust Fund of the Basel Convention.

Another major outcome of the Fifth COP was the adoption of a ministerial declaration on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes. The Basel Declaration calls for the prevention, minimisation, recycling and disposal of hazardous wastes; active promotion of the use of clean technologies and processes; reduction of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes; prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic; improvement of capacity building activities and transfer of technologies; further development of regional and subregional centres; enhanced information exchange, education and public awareness; greater co-operation at all levels between countries, public authorities, international organisations, industry, NGOs and academia; and the development of mechanisms for assuring implementation of the Convention and monitoring of compliance.

The Fifth COP also reached agreement on a number of decisions specifically addressing co-operation with other UN bodies, specialised agencies and regional organisations, including:

- it requested the Secretariat to further consolidate its co-operation on the critical areas for the implementation of the Convention with relevant UN bodies and specialised agencies, including IAEA, UNEP, IMO and others;
- it made special reference to the work in co-operation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to identify hazardous wastes separately in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and requested that the secretariat in co-operation with the OECD and others pursue its co-operation with the WCO;
- it made special reference to the co-operation with the OECD on matters pertaining to the implementation of the Basel Convention and requested the Secretariat further to co-operate with the OECD;
- it noted that co-operation should continue with UN regional commissions and secretariats of regional agreements dealing with transboundary movements of hazardous wastes;
- it addressed co-operation between the Basel Convention and the activities being undertaken to develop the POPs conventions and recognised the efforts to ensure that the agreement under negotiation do not overlap with the Basel Convention and requested the Secretariat to continue its co-operation with UNEP and others (including FAO, IMO, UNECE and WHO);
- it emphasised the need for the enhancement of co-operation and partnerships with the industry and business sectors and environmental non-governmental organisations; and
- it addressed co-operative activities related to the minimisation of the generation of hazardous wastes, including co-operation with UNEP and OECD.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

There are a number of regional agreements dealing with the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, including:

- Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (1991);
- Convention to Ban the Importation into the Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (1995);
- Protocol (to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution) on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1996).

The Basel Convention Secretariat maintains close co-operation with other relevant conventions and organisations including:

- IAEA, regarding the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste and Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management;
- IMO, regarding the London Convention 1972 and the issue of the dismantling of ships;

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;
- UNEP and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
- Conventions within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme;
- WCO, regarding the separate identification of hazardous wastes in the Harmonized System;
- OPCW, regarding the treatment and disposal of chemical weapons;
- OECD on key technical issues; and
- Interpol, regarding illegal traffic.

(7) CONVENTION CONCERNING SAFETY IN THE USE OF CHEMICALS AT WORK

(See also Entry No. 21 on ILO)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. I. Obadia
Focal Point for the Environment
SafeWork Programme
International Labour Office
4 route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 22
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 799-6746
Fax: (41-22) 798-6878
E-mail: obadia@ilo.org
Website: <http://www.ilo.org/safework>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

25 June 1990

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

4 November 1993

PARTICIPATION:

Open to Members of the ILO.

OVERVIEW:

The objective of the Convention (No. 170) is the enhancement of the existing legal framework for occupational safety, by regulating the management of chemicals in the workplace. It has the broad purpose of protecting the environment and the public, and the specific objective of protecting workers from harmful effects of chemicals. It applies to all branches of economic activity in which chemicals are used, and it covers all chemicals with particular measures concerning hazardous chemicals.

The preamble of the Convention notes that the protection of workers from harmful effects enhances the protection of the general public and the environment. In addition, workers have a need for, and right to, information about the chemicals they use at work.

An accompanying Recommendation (No. 177), adopted at the same time, elaborates on the provisions of the Convention.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention states that the following are essential to prevent or reduce the incidents of chemically-induced illnesses and injuries:

- ensuring that all chemicals are evaluated to determine their hazards;
- providing employers with a mechanism to obtain from suppliers information about the chemicals used at work so that they can implement effective programmes to protect workers from chemical hazards;
- providing workers with information about the chemicals at their workplace and about appropriate preventive measures; and
- establishing principles for protective programmes to ensure that chemicals are used safely.

Specifically, the Convention sets out the following responsibilities and rights:

- suppliers to ensure that chemicals have been properly classified, marked and labeled;
- safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals to be prepared and provided to employers;
- employers to inform workers of hazards associated with exposure to chemicals in the workplace, and to instruct workers on safe practices and procedures and on how to obtain and use the information in labels and safety data sheets;
- employers to assess the risks arising from the use of chemicals at work and protect workers against such risks by appropriate means;
- competent authorities can prohibit or restrict the use of certain hazardous chemicals or require advance notification and authorisation, if justified on safety and health grounds;
- competent authorities to ensure that criteria are established for safety in the use, storage and transport of hazardous chemicals, and for procedures to be followed in the disposal and treatment of hazardous chemicals and waste products;
- workers to co-operate as closely as possible with their employers in the discharge of responsibilities and comply with practices and procedures relating to chemical safety and to take reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise risks to themselves and others;
- workers and their representatives have rights including access to information, including information on the identity and hazards of chemicals used at work and on labels, markings and safety data sheets, precautionary measures, education and training; and
- workers have the right to remove themselves from danger resulting from the use of chemicals when they have reasonable justification to believe there is an imminent and serious risk to their health or safety.

Furthermore, according to the Convention, those States that export chemicals have an obligation to ensure the safety of these chemicals.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Governing Body, which supervises the work of the ILO, is responsible for the review of this Convention. When it considers it necessary, the Governing Body presents to the General Conference a report on the working of the Convention and examines the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision.

The International Labour Conference, which meets annually, is the main decision-making body of the ILO. It is composed of national delegations with two government delegates, one representing employers, and one representing workers.

Meetings of experts are organised to assist in the preparation of instruments and to examine specific subjects.

The ILO serves as the Secretariat to the Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS:

A number of workshops and other technical assistance activities have been held to facilitate implementation of the Convention and the current work programme is designed to, *inter alia*, assist countries to meet the obligations under the Convention. See Entry 21 on ILO.

The International Labour Conference adopted in 1993 a resolution concerning exposure to and safety in the use of biological agents at work. The resolution requests the ILO Director-General to take steps to address the question of exposure to and safety in the use of biological agents at work and to consider the need for new international instruments in order to minimise the risks to workers, the public and the environment.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

An ILO Code of Practice on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work was published in 1993.

The Convention contains a provision requiring a member State, when exporting a chemical prohibited for reasons of safety and health at work, to communicate this fact to any importing country. This is similar to provisions in the Rotterdam (PIC) Convention.

There are numerous activities of ILO and other IOMC organisations which are related to the provisions of the Convention and which support implementation.

**(8) INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON OIL POLLUTION
PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION
(OPRC)⁶**

(See also No. Entry 30 on IMO)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. J.C. Sainlos
Sub-Division for Pollution Response
and Technical Co-operation
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: (44-20) 7587 3142 or 7735 7611
Fax: (44-20) 7587-3210
E-mail: Jcsainlos@imo.org
Website: <http://www.imo.org>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

30 November 1990

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

13 May 1995

PARTICIPATION:

62 Parties as of 31 October 2001 (53.76 % of world tonnage)

Open to all states. Not open to regional integration organisations.

OVERVIEW:

The objectives of the Convention, known as the OPRC, are to facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to a major oil pollution incident and to encourage states to develop and maintain an adequate capability to deal with oil pollution emergencies.

The aim is to mitigate the consequences of major oil pollution incidents involving, in particular, ships, offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities.

The OPRC applies to preparedness and response issues related to oil pollution emergencies posing a threat to the marine environment, coastline or related interests in states. The OPRC is to be applied to hazardous and noxious substances, as appropriate, pending revision of the Convention to cover such substances.

⁶The Secretariat to this Convention did not provide comments/updates to this text.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The OPRC addresses the following issues:

- international co-operation and mutual assistance, establishing the commitment to co-operate and to render assistance to parties that request assistance to deal with oil pollution incidents subject to capability and availability of resources, reimbursement of the cost of assistance (recognising that the requesting party may ask the assisting party to waive, reduce or postpone reimbursement of expenses exceeding the sum compensated).
- pollution reporting, establishing the obligation to ensure that ships, offshore units, aircraft, seaports and oil handling facilities report oil pollution incidents to the nearest coastal state or competent national authority and advise neighbouring states at risk and IMO, as appropriate.
- oil pollution emergency plans, establishing a requirement for tankers and other ships over a certain size, as well as any fixed or floating offshore installation or structure engaged in gas or oil exploration, exploitation, production activities, or loading/unloading oil, to prepare plans.
- national and regional preparedness and response capability, creating an obligation to establish a national system for responding promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents. The system should have at least a national contingency plan, designated national authorities, and operational focal points responsible for oil pollution preparedness and response, reporting and handling requests for assistance. There are additional requirements relating to availability of response equipment, exercises and training, detailed plans and communication capabilities, and arrangements for co-ordinating response.
- technical co-operation and transfer of technology, with Parties agreeing to provide support for other parties that request assistance in training personnel.

The Convention also contains provisions promoting other aspects of international co-operation. These address collaborative initiatives in research and development, in technical operations, and in the search for appropriate controls to oil pollution incidents. In addition, it calls for the establishment of stockpiles of oil spill combating equipment, the holding of oil spill combating exercises, and the development of detailed plans for dealing with pollution incidents.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Marine Environment Protection Committee of the IMO (one of the IMO's four main committees) is responsible for administration of the Convention. It is also responsible for co-ordination with other IMO Conventions, as well related UNEP activities and other conventions.

The MEPC, which consists of all Member States, is empowered to consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with prevention and control of pollution from ships. In particular, it is concerned with the adoption and amendment of conventions and other regulations and measures to ensure their enforcement.

The 45th Session of the MEPC was held in October 2000, and the 46th Session was held in April 2001.

The IMO serves as the Secretariat to the Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Ten affiliated Resolutions were adopted including ones dealing with the expansion of the scope to include hazardous substances, technical co-operation and transfer of technology.

A number of manuals and guidelines have been published related to provisions of the Convention (see Entry No. 30 on IMO).

The Conference on International Co-operation on Preparedness and Response to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, held at the IMO Headquarters in March 2000, adopted the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol) together with six conference resolutions. This Protocol, which is not yet in force, will extend the scope of the OPRC Convention to hazardous and noxious substances. Together with the Convention, the Protocol will provide a framework for international co-operation in establishing systems for preparedness and response at national, regional, and global levels, in improving scientific and technological understanding and knowledge in this field, in promoting technical co-operation in response techniques, and in developing specialised training programmes. A resolution invites the Secretary-General of the IMO, pending the entry into force of the OPRC-HNS Protocol, to initiate the early implementation of functions and activities in order to meet the objectives of the Protocol.

Ongoing projects aim to improve and sustain the capacity of developing countries to protect their marine and coastal resources at risk from an oil pollution incident from any source, through the implementation of the OPRC. To meet this objective, a series of joint IMO/industry technical assistance activities are undertaken.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Secretariat undertakes to co-ordinate with other relevant international organisations.

For example, IMO has co-operated with other international organisations to provide guidelines for prevention, control and response to pollution arising at the interface between land and marine transport occurring in ports. Two recent examples of collaborative effort are:

- IMO and UNEP developed a joint publication for port users and operators on how to apply APELL in ports. It highlights the unique nature of ports, with specific guidance on applying APELL methodology for building a preparedness and response infrastructure.
- In October 1993, the Workshop on Chemical Safety in Port Areas was co-sponsored by OECD, IMO and UNEP. As a consequence, a guidance document was prepared as a joint activity of OECD and IMO. (See Entry No. 23 on OECD)

Realisation of the OPRC objectives are achieved through regional strategies and action plans in co-operation with UNEP (Regional Seas Programme), regional organisations/programmes, and industry.

**(9) CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS⁷**

(See also No. Entry 34(a) on UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. S. Ludwiczak	Tel:	(41 22) 917 31 74
United Nations Economic Commission	Fax:	(41 22) 907 01 07
for Europe	E-mail:	sergiusz.ludwiczak@unece.org
Environment and Human Settlements	Website:	http://www.unece.org/ env/teia/welcome.html
Division		
Palais des Nations		
CH-1211 Geneva 10		
SWITZERLAND		

DATE OF ADOPTION:

17 March 1992

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

19 April 2000

PARTICIPATION:

Twenty-three Parties (as of mid-2001)

Open to States members of the UNECE or having consultative status with the UNECE and to regional economic integration organisations constituted by sovereign States members of the UNECE.

OVERVIEW:

The Convention aims at building national capacity and strengthening international co-operation with respect to the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects.

The objectives of the Convention are:

- to promote the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects;
- to provide for notification among states in the event of an industrial accident capable of causing transboundary effects;
- to provide for mutual assistance in the event of an industrial accident;

⁷ The Secretariat to this Convention did not provide comments/updates to this text.

- to promote international co-operation relating to research and development and to the exchange of information and technology; and
- to promote the provision of information to the public and public participation in decision-making processes concerning hazardous activities.

It is expected that the Convention will lead to a considerable improvement in overall industrial safety, especially at hazardous activities, in the ECE region.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention lays down a number of general obligations on the Parties, such as the protection of human health and the environment from the adverse effects of industrial accidents, and the taking of legal and policy measures necessary for the prevention of such accidents. In addition, Parties are obliged, *inter alia*, to:

- develop and implement policies and strategies for reducing the risk of industrial accidents and take appropriate legislative, regulatory, administrative and financial measures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to industrial accidents;
- establish and operate compatible and efficient accident notification systems so as to obtain and transmit information to counteract transboundary effects;
- consult with other countries on facilities that might have adverse effects in such countries in the event of an industrial accident;
- provide mutual assistance in the event of an accident;
- improve their preparedness for coping with industrial accidents with transboundary effects; and
- to co-operate with other Parties on the exchange of information, research and development, and development of safety management systems and safety technology.

In addition, the Convention provides that information should be given to the potentially affected public concerning the nature of the hazardous activities and associated risks and what to do and expect in the event of an accident. The Convention also emphasises more active public participation in decision-making processes concerning hazardous activities.

The Convention contains a provision for the settlement of disputes.

The Convention has 13 annexes to support the obligations set out in the Convention. These address subjects such as: hazardous substances for the purpose of defining hazardous activities; emergency preparedness measures; information to the public; industrial accident notification systems; and mutual assistance.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the Convention's governing body. The first meeting of the COP was held in November 2000. Its second meeting is scheduled for 2002.

At its first meeting, the COP elected a Bureau and a Working Group on Implementation. The latter Group is responsible for, *inter alia*, monitoring implementation of the Convention, making recommendations to strengthen implementation, and facilitating assistance to UNECE member countries facing difficulties in implementing the Convention.

The UNECE carries out the Secretariat functions for the Convention. (See Entry No. 34)

DEVELOPMENTS:

The COP accepted the UNECE Accident Notification System as an early warning tool. They also adopted guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities that are capable of causing transboundary effects.

In addition, the COP agreed on the format and procedures for reporting on the implementation of the Convention and set up a Working Group on implementation to monitor this process.

The COP approved the terms of reference for co-operation between the UNECE Secretariat and the EC's Major Accident Hazards Bureau to collect and analyse information on past industrial accidents. The UNECE reporting system is co-ordinated with the EC MARS reporting system as well as the OECD reporting system.

The Parties agreed to continue work on the prevention of accidental water pollution in co-operation with the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. (Water Convention) (See Entry No. 10).

A special joint session of the Parties of the two Conventions was held in July 2001. The session decided that an intergovernmental negotiation process should be entered into aimed at adopting a legally-binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities, within the scope of both Conventions. An open-ended intergovernmental Working Group was established with a mandate to draw up the instrument. The Working Group held its first meeting in November 2001.

An International workshop and exercise on "Industrial Safety and Water Protection in Transboundary River Basins" took place in October 2001. It was organised at the invitation of the Government of Hungary, under the joint auspices of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Convention Secretariat undertakes to co-ordinate its activities with the secretariats of other ECE multilateral environmental agreements, and other parts of the ECE secretariat as well as with other international organisations and institutions.

Co-operation between the Convention and the other four ECE environmental Conventions is foreseen. For example there have been joint seminars and other activities with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. In addition, as indicated above, the Parties to the two Conventions are working jointly to develop a legally binding instrument on civil liability.

The Secretariat maintains close working relations with the European Commission, in particular regarding common issues between the Convention and the "Seveso II" Directive.

The UNECE Secretariat co-ordinates its activities with other intergovernmental organisations concerned with industrial accidents. For example, several joint workshops were carried out with the OECD and the UNECE maintains close contact with UNEP and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit. There is a regular exchange of information with other organisations involved in related activities, such as IAEA, IMO, WHO, ILO and IPCS.

**(10) CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF
TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND
INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

(See also No. Entry 34(a) on UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. R. Enderlein
UNECE
Environment and Human Settlements
Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 917 2373 or 917 1499
Fax: (41-22) 907 0107
E-mail: rainer.enderlein@unece.org
copy to
evelina.rioukhina@unece.org
Website: www.unece.org/env/water
and
www.iwac-riza.org

DATE OF ADOPTION:

17 March 1992

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

6 October 1996

PARTICIPATION:

33 Parties (as of 1 July 2001)

Open to all States members of the UNECE and to regional economic integration organisations constituted by sovereign States members of the UNECE (e.g., EU).

OVERVIEW:

The objectives of this Convention are to:

- strengthen national and international actions aimed at protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary waters, both surface waters and groundwaters, and related ecosystems, including the marine environment;
- prevent, control and reduce the releases of hazardous, acidifying and eutrophying substances into the aquatic environment;
- promote international co-operation and mutual assistance; and
- promote public information and public participation in relevant decision-making processes.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

In accordance with the Convention, Parties agree to:

- prevent, control and reduce pollution of waters that have a transboundary range and to exercise economy and rational management in respect of such waters;
- practice equity in the use of transboundary waters;
- avoid the transfer of pollution from location to another;
- undertake precautionary measures to aver possible pollution of transboundary waters;
- employ the “polluter-pays” principle;
- co-operate to facilitate control of transboundary water pollution, as well as in research and development to bring about effective control measures;
- establish programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, consult and give warning among the Parties in relation to transboundary water pollution, and to assist in effecting control of such pollution; and
- enter into bilateral and multilateral agreements for sub-regional river basins and establish joint bodies (i.e., any bilateral or multilateral commission or other appropriate institutional arrangements) for co-operation between parties riparian to a specific transboundary water.

The Convention applies to the entire basin of a transboundary watercourse (river, groundwater aquifer) or international lake. It specifies prevention, control and reduction measures with respect to transboundary water pollution. It imposes obligations concerning the emission of pollutants, the management of point sources, the application of suitable technology to discharges of hazardous substances, the treatment of municipal waste water, the control of deposits of noxious matter from diffuse sources, and the adoption of environmental impact assessment.

It also prescribes effective monitoring of measures for the control of transboundary water pollution and includes a provision for settlement of disputes.

The Convention contains four annexes that include guidelines for developing best environmental practice and guidelines for developing water-quality objectives and criteria.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Meeting of the Parties is the decision-making body for the Convention. It meets at least every three years, with the first meeting in July 1997. It reviews implementation of the Convention and considers proposals for the further development or amendment to the Convention.

Bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties to implement the work plan include four working groups on legal and administrative aspects, water management, monitoring and assessment, and water and health. It also includes an expert group on water and industrial accidents that acts jointly under the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. (see Entry No. 9)

An International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) has been established as a collaborating centre under the Convention. IWAC is hosted by the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA) at Lelystad.

The UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Convention. (See Entry No. 34)

DEVELOPMENTS:

International conferences, workshops and training courses are organised under the auspices of the Meeting of the Parties. To assist countries with economies in transition, field projects to upgrade existing systems for monitoring and assessing transboundary rivers are also being carried out under the auspices of the Meeting of the Parties.

On 17 June 1999, the Protocol on Water and Health was adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (London, June 1999). It promotes at all appropriate levels, nationally as well as in a transboundary context, the protection of human health and well-being, both individually and collectively, within a framework of sustainable development, through improving water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and through preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease. The Secretariat functions for the Protocol are jointly carried out by UNECE and WHO's Regional Office for Europe. The Protocol is open for ratification both by Parties and non-Parties to the Convention (36 Signatories until the final date for signing (18 June 2000); and 2 parties as of 1 July 2001).

A new legally-binding instrument will be drawn up on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by industrial accidents in ECE member States as decided during a two-day special meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and Industrial Accidents Convention (July 2001). The legally-binding instrument will be negotiated within the scope of both Conventions. The first negotiations took place in November 2001. Environmental NGOs and other stakeholders, such as insurance companies, as well as countries that have not signed up to the Conventions, will be encouraged to take part in this activity. If the negotiations proceed smoothly, the legally binding instrument may be ready for adoption at the next Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", scheduled to take place in Kiev in May 2003. The proposal for a legally-binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by industrial accidents was first made in the wake of the mining accident at Baia Mare (Romania), which caused widespread water pollution in January 2000.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Secretariat undertakes co-ordination with other relevant conventions and organisations. Many elements of the work plan are carried out with the assistance of UNEP-ROE, WHO, WMO, UNESCO, the ISDR-secretariat, river commissions and competent NGOs.

**(11) CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA
(HELSINKI CONVENTION)⁸**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
Katajanokanlaituri 6 B
FIN-00160 Helsinki
FINLAND

Tel: (358-9) 6220 220
Fax: (358-9) 6220 2239
E-mail: helcom@helcom.fi
Website: www.helcom.fi

DATE OF ADOPTION:

9 April 1992

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

17 January 2000

The Convention replaces the 1974 Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area

PARTICIPATION:

10 Parties, including the EC (as of 1 December 2001)

Restricted to the States and the EC that participated in the 1992 Helsinki Conference and have ratified the Convention. Others upon invitation by all the Contracting Parties. The Convention covers the Baltic Sea and the entrance of the Baltic Sea and the drainage areas to these waters. Internal waters are included.

OVERVIEW:

The objectives of this Convention are to take all appropriate measures, individually or by means of regional co-operation, to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area and the preservation of its ecological balance.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention establishes fundamental principles and obligations, as set out in Article 3, whereby Parties are obliged to:

- take all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measure to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area and the preservation of its ecological balance;
- apply the precautionary principles;

⁸ The Secretariat of the Convention was not contacted to review this Entry.

- promote the use of Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology;
- apply the polluter-pays principle;
- ensure that measurements and calculations of emissions from point sources and of inputs from diffuse sources are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the marine environment and ascertain the implementation of the Convention; and
- use their best endeavours to ensure the implementation of the Convention does not cause transboundary pollution in areas outside the Baltic Sea Area, nor lead to unacceptable strains on the environment or increased risk to human health.

The Convention also includes articles related to, *inter alia*: principles and obligations concerning pollution from land-based sources; environmental impact assessment; prevention of pollution from ships and pleasure craft; prohibition of incineration; prevention of dumping; exploration and exploitation of the seabed and subsoil, notification and consultation on pollution incidents; nature conservation and biodiversity; and information to the public.

The Convention contains seven Annexes addressing the following subjects:

- harmful substances to be controlled (Annex I);
- criteria for the use of best environmental practice and best available technology (Annex II);
- criteria and measures concerning the prevention of pollution from land-based sources (Annex III);
- prevention of pollution from ships (Annex IV);
- exemptions from the general prohibition of dumping waste and other matter (Annex V);
- prevention of pollution from off-shore activities (Annex VI); and
- response to pollution incidents (Annex VII).

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The governing body of the Convention is the Helsinki Commission - Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). HELCOM meets annually and, from time to time, meetings are held at ministerial level. The 22nd meeting of the Commission was held in March 2001. Chairmanship of the Commission rotates between Parties every two years.

Unless otherwise provided under the Convention, the Commission takes its decisions unanimously, with each Party having one vote in the Commission.

The Commission may assume functions as it deems appropriate to further the purposes of the Convention. The Commission appoints an executive secretary and makes provision for the appointment of other personnel. The executive secretary is the chief administrative official of the Commission.

The work of the Commission is carried by five subsidiary bodies and a Programme Implementation Task Force, and is complemented by different working groups and projects. The subsidiary bodies are:

- Strategy Group, which works to elaborate coherent HELCOM policy and strategies for the protection of the Baltic Sea based on the concept of sustainable development. It also seeks to improve involvement of the business communities and financial institutions, and assesses the implementation of the Convention by Parties;
- Monitoring and Assessment Group, which identifies and quantifies the anthropogenic discharges/activities and their effects on the marine environment;
- Sea-based Pollution Group, which identifies current and emerging issues related to sea-based sources of pollution and proposes action to limit emissions and discharges;
- Land-based Pollution Group, which identifies current and emerging issues related to point and diffuse sources of land-based pollution, proposes actions, and promotes investment activities in order to reduce emission and discharges;
- Nature Conservation and Coastal Zone Management Group, which work towards conservation of natural habitats, biological diversity, and protection of ecological processes.

The Programme Implementation Task Force co-ordinates the implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme, approved in 1992 and updated in 1998. It focuses on investment activities for point and non-point pollution sources and on planning and investment activities related to management programmes for coastal lagoons and wetlands.

DEVELOPMENTS:

The 22nd meeting of the Commission, held in March 2001, adopted the 4th Periodic Assessment of the Quality Status of the Baltic Sea. The message of the Assessment was that progress had been made but that there remain challenging threats especially with respect to eutrophication, hazardous substances, fishery and shipping.

An extraordinary meeting of the Commission at Ministerial Level was held in September 2001, as a consequence of a ship accident resulting in heavy oil pollution off the Danish Coast. The aim of the meeting was to decide on additional measures to prevent pollution by improving safety of navigation and emergency capacity. The Commission adopted the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration with a package of specific measures, and also decided to amend the Convention accordingly.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The provisions concerning the prevention of pollution from ships follow closely MARPOL 73/78 (see Entry No. 3). Under MARPOL 73/78, the Baltic Sea Area is designated as a “special area” meaning that far-reaching prohibitions and restrictions on the discharge of ship-generated wastes and cargo residues apply.

**(12) UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE INCLUDING THE KYOTO
PROTOCOL (UNFCCC)**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. M. Zammit Cutajar
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the UN Convention
on Climate Change
Haus Carstanjen
Martin-Luther-King Strasse 8
D-53175 Bonn
GERMANY

Tel: (49-228) 815-1000
Fax: (49-228) 815-1999
E-mail: secretariat@unfccc.de
Website: <http://www.unfccc.de>

Mailing address: PO Box 260124
D-53153 Bonn
GERMANY

DATE OF ADOPTION:

CONVENTION: 9 May 1992

KYOTO PROTOCOL: 11 December 1997

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

CONVENTION: 21 March 1994

KYOTO PROTOCOL: Not yet in force

PARTICIPATION:

CONVENTION: 186 Parties, including the European Union (as of June 2001)

Open to all member States of the UN or its specialised agencies, or that are Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and to regional economic integration organisations.

KYOTO PROTOCOL: 35 Parties (as of June 2001)

OVERVIEW:

The Convention reflects recognition that there is a problem in that human activity is causing changes in the balance of gases that form the atmosphere, in particular with respect to an increase in key greenhouse gases (GHGs), which could result in global warming. While

scientists are studying the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, countries decided to confront the problem through an agreed approach.

The Convention establishes a framework and a process for agreeing to specific action in the future. The Convention establishes general principles, commitments for all Parties and specific commitments for developed country Parties as well as institutions.

It sets an ultimate objective of stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (man-made) interference with the climate system, acknowledging that there is no scientific certainty about what a dangerous level will be. The Convention is designed to allow countries to weaken or strengthen provisions in response to new scientific developments by, for example, adopting amendments or protocols to the Convention.

Specifically, the objective of the Convention is to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention establishes a number of guiding principles including:

- the “precautionary principle” (i.e., the lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse to postpone action when there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage);
- the “common but differentiated responsibilities” of states which assigns the lead in combating climate change to developed countries, which are the largest source of emissions;
- recognition of the special needs of developing countries, and developing countries should be accorded appropriate assistance to enable them to fulfil the terms of the Convention;
- the importance of promoting sustainable development and protecting the climate system for present and future generations; and
- the idea that Parties should work in co-operation to achieve maximum benefit from initiatives.

The Convention sets out the following responsibilities:

- Parties to prepare national inventories on greenhouse gas emissions and on actions taken to remove them;
- Parties to formulate and implement programmes for the control of climate change;
- Parties to take climate change into account in such matters as agriculture, energy, natural resources, and activities involving coastal areas;
- Parties encouraged to develop and share environmentally sound technology and know-how;

- Parties to undertake education and training policies that will enhance public awareness;
- Annex I countries (developed countries including most members of the OECD plus 12 states of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union) to take special measures to limit their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and to enhance the capacity of sinks and reservoirs for the stabilisation of such gases. The objective is to aim at returning their greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000;
- Annex II countries (developed country Parties consisting of most members of the OECD) to provide financial support to developing country Parties and facilitate technology transfer; and
- Parties to co-operate in the establishment and promotion of networks and programmes of research into, and systematic observation of, climate change.

The Convention also establishes a financial mechanism to provide resources on a grant or concessional basis.

The Convention encourages scientific research on climate change, and calls for data gathering, research and climate observation.

In addition, there is a procedure for the settlement of disputes.

Kyoto Protocol: In December 1997, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol containing stronger emissions-related commitments for developed countries in post-2000 period. The Kyoto Protocol commits Annex I Parties (developed countries) to individual, legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, adding up to a total cut of at least 5% from 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012. The individual targets for Annex I Parties are listed in the Protocol's Annex B, and range from a -8% cut for the EU and several other countries, to a +10% increase for Iceland. (Under the terms of the Protocol, the EU may redistribute its target among its 15 member states. It has already reached agreement on such a scheme, known as a "bubble".) Although they are listed in the Convention's Annex I, Belarus and Turkey are not included in the Protocol's Annex B as they were not Parties to the Convention when the Protocol was adopted.

The targets cover emissions of the six main greenhouse gases, namely, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). Some specified activities in the land-use change and forestry sector (namely, afforestation, deforestation and reforestation) that emit or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere are also covered. All changes in emissions, and in removals by so-called "sinks", go into the same basket for accounting purposes.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the "supreme body" of the Convention, that is, its highest decision-making authority. It is an association of all the countries that have ratified the Convention. The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The COP has met seven times, most recently in October/November 2001 in Morocco.

The Convention also establishes two subsidiary bodies:

- The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA): The SBSTA's task is to provide the COP with advice on scientific, technological and

methodological matters relating to the Convention. It serves as the link between the scientific information provided by expert sources such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the one hand, and the policy-oriented needs of the COP on the other. The SBSTA works closely with the IPCC, sometimes requesting specific studies from it.

- The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI): The SBI helps with the assessment and review of the implementation of the Convention. It plays a key role in examining the National Communications and Emission Inventories submitted by Parties and provides advice to the COP on the financial mechanism, operated by the Global Environment Facility (see Entry No. 28), as well as on administrative and budgetary matters.

The SBSTA and SBI work together on cross-cutting issues that touch on both their areas of expertise. These include the Protocol's mechanisms, compliance, capacity building and the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change and to mitigation measures.

The subsidiary bodies are open to participation by all Parties to the Convention, and governments often send representatives who are experts in the fields of the respective bodies.

In addition to the SBSTA and the SBI, the COP may establish additional bodies as needed. Thus far, it has established two:

- The Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) was set up at COP 1 to conduct the talks that led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. It met eight times, including a resumed eighth session on the eve of COP 3.
- The Ad hoc Group on Article 13 (AG13) was also launched by COP 1, to explore how to implement Article 13 of the Convention. Article 13 calls for the establishment of a "multilateral consultative process" to help governments overcome difficulties they may experience in meeting their commitments. AG13 met six times and made its final report to COP 4. Although it was able to agree on almost all elements of a multilateral consultative process, there was no consensus over the composition of the committee that would run this process.

The Convention established a financial mechanism to provide funds on a grant or concessional basis to help developing countries to implement the Convention and address climate change. The Convention assigned the role of operating the financial mechanism to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on an interim basis and, in 1996, COP 2 adopted a memorandum of understanding with the GEF on their respective roles and responsibilities. In 1998, COP 4 entrusted the GEF with this role on an on-going basis, subject to review every four years. The multi-billion-dollar GEF was established by the World Bank, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1990 to fund certain developing country projects that have global environmental benefits, not only in the area of climate change, but also in biodiversity, protection of the ozone layer and oceans. (See Entry No. 28 on GEF)

The financial mechanism is accountable to the COP, which decides on its climate change policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding. The COP therefore provides regular policy guidance to the financial mechanism on its climate change work, based on advice from the SBI.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 by UNEP and WMO and was given a mandate to assess: the state of existing knowledge about the climate system and climate change; the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change; and the possible response strategies (see Entry No. 37 for WMO).

There are a number of inter-governmental organisations that are facilitating the objectives of the Climate Change Convention, either through provision of financial support to developing countries or countries in transition, or by providing technology or information to assist in national efforts. These include the World Bank and regional development banks, the regional economic commissions of the UN, FAO, IAEA, IEA, IOC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WMO and OECD.

(13) CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. H. Zedan
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention
on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
393 St. Jacques Street, Office 300
Montreal, Quebec
CANADA H2Y 1N9

Tel: (1-514) 288-2220
Fax: (1-514) 288-6588
E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
Website: <http://www.biodiv.org>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

22 May 1992

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

29 December 1993

PARTICIPATION:

181 Parties (as of July 2001). Open to all States and regional economic integration organisations.

OVERVIEW:

The Convention is the first global, comprehensive agreement to address all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species, and ecosystems. It recognises, for the first time, that the conservation of biological diversity is “a common concern of humankind” and an integral part of the development process.

The objectives of this Convention are:

- the conservation of biological diversity;
- the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

The Convention aims at reconciling the need for conservation with the concern for development and is based on considerations of equity and shared responsibility.

The Convention reflects the fact that the conservation of biological diversity has ceased to be viewed merely in terms of protecting threatened species or ecosystems. Rather, conservation is conceived as an integral part of global and national efforts to achieve sustainable development.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention promotes a new partnership among Governments as reflected in its provisions on scientific and technical co-operation, access to financial and genetic resources, and the transfer of ecologically sound technologies. Among the commitments of its Parties are:

- Parties to conserve biological diversity within their jurisdictions (and to co-operate with other Parties regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction), recognising the principle of national sovereignty over domestic natural resources, subject to respect for the rights of other States;
- Parties to take steps to conserve biological diversity in situ, in particular, to: establish a system of protected areas; promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations; rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species; and regulate and manage the risks posed by the use of living modified organisms, or any other process or categories of activities which have been determined as having a significant adverse impact on biological diversity;
- Parties to take steps for the ex situ conservation of components of biological diversity;
- Parties to adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on biological diversity;
- Parties to co-operate in preserving biological diversity in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- Parties to develop and implement national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- Parties to monitor elements of biological diversity, and determine those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use;
- Parties to promote research, training, public education and awareness in relation to measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- Parties to provide for environmental impact assessment of projects likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity;
- Parties to exchange information and consult other states where proposed national projects are likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity in other States;
- Parties to promote international technical and scientific co-operation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and
- Parties to provide, in accordance with individual capabilities, financial support for the fulfillment of the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Other provisions address: access to genetic resources; transfer of technology; the respect, preservation and maintenance of traditional biodiversity-related knowledge, innovations and practices; and settlement of disputes.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Convention and consists of representatives of States and regional economic integration organisations Parties to the Convention. The COP has met five times, with its last meeting in May 2000 in Nairobi, Kenya. Its next meeting is scheduled for May 2002 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was established to provide the COP and other subsidiary bodies with advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. It has met six times thus far, the last time in March 2001. The next meeting of the SBSTTA is in November 2001.

The GEF (see Entry No. 28) operates the financial mechanism for the Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS:

The second meeting of the COP in 1995 decided to develop a protocol on biosafety to help minimise the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. After several negotiation sessions, the COP at its resumed first extraordinary meeting held in Montreal, Canada, from 24 to 29 January 2000 adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Protocol deals with the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements. The Protocol establishes an advance informed agreement procedure for imports of LMOs; establishes risk assessment and the precautionary principle as a basis for decision-making; requires the identification and labelling of LMOs for food, feed and processing; and details information and documentation requirements. Other provisions of the Protocol address risk management, information sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-house, capacity building for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, illegal transboundary movements, liability and redress, and financial mechanism and resources. The Protocol was opened for signature in Nairobi, Kenya, during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties from 15 to 26 May 2000 and remained open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 June 2000 to 4 June 2001. One hundred and two States and one regional economic integration organisation signed the Protocol. Five of these countries have ratified the Protocol.

At its third session, the COP considered a decision by the FAO Conference that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources should take the form of a protocol to the Convention.

The fifth meeting of the COP took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 26 May 2000. It was attended by approximately 1500 participants representing 156 governments, as well as NGOs, IGOs and indigenous and local community organisations. It considered and adopted 29 decisions on a number of issues, including a new thematic work programme on the conservation of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands; the ecosystem approach; access to genetic resources; alien species; sustainable use as a cross-cutting issue; biodiversity and tourism; incentive measures; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; progress in the implementation of work programmes on agricultural, inland waters ecosystem, marine and coastal, and forest biodiversity; operations of the Convention; the Global Taxonomy Initiative; financial resources and mechanisms; scientific and technical co-operation and the Clearing-house mechanism; identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators; work plan for the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol; and impact assessment, liability and redress.

Global Biodiversity Outlook, a periodic report on the state of biodiversity worldwide and on implementation of the Convention, is expected to be published in 2001.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

As a legal instrument, which is entirely dependent upon Parties and other organisations to develop and implement its provisions, the need to develop co-operative relationships with other bodies is fundamental to the implementation of the CBD. Each COP has reaffirmed the importance it attaches to co-operation between the CBD and other conventions, institutions and processes of relevance. The matter of co-operation is a standing item on the COP's agenda and one of the key organs of the CBD, the financial mechanism, is operated by another institution, the GEF. (see Entry No. 28 on the GEF.)

The COP has repeatedly emphasised its commitment to continue to explore effective mechanisms to co-operate with other conventions, institutions and processes of relevance to promote efficient use of resources in implementing its objectives. In response, the Secretariat of the CBD has actively participated in many UN co-ordination exercises, including the Inter-Agency Task Force of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the IASCSD of the UN (see Entry No. 39). Co-operation between the CBD and the UN System has not been restricted to the administrative level, but has also included the legislative or policy making bodies of both processes. For example, the COP regularly adopts decisions regarding reports to the General Assembly and the CSD.

Co-operation has also been pursued with many other organisations, with memoranda of understanding/co-operation being concluded between the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, and the Convention on Migratory Species, to name but a few. Collaboration is also being pursued with many international organisations including the World Bank, the FAO, UNESCO, WIPO and the WTO.

Decision IV/15 of the COP outlined priorities for this co-operation. They included: further development of co-operation with other relevant conventions in particular the UNFCCC and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and the Convention on Migratory Species); the development of guidelines on good management practices in protected areas; and close co-operation with the WTO in particular the relationship between the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The fifth meeting of the COP by decision V/21 requires the Executive Secretary to strengthen co-operation particularly in the area of scientific and technical assessment of biodiversity.

The COP also places importance on further co-operation with the United Nations Organization. In this respect, the priority for the moment is providing input to the Rio + 10 process. By decision V/27, the COP welcomed the invitation of the United Nations General Assembly to the Secretariat of the Convention to report on how its activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the invitation of the Commission on Sustainable Development extended to secretariats of UNCED-related conventions to support preparatory activities of the 10-year review. The COP requested the Executive Secretary to support such preparatory activities and, in particular, to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress made in the implementation of the Convention and encouraged Parties, Governments, and countries to highlight and emphasise biological diversity considerations in their contributions to the ten-year review. The Executive Secretary has submitted his report and will be actively participating in the preparatory meetings and the Summit itself.

**(14) CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND
USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THEIR
DESTRUCTION (CWC)**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

H.E. Mr. J. Mauricio Bustani
Director-General
OPCW
Johan de Witlaan 32
NL-2517 JR The Hague
NETHERLANDS

Tel: (31-70) 416-3300
Fax: (31-70) 416-3535
E-mail: webmaster@opcw.org
Website: <http://www.opcw.org/>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

3 September 1992 (Open for signature: 13 January 1993)

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

29 April 1997

PARTICIPATION:

143 States Parties; 31 Signatory States (as of 01 July 2001)

Open to all States.

OVERVIEW:

The CWC is the first global disarmament and non-proliferation agreement negotiated within a multilateral framework that provides for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under universally applied international control.

The objective of the Convention is to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, to destroy existing chemical weapons and related production facilities under strict international verification, to provide transparency through verification in relation to the non-proliferation of chemical weapons and related capabilities, to provide assistance to the Parties in case chemical weapons were used against them, and to foster international co-operation in the field of peaceful chemical activities. The preamble notes the determination of States Parties to prohibit and eliminate all types of weapons of mass destruction.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention defines chemical weapons as including not only toxic chemicals and their precursors but also specially designed ammunition and devices, and equipment for their employment. Toxic chemicals are "... any chemical which, through its chemical effect on

living processes, may cause death, temporary loss of performance, or permanent injury to people and animals.”

The Convention requires each State Party:

- not to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons or transfer chemical weapons to anyone; not to use or engage in any military preparations to use chemical weapons; not to assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under the Convention;
- to destroy chemical weapons it owns or possesses, or that are located within its jurisdiction or control; to destroy all chemical weapons they abandoned on the territory of another State Party; to destroy chemical weapons production facilities it owns or possesses, or that are located within its jurisdiction or control; not to use riot control agents as a method of warfare;
- in implementing the Convention, to assign the highest priority to ensuring the safety of people and to protecting the environment and to co-operate as appropriate with other State Parties;
- to make declarations with respect to chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities to identify objects to be controlled and destroyed;
- to determine how to destroy chemical weapons except that the following cannot be used: dumping in any body of water, land burial or open-pit burning. Each Party to destroy chemical weapons only at specifically designated and appropriately designed and equipped facilities; and
- to destroy old chemical weapons produced before 1925 (defined) as toxic wastes, and to destroy old chemical weapons produced between 1925 and 1946 in accordance with the provisions applicable to chemical weapons.

The Convention sets out the criteria and time lines for the destruction of chemical weapons and production facilities, and the procedures for the systematic verification of these destruction operations.

The Convention also sets out requirements and verification procedures in relation to the peaceful uses of certain chemicals, listed in three “Schedules” of the Convention, as well as of certain other chemical production facilities involved with organic chemicals.

Furthermore, the Convention sets out the procedures for the investigation of allegations that chemical weapons have been used against a Party, or are threatened to be used, and stipulates how assistance is to be provided in such cases by the OPCW.

In addition, the Convention provides for the right of each State Party to request a challenge inspection of any facility or location on the territory or in any other place under the jurisdiction or control of another State Party for the sole purpose of clarifying and resolving any question concerning possible non-compliance.

Finally, the Convention encourages international co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry and the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and scientific and technical information, and requires the Parties to review their regulations in relation to exports of chemicals with a view to abandoning among themselves trade restrictions that are incompatible with the Convention.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was established when the Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997. It is responsible for the implementation of the Convention.

The Organs of the OPCW are:

- The Conference of the States Parties, which is the principal organ of the Organization. It is composed of all States Parties. It meets in regular sessions on an annual basis. Special sessions can also be convened. Its first meeting was held in May 1997, its second in December 1997, its third in November 1998, its fourth in June/July 1999, its fifth in May 2000, and its sixth in May 2001. The Conference also meets every five years in the format of a Review Conference. The first Review Conference will take place in the autumn of 2003.
- The Executive Council has day-to-day responsibility for supervising the activities of the OPCW. The 41 members of the Executive Council are elected for two-year terms from among the States Parties. Representation on the Executive Council is determined by regional distribution, with due regard to the importance of the chemical industry and to political and security interests.
- The OPCW's Secretariat has the primary responsibility for carrying out the activities mandated by the Convention at the international level. This includes: carrying out the verification activities mandated by the Convention; providing and co-ordinating assistance if chemical weapons are used; implementing programmes in the area of international co-operation in the field of peaceful applications of chemistry; supporting the Conference and the Executive Council; and communicating on behalf of the OPCW. The Director-General, the chief administrative officer of the OPCW, is appointed by the Conference for a term of four years, renewable once. In addition, the Director-General is charged with establishing a Scientific Advisory Board, consisting of independent experts, to provide specialised advice in areas of science and technology that are relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Since the entry into force of the Convention, the OPCW has set up and maintained a comprehensive regime of verification in relation to the chemical weapons stocks in four States Parties, and former chemical weapons production facilities declared by 11 States Parties. All these facilities received an initial inspection by OPCW inspectors on the basis of which facility agreements regulating future inspections have been concluded. The destruction of chemical weapons is being monitored permanently. As of 6 July 2001, 26 former production facilities have been destroyed, and six have been converted for legitimate purposes and remain under international verification. In addition, the OPCW has been inspecting a range of industrial and defense-related facilities that are subject to the verification provisions. As of 6 July 2001, 1011 inspections have taken place in 49 States Parties, 5.7 thousand tonnes of agent have been destroyed, and 1.6 million CW munition items and containers have been destroyed.

During the first four years after the entry into force of the Convention, the OPCW has established mechanisms for the investigation of allegations that chemical weapons had been used, and for the provision of assistance in such situations. The OPCW has also built-up programmes to enhance international co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry, including training programmes and other types of assistance for the implementing agencies of the States Parties, and measures aimed at national capacity building such as the support of

scientists from developing countries to attend international scientific conferences, sponsorship of internships of scientists from developing countries in advanced scientific institutions abroad, advice to laboratories in States Parties and assistance for the improvement of their capabilities, financial support of small-scale research projects relevant to the Convention, and the facilitation of exchanges of scientific equipment. Since 2000, the OPCW also has an Associate Programme for chemists and engineers from developing and transition countries, which aims at: facilitating the industry-related national implementation of the Convention; enhancing national capacities in Member States by offering training in chemistry to personnel from industry, academic institutions, and government; facilitating trade in chemistry through good practice in the chemical industry; and broadening the basis of future recruitment for industry-related posts in National Authorities and the Secretariat.

At the Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, a number of important decisions were taken. Ten new States Parties joined the Organisation and a full programme of work for 2000 was completed. All 70,000 tonnes of declared chemical weapons have been entirely inventoried, almost 20% of the declared munitions and containers have been destroyed, and more than half of the declared chemical weapons production facilities worldwide have been certified as having been either destroyed or converted to peaceful purposes.

Much of the debate during the Session was overshadowed by the financial crisis, which the OPCW had encountered at the beginning of the year 2001. This crisis was the result of several factors, including chronic underbudgeting and structural flaws in the budgetary process related to the reimbursement of the cost of inspection of chemical weapons related facilities by the inspected States Parties. The Conference adopted a number of decisions related to this situation, and tasked the Executive Council to prepare a resolution of the structural budget problem. The Conference also called for voluntary contributions, to ensure that sufficient resources would be available to the OPCW for it to effectively carry out its operational mandate.

The Conference also took a number of other substantive decisions. It clarified that measures related to exports of Schedule 3 chemicals to states not party (the requirement to request end-use certificates) are also required for mixtures containing more than 30 per cent of these chemicals, unless traded as consumer goods. Another decision related to the procedure for the authentication and certification of the central OPCW analytical database, as well as of on-site databases used with approved inspection equipment. The Conference also adopted a decision requesting the Secretariat to ensure equal treatment of all six official languages of the OPCW. It approved several bilateral agreements on privileges and immunities, and approved the conversion for legitimate purposes of a former CW production facility in the Russian Federation. Finally, the Conference approved the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW, which will enter into force when the UN General Assembly will also have adopted the agreement.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The preamble of the Convention, as well as its Article XIII, recall the Geneva Protocol of 1925 (prohibiting use of chemical and biological weapons in war) and the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972 (which outlaws biological and toxin weapons and requires their destruction).

**(15) CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST
ATLANTIC (OSPAR CONVENTION)**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Secretariat of the OSPAR Commission	Tel:	(44 20) 7430 5200
New Court	Fax:	(44 20) 7430 5225
48 Carey Street	E-mail:	secretariat@ospar.org
London WC2A 2JQ	Website:	http://www.ospar.org
UNITED KINGDOM		

DATE OF ADOPTION:

22 September 1992

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

25 March 1998. The Convention replaced the Oslo and Paris Conventions.

PARTICIPATION:

16 Parties

Open to Parties to the Oslo Convention or Paris Convention, any other coastal state bordering the maritime area, any state located upstream on watercourses reaching the maritime area or any regional economic integration organisation having a member state that qualifies. The maritime area covers the north-east Atlantic including the North Sea and comprises the internal waters and the territorial sea of Parties, the sea beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea under the jurisdiction of the coastal state, and the high seas. Other States or regional economic organisations that do not satisfy the criteria may be invited unanimously by the Parties to accede to the Convention.

OVERVIEW:

The objectives of the Convention are:

- to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and take the necessary measures to protect the sea area against the adverse effects of human activities; and
- to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, where practicable, to restore marine areas which have been adversely affected.

The OSPAR Convention replaced the “Paris” and “Oslo” Conventions (i.e., the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft). However, Decisions, Recommendations, and other agreements adopted under the two previous Conventions continue to be applicable, unaltered in their legal nature, unless they are terminated by measures adopted under the OSPAR Convention.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

Among the obligations established by the Convention are:

- Parties to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and to take necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effect of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, where practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected. Parties to adopt programmes and measures for the prevention and elimination of pollution;
- Parties to apply the precautionary principle and the polluter-pays principle, to apply the measures they adopt in such a way as to prevent an increase in pollution of the sea outside the maritime area or in other parts of the environment;
- Parties to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from land-based sources, dumping and offshore sources, and to co-operate in dealing with pollution from other sources;
- Parties periodically to carry out and publish joint assessments of the quality of the marine environment and of its development;
- Parties to establish complementary or joint programmes of scientific or technical research and to transmit information on such research programmes to the Commission;
- Parties to ensure that their competent authorities are required to make available to the public information on the state of the maritime area, on activities or measures adversely affecting or likely to affect it or on activities or measures introduced in accordance with the Convention; and
- Parties to enter into consultations concerning instances of transboundary pollution with a view to negotiating a co-operation agreement.

The Convention contains annexes addressing different sources of pollution:

- prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources;
- prevention and elimination of pollution by dumping or incineration (which prohibits incineration);
- prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources; and
- assessment of the quality of the marine environment.

The 1998 Meeting of the Commission reached agreement on a new Annex and related Appendix concerning the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

A Commission, with representatives of each of the Parties, is the governing body of the Convention. It supervises implementation of the Convention and decides on relevant programme and institutional matters. The Commission meets annually, sometimes at ministerial level. The Commission is authorised to establish other subsidiary bodies, which it considers necessary.

The OSPAR Commission met at Ministerial level in July 1998, in conjunction with the first meeting of the Commission under the new Convention. Further meetings at the level of officials were held on 14-18 June 1999 and 26 – 30 June 2000. There will be a further official level meeting in June 2002 and a second Ministerial meeting in June 2003.

Under the Commission, OSPAR works through six main committees, five dealing each with one of the long-term strategies, and the sixth with environmental monitoring and assessment.

DEVELOPMENTS:

The 1998 Ministerial meeting adopted long-term strategies on hazardous substances, radioactive substances, the protection of marine biodiversity, and eutrophication. The 1999 Commission meeting added to these a strategy on offshore oil and gas activities.

The hazardous substances strategy is aimed at making every endeavour to reach by 2020 the target of the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances to the marine environment of the maritime area. To this end, a process has been established to identify the OSPAR list of chemicals for priority action. This list was revised at the 2001 Commission meeting, and currently contains 42 substances or groups of substances. These are being addressed by preparing (for those in use in the OSPAR area) background documents for each substance or group specifying the sources of inputs of them to the marine environment, the threat posed and possible measures. Such measures are then considered.

The radioactive substances strategy is being implemented by each Contracting Party preparing a national strategy to show how it will achieve the goals of the OSPAR strategy. These will be examined by the Commission.

Implementation of the biodiversity strategy is currently focused on identifying the species and habitats that are most in need of protective action, and establishing ecological quality objectives.

Implementation of the eutrophication strategy is currently focused on completing the application of the Common Procedure to identify the areas of the maritime area that are problem areas, or potential problem areas, with regard to eutrophication.

The first step in implementing the offshore strategy has been the adoption by the 2001 Commission meeting of a Recommendation on the management of oil in produced water.

On monitoring and assessment, the main recent achievement has been the publication of a Quality Status Report 2000 of the OSPAR Maritime Area. Work is now in hand to revise the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme for the next round of work.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Oslo Commission was established to administer the 1972 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft. Initially, the Commission's task was to regulate and control the dumping at sea of industrial wastes, sewage sludge and dredged material and the incineration at sea of liquid industrial wastes. Dumping of industrial wastes and incineration at sea has been phased out. Agreement was reached that sewage sludge will not be dumped after 1998.

The Paris Commission was established to administer the 1974 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources. It regulated and controlled inputs of substances and energy to the sea via the atmosphere and from land-based sources. It undertook

a thorough review of a number of industrial sectors to establish the best available techniques to avoid pollution.

In 1992, the Oslo and Paris Commissions met at ministerial level and adopted the OSPAR Convention, together with a Final Declaration and Action Plan.

A number of international governmental and non-governmental organisations contribute actively to the work of OSPAR.

In the framework of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, OSPAR will intensify its co-operation with UNEP. (See Entry No. 24)

(16) CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

(See also Entry No. 21 on ILO)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. I. Obadia
Focal Point for the Environment
SafeWork Programme
International Labour Office
4 route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 22
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 799 6746
Fax: (41-22) 798 6878
E-mail: obadia@ilo.org
Website: <http://www.ilo.org/safework>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

22 June 1993

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

3 January 1997

PARTICIPATION:

Open to Members of the ILO.

OVERVIEW:

The objective of the Convention (No. 174) is the prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances and the limitation of the consequences of such accidents. It seeks to protect workers, the public and the environment against risks of major industrial accidents.

The Convention requires ratifying States, in consultation with other interested parties in their country, to formulate a coherent national policy to be implemented through preventive and protective measures for major hazard installations and, where practicable, promote the use of the best available safety technologies.

A Recommendation (No. 181), adopted at the same time, elaborates on the provisions of the Convention.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention includes the following provisions:

- each Party to formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent national policy concerning the protection of workers, the public, and the environment against the risk

of major accidents. The policy is to be implemented through preventive and protective measures for major hazard installations and, where practicable, promote the use of best available safety technologies;

- competent authorities to establish a system for the identification of major hazard installations (based on a list of hazardous substances, or categories of substances, with their threshold quantities);
- employers to identify any major hazard installations within their control and notify such installations to the competent authorities;
- employers to establish and maintain a system of major hazard control at major hazard installations, prepare and update safety reports and submit the reports to the competent authorities;
- employers to report major accidents;
- competent authorities to establish emergency plans and procedures;
- competent authorities to disseminate information to the public on safety measures and correct behaviour in the event of an accident;
- competent authorities to establish a siting policy with appropriate separation of proposed major hazard installations from areas frequented by the public and appropriate measures for existing installations;
- workers and their representatives to be consulted in order to ensure a safe system of work;
- workers to be informed of, *inter alia*, hazards associated with the major hazard installations and to receive relevant instructions and training;
- workers to comply with practices and procedures relating to the prevention of major accidents and the control of developments likely to lead to a major accident with the installations and to comply with all emergency procedures should a major accident occur; and
- exporting Parties to provide any importing country with information concerning the use of hazardous substances, technologies or processes as a potential source of a major accident and the reasons for it.

Recommendation No. 181 provides for an international exchange of information on major accidents and on the necessary safety and organisational measures.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Governing Body of the ILO supervises the work of the ILO and is responsible for the review of this Convention. When it considers it necessary, the Governing Body presents to the General Conference a report on the working of the Convention and examines the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision.

The International Labour Conference, which meets annually, is the main decision-making body of the ILO. It is composed of national delegations composed of two government delegates, one representing employers, one representing workers.

Meetings of experts are organised to assist in the preparation of instruments and to examine specific subjects.

The ILO serves as the Secretariat to the Convention.

DEVELOPMENTS:

A number of workshops and other technical assistance activities have been held to facilitate implementation of the Convention and the current work programme is designed to, inter alia, assist countries to meet the obligations under the Convention. (See Entry No. 21 on ILO)

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

In 1991, the ILO adopted a Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents that provides guidance for national policies. In addition, in 1988 ILO published “Major Hazard Control – A Practical Manual”. (See Entry No. 21 on ILO)

There are a number of related activities being carried out by ILO, other IOMC organisations and the UNECE, many of which can facilitate implementation of the Convention.

**(17) ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR
INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

(See also Entry No. 20 for FAO and Entry No. 24(b) for UNEP Chemicals)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention:

Plant Protection Service	Tel:	(39-06) 5705 3441
Plant Production and Protection Division	Fax:	(39-06) 5705 6347
FAO	E-mail:	pic@fao.org
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla	Website:	http://www.pic.int
Rome 00100		
ITALY		

UNEP Chemicals	Tel:	(41-22) 917-8183
11-13 chemin des Anémones	Fax:	(41-22) 797-3460
CH-1219 Châtelaine	E-mail:	pic@unep.ch
Geneva	Website:	http://www.pic.int
SWITZERLAND		

DATE OF ADOPTION:

10 September 1998

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

Not yet in force. Will enter into force after deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification.

PARTICIPATION:

14 Parties (as of 14 June 2001)

Open to all States and regional economic integration organisations.

OVERVIEW:

The objectives of the Convention are:

- to promote shared responsibility and co-operative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm; and

- to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export, and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

The Convention creates legally binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. It builds on the existing voluntary PIC procedure, operated by UNEP and FAO since 1989, and takes into account experience gained during the implementation of the voluntary procedure (as set out in the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides).

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention establishes the principle that export of a chemical covered by the Convention can only take place with the prior informed consent of the importing party. The Convention establishes a “Prior Informed Consent procedure,” a means for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing countries as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of specified chemicals and for ensuring compliance to these decisions by exporting countries.

The Convention also contains provisions for the exchange of information among Parties about potentially hazardous chemicals that may be exported and imported.

The Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties and which have been notified by Parties for inclusion in the PIC procedure. One notification from each of two specified regions triggers consideration of the addition of a chemical to the PIC procedure, with the regions to be determined by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Severely hazardous pesticide formulations that present a hazard under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition may also be nominated for inclusion in the procedure.

The Convention initially covers 22 pesticides (including five severely hazardous pesticide formulations) and five industrial chemicals, but many more are expected to be added in the future. The Conference of the Parties will decide on the inclusion of chemicals.

For each chemical subject to the Rotterdam Convention, a “decision guidance document” (DGD) containing information concerning the chemical and the regulatory decisions to ban or severely restrict the chemical for health or environmental reasons, is circulated to importing countries. These countries are given nine months to prepare a response concerning the future import of the chemical. The response can consist of either a final decision (to allow import of the chemical, not to allow import, or to allow import subject to specified conditions) or an interim response. Decisions by an importing country must be trade neutral (i.e., apply equally to domestic production as well as to imports).

The decisions of the importing countries are circulated semi-annually via the PIC Circular, and exporting country Parties are obligated under the Convention to take appropriate measure to ensure that exporters within its jurisdiction comply with the decisions.

With respect to the exchange of information, the Convention establishes:

- the requirement for a Party to inform other Parties of each national ban or severe restriction of a chemical;

- the possibility for a Party which is a developing country or a country in transition to inform other Parties that it is experiencing problems caused by a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under conditions of use in its territory;
- the requirement for a Party that plans to export a chemical that is banned or severely restricted for use within its territory to inform the importing Party that such export will take place, before the first shipment and annually thereafter;
- the requirement for an exporting Party, when exporting chemicals that are to be used for occupational purposes, to ensure that an up-to-date safety data sheet is sent to the importer; and
- labelling requirements for exports of chemicals included in the PIC procedure, as well as for other chemicals that are banned or severely restricted in the exporting country.

Parties also agree to co-operate in promoting technical assistance to enable countries to develop the capacity and infrastructure to implement the Convention.

The Convention contains a provision for settlement of disputes.

There are five annexes to the Convention addressing, *inter alia*, the procedures for inclusion of chemicals and severely hazardous pesticide formulations, the chemicals subject to the Convention, and the requirements for export notifications.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Convention establishes a Conference of the Parties to oversee implementation and a Chemicals Review Committee to review notifications and nominations from Parties and make recommendations on which chemicals should be included in Annex III.

The Convention also establishes a Secretariat, whose functions are to be performed jointly by UNEP and FAO.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

In order to protect human health and the environment, the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries, when adopting the Convention in 1998, also adopted a resolution on interim arrangements for the period between the adoption of the Convention and its entry into force. The main elements of this resolution are:

- it changes the original voluntary PIC procedure to an interim PIC procedure that is in line with the procedure established by the Convention;
- it invites the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to establish an interim Chemical Review Committee;
- it invites the INC to establish, on an interim basis, the PIC regions referred to in Article 5, Paragraph 5 of the Convention;
- it mandates the INC to oversee the implementation of the interim PIC procedure and to prepare for the Conference of the Parties;
- it establishes that all chemicals in Annex III of the Convention are subject to the interim PIC procedure;

- it establishes that all chemicals that were identified for inclusion under the original PIC procedure will become subject to the interim PIC procedure as soon as the relevant DGD has been adopted by the INC;
- it decides that the INC will decide on the inclusion of new chemicals under the interim PIC procedure in accordance with the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7, and 22 of the Convention; and
- it notes that Article 8 of the Convention provides that the COP, at its first meeting, shall decide on the inclusion in the Convention of chemicals that have been added to the PIC procedure during the interim period.

The resolution also establishes an interim Secretariat, whose functions are to be performed jointly by UNEP and FAO.

At its sixth session, in 1999, the INC established the seven PIC regions and an interim Chemical Review Committee with 29 members.

During the interim period, the INC has approved DGDs for the following four chemicals: binapacryl, toxaphene, ethylene oxide, and ethylene dichloride.

As of 30 April 2001, a total of 165 States had nominated 253 Designated National Authorities to perform the administrative functions under the interim PIC procedure.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

There are a number of other international organisations whose activities are relevant to the implementation of the interim PIC procedures. For example, the assessment activities of other IOMC organisations, including WHO and OECD as well as the IPCS, provide reference material for incorporation in the decision guidance documents and serve as information sources to importing countries on the hazards of PIC chemicals and alternatives.

There are a number of other Conventions that contain (or are expected to contain) related provisions. For example:

- Most of the twelve chemicals included in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are also included in the Rotterdam Convention. (See Entry No. 19)
- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. (see Entry No. 6) This Convention also provides for export management and control regimes addressing highly toxic chemicals, although its scope is somewhat different, with the Rotterdam Convention focusing on chemicals in commerce and Basel focusing on wastes.
- ILO Convention concerning the Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work. (see Entry No. 7) This Convention contains an export notification provision requiring members States, when exporting chemicals prohibited for reasons of safety and health at work, to communicate this fact and the reasons for the prohibition to the importing State.
- Convention on Biological Diversity. (see Entry No. 12) In January 2000, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted. This Protocol includes a provision for advanced informed agreement for imports of living modified organisms.

**(18) EUROPEAN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE
INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS
BY INLAND WATERWAYS (ADN)**

(See also Entry No. 34(b) on the UNECE Transport of Dangerous Goods)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. O. Kervella
Chief, Dangerous Goods and Special
Cargoes Section
UN/ECE
Transport Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 917 2456
Fax: (41-22) 917 0039
E-mail: olivier.kervella@unece.org
Website:
<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>

DATE OF ADOPTION:

25 May 2000

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

Not yet in force.

PARTICIPATION:

10 Signatories (as of 5 June 2001)

Open to member States of the UNECE whose territory contains inland waterways, other than those forming a coastal route, which form part of the network of inland waterways of international importance as defined in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN). Not open to regional integration organisations.

OVERVIEW:

The Agreement itself is similar to ADR (see Entry No. 2). It is intended to:

- increase the safety of international carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways;
- contribute effectively to the protection of the environment, by preventing any pollution resulting from accidents or incidents during such carriage; and
- facilitate transport operations and promote international trade.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The key Article is the fourth, which says in effect that, apart from some excessively dangerous goods, other dangerous goods may be moved internationally in inland navigation vessels provided that the conditions of the annexed Regulations are complied with.

The annexed Regulations are divided in Annexes A, B1, B2, C, D1 and D2:

- Annex A contains general provisions and a list of substances, and special provisions for the various classes;
- Annex B1 contains provisions for the construction and operation of vessels intended for the carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form or in bulk in solid form;
- Annex B2 contains provisions for the construction and operation of tank-vessels;
- Annex C contains requirements and procedures concerning inspections, the issue of certificates of approval, classification societies, derogations, special authorisations, checks, training and examination of experts;
- Annex D1 contains general transitional provisions; and
- Annex D2 contains supplementary transitional provisions applicable to specific inland waterways.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Agreement established a Safety Committee and an Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee will consider the implementation of the agreement, any amendments proposed thereto, as well as measures to secure uniformity in the interpretation and application thereof.

The Safety Committee will consider all proposals for the amendments of the annexed Regulations, particularly as regards safety of navigation in relation to the construction, equipment and crews of vessels.

Secretariat services for the Administrative Committee will be provided by the UNECE, whilst the Safety Committee will function within the framework of activities of the UNECE, the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) and the Danube Commission.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

Annex A of ADN is directly related to Annex A of ADR.

The UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods has a mandate to deal with all questions related to the inland transport of dangerous goods (road, rail, inland waterway) in the UNECE region and meets jointly with the RID Safety Committee.

Co-operation has been established with CCNR and the Danube Commission to ensure co-ordination with their regulatory activities as regards navigation on the Rhine and on the Danube.

(19) STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

(See also Entry No.24(b) for UNEP Chemicals)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention:

UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 917-8190
Fax: (41-22) 797-3460
E-mail: ssc@chemicals.unep.ch
Website: www.pops.int

DATE OF ADOPTION:

22 May 2001

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

Not yet in force. Will enter into force after deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification.

PARTICIPATION:

One Party (as of 14 June 2001)

Open to all States and regional economic integration organisations.

OVERVIEW:

The objective of the Convention is:

- to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants, mindful of the precautionary approach as set forth in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The Convention creates legally binding obligations for parties to prohibit and/or take the legal and administrative measures necessary to eliminate the production and use of nine POPs (aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, PCBs and toxaphene) and to restrict the production and use of DDT. In addition, Parties are obliged to take measures to reduce releases from anthropogenic sources of dioxins, furans, PCB and HCB, with the goal of minimisation and, where feasible, ultimate elimination of these POPs. Parties should also take measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes. Furthermore, the Convention establishes a register for country-specific exemptions.

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

The Convention covers pesticides, industrial chemicals and by-products that share the characteristics of POPs, i.e., persistence, bioaccumulation, potential for long-range transport, and toxicity.

The Convention initially covers 12 chemicals. The Convention contains provisions for adding substances to the Convention through a stepwise procedure initiated by a Party submitting a proposal for adding a substance. The candidate substance is first screened against agreed criteria and then further evaluated in depth by a subsidiary body, the POPs Review Committee. The Review Committee makes a recommendation to the Conference of Parties, who decides on whether to include the substance or not.

In addition to the general obligations with regard to the substances under the Convention, Parties are to:

- develop implementation plans to fulfill their obligations;
- facilitate or undertake the exchange of information as well as promote public information, awareness and education, encourage and/or undertake research, development, monitoring and co-operation pertaining to POPs;
- co-operate to provide timely and appropriate technical assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. The developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures under the Convention; and
- report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures.

Starting four years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of Parties shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention.

The Global Environment Facility was established as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, on an interim basis. The Convention also contains a provision for settlement of disputes.

There are six annexes to the Convention addressing: substances scheduled for elimination; substances scheduled for restriction; unintentionally-produced substances; criteria for candidate POPs; data requirements for the risk profile; and information on socio-economic considerations.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES/ADMINISTRATION:

The Convention establishes a Conference of the Parties to oversee implementation and a Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to review proposals from Parties for adding substances to the Convention.

The Convention also establishes a Secretariat, whose functions are to be performed by UNEP.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS:

In order to protect human health and the environment, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, when adopting the Convention in 2001, also adopted a number of resolutions. These address:

interim arrangements for the period between the adoption of the Convention and its entry into force; interim financial arrangements; capacity-building and capacity assistance network; liability and redress; issues related to the Basel Convention; and location of the Secretariat. The main elements of these resolutions are:

- The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) will continue to meet to oversee implementation during the interim period and to prepare for the first Conference of Parties (COP);
- The focus during the interim period will be on activities that facilitate a rapid entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention;
- The INC will develop guidance on releases of unintentionally produced substances under the Convention and on best environmental practices for managing those substances;
- States are encouraged to do preparatory work for listing of additional substances;
- An interim Secretariat is established, whose functions are to be performed by UNEP;
- GEF is requested to establish an operational programme on POPs and to report to the INC on measures taken;
- Parties will review the availability of additional resources at COP-1;
- The INC should focus on arrangements for capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention;
- UNEP and GEF should develop a capacity assistance network;
- Austria will host an open-ended workshop on liability and redress;
- The INC and the interim Secretariat are requested to co-operate closely with the Secretariat and bodies of the Basel Convention; and
- UNEP would consider offers for hosting the Secretariat and provide an analysis on the offers to COP-1.

As of 11 December 2001, a total of 64 States had nominated Stockholm Convention Focal Points (these are not to be confused with UNEP POPs Focal Points, which were established to facilitate implementation of immediate actions under UNEP Governing Council Decision 19/13C).

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

UNEP Chemicals, in addition to providing the interim Secretariat, has a number of technical and policy support activities related to POPs. These involve, for example, developing technical guidance, supporting capacity building for countries, implementing an information clearinghouse, and promoting a global monitoring network. (See Entry No. 24(b))

A number of other international organisations are involved in activities that support, or complement, the Stockholm Convention. For example:

- Assessment activities of other IOMC organisations, including WHO and OECD as well as the IPCS, will provide input to the future POPs Review Committee on the hazards of candidate POPs and alternatives.
- The GEF has been designated as the principle financial mechanism for the Convention on an interim basis. The GEF has developed Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities under the Stockholm Convention, and has agreed to finance certain projects that meet those guidelines. A number of such projects have been funded.
- The World Bank is currently assisting client countries to prepare for the Convention and to address the threats posed by POPs. To assist client countries further, the World Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding on POPs with UNEP in order to ensure a more co-ordinated and effective approach to working with client countries on the POPs issue.
- UNIDO has been granted expanded opportunities by the GEF for implementing Enabling Activities programmes under the Stockholm Convention.
- As part of the *UNITAR/IOMC Programme to Assist Countries in Developing and Sustaining Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals*, a skill package is being piloted by UNITAR for the development of implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention, in co-operation with the IOMC.

Furthermore, the Stockholm Convention is co-ordinating activities with other Conventions that contain provisions related to the control of POPs, including:

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal which includes control regimes addressing highly toxic chemicals focusing on wastes (while the Stockholm Convention addresses chemicals in commerce). (See Entry No. 6)
- The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) addresses most of the 12 chemicals in the Stockholm Convention. (see Entry No 17)

PART II:

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND PROGRAMMES
INVOLVED WITH CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT**

Organisations are presented in alphabetical order, within each of three sub-groups:

- A. Organisations that are members of the IOMC;
- B. Other relevant organisations; and
- C. Co-ordinating mechanisms and programmes.

PART II(A):

ORGANISATIONS/PROGRAMMES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE IOMC

The following eight organisations/programmes are presented in alphabetical order.

(20) FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

(see also Entry No. 17 on related Convention)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. N. A. Van der Graaff	Tel:	(39-6) 5705 34 41
Chief, Plant Protection Service	Fax:	(39-6) 5705 63 47
Plant Production and Protection	E-mail:	niek.vandergraaff@fao.org
Division	Website:	http://www.fao.org
Food and Agriculture Organization		http://www.fao.org/AG/AGP/Welcome.htm
Via delle Terme de Caracalla		
1-00100 Rome		
ITALY		

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The FAO was founded in 1945, with a mandate for international co-operation to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural people. The Organization offers direct development assistance, it collects, analyses, and disseminates information, it provides policy and planning advice to governments, and it acts as an international forum for debate on food and agricultural issues.

One current priority of the Organization is encouraging sustainable agriculture and rural development, as part of a long-term strategy for the conservation and management of natural resources. It aims to meet the needs of both present and future generations through programmes that do not degrade the environment and are technically appropriate, economically viable, and socially acceptable.

The Plant Production and Protection Division helps countries to develop sustainable agricultural systems with the overall aim of increasing crop and grassland production and productivity, improving food security, and promoting general economic development.

FAO activities regarding Pesticide Management aim at managing the risks associated with the use of chemicals. In particular, the FAO assists member countries by:

- promoting the provisions of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides;
- providing technical assistance to implement the Code and to put in place rational plant protection programmes, and preventing and disposing of obsolete and unwanted pesticides;
- jointly with IAEA, improving agrochemical usage in food and agriculture (See Entry No. 29);
- jointly with UNEP, implementing the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (see Entry No.24 on UNEP, and Entry No. 17 on the Rotterdam Convention);

- jointly with WHO, making recommendations for Acceptable Daily Intakes of food additives, pesticides, and veterinary drug residues, and for Maximum Residue Limits in food for pesticides and veterinary drugs, as well as for tolerable intakes of other food contaminants (see Entry No. 27); and
- providing the Secretariat for the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, the executive organ of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

The FAO is an IOMC Participating Organization. See Entry No. 41.

ACTIVITIES:

The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: The International Code of Conduct, adopted in 1985 and amended in 1989, was developed to address a number of difficulties associated with the use of pesticides in developing countries where adequate regulatory infrastructures are frequently lacking. It was recognised that in order to remain relevant, the Code must evolve to reflect changing needs of countries. The Code was developed in close co-operation with governments, other UN agencies and international bodies, including WHO, UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, OECD, and the European Commission (EC), as well as representatives of industry and other non-governmental organisations. In 1999, the process of updating/revising the Code was initiated and a draft version of the revised Code was circulated to governments, IGOs, NGOs and industry for comments in January 2001.

The aim of the Code is to establish voluntary standards and to promote practices that reduce the risks associated with the use and handling of pesticides to minimise adverse effects on human health and the environment, to encourage responsible trade practices, and to assist countries that do not have established controls designed to regulate the quality and suitability of pesticide products.

One of the basic functions of the Code is to serve as a point of reference, particularly until such time as countries have established adequate regulatory infrastructures for pesticides. It sets forth responsibilities and establishes voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities engaged in or affecting the distribution and use of pesticides (including governments of exporting and importing countries, industry including manufacturers, trade associations, formulators and distributors, users, international organisations, and public-sector organisations).

There have been several surveys and reports on the implementation of the Code by governments and industry.

Other Guidance Materials: The twelve articles of the FAO Code are supported by more than 25 detailed technical guidelines that provide guidance on their implementation, mainly addressing the needs of developing countries. The guidelines include such topics as: registration and control of pesticides; legislation; personal protection for those working with pesticides; good labelling practices; pesticide storage and stock control; and tender procedures for the procurement of pesticides.

The Prior Informed Consent PIC Procedure: The PIC Procedure was added to the FAO Code in 1989 (the same year PIC was included in the UNEP London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade). In September 1998, 95 countries unanimously adopted the legally-binding Rotterdam Convention for the application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Until the Convention enters into force, the countries agreed to continue with the implementation of a voluntary interim PIC procedure. FAO (Plant Protection Service) and

UNEP Chemicals provide the Interim Secretariat to the Rotterdam Convention. (see Entry No. 17)

Capacity Building: FAO carries out substantial technical assistance programmes with support from various donor agencies and through its own Technical Cooperation Programme. These assistance activities are designed to, among other things, enable countries to develop and strengthen national pesticide registration and control schemes and to implement the Code of Conduct (including the PIC procedure), to evaluate health and environmental hazards and risks of pesticides, to improve risk-management and risk-reduction activities, and to strengthen government capabilities to detect, monitor, and control illegal importation or traffic of banned, restricted or non-registered pesticides.

Specific areas of technical assistance and capacity-building have included:

- introduction of national pesticide registration and control schemes;
- strengthening of national technical and physical facilities in order to allow governments to enforce their respective pesticide regulatory schemes more effectively;
- provision of various types of training on the safe and efficient use of pesticides for farmers, extension workers, retailers and medical personnel;
- facilitating computerised exchange of information and networking on pesticide regulatory issues and on other technical matters among co-operating countries;
- undertaking national and regional survey missions on laboratory infrastructures for pesticide analysis and helping to establish/strengthen such infrastructures;
- training Designated National Authorities (DNAs) and associated technical staff in PIC procedures, under the FAO/UNEP Joint Programme on PIC;
- organising regional workshops to harmonise pesticide registration requirements and control procedures among groups of countries;
- supporting the establishment and updating of inventories of stocks of obsolete pesticides in developing countries; and
- establishing national training centres for providing continuous training in many of the above-mentioned areas, including training for policy-makers and senior pesticide registrars, pesticide inspectors, chemists, store keepers, disposal specialists, extension workers, farmers and other users, medical practitioners, etc.

Specific aspects of technical assistance that pertain to areas of competence of other international organisations are referred to them for execution and follow-up under sub-contracting arrangements (e.g., WHO addresses toxicology and health-related aspects).

Maximum Residue Limits: The JMPR (the Joint Meeting of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Expert Group on Pesticide Residues) was formed in 1963 and meets annually to conduct scientific evaluations of pesticide residues in food. It provides advice on the acceptable levels of pesticide residues in food moving in international trade. The JMPR consists of experts drawn from governments and academic circles who attend as independent specialists acting in a personal capacity.

The maximum residue levels proposed by the JMPR are considered by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), a subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), an intergovernmental meeting whose objective is to reach agreement between governments on maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticide residues in food and feed commodities moving in international trade. The CCPR recommends MRLs to the biennial meeting of the CAC for adoption as Codex maximum residue limits (CXLs).

Food and Environmental Protection: This subprogramme assists national food and consumer protection authorities to implement the Codex Standards for food irradiation of food contaminants by using nuclear and related biotechnological analytical methods. It promotes sustainable food security by supporting countries' efforts to improve food availability, quality, and safety for domestic consumption and to satisfy the WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. Among the activities are: development and harmonisation of guidelines for using food irradiation; providing training and support for research and services related to the application of Codex Standards; obtaining data for environmental radiation dose assessment; and promoting sharing of information through meetings, symposia, and publications.

This work is carried out in close collaboration with other parts of FAO, as well as with WHO, International Trade Centre⁹ and the FAO/IAEA/WHO International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation.

In 1964, the FAO and IAEA formed a Joint Division for Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, which unified the FAO atomic energy branch and IAEA's agricultural unit. The Division created a common programme that avoids overlap and duplication of effort. (see Entry No. 29 on the IAEA).

Obsolete Pesticides: In response to numerous requests for assistance with problems related to obsolete pesticide stocks, FAO developed a project to develop a comprehensive programme involving multi-donor involvement, with the aim of enabling countries to dispose of obsolete pesticide stocks and to prevent further accumulation of such stocks. The project started in 1994 working with three pilot countries in Africa and the Near East. To date, it has established inventories of obsolete pesticides for more than 50 countries in Africa and Latin America (in collaboration with UNEP). The first surveys have been initiated in Asia. In addition to the preparation of inventories, the project has developed guidelines on various related issues including: prevention of accumulation of obsolete pesticide stocks, disposal of obsolete pesticides in developing countries (in collaboration with UNEP and WHO), a training manual on pesticide storage and stock control, and assessment methods for soil contamination. This information is available in hardcopy from FAO, and on CD ROM as well as the internet (<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Disposal/>).

In its second phase, the project also assumed an advisory and catalytic role in mobilising donor agencies for disposal operations. As part of this work, it provides independent monitoring to ensure that disposal operations comply with international safety and environmental standards, reviews new disposal methods, and organises national seminars. The third phase of the project, initiated in 2000 with support from the Dutch government, will run until 2003.

FAO Specifications: The FAO has an on-going activity aimed at ensuring the quality of pesticides. Specifically, it has published technical specifications for more than 380 pesticides and related formulations. The purposes of these specifications are to provide: a basic standard of quality for the buying and selling of pesticides; assistance in the official approval and

⁹The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint activity of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is the focal point in the UN system for technical co-operation with developing countries in trade promotion.

acceptance of pesticides; protection for responsible vendors against inferior products; and a link between biological efficacy and specification of requirements. In 1999, FAO published a revised "Manual on the Development and Use of FAO Specifications for Plant Protection Products," introducing a new procedure for the establishment of FAO specifications. The manual is designed to facilitate the development and use of the specifications. It identifies the data requirements and the evaluation procedure. FAO specifications developed since 1999 apply only to products of manufacturers who have submitted their data for evaluation by the FAO. The extrapolation/extension of these specifications to products of other manufacturers is achieved on a case-by-case basis and requires that the manufacturer submit data for review by the FAO Panel, that demonstrate the equivalence of their product to the product on which the FAO specifications are based. From 2002 onwards, pesticide specifications will be developed jointly by FAO and WHO, ensuring the availability of international quality standards for pesticides used in agriculture and public health.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): The Plant Protection Service supports the establishment of IPM programmes, including the application of biological control and weed management. With the aim of adopting a common approach to IPM, the FAO along with the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP have agreed to co-sponsor the Global IPM Facility. The Global Facility promotes IPM field implementation by farmers through the use of participatory approaches. Its Secretariat is provided by the FAO. To provide guidance to the co-sponsors and the Global Facility, an independent Technical Advisory Group has been established. Further information on the operation and activities of the Global IPM Facility may be found at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/IPM>.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The FAO Conference, which meets every two years, is the supreme governing body of the FAO and is comprised of all 181 FAO Members. Its main functions are to determine the policies of the Organization, approve the budget, and make recommendations to Members and international organisations on any matter pertaining to the purposes of FAO. Its next Session, the 31st, is scheduled for November 2001.

The Conference elects the Council comprising 49 Member Nations. For the purpose of Council elections, the membership of FAO is divided into seven regions, each with a fixed number of seats. The Council is the executive organ of the Conference. It exercises powers delegated to it by the Conference and meets at least three times between regular Conference sessions. Its most recent session, its 120th, was held in June 2001.

The Council is assisted by a number of Committees including: a Programme Committee, a Finance Committee, a Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, a Committee on Commodity Problems, a Committee on Fisheries, a Committee on Forestry, a Committee on Agriculture, and a Committee on World Food Security. These Committees report to the Council and their composition and term of reference are governed by rules adopted by the Conference. The Committee on Agriculture, at its March 2001 meeting, received an information document related to the progress of the revision of the Code of Conduct.

Various Panels of Experts have been established in connection with the different activities including, for example: the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment (meeting as the JMPR with the WHO Expert Group on Pesticide Residues); and the Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements, Application Standards.

(21) INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)¹⁰

(see also Entries Nos. 7 and 16 on related Conventions)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. J. Takala	Tel:	(41-22) 799 67 15
Director, SafeWork Programme	Fax:	(41-22) 799 68 78
International Labour Organization	E-mail:	takala@ilo.org
4, route des Morillons		sechyg@ilo.org
CH-1211 Geneva 22	Website:	http://www.ilo.org/safework
SWITZERLAND		

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The International Labour Organization was founded in 1919 and is the UN specialised agency that seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure in which workers and employers participate as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.

The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations, setting minimum standards of basic labour rights. It provides technical assistance in a range of areas, including occupational safety and health. It promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organisations and provides training and advisory services to those organisations.

With respect to chemical safety, the long-term objective of ILO is to enhance the capacity of government institutions, employers, workers and their representative organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations, to enable them to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes to improve working conditions and the working environment and to reduce the number of occupational accidents and work-related diseases.

ILO activities to promote safety in the use of chemicals at work have a dual role. The first is providing technical guidance and assistance to government institutions and employers' and workers' organisations engaged in chemical safety activities. This includes programmes for the identification, prevention, and control of occupational hazards from exposure to chemicals, hazardous wastes, biological agents, and energy sources at work. In addition, it involves the provision of technical assistance, training, and information to constituents.

The second aspect of ILO's role is playing a leading part in international co-operation on chemical safety. In this respect, the ILO will continue to promote a tripartite perspective on worker protection issues within the framework of: the joint ILO/WHO/UNEP International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS). In this context, for example, the ILO will continue to be the lead agency in the process of elaborating and implementing a globally harmonised system for the classification and

¹⁰The Secretariat did not provide final comments/updates to this text.

labelling of chemicals (GHS) at the national level by the year 2002, as recommended in Agenda 21. Assistance will be provided to member States to build up the required human and institutional capacities to implement these systems. Another important ILO activity is the management of the IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards Project (ICSC), which provides concise information on the risks and preventive measures for specific chemicals.

ILO is a Participating Organization of the IOMC (See Entry No. 41) and is one of the co-operative organisations of the IPCS (See Entry No. 22).

ACTIVITIES:

Within ILO, activities related to chemical safety are addressed by the SafeWork Programme within the Labour Protection Department of the Social Protection Section. The Programme also deals with issues concerning chemical waste management, prevention of major industrial accidents, and safety in the use of biological agents.

Conventions, Recommendations and related Guidance Materials concerning Chemical Safety:

As a general matter, there is a hierarchy of four types of standards and guidance documents issued by the ILO: Conventions (comparable to multilateral treaties); Recommendations (guidelines for action by Member states); codes of practice (presented in the form of technical specifications and practical solutions for the application of ILO standards); and manuals (providing additional guidance). In the field of chemicals control, there have been a number of conventions, recommendations and guidance materials issued including:

- Convention concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (No. 174) and accompanying Recommendation (No. 181), adopted in 1993. The Convention requires ratifying states, in consultation with employers, workers, and other interested parties, to formulate a coherent national policy for the protection of workers, the public, and the environment against the risk of major accidents. (See Entry No. 16).

The accompanying Recommendation, among other things, provides for an international exchange of information on major accidents and on safety and organisational measures. It calls on countries to promote systems to compensate workers as quickly as possible after major accidents and to address adequately the effects of such accidents on the public and the environment. It states that national policies should be guided by the 1991 Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents.

ILO also published, in 1988, Major Hazard Control: A Practical Manual, which sets out comprehensive guidelines on the planning and management of preventive programmes at national and enterprise levels. .

- Convention concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work (No.170) and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 177), adopted in 1990. The purpose of the Convention is to protect workers from risks associated with the use of chemicals at their workplace. It sets out responsibilities of employers, suppliers, and workers. States ratifying the Convention are required to work out a national policy for safety in the use of chemicals at work in accordance with specified principles, adopt classification and labelling systems for all such substances, and introduce chemical safety data sheets. (See Entry No. 7)

The accompanying Recommendation gives guidance on how the principles of the Convention should be translated into national law. In addition, ILO published the Code of Practice on Safety in the Use of Chemicals (1993) and Safety and Health in the Use

of Chemicals in Work: A Training Manual (1993), which provides guidance in application of Convention No. 170.

Other standards and guidance documents concerned with chemical safety include a number of other Conventions and Recommendations addressing the risks of specific toxic substances including asbestos, white lead, and benzene. In addition, ILO has published: Safety and Health in the Use of Agrochemicals – A Guide (1991); Occupational Exposure Limits For Airborne Substances Harmful to Health: A Code of Practice (1991); and Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (2001).

International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS): The CIS, established in 1959, aims to enhance the capacity of member States to apply new information in the formulation and implementation of occupational safety and health policies and programmes. It is a worldwide service dedicated to the collection and dissemination of information on the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases. This is achieved through the international network of national and collaborating CIS centres, a variety of publications (printed and electronic), direct responses to inquiries and the training of information specialists in developing countries through technical co-operation activities.

Since 1973, the CIS has maintained a bilingual (English/French) database. New information added to the database is published in a bimonthly bulletin (“Safety and Health at Work”). CIS also publishes fulltext technical, ergonomic, medical, and chemical information sheets that provide practical information on Occupational Health and Safety matters and furnishes general information in the form of personalised database searches.

One of the CIS publications is the Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety, designed to help managerial staff, workers' representatives, inspectors, occupational health personnel, and members of safety and health committees, especially in small-scale enterprises, to improve working conditions and environment through a better understanding of the link between productivity and safe and healthy working conditions. The new Fourth Edition (1998) contains over 100 chapters comprising over 1,000 separate articles. Its Guide to Chemicals provides information on more than 2,000 chemicals. Specific industries and their associated hazards are discussed in detail. Medicine and occupational hygiene and social policy issues are also addressed. The Encyclopaedia is the most widely distributed ILO publication and is a fundamental reference for occupational health and safety programming in many parts of the world.

CIS provides special support to developing countries in the form of technical co-operation projects. These projects have enabled a considerable number of national and international training workshops to be organised, in particular in the Asian-Pacific and in the African regions.

Another important activity is the management of the IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards Project (ICSC), which provides concise information on the risks and preventive measures for specific chemicals.

A Chemical Safety CD-ROM, available from CIS as part of the IPCS activities, includes International Chemical Safety Cards, CISDOC database references on chemical safety, Chemical Safety Training Modules, Risk Management of Toxic Substances Manual, African Newsletter articles, and ILO Conventions, Recommendations and Codes of Practice.

Chemical Classification and Labelling: The ILO is the lead agency for the process of elaborating and implementing a globally harmonised system for the classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS) at the national level by the year 2002, as recommended in Agenda 21. This

work is being carried out as part of the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS) established in 1992. Responsibility, as focal points, for different areas of harmonisation activities has been allocated to ILO, OECD and the Committee of Experts for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (CETDG). (See Entry No. 23 for OECD and Entry No. 34 for UNECE, which provides secretariat support for CETDG). In 2001, *The Globalized System for Hazard Classification and Communication* was issued by the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard Classification and Labelling.

Assistance will be provided to member States to build up the required human and institutional capacities to implement this system.

As a focal point for activities related to chemical hazard communication, the ILO Governing Body established a tripartite Working Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard Communication.

Technical Advisory Services/Capacity Building: Technical co-operation projects, and regional training seminars and symposia, have been held in all the developing and transitional regions. The emphasis has been on establishing and strengthening national capacities related to chemical safety. In particular, assistance is provided in developing legislation, strengthening of national institutions through training and through networking with relevant authorities in other countries, and helping establish and safety and health information centres.

Training Modules on Chemical Safety have been compiled in order to introduce safe use of chemicals at places of work, to present classification systems for the labelling and transport of dangerous goods, to allow the reading and use of chemical safety cards, to give a basic overview of toxicology, and to disseminate information on selected, widely-used hazardous substances. These independent modules, covering different areas of managing chemicals, are intended for those who need to widen their general knowledge of chemical safety.

In addition, an effort is being made to raise managers' and workers' awareness of the benefits from an improved safety culture. A critical review will be carried out of experiences, and the findings of the review will be published in a report. It will define the unifying concepts of prevention, protection, and promotion and identify the technical, economic, and ethical conditions that influence the implementation of an effective safety culture. A practical guide will also be prepared to foster a commitment by managers and workers to the development of a safety culture approach at the enterprise level. These materials will be used and tested in a number of national workshops and seminars to promote internal safety and health audits. Taking into account the experience gained during this process, the materials will be revised for wide dissemination and use.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The ILO accomplishes its work through three main bodies, all of which encompass the tripartite structure (government, employers, and workers):

- **The International Labour Conference:** The member States of the ILO meet at the International Labour Conference in June of each year in Geneva. Each member State is represented by two government delegates, an employer delegate and a worker delegate. They are accompanied by technical advisors. The Conference establishes and adopts international labour standards. It acts as a forum where social and labour questions of importance to the entire world are discussed. The Conference also adopts the budget of the Organization and elects the Governing Body.

- The Governing Body is the executive council of the ILO and meets three times a year in Geneva. It takes decisions on ILO's policy, establishes the programme and the budget, which it then submits to the Conference for adoption, and elects the Director-General. The Governing Body is composed of 28 government members, 14 employer members, and 14 worker members. Ten of the government seats are permanently held by States of chief industrial importance. Representatives of other member countries are elected at the Conference every three years, taking into account geographical distribution. The employers and workers elect their own representatives, respectively.
- The International Labour Office is the permanent secretariat of the International Labour Organization.

(22) INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON CHEMICAL SAFETY (IPCS)

(a co-operative activity of ILO, UNEP and WHO)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Coordinator	Tel: (41-22) 791-3590
International Programme for Chemical Safety	Fax: (41-22) 791-4848
World Health Organization	E-mail: ipcsmail@who.ch
CH-1211 Geneva 27	Website: http://www.who.int/pcs
SWITZERLAND	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The IPCS was established in 1980 as a co-operative programme of the World Health Organization (WHO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to:

- provide internationally evaluated assessments of the risks caused by chemicals to human health and the environment, which countries may use in developing their own chemical safety measures; and
- strengthen national capabilities for preventing and treating harmful effects of chemicals and for managing the health aspects of chemical emergencies.

The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment recommended that programmes should be undertaken for the early warning and prevention of harmful effects of chemicals to which humans were being increasingly exposed, and for the assessment of the potential risks to human health. As a result, the Executive Heads of WHO, ILO and UNEP agreed to co-operate in the IPCS, within the framework of their respective constitutional mandates. IPCS was formally launched in 1980 with a Memorandum of Understanding among the three organisations.

ACTIVITIES:

The two main roles of IPCS are to establish the scientific basis for the safe use of chemicals and to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety. To achieve this, the IPCS engages in activities in the following areas:

- evaluation of chemical risks to human health and the environment;
- methodologies for evaluation of hazards and risks;
- prevention and management of toxic exposures and chemical emergencies; and
- development of the human resources required in the above areas.

The Evaluation of Chemical Risks to Human Health and the Environment

The evaluation of chemical risks to human health and the environment, and the preparation and publication of documents on the health and environmental risks of specific chemicals, is a major focus of IPCS work. The documents, designed to be used by readers with different levels of technical expertise, include the following:

- Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) monographs are extensive documents designed for scientific experts responsible for the evaluation of risks posed by chemicals;
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents. CICADs are concise documents that provide summaries of the relevant scientific information concerning the potential effects of chemicals on human health and/or the environment;
- Health and Safety Guides (HSG) provide concise information for decision-makers on risks from exposure to chemicals, with practical advice on medical and administrative issues; and
- International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC) summarise health and safety information for individuals at the workplace, including symptoms of poisoning, safety procedures and first aid;
- Data Sheets on Pesticides contain basic information for their safe use.

These documents are prepared by internationally renowned experts and are then peer-reviewed by leading independent experts.

The IPCS co-operates in the toxicological evaluations of food additives and contaminants and of residues of veterinary drugs in food, produced by the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JEFCA), as well as in the toxicological evaluations of pesticides, produced by the WHO/FAO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).

IPCS also develops Poison Information Monographs and Antidote Monographs, providing advice to the medical profession on prevention and treatment of poisoning.

All of these documents are included in the IPCS INCHEM database (along with other materials from ILO, UNEP and OECD). There are both CD-ROM and Web versions of INCHEM.

Methodologies for Evaluation of Hazards and Risks

The work in this area aims at promoting the development, improvement, validation, harmonisation and use of generally acceptable, scientifically sound methodologies for the evaluation of risks to human health and the environment from exposure to chemicals.

The work encompasses:

- development of Environmental Health Criteria monographs on principles of risk assessment (including general principles, different health endpoints, and exposure assessment);
- evaluation of information on emerging issues in health risk assessment (e.g., endocrine disruptors, environmental risks for children, persistent organic pollutants); and

- a project aimed at harmonising methodologies for the assessment of risk from exposure to chemicals. It aims to establish sound scientific principles and to bridge the gap between policy/decisionmaking and scientific considerations. Its initial focus is on approaches to assessment of human health, with workshops on reproductive and developmental toxicity, carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, exposure assessment, and uncertainty/variability issues.

The IPCS is also undertaking a joint project with OECD on the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard/Risk Assessment Terminology. The objective of this project is to harmonise generic and technical terms used in chemical hazard/risk assessment to facilitate the mutual use and acceptance of the assessment of chemicals. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with a variety of intergovernmental, non-governmental and national organisations.

The IPCS has organised workshops addressing specific issues related to risk assessment methodologies including, for example, workshops addressing susceptible and special at-risk groups and sensitive species in the environment, and on variations in susceptibility to toxic response.

The IPCS addresses environmental health issues that cause public concern and need international attention. For example, with respect to exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), the IPCS will maintain an inventory of research activities on EDCs and will provide an international report on the state of science based on existing reviews.

The IPCS sponsors the Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals (SGOMSEC) in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE).

Prevention and Management of Toxic Exposures and Chemical Emergencies

Through the INTOX Project, IPCS carries out a number of activities directed towards supporting poisons control programmes, providing guidance, evaluated information, networking arrangements, information management tools and training. It has issued materials providing guidance to countries. These include: “Guidelines for Poisons Control”, providing advice on setting up and running poisons control programmes; “Management of Poisoning”, a handbook for use by non-specialist medical and paramedical professionals; and “Basic Analytical Toxicology”, giving simple techniques for use by developing country laboratory hospitals. “Guidelines on the prevention of toxic exposures”, a manual for health care workers on promoting public awareness, is under preparation.

The IPCS INTOX Poisons Information Package, currently available on an annual subscription basis, consists of a CD-ROM containing Poisons Information Monographs, Treatment Guides, and other relevant information for the health professional on diagnosis and management of toxic exposures, as well as an interactive, multilingual software in four languages, using harmonised vocabulary and classifications, for recording and managing data on chemical exposures and poisoned patient treatment. The Package also includes evaluated information on the clinical effectiveness of antidotes and guidance on decontamination and elimination techniques for poisoned patients. Internet discussion groups promote networking and access to the literature. Courses are organised for training in poison information management, and on analytical and clinical toxicology, as well as in relation to prevention of exposures in vulnerable populations. The tools developed through the IPCS INTOX Project are used to undertake comparative surveys of facilities for poison control in countries (published as “Yellowtox”) and of situations concerning toxic exposures. Currently, a survey of pesticide poisoning is being undertaken in selected countries of different regions of the world. A multi-

centre study to improve the management of organophosphorus pesticide poisoning is in the planning stages.

The IPCS has also published guidance for national and regional policy makers on the roles of public and environmental health in chemical incident response and follow-up. Through a WHO Collaborating Centre in the UK, the IPCS is co-ordinating an effort to facilitate the national collection and analysis of health-related data concerning chemical accidents and their follow-up, in order to benefit from experience of past accidents. As part of this work, the IPCS is establishing harmonised formats for the collection of data on chemical accidents and on clinical features and patient management related to health impacts. This will facilitate the international sharing of information, comparison of experience and identification of early indications of new health problems from exposure to chemicals.

Development of Human Resources Required in other Areas

Among the activities in this area is assistance in the establishment of national poisons centres. Through the IPCS INTOX Project, a worldwide network of poison centres offers first-aid and clinical management information on a 24-hour basis.

In addition, IPCS is responsible for the organisation of a number of training courses throughout the world. For example, IPCS organises courses on risk assessment and sound management of chemicals, some of which are undertaken in co-operation with UNITAR and other international partners. Training courses are also carried out in co-ordination with WHO Regional Offices and organisations with an interest in this area.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The IPCS is implemented by the WHO Programme for the Promotion of Chemical Safety, the Central Unit of IPCS. This Unit is responsible for the overall implementation and coherence of the Programme and acts on behalf of the three Cooperating Organizations. IPCS activities are carried out by technical units or programmes of the Cooperating Organizations, including their regional offices.

The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) is the overall advisory body to the Executive Heads of the Cooperating Organizations on policy matters and priorities. It is composed of a maximum of 20 members, appointed on the basis of their expertise, and it includes a representative of Employers and one of Workers nominated by the governing body of the ILO.

The Intersecretariat Coordination Committee (ICC) of IPCS is composed of representatives of each of the three Cooperating Organizations and meets several times a year. The ICC considers activities that should be undertaken by the IPCS and provides guidance on the substantive and budgetary aspects of the Programme.

Task Groups and Work Groups function as informal advisory mechanisms for IPCS. Ad hoc groups provide advice on specific technical and scientific topics.

Within WHO, co-ordination of activities dealing with chemical safety is ensured through a Steering Committee on the Sound Management of Chemicals.

National Focal Points play an essential role for the implementation of IPCS at the national level. They disseminate IPCS products and information within member States.

A network of national, regional and international Participating Institutions, either governmental, intergovernmental or nongovernmental, participate in IPCS by undertaking

specific scientific or technical activities and providing financial and human resources for the work.

23) ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

- a) **Environment, Health and Safety** (chemicals, chemical accidents, pesticides, PRTRs, regulatory oversight of biotechnology, food safety)
- b) **Climate Change**
- c) **Wastes** (including hazardous wastes, waste minimisation, resource efficiency, and extended producer responsibility)

OVERVIEW:

The OECD is an inter-governmental organisation bringing together 30 Member countries in a forum for governments to compare experience, discuss issues of concern, and seek and design solutions including, where appropriate, common or co-operative actions. The Member countries (from Europe, North America, Asia and the Pacific) share a commitment to the market economy, pluralistic democracy, and respect for human rights. The OECD's fundamental mission is to enable Members to consult and co-operate with each other so as to achieve the highest possible sustainable economic growth, improve the economic and social well-being of their populations, and contribute to development worldwide. The comparative advantages of the OECD are its multidisciplinary approach and the system of consensus building.

If Member countries consider it appropriate, an accord can be embodied in a formal OECD Council Act, agreed at the highest level of OECD (the Council).¹¹ In general, there are two types of Council Acts: a Council Decision which is legally binding on OECD Member countries; and a Council Recommendation which is a strong expression of political will.

The Environment Programme, one of many areas of work within the OECD, addresses a wide range of issues of concern to Member countries. Of particular interest to this publication are the Environment, Health and Safety Programme, as well as work related to climate change and to wastes (i.e., transfrontier movements of wastes, waste minimisation and extended producer responsibility)

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

OECD's work is overseen by several administrative bodies. At the highest level is the OECD Council, made up of ambassadors from all Member countries, which meets two or three times a month. The Council reviews and approves the OECD budget and programme of work. It also adopts Council Decisions and Recommendations.

At a more sectoral level, activities are supervised by specialised committees and their subsidiary bodies (i.e., working parties and working groups), which meet regularly and generally reach decisions by consensus. Committees and their subsidiary bodies are composed of representatives of Member countries, with participation as observers by other international organisations and, where appropriate, representatives of industry, trade unions and other non-governmental organisations. Non-OECD countries can participate as observers if they fulfill certain criteria.

¹¹ See the information on "Organization/Administration" at the end of this Entry.

The Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) is one of the major policy committees of the OECD. It is in charge of implementing the environment part of the Organisation's bi-annual programme of work – the "Environment Programme" – as approved by the OECD Council. EPOC usually meets in Paris twice a year, and holds meetings at the Ministerial Level every two to three years. The most recent Ministerial Level Meeting was held in May 2001, where the Meeting adopted the *OECD Environmental Strategy for the First Decade of the 21st Century*. EPOC oversees three Working Parties – on Global and Structural Policies, National Environmental Policies, and Environmental Performance – which are supported by Working Groups of experts including, for example, the Forum on Climate Change and the Working Group on Waste Prevention and Recycling. EPOC also co-operates with other OECD Committees and bodies.

The Environment, Health and Safety Programme (EHS) is part of the Environment Programme, but is largely funded by a specific budget separate from the regular OECD budget. The Chemicals Committee, like EPOC, reports directly to the OECD Council. EPOC's Working Party on Chemicals and the Chemicals Committee together form the "Joint Meeting" which oversees the EHS Programme.

The subsidiary bodies of the Joint Meeting include the Working Party on Existing Chemicals, the Working Group on Environmental Exposure Assessment, the Endocrine Disruptors Testing and Assessment Working Group, the Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology, the Working Group on Chemical Accidents, and the Pesticide Forum Working Group.

The Joint Meeting meets every 8 months or so, and held its 32nd meeting in June 2001; its 33rd meeting is scheduled for February 2002. The Joint Meeting has agreed that representatives of industry (via "BIAC" - the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD), labour (via "TUAC" - the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD) and environmental non-governmental organisations can participate as observers to the Joint Meeting and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

Work on climate change and hazardous wastes is managed by subsidiary bodies of the EPOC. The subsidiary body for work related to Waste Management is the Working Group on Waste Prevention and Recycling,

With respect to climate change, relevant work is undertaken through an Ad Hoc Annex I Expert Group on Climate Change (AIXG) and the Environment Working Party on Global and Structural Policies (GSP). The AIXG meets two times a year, undertaking studies of issues related to the negotiation and implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is supported by the OECD and IEA Secretariats, and does not formally report to any OECD or IEA committee. It includes participation of government representatives from all countries listed in "Annex I" to the UNFCCC (e.g., OECD member countries and Central and Eastern European countries and newly independent states). The GSP also meets two times a year and focuses its work on long-term policy issues related to climate change.

In addition, several other standing committees of the OECD (e.g., in the areas of economic policy, national environmental policy, development co-operation), as well as the IEA, are actively contributing to the climate change programme. These committees generally meet two (or more) times a year.

The daily work of the OECD is co-ordinated and supported by the OECD Secretariat located in Paris, France.

a) OECD – ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. R. Visser	Tel: (33-1) 45 24 93 15
Head, Environment, Health and Safety	Fax: (33-1) 45 24 16 75
Division	E-mail: Robert.Visser@OECD.org
Environment Directorate	Website: http://www.oecd.org/ehs/
OECD	
2, rue Andre Pascal	
75775 Paris Cedex 16	
FRANCE	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme includes the Chemicals Programme, as well as work on pesticides, chemical accidents, harmonisation of regulatory oversight in biotechnology, Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), and food safety.

The Environment, Health and Safety Programme began with the Chemicals Programme, which was established in 1978. Its objectives are to:

- assist Member countries in identifying, preventing and managing the risks of chemicals;
- promote the public's right to know about the potential risks of chemicals;
- prevent unnecessary distortions in the trade of chemicals;
- facilitate the optimal use of national resources available in government and industry for chemicals management;
- assist Member countries in working towards an integrated chemicals management approach that incorporates economic, social and environmental policy considerations, in support of achieving the objectives of sustainable development, and in particular those of UNCED's Agenda 21, Chapter 19;
- facilitate that globalisation of the chemical industry leads to positive impacts on human health and the environment in OECD Member countries, as well as in non-OECD countries; and
- promote the development of, and implementation in, Member countries of new and innovative technologies, policies and practices that prevent pollution from the manufacture, transport, use and disposal of chemicals.

The Environment, Health and Safety Programme contributes extensively to the implementation of UNCED Agenda 21, Chapter 19, by undertaking work in five areas identified by UNCED: assessment of chemical risks; harmonisation of classification and labelling of chemicals; risk reduction; information exchange; and capacity building. It provides its outputs to non-Member countries both directly and through co-operation with other international organisations and its participation in the work of the IOMC and IFCS.

The OECD is an IOMC Participating Organization (see Entry No. 41).

ACTIVITIES:

The OECD Chemicals Programme is designed to help countries manage the risk of chemicals as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Programme works towards its goals by:

- developing harmonised policies and tools for chemical testing and assessment. The use of these tools by all OECD countries and others promotes international harmonisation and facilitates product approval in multiple countries;
- providing a framework to enable governments to directly share the burden of product evaluation; and
- providing a forum to help countries exchange experience and information and to work co-operatively on risk assessment and risk management of chemicals and products of biotechnology. In this way, countries can work together, discuss new developments, and increase mutual understanding of national and regional regulatory practices.

The Chemicals Programme has produced a number of Council Acts, as well as numerous guidance materials, tools for testing and assessment, reports and other publications. Among the major products of the Programme are:

- Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, which are a collection of the most relevant, internationally-agreed testing methods used by government, industry and others when testing the safety of new and existing chemicals and preparations. They include tests for physical-chemical properties of chemicals, human health effects, environmental effects, degradation, and accumulation in the environment. The Guidelines are periodically updated to keep pace with science. Special efforts are being made to address testing for endocrine disruption.
- Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), used for the quality assurance of data. The Principles set out managerial concepts concerning the organisation of test facilities as well as the conditions under which safety studies are planned, performed, monitored, recorded and reported. Harmonised procedures related to GLP compliance monitoring have also been developed.
- A System for the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD), by which Member countries have agreed to accept, for regulatory purposes, data from another country if developed in accordance with the Test Guidelines and GLP Principles. Non-member countries can participate in MAD if they fulfill the criteria.
- Guidance and harmonised methods for risk assessment of chemicals. Several databases are available on the website. This work also includes a joint OECD/IPCS project on the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard/Risk Assessment Terminology (see Entry No. 22 on IPCS).
- Co-operative testing and assessment of High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals, in order to investigate the potential hazards of HPV chemicals and make decisions concerning the need for further work. When important data gaps are identified or concerns uncovered, further investigation, in-depth assessment or risk assessment measures are recommended. To ensure that sufficient information is available for the first evaluation, OECD developed the Screening Information Data Set (SIDS).

- Support for national activities related to risk management, with respect to efforts to develop national policies and actions and, where appropriate, develop and implement international risk management measures. One project, being undertaken in co-operation with UNEP chemicals, focuses on reducing lead in gasoline.
- Development of proposals for a harmonised classification system for chemical hazards, in co-operation with other interested organisations, now focusing on mixtures. (see text on “Major Developments”).

In addition, a project on Endocrine Disruptors was initiated in 1996. The objectives of this project are to: co-ordinate current national and regional activities on the risk assessment and management of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs); develop internationally acceptable methods (OECD Test Guidelines) for the hazard characterisation of EDCs; and harmonise risk characterisation approaches and regulatory policies for EDCs among Member countries.

In 2001, the OECD published the *OECD Environmental Outlook for the Chemicals Industry*, a report that attempts to describe the current and future chemical industry, as well as the related environmental impacts that have occurred or might occur in the future. The objective is to provide information on the past and projected developments in the industry (including production, consumption and trade) and in environmental policy in order to provide a context for addressing the main issues associated with chemical manufacture and use, and for suggesting policy options for addressing data gaps and other concerns. (see text on “Major Developments”). The report is available on the OECD website.

The OECD Chemical Accidents Programme, which began in 1988, addresses prevention, preparedness and response related to accidents involving hazardous substances. Its activities focus on three areas:

- development of common principles and policy guidance for public authorities, industry, labor, communities and others. The major output is the *OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response*, published in 1992.¹² Additional guidance documents address health aspects of chemical accidents and chemical safety in port areas. Work is ongoing to develop guidance related to safety performance indicators, which is expected to be completed in 2002.
- Sharing of information and experience among OECD and non-member countries. This includes, for example: a series of workshops addressing various aspects of chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response; a reporting system for past accidents; and an International Directory of Emergency Response Centres, being prepared in conjunction with UNEP and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (to be published in 2002).
- Analysis of issues of particular interest to Member countries. Examples of projects in this area are: the development and implementation of a computer-based tool (“CARAT”) to compare risk assessment terms, methodologies and legal instruments; a review of accident investigation methods; and an analysis of economic aspects of accidents.

A major component of this work involves outreach and co-operation with non-member countries and, therefore, the work is co-ordinated with related programmes in UNEP, UNECE, IPCS, IMO, WHO and other intergovernmental, as well as non-governmental, organisations.

¹² The *Guiding Principles* are in the process of being reviewed and updated; the second edition should be available in 2002.

OECD Work on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) was initiated in 1993, as a follow-up to UNCED, with a project to prepare guidance for, and promote the development of, PRTRs. This work was undertaken in close co-operation with IPCS, WHO, UNEP Chemicals, UNITAR and UNIDO. A 1996 Council Recommendation calls on Member countries to establish PRTR systems.

Recently, the OECD completed a report on progress made by Member countries to implement a PRTR system as called for by the Council Act. Another report under development concerns how the goals of a PRTR drive the design and development of different national systems. Analysis of the specific programme of the eight operating systems elements will be made. A guide on methods used to present and disseminate information will be published soon. New work is focused on data estimation techniques. A Task Force has been established to augment the sharing of release estimation techniques between countries.

The OECD Pesticide and Biocides Programme was formally launched in 1994, after a recognition by Member countries of the pressing need to initiate new international work on pesticides and biocides, particularly in light of ongoing reregistration programmes in a number of countries. The goals of the project are to: harmonise pesticide and biocide review procedures for registration and use; share the work of evaluation of pesticides and biocides; and find new approaches to risk reduction.

Specifically, work is being undertaken to:

- promote international harmonisation of pesticide and biocide data requirements;
- revise and develop Test Guidelines appropriate for pesticides and biocides to promote mutual acceptance of data;
- develop internationally harmonised pesticide and biocide assessment methods;
- share the burden of registration and reregistration;
- help countries co-operate in the hazard assessment of pesticides;
- promote the reduction in risks to human health and the environment from the use of pesticides; and
- improve the opportunities for the mutual use and acceptance of assessment of pesticides and biocides among countries.

Work on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology was established in 1997 with the goal of promoting international harmonisation in biotechnology, in light of the fact that the majority of Member countries have (or are developing) a system of regulatory oversight for those products of biotechnology that are intended for release to the environment. In addition, recent commercialisation of a number of biotechnology products, particularly new crop varieties, will begin to move in international trade. The OECD project is designed to help ensure that environmental, health and safety aspects are properly evaluated, while avoiding non-tariff trade barriers to products of the technology.

The major output for the period 1997-1999 was the development of consensus documents, comprising technical information for use during the regulatory assessment of products of biotechnology. Another part of the programme is the further development of “BioTrack Online” which contains information on major legislative developments in Member countries, a computer database on field trials of transgenic organisms and on commercialised products of biotechnology, and links to other WWW sites. This is being done in co-operation with UNIDO’s Biosafety Information Network and Advisory Service (BINAS).

The Food Safety Project is a co-operative activity of three OECD directorates and is co-ordinated through OECD’s Internal Co-ordination Group for Biotechnology. This work includes publication of a survey on regulation of novel feeds and meetings/workshops to share experiences. The project on novel foods and feeds is undertaken under the Environment, Health and Safety Programme and is expected to produce consensus documents on key nutrients and key toxicants in novel foods to assist in the establishment of substantial equivalents between modified and traditional crops.

b) OECD - CLIMATE CHANGE

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Ms. J. Corfee-Morlot
Environment Directorate
OECD
2, rue Andre Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
FRANCE

Tel: (33-1) 45.24.79.24
Fax: (33-1) 45.24.78.76
E-mail: jan.corfee-morlot@oecd.org
Website: <http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The OECD is working with governments and other organisations to help inform the debate concerning climate change through objective assessments of viable response strategies. The OECD programme will assess the possible response strategies and mitigation policies as Member countries strive to reach the targets of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) developed in Kyoto (see Entry No. 12). Focusing on economic performance, and political and administrative feasibility, the programme develops policy recommendations to further near and longer-term objectives as identified under the UNFCCC. Much of OECD work is undertaken co-operatively with other parts of the OECD, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), as well as with other international organisations.

ACTIVITIES:

Specific OECD activities related to climate change include:

- The OECD is assessing the economics of achieving the Kyoto targets as well as the longer-term objectives of the stabilisation of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The work assesses and compares the implications of alternative response strategies, including adaptation and mitigation.
- The OECD, the IEA, and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) are working with the “Annex I countries” under the UNFCCC to monitor trends and to identify practical policy options and recommendations on “good practice” to achieve emission reductions.
- The OECD is actively working with Annex I countries and other nations to assess possible monitoring, reporting, review and compliance approaches under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and implementation options for emission trading, joint implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- The OECD is working with industry in a number of ways, including assessing the potential of the concept of “eco-efficiency” or “resource-efficiency” to break the link between industrial production, greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts.
- The OECD and IEA are working with developing country governments, experts and development co-operation agencies to, e.g.: engage in policy dialogue such as through the Forum on Climate Change; participate in IEA Implementing Agreements on technology research and development; identify efficient and locally adapted policies for

coping with environmental problems and transfer of knowledge to support and improve local research capacity; work on identifying climate change-related aid; and strengthen work on the role of technology co-operation through aid programmes to promote expertise and investment in cleaner industry and technology.

c) OECD - WASTES

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The OECD has undertaken work related to waste management since the 1974. This section will focus on three projects that are particularly relevant to this publication:

- (i) transfrontier movements of wastes, which is undertaken in close so-operation with the Basel Convention;
- (ii) waste minimisation; and
- (iii) extended producer responsibility.

c)(i) Transfrontier Movements of Wastes:

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. H. Harjula
National Policies Division
Environment Directorate
OECD
2, rue Andre Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
FRANCE

Tel: (33-1) 45.24.98.18
Fax: (33-1) 45.24.78.76
E-mail: henrik.harjula@oecd.org
Website: www.oecd.org/env/waste/index.htm

ACTIVITIES:

Since 1982, considerable time and effort has been devoted within the OECD to the development of appropriate measures for controlling transfrontier movements of wastes. This work led to the adoption of eight Council Acts dealing with this subject. In addition, in 1992 OECD established a detailed control system for transfrontier movements of recoverable wastes within the OECD area [C(92)39/FINAL]. The OECD also contributed to the development of the Basel Convention (see Entry No. 6).

The series of OECD Council Acts establish a broad framework for the control of transfrontier movements of hazardous wastes, such as the toxic residues from chemical and manufacturing industries. The OECD framework also includes a control system for wastes that can be recycled or recovered and that are moved between OECD countries, facilitating the environmentally safe movement of such wastes and increased recycling. To ensure the appropriate management and recovery of wastes, work is underway to develop international guidelines for environmentally sound management (ESM) of recoverable wastes in the receiving facility. Procedures for the management of the transfrontier movement of wastes also exist under the Basel Convention and within the European Union, and harmonisation of the procedures and requirements of the different systems is now almost completed.

c)(ii) Waste Minimisation:

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. F. Vancini
National Policies Division
Environment Directorate
OECD
2, rue Andre Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
FRANCE

Tel: (33-1) 45.24.76.95
Fax: (33-1) 44.30.78.76
E-mail: fabio.vancini@oecd.org
Website: www.oecd.org/env/waste/index.htm

ACTIVITIES:

Work in this area was initiated in 1992 in recognition of the fact that the inordinate generation of wastes represents inefficiency in the use of materials and energy. Despite nearly 30 years of environmental and waste policy efforts in OECD countries, waste generation continues to increase along with economic growth. Taking municipal waste as an example, current trends portend a doubling of waste amounts by 2020 compared to 1980. This implies, *inter alia*, a continued need for significant investments simply to *manage* wastes and their cross-media effects.

Countries, communities and companies are increasingly turning attention to the fact that the scope of this dilemma is, indeed, much broader than the generation of post-consumer municipal waste. Large increases in consumer demand often imply also more wastes and environmental risks from the "supporting" upstream activities such as extraction, manufacturing and distribution.

To assist member governments with de-coupling waste from wealth, the OECD has completed various projects, and is planning new projects.

Recent Work

- OECD Reference Manual on Strategic Waste Prevention (2001). This publication provides government authorities with systematic frameworks for waste prevention target setting, instrument choice and retrospective evaluation. Possible uses of the manual include: 1) to assist with fulfilling agency, Parliamentary or other needs for waste prevention policy and programme reviews; 2) to help satisfy the expectations of external stakeholders that governmental institutions track the efficacy of their waste prevention activities; 3) to support the development of national, regional or local best practice agency guidelines for waste prevention; and 4) to adapt it as a training device in waste prevention programme design and assessment.
- Material Flow Accounting (MFA) and Waste Policy (2000). The OECD held a seminar that explored the potential use of MFA to help address some of the constraints that have sometimes characterised conventional waste policy. A seminar report is available from the Secretariat. MFA will continue to be addressed in future OECD waste minimisation work as a possible information tool to assist with policy improvement, e.g., via indicators development.

Future Work

- Waste Prevention Performance Indicators (2001 – 2003). Although waste prevention has been an imperative of environmental policy for nearly three decades, there has been insufficient effort devoted to the establishment of indicators with which countries may assess their overall performance in waste prevention. Waste prevention measurement can be complex because: 1) one is trying to measure what is not there (waste not generated); and 2) unlike recovery, recycling and other waste management activities, waste prevention is defined by changes in a product before it becomes a waste, often leading to a lack of data. OECD work will attempt to explore and to devise a “portfolio” of indicators to that aim to capture the multiple dimensions of macro-level waste prevention, e.g., effect of varying scale and structure of domestic economies on the generation/prevention of different waste and material streams. Links to Material Flow Accounting (see above) will be actively sought. A workshop is foreseen for late 2001, with follow-up work based on the workshop recommendations. The ultimate goal of the project is to develop waste prevention metrics for use in the OECD Core Set of Environmental Indicators and in Environmental Performance Reviews.
- Waste Minimisation and Service Contracts (2002 – 2003). As part of the OECD’s broader work on economic instruments in environmental policy, work is foreseen on the assessment of the economic incentives for waste minimisation as reflected in the performance objectives of traditional and emerging types of waste service contracts in OECD countries. A key question for this project will be how to align incentives across the “waste chain” to induce more systematic waste reducing behaviour. Consideration will be given to the role and motivations of various actors, including producers, consumers, policymakers, and service providers. A synthesis report offering recommendations on waste minimisation via service contracts is foreseen for late 2003. This work will be undertaken in parallel with related projects on waste economics (*under development*) addressing: 1) the enhancement of markets for secondary materials; and 2) tradable permits for specific waste streams.

c)(iii) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Ms. C. Fénérol
Environment Directorate
2, rue Andre Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
FRANCE

Tel: (33-1) 45.24.17.63
Fax: (33-1) 45.24.16.75
E-mail: Claudia.fenerol@oecd.org
Website: www.oecd.org/env/efficiency/epr.htm

ACTIVITIES:

OECD work on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) began in 1994, under the Pollution Prevention and Control Group, to explore ongoing EPR activities OECD-wide, identify relevant issues and prepare a guidance manual to help governments considering implementing EPR. To date, three phases of the project have been completed. The Guidance Manual for Governments, which was published in March 2001, is the final product of EPR Phase 3. Future work will entail studies on specific issues such as: which products, which instruments, voluntary industry-led EPR programmes, etc. Future work will also focus on the costs and effectiveness of EPR programmes.

- EPR Phase 1, which began in 1994, encompassed intensive research on legal and administrative EPR activities in Member countries. The Phase 1 report was completed in 1995, after 70 interviews had been carried out across the OECD. The report identifies common issues in Member countries that are developing and implementing EPR approaches. It contains detailed information on government activities, and discusses common themes and characteristics of emerging EPR policies and programmes.
- EPR Phase 2 began in 1995. Its purpose was to carry out in-depth studies of two EPR programmes for packaging, and to develop a framework report on EPR with a particular focus on policy and legal considerations related to sharing of responsibility. Several common issues raised under Phase 1 were examined. As a result of this work, four documents were published in 1998: the EPR Framework Report, a case study on the Dutch Packaging Covenant, a case study on the German Packaging Ordinance, and an Executive Summary.
- The main purpose of EPR Phase 3 was to examine many of the issues identified under Phases 1 and 2. Four multi-stakeholder workshops were held over a two-and-a-half period. The workshops' objectives were two-fold: first, for Member countries to share information and discuss issues that have arisen in establishing EPR programmes; and second, for the Secretariat to obtain information and input from Member countries on issues and problems related to the establishment of EPR programmes. The "Guidance Manual for Governments" on the establishment of EPR programmes is available at <http://www.sourceoecd.org>

Future Work

The next phase of EPR work will focus on programme implementation, concentrating in particular on the costs and effectiveness of EPR programmes. A seminar will be held in Paris, in December 2001 to: (i) take stock of existing EPR programmes in OECD countries; (ii) examine institutional factors and policy coherence; (iii) assess and evaluate EPR programmes; and (iv) examine the role of EPR in the context of integrated product policy. A

study on the economic efficiency and environmental effectiveness of EPR will begin in 2002. As part of this study, an analytical framework will be produced for the evaluation of conditions where EPR would provide the most appropriate policy approach.

**(24) UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
(UNEP)**

- a) **Headquarters/Overview**
- b) **Division of Technology, Industry and Economics**
 - (i) **Overview**
 - (ii) **Chemicals**
 - (iii) **Other** (including “Production and Consumption” and “Energy and OzonAction”)
- c) **Regional Seas Programme (including conventions)**
- d) **Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**

(see also Entry No. 33 on the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and
Entries 17 & 19 on related conventions)

a) **UNEP – HEADQUARTERS/SUMMARY¹³**

SECRETARIAT/CONTACT:

UNEP Headquarters	Tel:	(254-2) 62 1234/3292
Communications and Public Information	Fax:	(254-2) 62 3927/3692
Nairobi	E-mail:	cpinfo@unep.org
KENYA	Website:	http://www.unep.org

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

UNEP is a programme of the UN General Assembly. It is the principle UN body in the field of the environment and it serves as the “environmental conscience” of the UN system. The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. It was established following the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

UNEP provides a mechanism for co-ordination, and integration, of actions within the UN with respect to problems relating to the environment and for integrating a large number of separate efforts by intergovernmental, non-governmental, national and regional bodies. UNEP has an important role where governments face common environmental problems, are disturbed by environmental threats beyond their jurisdiction, or need to harmonise policies relating to the environment. One of the most important functions of UNEP is the promotion of environmental science and collection and dissemination of information.

¹³ The Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to subsection (a) of this Entry relating to UNEP Headquarters/Summary.

UNEP seeks to nurture partnerships with other UN bodies as well as enhance the participation of the private sector, the scientific community, NGOs, and others.

UNEP's present priorities include:

- environmental information, assessment and research, including environmental emergency response capacity and strengthening of early warning and assessment functions;
- enhanced co-ordination of environmental conventions and development of policy instruments;
- fresh water;
- technology transfer and industry; and
- support to Africa.

Information networks and monitoring systems established by UNEP include: the Global Resource Information Database (GRID); the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC); and the recent UNEP.Net, a web-based interactive catalogue and multifaceted portal that offers access to environmentally relevant geographic, textual and pictorial information. In June 2000, the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC) based in Cambridge, UK became UNEP's key biodiversity assessment center.

ACTIVITIES:

There are a number of UNEP activities that address issues related to the management of chemicals. Of particular relevance to this report is work of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, and especially the Chemicals Unit. UNEP Chemicals is the focus within UNEP of all activities related to the management of chemicals to protect human health and the environment and is described in some detail below (see b(ii)).

In addition, relevant UNEP activities include:

- Chemical Accident Preparedness and Emergency Response: Through its APELL programme (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level), UNEP helps communities improve public awareness and prepare for possible technological accidents, in order to protect health, environment and property. (see b(iii) below) UNEP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) established a Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in 1994 to facilitate appropriate response to environmental disasters (see Entry No. 33). Furthermore, the Emergency Response Unit in Nairobi is working with the Joint UNEP Unit to strengthen mechanisms and networks, both within and outside the UN system, for mobilising and co-ordinating response to environmental emergencies, and to assist developing countries and countries in transition build their capacity for emergency response and vulnerability assessment in different emergencies (including accidental chemical/oil release, industrial accidents, and natural disasters). As part of this effort, UNEP has developed a "Strategic Framework on Emergency Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response" providing a framework for UNEP's future work in the field of environmental emergencies.
- Ozone Depleting Substances: The OzonAction programme strengthens the capacity of governments and industry in developing countries to take informed decisions that will result in effective investment projects. (see b(iii) below) UNEP also plays a role in

bringing governments and industry together to strengthen and facilitate the implementation of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (see Entry No. 5)

- Regional Seas Programmes: UNEP's Regional Seas Programme works towards the protection of shared marine and water resources through 13 Conventions or Action Plans covering over 140 countries. (see (c)below)
- Protection of the Marine Environment from Human Activities: In 1995 Governments adopted the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. The GPA is designed to be a source of guidance for national and regional authorities for devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities. (see (d) below)
- Biodiversity/Biosafety: UNEP promotes the protection and sustainable use of individual species and their genetic resources, as well as the conservation of their habitats. UNEP works to promote an integrated approach towards the implementation of Agenda 21 and biodiversity agreements. It supports the preparation of strategies and guidelines for assessing the impact of development of biodiversity. It also assists governments in addressing issues related to biodiversity and biosafety. Furthermore, in 1995, UNEP launched the most comprehensive analysis of the Earth's biodiversity ever attempted, the Global Biodiversity Assessment report, which was funded by the GEF and UNEP. UNEP also spearheads a series of international consultations throughout the world to catalyse the completion of guidelines on the safe use of biotechnology. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), located in Cambridge, UK, provides information for policy and action to conserve the living world. (see also Entry No. 13 on the Convention on Biological Diversity).
- Climate: UNEP implements the World Climate Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP) as part of the international World Climate Programme (WCP). Under this Programme, UNEP carries out and supports activities aimed at the assessment of the impacts of climate variability and change, and the identification of responses to reduce vulnerability. Work is carried out in co-operation with relevant agencies including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

UNEP is also the co-founder, with the WMO, of the IPCC that produces international assessments of the state of the climate system. This work provides the scientific underpinning of actions to safeguard climate carried out under the UNFCCC. (See Entry No. 12)

- Cleaner Production: The Cleaner Production Programme promotes the use of environmentally sound production methods in industries. Through training, publications and information exchange, UNEP assists governments and industries to find sustainable solutions to the challenge of rapid industrialisation. (see b(iii) below)
- Access to Technology: Since 1994, the UNEP International Environment Technology Centre (IETC) in Japan has been promoting the application of environmentally sound technologies to address urban environmental problems, such as sewage, air pollution, solid waste and noise, and the management of freshwater basins. It also serves as an

“inter-mediator” for co-operation between sources and users of environmentally sound technologies.

- Collection and Assessment of Environmental Information: One of UNEP’s six divisions, in the new structure, is the Division for Environmental Information, Assessment and Early-Warning. UNEP has a number of initiatives related to the collection and assessment of information relevant to the subject of this publication. These include, *inter alia*:
 - ❖ The Global Environment Outlook (GEO), launched in 1995. GEO has two components. First, there is a cross-sectoral, participatory global environment assessment process that incorporates regional perceptions and builds consensus on priority issues and actions through dialogue among policy makers and scientists at regional and global levels. Second, there are the GEO outputs in printed and electronic formats. The GEO Report makes periodic reviews of the state of the world’s environment and provides guidance for decision-making processes such as the formulation of environmental policies, action planning and resource allocation. The most recent edition, GEO-2000, was published in 1999. Other outputs include technical reports, a Web site and a publication for young people.
 - ❖ Earthwatch. The mission of the UN system-wide Earthwatch is to co-ordinate, harmonise and integrate observing, assessment and reporting activities across the UN system in order to provide environmental and appropriate socio-economic information for national and international decision-making on sustainable development and for early warning of emerging problems requiring international action. Through Earthwatch, other UN agencies contribute to the GEO process.
 - ❖ Global Resource Information Database (GRID), founded in 1985. The major goals of the GRID network are to: enhance access and open exchange of environmental data and information; facilitate the application of data, information tools and technologies for better environmental management, assessment and State of the Environment reporting; and improve decision-making on environmental management, natural resources and human development-related issues. It provides information in response to the thousands of requests received by the network each year. GRID uses geographic information systems and satellite image processing technology to present environmental data and analyses in easily-understood maps and printouts.
 - ❖ Infoterra. UNEP/Infoterra is a global network for environmental information exchange and scientific and technical query response services operating through a network of government designated focal points.
- Promoting Collaboration and Synergies among Environmental Conventions During the past 30 years, UNEP has been helping to broker new global and regional environmental treaties. The UNEP Division on Environmental Conventions is currently working to ensure that the policies pursued under existing conventions remain as mutually supportive as possible. The Division is also tasked with identifying synergies and promoting collaboration among the conventions, and facilitating links between UNEP programmes/activities and those of the conventions.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The UNEP Governing Council (UNEP GC) is the principle governing and legislative body for UNEP. It is responsible for, *inter alia*, approving UNEP programme priorities and its budget,

as well as for assessing the state of the world environment and promoting international co-operation in the field of the environment. The 58 Members of the Governing Council are elected by the General Assembly based on the following geographical distribution: 16 seats for Africa; 13 seats for Asia; 10 seats for Latin America; 6 seats for Eastern Europe; and 13 seats for Western Europe and other States.

The Governing Council normally meets every two years. The Twenty-first Session was held February 2001. In addition, the Seventh Special Session to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP will be held 13 – 15 February 2002 in Cartagena, Colombia. A primary focus of the session/forum will be preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2- 11 September 2002). It will also consider several reports requested at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, including the report on a “strategic approach to international chemicals management”.

UNEP also has a Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) from member states. Its bureau, consisting of a chair, three vice-chair and a rapporteur is responsible for: reviewing, monitoring and assessing implementation of UNEP GC Decisions on administrative, budgetary and programme matters; reviewing draft programmes of work and budget; reviewing Secretariat reports requested by the UNEP GC; and preparing draft decisions for the consideration of the UNEP GC.

The Governing Council reports to the General Assembly through ECOSOC.

UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya and has regional and outposted offices in Paris, Geneva, Osaka, The Hague, Washington, New York, Bangkok, Mexico City, Manama, Montreal, and Bonn.

b) UNEP – DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRY and ECONOMICS

b)(i) Overview:

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Ms. J. Aloisi de Lardere	Tel:	(33-1) 44.37.14.50
Director	Fax:	(33-1) 44.37.14.74
UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics	E-mail:	unep.tie@unep.fr
Tour Mirabeau	Website:	http://www.uneptie.org
39-43 quai Andre-Citroen		
75739 Paris Cedex 15		
France		

MANDATE:

The mission of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) is to encourage decision makers in government, industry and business to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner and safer, use natural resources more efficiently, reduce pollution risks to human beings and the environment, and enable implementation of conventions. The DTIE approach is to improve knowledge and raise awareness about environmental issues related to industry and technology, to build international consensus on policies, codes of practice and economic instruments, to exchange information on means to implement those responses, to strengthen capabilities, and to demonstrate environmentally sound practices. UNEP DTIE works as a catalyst, developing and promoting partnerships through voluntary alliances. It focuses on facilitating the effective and integrated implementation of existing conventions and multilateral environmental programmes. It also promotes the adoption and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and management practices by business and industry throughout the world.

UNEP DTIE, with its head office in Paris, is composed of one centre and four units:

- The International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka), which promotes the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies with a focus on the environmental management of cities and freshwater basins, in developing countries and countries in transition.
- Production and Consumption Unit (Paris), which promotes re-engineering of production and consumption patterns to improve resource efficiency through cleaner technology products and services, and environmental management systems. (See b(iii) below).
- Chemicals Unit (Geneva) which promotes sustainable development by catalysing global actions and building national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide, with a priority on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC), the latter undertaken jointly with FAO. (See b(ii) below).
- Energy and OzonAction Unit (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure

implementation of the Montreal Protocol, promotes good management practices, the use of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency, and supports the Climate Change Convention. It works closely with the UNEP/Risø Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment (UNCCEE). (See b(iii) below)

- Economics and Trade (Geneva), which enhances the capabilities of countries to integrate environmental considerations into development planning and decisionmaking. It also promotes the use and application of assessment and incentive tools for environmental policy and helps improve the understanding of linkages between trade and environment and the role of financial institutions in promoting sustainable development. (See b(iii) below).

The Division Office co-ordinates UNEP DTIE activities and ensures liaison with headquarters and other UNEP Divisions, promotes outreach activities, and co-ordinates regional delivery of UNEP DTIE activities.

b)(ii) UNEP Chemicals

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. J. Willis
Director
UNEP Chemicals
11-13, Chemin des Anemones
CH-1219 Chatelaine
Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 917-8183
Fax: (41-22) 797-3460
E-mail: chemicals@unep.ch
Website: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

UNEP Chemicals was established by the UNEP Governing Council in 1974. UNEP Chemicals promotes chemical safety by:

- facilitating global actions to reduce or eliminate chemical risks, including implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention;
- helping governments build their capacity to identify, assess and reduce risks posed by chemicals to health and the environment, and enabling those governments to fulfill internationally-agreed commitments;
- developing and disseminating technical guidance materials to assist governments and other stakeholders to identify and reduce the risks posed by chemicals;
- promoting the exchange of information on chemicals, through the development of information systems and databases and providing guidance for accessing additional sources of information; and
- assessing the global and regional levels of chemicals to facilitate possible future interventions to protect human health and the environment, and to monitor the success of existing programmes.

UNEP Chemicals works in partnerships with other international organisations, convention secretariats, regional offices and organisations, industry, and other non-governmental organisations.

UNEP is a Participating Organization of the IOMC (See Entry No. 41) and is one of the co-operative organisations of the IPCS (See Entry No. 22).

ACTIVITIES:

Catalysing Global Action

UNEP Chemicals is engaged in a number of activities designed to catalyse global action for the sound management of chemicals. These include:

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure: UNEP, jointly with FAO, led the effort to develop a legally binding instrument for the application of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure. This instrument was adopted in September 1998. (see Entry No. 17). UNEP and FAO jointly provide the secretariat for the

Convention and support implementation of the voluntary PIC Procedure operating during the interim period until the Convention enters into force.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) UNEP led the effort to develop a global legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants. This instrument was adopted in May 2001 (see Entry No. 19). UNEP provides the secretariat for the Convention and supports implementation of agreed interim arrangements until the Convention enters into force.

Building National Capacities

UNEP Chemicals works directly with countries to build national capacity for the safe production, use, and disposal of chemicals, and to promote and disseminate state-of-the-art information on chemical safety. The programme reflects global priorities identified by governments and includes support for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention, assistance in reducing and/or eliminating environmental releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Information Access

UNEP Chemicals produces a wide range of information products, often with partner organisations such as those of the IOMC. Information is provided through the UNEP Chemicals Homepage (www.chem.unep.ch), traditional publications, proceedings of workshops, and CD-ROM.

Various aspects of POPs management are covered – global destruction capability for PCBs, inventorying and managing emissions of dioxins and furans, integrating IVM (integrated vector management) and IPM (integrated pest management) approaches in pest and vector control – along with Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and the Rotterdam Convention.

Other publications address lead in gasoline, chemical risk assessment, and the OECD screening information data sets for high production volume chemicals.

A full listing of publications may be obtained from UNEP Chemicals or from its website: www.chem.unep.ch.

Direct Work with Countries

In this area, UNEP Chemicals activities include awareness-raising workshops, training, capacity building projects, and hotline support for governments.

Workshops

Each year, UNEP Chemicals sponsors capacity building workshops on chemicals management at the regional, sub-regional, and national levels. On average, there are between 30 and 50 workshops each year on a wide range of subjects, including support for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, support for implementation of the Stockholm Convention, reduction of emissions of dioxins and furans, the management of PCBs, sustainable alternatives to POPs pesticides, management of stocks of obsolete and unwanted pesticides, development of national information systems, development of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans, and chemicals legislation.

Addressing Barriers to Information Exchange

UNEP Chemicals and other partners, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, are working together to improve Internet access for chemical management officials in countries in Africa. The pilot project provides tools for accessing the Internet and training of staff. As funds become available, the pilot project will be extended to other countries in Africa and, eventually, to other continents.

Alternative Strategies to POPs Pesticides

Helping countries reduce and/or eliminate reliance on pesticides that are POPs used in agriculture and public health is the focus of capacity building activities undertaken by UNEP Chemicals in co-operation with FAO and the WHO. These include: a database on chemical and non-chemical alternatives; a system for identifying relevant expertise; a collection of studies and action plans for replacing and reducing POPs; and strategy guidance for sustainable pest and vector control. The activities emphasise the importance of IPM and IVM in finding sustainable alternatives to POPs pesticides.

PCBs/Dioxins and Furans

UNEP Chemicals assists countries in dealing with PCBs, dioxins and furans. Its regional workshops focus on identifying and quantifying these compounds, as well as on managing PCBs and reducing the releases of dioxins and furans. Toolkits developed by UNEP Chemicals for source identification are valuable aids for countries in managing these substances. Over 40 projects with countries are underway to develop PCB and/or dioxin/furan inventories.

POPs Networks

The UNEP Chemicals programme is assisted by the global network of POPs and PIC focal points. These focal points are designated by governments, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations, and are involved in activities to reduce and/or eliminate the release of POPs into the environment.

Performing Assessments at National, Regional and Global Levels

UNEP Chemicals executes two GEF projects related to assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS). The first, a Regionally Based Assessment of PTS, started as a full-scale, \$5million project in mid-2000 and runs for two years. The second, Assessing National Management Needs of PTS, was approved by the GEF Governing Council in May 2001.

UNEP Chemicals is exploring co-operation with OECD on harmonisation of approaches to assessing the risks and hazards from exposure to chemicals and with FAO on assessing the environmental effects of pesticides. A joint OECD/UNEP workshop on multi-media models for overall persistency and long-range transport will be held in October 2001.

UNEP Chemicals has initiated work on a global network for monitoring of POPs (and other chemicals) in the environment. An informal expert consultation has been held in May 2001. In the next step, partnerships and agreements will be sought with existing national, regional, and global monitoring programmes.

In response to UNEP GC Decision 21/5, UNEP Chemicals has initiated a global mercury assessment. Letters have been sent to governments, IGOs and NGOs requesting information pertinent to the assessment as specified in the GC Decision. A first compilation of the collected data is scheduled for September 2001.

Exchange of Information

A priority for UNEP is promoting access to information through the delivery of information tools for countries to use in assessing and managing the risks of chemicals. Activities include:

- A global network for exchange of information. There are Internet and hard-copy information clearinghouses on chemicals hazards, PRTRs, POPs, and PIC.
- Inventory of Information Sources on Chemicals, which contains a detailed description of publications on chemicals from intergovernmental organisations in the field of chemicals management, assessment and safety. The on-line inventory indicates who does what and provides links to the web pages of the other organisations.
- Internet Guide: Finding Information on Chemicals, which is source for links as well as a tutorial to Internet resources on chemical safety and hazards covering a broad range of world scientific environmental knowledge in the field.
- Publication of the Screening Information Data Sets (SIDS) for High Production Volume Chemicals, prepared by OECD.
- Inventory of Critical Reviews on Chemicals (ICRC), published jointly by UNEP Chemicals and the European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC), presents the work of 40 organisations or agencies and contains information on more than 3900 chemicals.
- Assistance in undertaking fact-finding country case studies on POPs-related environmental or health problems in countries.
- Production of a UNEP Chemicals CD-ROM, which contains all the information available from its databases and web sites for distribution to users without Internet access. The CD-ROM is free of charge and can be obtained on request from UNEP Chemicals.
- The IRPTC databank, which is available in a personal computer version and contains extensive safety data on over 8,000 chemicals. It has a series of files on all aspects of a chemical that are deemed important to conduct a hazard assessment including information on regulatory controls. UNEP has prepared a Users' Manual for the databank system.
- A POPs Master List Database, which contains information on use, production, and emission and control data for over 100 countries. The data collected from national designated focal points has been compiled to provide a systematic way for characterising issues related to POPs.

UNEP also develops training materials, guidance documents and other publications on various aspects of chemicals management, such as lead in gasoline, a tool-book on chemical management instruments (in collaboration with UNITAR), and endocrine disrupters.

UNEP's Query-Response Service responds to up to 600 requests for assistance annually. It is a principal means for disseminating the information that UNEP Chemicals has gathered on toxic chemicals and wastes. The queries consist mainly of requests for environmental, legal, waste disposal, health and agriculture-related information.

b)(iii) Other activities of UNEP DTIE

(including “Production and Consumption” and “Energy and OzonAction”)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Ms. J. Aloisi de Larderel	Tel:	(33-1) 44.37.14.50
Director	Fax:	(33-1) 44.37.14.74
UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics	E-mail:	unep.tie@unep.fr
Tour Mirabeau	Website:	http://www.uneptie.org
39-43 quai Andre-Citroen		
75739 Paris Cedex 15		
FRANCE		

ACTIVITIES:

Production and Consumption

This Unit works under the broad title of “cleaner and safer production and sustainable consumption” to emphasise that the entire life cycle of a product or service needs to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty alleviation. The Unit undertakes studies, and promotes improved technologies and environmental management tools, and helps to apply these to key industry sectors in resource development and manufacturing.

Safer Production (APELL): The APELL programme is designed to protect communities against damage to health, environment or property from chemical accidents by assisting decision-makers and technical personnel to create and/or increase public awareness of possible hazards within a community, stimulate the development of emergency preparedness plans to respond to any emergency that might occur, facilitate training of residents on how to act in the event of an accident, and encourage prevention of accidents. It was developed by UNEP in 1988 in co-operation with industries and governments. In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) endorsed APELL and recommended that it be strengthened and implemented in all parts of the world.

The programme, carried out in partnership with industry and governments, works in three ways:

- introduction of the APELL process within countries and communities through seminar/workshops at local, regional and national levels;
- implementation and maintenance of the programme after it has been introduced; and
- awareness raising and training to ensure that APELL's objectives and methods continue to be clearly understood and applied.

UNEP's primary role is as a catalyst; implementation is the responsibility of agencies within the countries concerned.

The primary tool of the APELL programme is the *APELL Handbook*. A number of supplementary materials have been published by UNEP to help implement the APELL process including, for example, case studies, technical guides on "Storage of Hazardous Materials" and

"Hazard Identification and Evaluation in a Local Community", an "Annotated APELL Bibliography, "APELL for Port Areas" published jointly with IMO, and "TransAPELL".

During 2000, extensive liaison was undertaken with natural disaster agencies to encourage the adoption of APELL as a mechanism for preparedness for earthquakes, floods and natural disasters. The application of APELL to a number of sectors, notably transport and mining was begun. A special seminar was held in May on emergency response and safety at mine sites, and work began on an APELL Handbook for Mining.

In addition, UNEP has co-operated with other international organisations in sponsoring workshops and in the publication of documents.

Cleaner Production: The Cleaner Production Programme was launched in 1989 to promote cleaner and safer industrial production and consumption patterns through consensus building, assistance in formulating policies and strategies, defining and encouraging the incorporation of environmental criteria in industrial production, and information exchange. It provides a strategy for preventing pollution, making efficient use of raw materials and reducing risks to man and the environment. It applies to processes, products and services.

The Programme brings together international organisations, governments, industry, non-governmental organisations, and academics.

Among the highlights from the last year are:

- Under the joint UNEP/UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) umbrella, new National Cleaner Production Centres began operation in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Mozambique, bringing the total number to 19.
- The Sixth High-level International Seminar on Cleaner Production was held in October 2000;
- There were 14 high-level signing ceremonies for the International Declaration on Cleaner Production (12 countries), bringing the number of senior signatories from industry and government to 223;
- Regional Roundtables were held in association with other partners for the Mediterranean Region and the African Region; and
- Implementation of the project "Strategies and mechanisms for promoting cleaner production investment in developing countries."

UNEP contributed to a number of international and regional roundtables and symposia on cleaner production. Information systems were upgraded, and ICPIC (International Cleaner Production Clearinghouse) is available on CD-ROM and the Web. A new project was started to help financial institutions understand the importance of cleaner production and help cleaner production experts develop credit-worthy investment proposals (see: www.financingcp.org).

Sustainable Consumption: This work involves activities aimed at promoting more sustainable patterns of consumption in the community and industry. For example, during 2000, UNEP held a series of workshops and other events at EXPO 2000 (Germany), conducted two global surveys on consumption patterns, developed an Advertising and Communication Initiative, promoted business involvement in sustainable consumption, and strengthened alliances with NGOs.

Environmental Management in Industry Sectors: DTIE promotes the application of cleaner and safer production methods in several sectors. There was intensive follow-up to the cyanide spill at a gold mine in Baia Mare, Romania. For example, the Mineral Resources Forum website was upgraded to provide on-line assistance and information about the pollution and its origins (www.natural-resources.org/environment). An international workshop for mine regulators on Environmental Regulation for Accident Prevention in Mining, Tailings and Chemicals Management was held in October 2000. Following a workshop with the International Council on Metals and the Environment in May 2000, work is proceeding with industry and NGO partners on a voluntary industry code for the use of cyanide in gold mining. Other co-operative activities are underway to provide guidance to improve environmental practices in mining.

Other activities included:

- “Sustainable Development and the Future of Mineral Investment” was published jointly with the Metal Mining Agency of Japan and the Colorado School of Mines;
- the Sustainable Agri-food Production and Consumption Forum, a web-based information system on key environmental issues and good practice was brought on-line (www.agrifoodforum.org);
- guides on cleaner production assessment for dairy, fish and meat processing were published; and
- work continued on developing documents related to the environmental management of industrial estates.

Tourism: A UNEP Coordinating Meeting on Tourism was held in January 2000. A comprehensive tourism strategy is being prepared to link various initiatives.

The ‘Tour Operators’ Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development”, developed in co-operation with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), was launched in March 2000. The initiative published “Good Practice in Sustainable Tourism”, a collection of 16 case studies.

Energy and OzonAction

OzonAction: This programme enables developing countries to meet their commitments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. (See Entry No. 5) Capacity building services that empower the National Ozone Units include an information clearinghouse and regional networking. This programme is funded mainly by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol and receives funding from the GEF and the Governments of Sweden and Finland.

Information clearinghouse: In 2000, the OzonAction Programme helped developing countries move towards compliance with the Montreal Protocol through the provision of policy assistance, case studies and awareness materials. Guidance and other publications were prepared to assist with methyl bromide phase out and there were a number of awareness-raising activities for new target groups.

Leveraging information technology: During 2000, UNEP updated “OzonAction Strategic Information System”, the CD-ROM database reference tool, and ran e-mail fora and produced “Regular Updates on Methyl Bromide Activities” and “Climate and Ozone Update.”

Capacity enhancement through training and management plans: During 2000, UNEP completed development of country programmes in 82 countries and continued work for another 16, continued implementation of institutional strengthening projects in 77 projects, and Refrigerant Management Plans have been completed for 37 countries and are being developed in another 10 countries (with implementation co-ordinated jointly with UNDP). In addition, UNEP co-operated with FAO and UNIDO in delivering education and training for farmers in selected countries and improved the capacity of NGOs and local agriculture institutes in developing countries to raise awareness on alternatives to methyl bromide.

Regional Networking: Learning by sharing experience is the principle of the eight regional networks the UNEP operates and manages. National Ozone Units from more than 100 countries made this activity the focus of compliance efforts.

Assistance to countries with economies in Transition: The OzonAction Programme jointly with UNDP has assisted 22 countries with economies in transition to comply with the Montreal Protocol.

Energy

UNEP DTIE Energy, launched in 1996 to address the environmental impact of increasing global energy consumption, has three main objectives:

- to increase global use of renewable and non-carbon energy resources;
- to increase end-use efficiency; and
- to improve the overall management of energy systems.

These goals are pursued in close co-operation with other UNEP units, UN and other government agencies, non-governmental organisations and private partners. The work is implemented jointly with the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and the Environment (UCCEE) at the Risø National Laboratory in Denmark.

This programme carried out a number of activities, some of which are:

- The GEF-supported Renewable Energy Technology/Energy Efficiency Investment Advisory Facility helps financial institutions make informed investment decisions on energy projects in developing countries.
- UNEP's pilot Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility, started in early 2000, helps developing country governments design and implement sustainable energy policies and activities by providing small amounts of targeted assistance.
- The African Rural Energy Enterprise Development Initiative helps the private sector deliver affordable energy to rural areas based on clean and renewable energy technologies.
- The International Energy Authority, UNEP's Economic and Trade Unit and the DTIE Energy began a series of regional workshops on energy subsidy reform and sustainable development.

Economics and Trade

In the field of economics, trade and financial services, UNEP's goals are to improve countries' understanding of the interlinkages and complementarities between environment, trade and development; enhance countries' capacities in integrating environmental considerations into macroeconomic policies, including trade policies; and to promote the development and implementation of sustainable development policies by the financial services sector. In meeting these goals, UNEP focuses its activities on four main components:

- Awareness raising (linkages between trade, environment and development);
- Policy tools;
- Capacity building; and
- Partnerships and consensus building

Regional Activities

DTIE also undertakes activities in the regions through the UNEP Regional Offices, which also help identify specific regional needs for future programmes.

c) **UNEP - REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME (including Conventions)**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS

Programme Co-ordination:

Mr. J. E. Illueca
Assistant Executive Director
Division of Environmental
Conventions
PO Box 30552
Nairobi
KENYA

Tel: (254-2) 624 011
Fax: (254-2) 624 300
Email: Jorge.Illueca@unep.org
Website: <http://www.unep.ch/seas/rshome.html>

OVERVIEW:

The Regional Seas Programme of UNEP was established in 1974 to tie coastal nations together in a common commitment to mitigate and prevent degradation of the world's coastal areas and open oceans. Each programme is tailored to the specific needs of its shore-line participants but has common components such as:

- an Action Plan for co-operation on management, protection, rehabilitation, development, monitoring and research of coastal and marine resources;
- an intergovernmental agreement embodying general principles and obligations (although in some instances there are no legally binding agreements); and
- detailed protocols dealing with particular environmental problems, such as land-based sources of pollution, dumping, emergency co-operation and protected areas.

Funds for these activities come initially from UNEP and then from trust funds set up by the involved governments.

The 14 Regional Seas Programmes remain the central UNEP initiative providing the legal, administrative, substantive and financial framework for the implementation of Agenda 21, chapter 17 on oceans.¹⁴ Thirteen regions have formally adopted their own Action Plans, as follows (listed in order of adoption):

- Mediterranean (adopted 1975);
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (adopted in 1976, revised in 1982);
- Kuwait (adopted in 1978);
- West and Central Africa (adopted in 1981);
- Caribbean (adopted in 1981);
- East Asian Seas (adopted in 1981);
- South-East Pacific (adopted in 1981);
- South Pacific (adopted in 1982);
- East Africa (adopted in 1985);

¹⁴ Three Regional Seas Programmes are not part of UNEP: the Black Sea Environmental Programme, the South-East Pacific Action Plan, and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

- Black Sea (adopted in 1993);
- North-West Pacific (adopted in 1994);
- South Asian Seas (adopted in 1995);
- North-East Pacific (adopted in 2001); and
- Upper South-West Atlantic (in preparation)

Nine of these have also adopted regional conventions, specifically addressing: the Black Sea; the wider Caribbean; East Africa; Kuwait region; the Mediterranean; the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden; the South Pacific; the South-East Pacific; and West and Central Africa.

The dates of adoption, and entry into force, vary for each convention. All of the conventions is open to coastal States in the respective regions and, in some cases may be open to other States and intergovernmental organisations, upon invitation. Each of the conventions is described below.

ACTIVITIES:

The Regional Seas Programme, with its 14 regions worldwide, includes participation of over 140 coastal States and Territories. It is an action-oriented programme focussed not only on the mitigation or elimination of the consequences but also of the causes of environmental degradation. It has a comprehensive, integrated, result-oriented approach to combating environmental problems through the rational management of marine and coastal areas.

The regional seas conventions provide the legal framework for the regional action plans, expressing in clear terms the legal commitment and political will of governments to tackle their common environmental problems. The conventions address the needs of particular regions as perceived by the governments concerned. Together with the regional conventions covering the North-East Atlantic (Oslo and Paris conventions and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-east Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and the Baltic Sea area (the Helsinki Convention) (see Entries Nos. 15, 11 respectively), these conventions have a global scope.

The success of the Programme lies in its result-oriented approach that includes an ongoing reiterative process with Governments on a regional basis. Other common elements of the Action Plans include:

- all actions are contained in Action Plans, scrutinised and subsequently approved by Governments at a regional intergovernmental meeting. Thus, there is political agreement of Governments concerned and the execution of the programme primarily by national and other appropriate institutions from the region in close co-operation with relevant UN and regional organisations and other appropriate organisations;
- through regional Bureau/Monitoring Committees, the implementation of an approved Action Plan is checked between Intergovernmental meetings;
- for each Action Plan, a budget is approved by the Governments of the respective region, ensuring finances for implementation. In many of the regions, Governments contribute to Trust Funds to assist in the financing of programme implementation. Development banks play a significant financing role in a number of regions;
- each Regional Seas Programme is tailored to the priorities in the region as perceived by the Governments of each region. Thus, the Action Plan take into account the specific socio-economic and political situation in a given region, the priorities in environmental

protection as defined by the Governments of the region, the recognised capabilities and needs of the national institutions which are participating, and the results of past and ongoing activities.

In addition, with the co-operation of appropriate global and regional organisations, reviews of the specific environmental problems of the region are prepared in order to assist Governments to identify the most urgent problems in the region and the corresponding priorities assigned to the various components of the action plan.

Although the specific activities for any region are dependent upon the needs and priorities of that region, action plans are generally structured in a similar way and generally includes the following components:

- environmental assessment: assessment of regional capabilities and main factors influencing marine environment quality;
- environmental management: States prepare for Pollution Emergencies and co-operate in reducing and controlling pollution including management and development of marine resources;
- environmental legislation: A clear commitment on co-operation is proved through the adoption of Conventions and related Protocols. Harmonisation of national laws and regulations on protection and development of marine and coastal environment and resources is also undertaken;
- institutional and financial arrangements: States agree to establish appropriate institutions like Regional Coordinating Centres/Units/Secretariats and Trust Funds for management of Action Plans.

There are a number of ongoing projects to assist individual regions to undertake assessments and to implement their Action Plan. These involve assistance for technical projects, formulation of policies and strategies, dissemination of information, and capacity building through training. The Regional Seas Programme presently includes numerous activities in the area of integrated coastal management and is taking a lead on issues such as land-based sources of pollution, environmental economics and natural resources accounting, and small islands. In some of its activities, it co-operates closely with the World Bank and FAO, and with many other agencies.

Among its Interregional Activities are:

- Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) This is an international co-operative programme of scientific investigations focused on marine contamination and pollution. The joint IOC-UNEP-IMO sponsorship of GIPME ensures maximum co-ordination of the marine pollution programmes of IOC, IMO and UNEP and the rational utilisation of resources for the implementation of the marine pollution related programmes of the two organisations. The objectives of GIPME includes: authoritative evaluations of the state of the marine environment; identification of the requirements for measures to prevent, or correct, marine pollution; procedures for assessing and improving compliance and surveillance monitoring of conditions and effects in the marine environment. GIPME investigations focus primarily on the coastal zone and shelf seas.
- GESAMP: A leading role in the assessment of global marine pollution problems is played by the Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental

Protection (the IMO/FAO/UNESCO/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UNEP-sponsored Group of Experts). It was established to provide advice relating to the scientific aspects of marine pollution to its sponsors and to other organisations of the United Nations system and to its Member states. It also prepares periodic reviews of the state of the marine environment as regards marine pollution, and identifies problem areas requiring special attention.

DECISION-MAKING BODIES:

Each convention has its own decision-making body, composed of Contracting Parties, which meets periodically to review implementation and make decisions. Additional bodies may be established.

Most of the regions have their own Secretariat. The Division of Environmental Conventions, a central unit at UNEP, serves as Secretariat for the regional Seas Action Plans for those regions where financial constraints prevent the establishment of a Secretariat in the region.

RELATED AGREEMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

Work is underway to develop a strategic action plan and a Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) is a regional programme developed for and by the five Caspian Littoral States (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan) aiming to halt the deterioration of environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea and to promote sustainable development in the area, including living resources and water quality, protecting human health and ecological integrity for the sake of future generations. (see: www.caspianenvironment.org)

There is a “Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities” (RPA). The RPA is a regional non-binding action plan without convention. The RPA objective is to protect the Arctic marine environment through joint actions on land-based activities ranging from legal mechanisms to technology transfer, education and training, and capacity building. The RPA recognises and supports sub-regional and national efforts in the Arctic for the protection of the marine and coastal environment from land-based activities. The Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group of the Arctic Council was established to provide a framework for future co-operation to better prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental threats from accidental discharges of pollution from activities which take place in the Arctic area. (see: <http://eppr.artic-council.org>).

REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS

i. Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention):

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Permanent Secretariat of the Commission for the
Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Dolmabahce Sarayi II

Haraket Kosku

80808 Besiktas

Istanbul

TURKEY

Tel: (90-212) 227 9927 and 28, 29, 30

Fax: (90-212) 227 9933

E-mail: info@www.blacksea-environment.org

Website: www.blacksea-environment.org

ADOPTED:

21 April 1992

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

15 January 1994

PARTICIPATION:

6 Parties (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine)

OBJECTIVE:

To jointly and individually take all necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution thereof in order to protect and preserve the marine environment of the Black Sea.

Countries undertake to prevent the pollution of the Sea from any source by substances or matter included in Annex to the Convention. The Convention has three Protocols integral to it (all of which entered into force in January 1994):

- "Protocol on Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-Based Sources" commits the countries to eliminate the discharges of Annex I substances, while they undertake to reduce the Annex II substances. The restrictions for the discharges and the criteria for permits are specific in Annex III.

- Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment against Pollution by Dumping" prohibits the dumping of Annex I substances. Annex II substances can only be dumped under strict limitations specified in Annex III under special permits.

- "Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations" describes the framework for co-operation in major accidents or spills of oil and chemicals.

Chemical-Related Activities: Within the framework of the Black Sea Environmental Programme, operational since 1993, “routine” and “special” monitoring groups were established and these groups composed of an Activity Centre for each topic and six specialised institutions in each of the six coastal countries, received equipment, consumables and training assistance for generating new information relating to the levels of pollution in the Black Sea.

In 1996, levels of pollutants in the Black Sea were assessed based on the data which were available from the studies carried out by the national institutions in the Black Sea coastal countries, as well as from a number of joint surveys carried out under the auspices of various other scientific institutions and initiatives.

ii. **Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention):**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. N.A. Colmenares
Co-ordinator
UNEP Regional Co-ordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CAR/RCU)
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston
JAMAICA
Tel: (1-876) 922 9267
Fax: (1-876) 922 9292
E-mail: uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com
Website: <http://www.cep.unep.org/>

ADOPTED:

Convention: 24 March 1983
Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol): 1999

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

Convention: 11 October 1996
Protocol: Not yet in force

PARTICIPATION:

21 Parties (as of January 2001); 28 States participating in Action Plan
6 signatories to the LBS Protocol

OBJECTIVE:

To achieve sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the wider Caribbean region through effective integrated management that allows for increased economic growth.

The objective of the LBS Protocol is to prevent, reduce and control land-based marine pollution in the Convention Area.

Chemical-related Activities

Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea. This project has the objective of reducing pesticide run-off through improved management of pesticides in four countries in the southwestern Caribbean regional (Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua). Six components for action have been identified: training and education; institutional strengthening; establishing incentives; monitoring and information systems; alternative technologies; and demonstration projects. Specific activities for each of these components are being developed, to be implemented over a 3 –4 year period, which will begin no earlier than the end of 2001.

iii. **Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region:**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

UNEP Regional Co-ordinating Unit for the Eastern African Action Plan
(EAF/RCU)
Sainte-Anne Island, Seychelles
PO Box 487 Victoria
Mahe
SEYCHELLES
Tel: (248) 324 525
Fax: (248) 324 573
E-mail: uneprcu@seychelles.net
Website: <http://www.unep.ch/seas/rshome.html>

ADOPTED:

21 June 1985

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

30 May 1996

PARTICIPATION:

8 Parties (as of March 2000); 10 States participating in Action Plan

OBJECTIVE:

To protect and manage the marine environment and coastal areas of the Eastern African region; to provide a framework for co-ordinated response to major spillages of oil and other harmful substances.

iv. **Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution:**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)
PO Box 26388
13124 Safat
KUWAIT
Tel: (965) 5312140/3
Fax: (965) 5324172/5335243
E-mail: ropme@qualitynet.net
Website: <http://www.kuwait.net/~ropmek>

ADOPTED:

24 April 1978

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

1 July 1979

PARTICIPATION:

8 Parties (as of 22 May 2001)

OBJECTIVE:

To prevent, abate and combat pollution of the marine environment in the region.

ACTIVITIES:

Monitoring of contaminants in the marine environment has been carried out for many years. Surveys of land-based activities and sea-based sources of pollution have also been carried out by most of the ROPME Member States. Their works are to be complemented and presented in a regional report in the near future.

v. **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention):**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
UNEP
48, Vassileos Konstaninou Avenue
PO Box 18019
11610 Athens
GREECE
Tel: (30-1) 72 73 100
Fax: (30-1) 72 53 196/7
E-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
Website: <http://www.unepmap.org>

ADOPTED:

16 February 1976 (amendment adopted 1995)

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

12 February 1987 (amendment not yet in force)

PARTICIPATION:

21 Parties (as of 20 October 2000)

OBJECTIVE:

To prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent, eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development.

ACTIVITIES:

In 1996 a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established in the framework of the Barcelona Convention to advise Contracting Parties on issues related to Sustainable Development. The MCSD is composed of 36 members (21 representatives of Contracting Parties, 5 NGOs, 5 socio-economic actors, and 5 local authorities) participating on equal footing and, with the exception of representatives of the Contracting Parties who are fixed members, being elected on a rotating basis every two years.

In 1997, the Contracting Parties adopted a Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities (SAP). The Programme identifies the major land-based pollution issues, lists the control measures to take, costs them, and establishes target dates for their implementation.

vi. **Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment:**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Programme for the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
(PERSGA)
PO Box 53662
Jeddah 21583
SAUDI ARABIA
Tel: (966-2) 651 4472/ 657 3229
Fax: (966-2) 652 1901/ 651 4472
E-mail: persga@persga.org
Website: <http://www.unep.ch/seas/rshome.html>

ADOPTED:

14 February 1982

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

20 August 1985

PARTICIPATION:

7 Parties, plus Palestine (as of 31 March 1998)

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure rational human use of living and non-living marine and coastal resources in a manner ensuring optimum benefit for the present generation, at the same time maintaining the potential of that environment to satisfy the needs and aspirations of future generations.

vii. **Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocol (Noumea Convention):**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240
Apia
SAMOA
Tel: (685) 21 929
Fax: (685) 20 231
E-mail: sprep@org.ws
Website: <http://www.spreg.org.ws>

ADOPTED:

25 November 1986

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

22 August 1990

PARTICIPATION:

12 Parties (as of 9 February 2001); 19 States participating in Action Plan

OBJECTIVE:

To protect and manage the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific region.

There are two Protocols related to the Convention:

- Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping;
- Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combatting Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific.

In this region, there is also a Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific region (Waigani Convention), adopted in 1996 but which has not yet entered into force.

ACTIVITIES:

Among the chemical-related activities under the Noumea and Waigani Conventions are:

- Training/Capacity Building: In-country training courses for government officials on the effective management of hazardous chemicals, hazardous wastes and contaminated sites.
- Integrated Chemicals Management: Support for the preparation of National Chemical Profiles in Pacific Island Countries.
- Waste Management: Development of Hazardous Waste Management Strategies in Pacific Island Countries.
- Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme: Regional and national marine spill contingency plans; improving ships' waste management in the Pacific; environmental guidelines for Pacific Island Ports; Regional Marine pollution surveillance.
- Pacific Regional Wastes Awareness and Education Programme.
- Strategic Action Programme for International Waters of the Pacific Island Developing States: Community-based project on waste disposal impact on drinking water.
- Legislation on the management of hazardous chemicals.

viii. **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific (Lima Convention):**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)

Coruña N31-83 y Whimper

Quito

ECUADOR

Tel: (593-2) 234-331, 234-335, 234-336, 234-357, 234-358

Fax: (593-2) 234374

E-mail: cpps@ecuanex.net.ec
ulisesmunaylia@andinanet.net

Website: <http://www.unep.ch/seas/main/hconlist.html>

ADOPTED:

12 November 1981

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

19 May 1986

PARTICIPATION:

Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru; 9 States participating in Action Plan.

OBJECTIVE:

Through regional co-operation, to adopt measures in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and any supplementary instruments in force to which they are a party in order to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment and coastal area of the South East Pacific and to ensure appropriate environmental management of natural resources.

ACTIVITIES:

Among the chemicals-related activities are the following:

- **Specialised Training and Capacity Building Initiatives:** Various regional workshops and training courses have been organised in the framework of the Plan of Action. The main ones was the course on analytical methods for monitoring pollutants; the regional training course on the treatment and disposal of waste and basic sanitation of coastal waters, among others. In 1995, a regional course for determination and analysis of pollution caused by pesticides and PCBs in biological organisms and marine sediments, was held in Lima.
- **Environmental Sampling and Analysis:** With the purpose of assuming a standardised implementation of the laboratories to support the Regional Pesticides Surveillance Network, five Hewlett Packard gas chromatograph were in place in the region in five

scientific institutions in Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. In the framework of this network, the Members State of the Plan of Action is carrying out the monitoring of pesticides in the marine environment. In the framework of this Regional Pesticides Surveillance Network, the national laboratories are monitoring pesticides and PCBs in the marine environment, using seawater, biological organisms, and sediments.

- Information/Database Development, addressing the extent and distribution of pesticides in water, sediment and marine organisms in the South-East Pacific.

ix. **Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region:**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

UNEP Regional Co-ordinating Unit for the Western and Central African Action Plan
c/o Department of Environment
Ministry of Housing, Quality of Life, and Environment
PO Box 153
Abidjan
COTE D'IVOIRE
Tel: (225-20) 210 323
Fax: (225-20) 210 495
E-mail: kaba@cro.orstom.ci or biodiv@africaonline.co.ci
Website: <http://www.unep.ch/seas/rshome.html>

ADOPTED:

23 March 1981

ENTRY INTO FORCE:

5 August 1984

PARTICIPATION:

10 Parties (as of 31 March 1998); 21 States participating in action plan.

OBJECTIVE:

To protect the marine environment, coastal zones and related internal waters falling within the jurisdiction of the States of the West and Central African region.

ADDITIONAL REGIONS: ACTION PLANS

In addition to the Regional Seas Conventions, there are Action Plans in effect, or planned, in the following areas:

- East Asian Seas Action Plan – Ten states participating. Convention being negotiated.
- South Asian Seas Action Plan – Five states participating.
- North-West Pacific Action Plan – Four States participating.
- South-West Atlantic – Action Plan being discussed.
- North-East Pacific – Action Plan being prepared.

d) UNEP - PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES¹⁵

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

GPA Co-ordination Office
UNEP
P.O. Box 16227
2500 BE, The Hague
THE NETHERLANDS

Tel: (31 70) 311.4460
Fax: (31 70) 345.66489
E-mail: gap@unep.nl
Website: <http://www.gpa.unep.org>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was adopted in November 1995 at an intergovernmental conference in Washington, DC. The Conference was convened in response to a 1995 UNEP Governing Council Decision. The 108 governments and European Commission declared their commitment to preserve the marine environment, and called upon UNEP, the World Bank, UNDP, the regional development banks, and all agencies within the UN system to support and strengthen regional structures for the protection of the marine environment. UNEP was tasked to lead the co-ordination effort and establish a GPA Co-ordination Office.

The comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach of the GPA reflects the desire of Governments to strengthen the collaboration and co-ordination of all agencies with mandates relevant to the impact of land-based activities on the marine environment, through their participation in a global programme.

ACTIVITIES:

The GPA was established in recognition of the fact that the major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine environment result from human activities on land, including municipal, industrial, and agriculture wastes and run-off, as well as atmospheric deposition. These contaminants affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters. The marine environment is also threatened by physical alterations of the coastal zone, including destruction of habitats of vital importance to maintain ecosystem health. Estimates show that almost 50% of the world's coasts are threatened by development-related activities. The intense pressures put on the coastal systems requires serious commitment and preventive action at all levels: local, national, regional and global.

The GPA seeks to prevent the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities by facilitating the realisation of the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment. It is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance to be drawn upon by national and regional authorities in devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities. Specifically, the GPA aims at:

- identification and assessment of problems;
- establishment of priorities for action;

¹⁵ The Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to subsection (d) of this Entry relating to Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

- setting management objectives for priority problems;
- identification, evaluation and selection of strategies and measures; and
- developing criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of strategies and measures.

The GPA will facilitate the development or adaptation of regional and national action plans, provide a basis for assessments of impacts on the marine environment, operate a clearing-house of information, mobilise financial resources and help to build awareness.

The implementation of the GPA is primarily the task of Governments, in close partnership with all stakeholders. UNEP and its partners will facilitate and assist Governments in their tasks. The primary roles of the Secretariat, in close partnership with relevant organisations, are to: promote and facilitate implementation of the GPA at national level; promote and facilitate implementation at the regional and sub-regional level through, in particular, a revitalisation of the Regional Seas Programme; and play a catalytic role with other organisations and institutions in implementation of the GPA at the international level.

**(25) UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. Z. Csizer	Tel: (431) 26026 38 95
Director	Fax: (431) 26026 68 19
Cleaner Production and	E-mail: zcsizer@ UNIDO.org
Environmental Management Branch	Website: http://www.unido.org
United Nations Industrial	
Development Organization	
Wagramer Str. 5	
A-1220 Vienna	
AUSTRIA	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

UNIDO was created in 1967 and, since 1985, has been a specialised agency of the United Nations dedicated to promoting sustainable industrial development in developing countries and countries in economic transition. UNIDO brings together representatives of government, industry and the public and private sector, providing a forum for consideration of issues related to sustainable development. It also helps countries, through technical co-operation programmes, put into practice the principles developed at the global level.

In 1967, the Chemical Industries Branch was established. Following the Bhopal accident in 1984, UNIDO strengthened efforts related to chemical safety and technical co-operation programmes included aspects of occupational safety. In March 1998, most of the activities related to chemical safety were incorporated into a newly formed Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Branch.

The Business Plan on the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO, endorsed by the seventh session of the General Conference in 1997, sets out UNIDO's activities. They are grouped into two areas, one of which is cleaner and sustainable industrial development (the other being strengthening of industrial capacities).

With respect to strengthening the capacity of countries for the management of chemicals, UNIDO's activities involve:

- environmentally sound management of chemicals and biologicals; and
- promoting safety, health and environmental protection.

UNIDO is one of the implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund for the Introduction of the Montreal Protocol. (see Entry No. 5).

Furthermore, UNIDO is an IMOC Participating Organization. (see Entry No. 41)

ACTIVITIES:

International and Regional Co-operation and Co-ordination: UNIDO has established a Regional Network on Safe Pesticide Production and Information for Asia and Pacific (RENPAAP). It has 15 participating countries in the region and co-ordinates the activities for the reduction of risks in the production and use of pesticides. Technical co-ordinating units or countries deal with various areas including: environmental friendly pesticides formulation, industrial safety and effluent control, waste management, industrial hygiene and occupational safety, ecotoxicology, bio-botanical pesticides, data collection/dissemination, and application technology.

International Conventions: UNIDO is one of the four implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. As such, it is introducing and promoting the acceptance of new technologies and processes to help developing countries phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNIDO is executing projects in co-operation with UNDP. For example, in response to a formal request for the Group of 77 and China, UNIDO conducted a study to identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy-intensive industries.

UNIDO has been granted expanded opportunities by the GEF for implementing Enabling Activities programmes under the Stockholm Convention for POPs.

Biosafety: In 1991, UNIDO issued a Code of Conduct for the Release of Organisms into the Environment. In co-operation with UNEP, UNIDO has also conducted training activities in biotechnology safety and in 1995 published a manual entitled “Genetically Modified Organisms: A Guide to Biosafety”.

UNIDO’s Biosafety Information Network and Advisory Service (BINAS) monitors regulatory developments in biotechnology worldwide. The BINAS Web site provides country-specific information and offers sources of relevant news and events, a list of BINAS experts, BINAS projects, and an on-line biotechnology library. It publishes a quarterly biosafety awareness newsletter (BINAS News).

UNIDO is working with OECD in developing a common resource on harmonisation related to biotechnology. A joint web page, entitled BIOBIN, helps navigating between OECD’s BioTrack Online and UNIDO’s BINAS.

UNIDO has developed a computerised decision support system (Dtree) for the assessment of environmental impacts resulting from field trials and commercial uses of genetically modified organisms.

Cleaner Production: UNIDO assists countries in formulating policies that encourage cleaner production and enhance the capacities of national productivity and environmental institutions to carry out cleaner production programmes. It provides technical assistance at the policy, institutional or enterprise level.

UNIDO has established 20 National Cleaner Production Centres and several Ecotoxicology Centres.

UNIDO is also involved in work related to environmental management in various industrial sectors and related to monitoring, treatment, recycling, and disposal of toxic and hazardous chemical wastes and remediation of contaminated sites.

UNIDO has co-operation agreements and joint initiatives with other UN bodies, including UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, FAO, and the World Bank.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The Secretariat carries out programmes and activities approved by UNIDO's policymaking organs.

The General Conference, composed of all Member States, meets once every two years. The General Conference approves the work programme and budget of UNIDO, and reviews implementation of the programme, budget and General Conference decisions. It also appoints the Director-General.

The Industrial Development Board, consisting of representatives from 53 Member States, reviews the implementation of the work programme and the budget, which is prepared by a subsidiary body, the Programme and Budget Committee (with representatives of 27 Member States).

(26) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Chemicals and Waste Management
Programme
United Nations Institute for
Training and Research
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 917.85.24
Fax: (41-22) 917.80.47
E-mail: cwm@unitar.org
Website: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

UNITAR is an autonomous body within the UN with a mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through training and research. To meet this aim, UNITAR provides training to assist countries in meeting the challenges of the 21st century; conducts research to explore innovative training and capacity building approaches; and forms partnerships with other UN agencies, governments and non-governmental organisations for the development and implementation of training and capacity building programmes that meet countries' needs.

UNITAR has established a "Training and Capacity Building Programme in Chemicals and Waste Management" (CWM). It emphasises co-operation among national stakeholders and international partner organisations in order to foster an integrated approach to chemical management capacity building. Activities focus on: the implementation of country-based training and capacity building projects; organisation of workshops at the regional and global level; development of technical and process-oriented training, guidance and resource materials; and provision of information exchange services in the area of chemicals management capacity building.

In the design and implementation of its programmes, UNITAR emphasises the following guiding principles in order to promote sustainable processes for the sound management of chemicals:

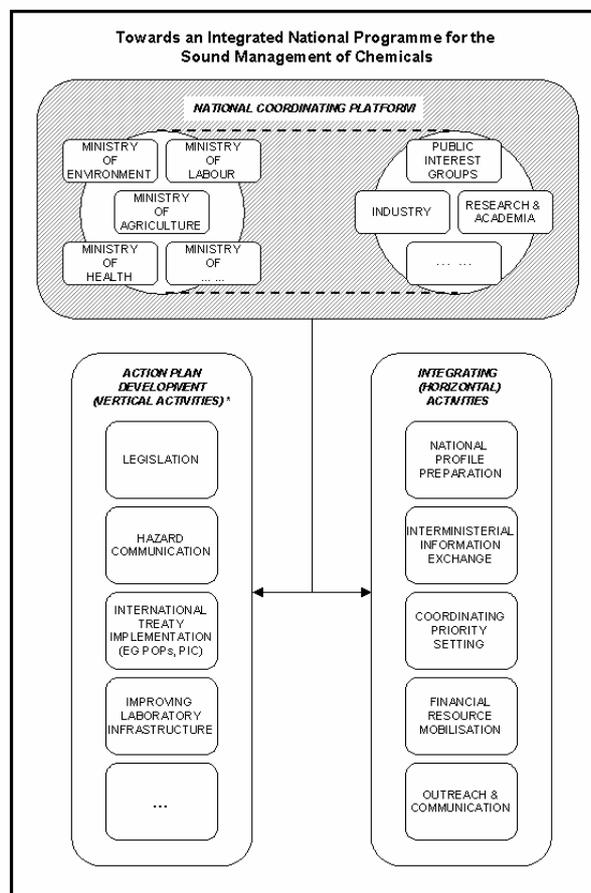
- a *country-driven process* through which partner countries assess and identify their needs and link related activities to national environmental and development objectives;
- a *multi-stakeholder approach*, involving representatives from various government ministries as well as concerned parties outside of government; and
- an *integrated approach*, which addresses all stages of the life cycle and emphasises the multi-disciplinary nature of chemicals and waste management.

UNITAR is one of the participating organisations of the IOMC. (see Entry No. 41)

ACTIVITIES:

To assist countries in their efforts to systematically develop an integrated and co-ordinated approach at the national level to manage chemicals safely, UNITAR offers a variety of programmes – all of which are closely linked to recommendations issued by the IFCS.

Building on the results of the National Chemicals Management Profile, countries are supported to identify their capacity building priorities and to develop sound action plans on the identified priorities through an open process involving all stakeholders. To facilitate co-ordination among ongoing national activities, countries are encouraged to establish a policy-level inter-ministerial co-ordinating committee, as called for by the IFCS. The following figure provides an illustration of the linkages among various elements that can contribute towards an *Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals*. Assistance can be provided in a modular way (see below) depending on country interest and available funding.



* The topics indicated are examples only.

Programmes to Facilitate National Infrastructure Assessment, Strategy Development and Integrated Chemicals Management

(a) *National Chemicals Management Profiles*

Assessing and diagnosing the existing infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals is an important prerequisite for building national capacity in a systematic way. Through its National Profile Support Programme, UNITAR provides guidance, training and technical support to assist countries in assessing their existing legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructures for the sound management of chemicals. At the country level, all ministries concerned with chemicals management, as well as relevant industry and public interest groups, are involved in the National Profile preparation process.

By June 2001, some 85 countries, including several OECD Member States, have prepared a National Profile following the *UNITAR/IOMC National Profile Guidance Document* that has

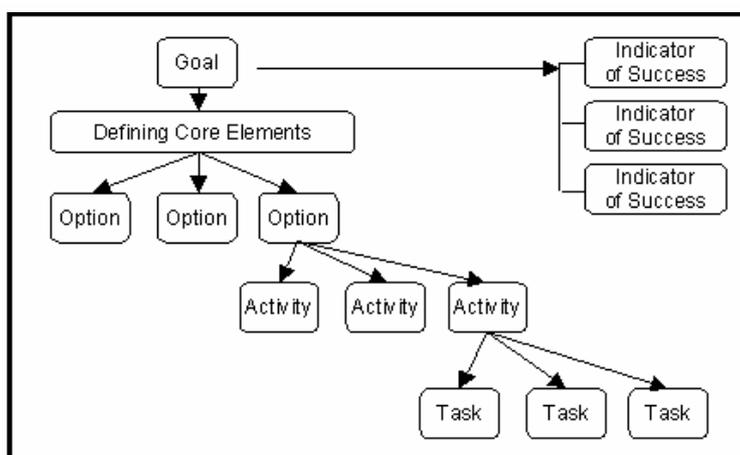
been endorsed by the IFCS. In several cases, UNITAR has facilitated twinning arrangements whereby experts from countries that have prepared National Profiles share their experience with others. More than 30 developing countries and countries with economies in transition have indicated their interest to prepare a National Profile in the future; however, a lack of the funding and support have prevented these countries from moving forward.

(b) National Priority Setting Workshops

This Programme addresses the interest of many countries to take a next step following the preparation of a comprehensive National Profile, i.e., to set priorities for strengthening specific aspects of national chemicals management. UNITAR has prepared a guidance document and provides support to interested countries, resources permitting, for organising a National Priority Setting Workshop. Priorities resulting from this event may include the initiation of risk reduction activities for individual chemicals or groups of chemicals (e.g., Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)), the need for addressing an infrastructure issue (e.g., developing effective legislation), the implementation of specific chemical management topics (e.g., accident prevention), or the implementation of a particular international convention (e.g., ILO Convention 170 or the Rotterdam Convention). In the ideal case, a National Priority Setting Workshop sets the stage for the initiation of a medium- and long-term Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. By mid-2000, some 15 countries had organised a National Priority Setting Workshop with the support of UNITAR.

(c) Action Plan Development (Skills Building)

Whether nationally-identified priorities address an individual or a group of chemicals, an infrastructure issue, a specific chemicals management instrument, or a relevant international agreement, sound and well co-ordinated Action Plans need to be developed that outline precise goals, planned activities, indicators of success, suggested implementation mechanisms, as well as financial and human resource needs. To assist countries in this strategy development process, UNITAR provides guidance and training to partner countries in the area of Action Plan development and project planning and management with an emphasis on chemicals management subject areas. The following figure illustrates a model of the Action Plan hierarchy.



The Programme is open to countries that have prepared a National Profile and have identified a set of national priorities. A training package is under development and is being tested in three countries. Subject-specific guidance is available or is under development for Action Plan

development for PRTRs, hazard communication and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

(d) *Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals*

While the Integrated National Programme (as illustrated in the diagram above) is the overarching driving force of the Chemicals and Waste Management Programme, this concept is also encompassed in a single project, namely the *UNITAR/IOMC Programme to Assist Countries in Developing and Sustaining Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals*. This programme has the objective to assist interested countries with the establishment of a sustained and formalised national platform through which integrated and co-ordinated action related to the safe management of chemicals can be ensured. In addition to providing support to countries for updating/amending a National Profile, setting chemicals management priorities, and developing Action Plans, important elements of this Programme also include training and guidance to assist with establishing national inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder mechanisms and in developing a financial resource mobilisation strategy with the goal to increase the level of national, as well as external, financial resources that are made available for the sound management of chemicals. The Programme is designed in a flexible manner to allow emphasis in areas that countries consider to be of particular importance to their national situation.

A guidance document entitled *Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals*, which is being developed in co-operation with all IOMC POs, serves as an overall framework document for the Programme. With financial assistance provided by the Government of Switzerland, three countries - Ecuador, Senegal and Sri Lanka - are obtaining support from UNITAR for a period of approximately two years, commencing April 2001. This Programme builds upon the experience gained and lessons learned through a three-year pilot programme in which Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia, and Slovenia participated and which was successfully completed and evaluated in 1999.

Specialised Training and Capacity Building Programmes

In addition to providing general guidance and support to facilitate national infrastructure assessment, strategy development and integrated chemicals management, UNITAR has developed in-depth guidance and conducts support programmes of medium-term duration to assist countries in developing sound Plans of Action for specialised topics of chemicals management. Subject areas for which UNITAR can offer such programmes include the development of a national PRTR system and the implementation of national risk management decision-making processes for priority chemicals. In addition, a new specialised programme addressing the development of Action Plans for Hazard Communication is being initiated in co-operation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other partners.

(a) *Design and Implementation of National Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)*

PRTRs have proven to be an effective tool for environmental management in many countries by providing government, industry, and the public with information on releases and transfers of toxic chemicals to air, water, and land. The UNITAR PRTR Training and Capacity Building Programme, which has received support from the Government of the United States for the past seven years, is implemented in co-operation with OECD and UNEP Chemicals. The Programme assists countries in the design and implementation of national PRTR systems through multi-stakeholder processes.

A series of UNITAR guidance and resource documents is available to assist countries in this process. UNITAR's country-based PRTR activities have included collaboration with Cuba, Argentina, Egypt, the Czech Republic, Mexico, the Slovak Republic, and South Africa. In support of these country-based activities, UNITAR, in collaboration with the IOMC PRTR Co-ordinating Group, has initiated, and provides the secretariat for, a Network of PRTR Resource Persons. Through this network, interested countries have the opportunity to learn about, and have better access to, PRTR-related expertise in countries and organisations. In addition, UNITAR published a CD ROM in 2000 which features key international and national documents that are relevant to national PRTR initiatives. A second edition of the CD ROM is planned for late 2001.

In April 2000, a co-operative agreement was signed between Environment Canada and UNITAR to provide assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish PRTRs. Activities will commence in Chile through co-operation with CONAMA, the National Environment Commission. In addition, UNITAR and Environment Canada jointly organised a PRTR workshop held prior to the plenary discussions on PRTRs at the Third Meeting of the Inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum III, October 2000, Brazil) focusing on issues relevant to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

A PRTR workshop is scheduled to be held in Chile in September 2001.

(b) Risk Management Decision-Making for Priority Chemicals

A growing number of international agreements dealing with chemicals of international concern, such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) or chemicals included in the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure, obliges countries to make national risk management decisions concerning priority chemicals. Taking into consideration experience gained through European Commission-funded pilot projects in Chile, Cameroon, Tanzania, and The Gambia, activities conducted under the programme promote the development of skills and procedures at the country level relevant to implementing risk management decision-making processes and action plan development for priority chemicals. The programme is implemented through country-based projects during which partner countries choose a priority chemical and develop a risk reduction/elimination strategy for the identified chemical through a process involving all affected and interested parties. The programme is conducted in co-operation with the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS). In addition to implementing country-based projects by UNITAR, methodologies and guidance documentation developed through the programme have been used and are being considered as background documentation in several international and bi-lateral chemicals management projects, including a proposed UNEP/GEF project on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and a GTZ project related to the Rotterdam Convention. A POPs-specific skills-building package is currently under development that will address Implementation Plans under the Convention.

(c) Hazard Communication

An effective chemical hazard communication system entails benefits and possible uses not only for governments, but also for industries, workers and members of the public. The basic goal of hazard communication is to help to ensure that employers, employees and the public know about chemical use hazards and how to protect themselves. As a result incidences of chemical source illness and injuries should be reduced. Hazard communication in the chemicals context includes: systems for creating and using chemical labels; systems for creating and using chemical safety data sheets; and training in hazard communication, including the development of other tools to increase public awareness and worker safety. The subject of hazard communication is also an integral element within the areas being harmonised

under the Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). By the end of 2001, technical work on the subject will be completed and transmitted to the UN ECOSOC Sub-Committee on the GHS. One of the key factors which will ultimately determine the success of the GHS worldwide is the extent to which developing countries and countries with economies in transition will both recognise the potential benefits of the GHS and develop the necessary infrastructure to implement and operate the system at the national level.

UNITAR, in co-operation with ILO and other IOMC organisations, is currently drafting guidance to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen national capacities to develop and implement an effective national strategy for hazard communication. Subject to available resources, the Programme, in collaboration with our IOMC partners, will support a small number of pilot countries to develop national hazard communication strategies through the involvement of affected and interested parties.

(d) Implementation of the Basel Convention

This Programme, which is organised jointly with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal (SBC), focuses on the initiation of national training and capacity building strategies in African and Caribbean countries to implement the Basel Convention. Activities will commence upon successful mobilisation of required resources. A key aim of the training and capacity building strategy is to facilitate the involvement of all concerned parties within and outside of government at the country level, and to foster co-operation with the regional training centers that have been established in the context of the Convention.

Supporting Activities and Services

As means to facilitate access to existing information and experiences, and to provide added value to ongoing capacity building efforts of various actors, UNITAR provides a variety of capacity building-related support activities and services in the form of electronic media and workshops.

(a) Global National Profile Homepage

At the international level, National Profiles provide others with a better understanding of the existing capacities and capabilities in countries to manage chemicals, as well as their related training and capacity building needs. In response to the high level of interest in such information, UNITAR and the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) have launched the National Profile Homepage to facilitate access to country Profiles through the Internet.

This homepage provides comprehensive information about the status of National Profile preparation in countries participating in the IFCS as well as direct access to those National Profiles that have been made internationally available by countries. This sub-site, the “National Profiles Homepage”, is maintained and updated by the ECB with information provided by UNITAR, the IFCS Secretariat and countries. In addition, UNITAR has published a National Profile CD ROM for countries and organisations that do not have adequate access to the Internet.

(b) Series of Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management Capacity Building

Reports of the first four thematic UNITAR workshops on priority topics of national chemicals management capacity building are available to assist countries in their strategy development process in the areas of national information systems and information exchange for the sound management of chemicals (2-4 September 1998), national awareness raising and education for chemicals management (19-21 October 1998), national legislation and policies for the sound management of chemicals (22-25 June 1999), and national capacities for risk management decision-making for priority chemicals (4-6 October 1999). Plans for late 2001 include the organisation of the Thematic Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities for Chemical Analysis and Monitoring for the Sound Management of Chemicals, which will be organised in co-operation with the Technical Secretariat for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

(c) *Electronic Access to Guidance and Training Materials*

Numerous guidance documents, training materials, and case studies have been published by various organisations and governments, many of which are of relevance to national chemicals management capacity building activities. While steps have been taken at the international level to facilitate access to existing chemicals-related literature, difficulties remain for those who are involved in capacity building activities at the country level to identify and access documents which are of direct relevance to their needs. As a means to address this challenge, a project to facilitate electronic access to relevant documents, both online and by means of CD ROM, has been initiated by UNITAR in collaboration with other IOMC POs. As a starting point, UNITAR, in co-operation with its partners in the IOMC, has published a document entitled *Guidance and Training Materials of IOMC Participating Organizations: An Annotated Resource Guide for Chemicals Management Capacity Building*, which provides references to documents of IOMC POs considered to be of particular relevance to country-based capacity building activities. The second edition of this document is now available.

(d) *Development of the Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INCAP)*

In 1998, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) requested UNITAR to collaborate with countries, international organisations, and others to develop a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals. The objective of this Network should be to enhance the exchange of information and experience about capacity building activities carried out through international organisations, bi-lateral development co-operation agencies, and other groups. The draft TOR for the Network were prepared in early 2000 and were adopted at Forum III in Brazil in October. Further efforts aimed at developing INCAP services are underway.

With a view to building country capacity with regard to financial resource mobilisation, UNITAR, in collaboration with its IOMC Partner Organizations, has developed a resource document entitled: *Fact Sheets on Bilateral Assistance for Chemicals Management*. This document provides recipient countries with practical information on environmental bilateral aid from Developing Assistance Committee (DAC) agencies.

Other Activities

UNITAR's Environmental Law Training Programme was launched in 1996 and is implemented in partnership with UNEP and IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law. Distance learning through correspondence instruction is the central component of the

programme in order to reach a large number in both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Distance learning is complemented by targeted national and regional workshops.

The UNITAR Training Programme to Promote the Implementation of the UNFCCC was established in 1993 as a joint effort of UNITAR with the Interim Secretariat of the UNFCCC with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAFEL), the GEF through UNDP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the assistance of the Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC). The programme was designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing countries and countries in economic and political transition, to address the causes and effects of climate change and to undertake activities in pursuit of the objective of the Convention. The programme has developed a methodology for initiating a process of multi-sectoral policy dialogue in participating countries, as input into capacity building policy development, and project co-ordination.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

UNITAR's Headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. The majority of the UNITAR training and capacity building programmes are organised and co-ordinated from this office, with regional consultants, UNDP and IOMC Participating Organizations providing back-up support for country-based projects. In addition, UNITAR has an office in New York that conducts a range of training and briefing sessions for members of the diplomatic community.

UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees (BOT). Board members are appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN and serve in their personal capacity. The BOT provides overall guidance to the Institute, approves its work programme and adopts its budget. In addition, ad hoc groups of experts are convened to provide advice in the implementation of UNITAR's programmes.

(27) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)¹⁶

- a) **General**
- b) **International Agency for Research on Cancer**

a) **General**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

World Health Organization
Avenue Appia, 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22)
Fax: (41-22) 791 3111
E-mail: info@who.int
Website: <http://www.who.int>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The objective of the WHO, a specialised agency of the UN, is the attainment by all people of the highest levels of health, defined to include physical, mental and social well-being (not just the absence of disease or infirmity). To meet this objective, the WHO has four main functions:

- to give worldwide guidance in the field of health;
- to set global standards for health;
- to co-operate with governments in strengthening national health programmes; and
- to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

The work of the WHO related to chemical safety is undertaken largely through the International Programme on Chemical Safety (see Entry No. 22 for IPCS).

In addition to its headquarters in Geneva, WHO has six regional offices each with its own programme geared to the particular health problems of the countries it serves. The regional offices are:

- Regional Office for Africa (AFRO);
- Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Organization (AMRO/PAHO);
- Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO);
- Regional Office for Europe (EURO);
- Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO); and
- Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO).

¹⁶ The Secretariat to this Convention did not provide comments/updates to subsections (a) of this text.

Of particular interest to this report are some of the activities of WHO-EURO and PAHO.

WHO is a Participating Organization of the IOMC. (see Entry No. 41)

ACTIVITIES:

The work of WHO related to chemicals is primarily carried out in the context of the IPCS (see Entry No. 22). At WHO headquarters, the Programme for the Promotion of Chemical Safety is the Central Unit for IPCS, with dual responsibilities for technical work and co-ordination functions. These activities, undertaken within WHO headquarters, Regional Offices and country offices, are co-ordinated with other WHO programmes having chemical safety components.

Of additional interest to this report is the WHO programme on the Protection of the Human Environment (PHE), which includes activities related to, *inter alia*, chemicals, climate, water, solid wastes, food safety, etc. Projects address:

- improved access to information;
- waste management;
- methodologies for risk assessment;
- emergency and humanitarian action; and
- pesticide evaluations.

Access to Information

WHO undertakes a number of different projects to improve access to information. These include the Global Environmental Epidemiology Network (GEENET), the Global Health and Environment Library Network (GELNET), the Health and Environment Analysis for Decision-Making Project (HEADLAMP), and the Documentation Centre of the Programme for the Promotion of Environmental Health.

GEENET was established in 1987 as part of a WHO initiative to create networks of professionals working on the health effects of environmental hazards and human exposure, pollution control technology, and environmental management and planning. Specifically, GEENET aims to increase the national capacity of developing countries to secure environmental health by strengthening education, training and applied research in environmental epidemiology. GEENET focuses on collaborative activities among members.

GELNET is a network of libraries and information centres throughout the world, providing a source for information on health and the environment. These libraries are being encouraged to establish Environmental Health Reference Centres containing "essential information" on environmental health hazards and their control. A Health and Environment Library Module (HELM) project is also being undertaken, in collaboration with the WHO Office of Library and Health Literature.

HEADLAMP aims to provide valid and useful information on the local and national health impacts of environmental hazards to decision-makers, environmental health professionals and the community. HEADLAMP combines methodologies in environmental epidemiology, human exposure assessment and other health and environment sciences to produce and analyse data and present the resulting information so that it can be understood, interpreted and acted upon by those responsible for environmental health protection.

The Documentation Centre of the Programme for the Promotion of Environmental Health collects and organises information on health and environment. Its activities include: production of an annual list of WHO publications and documents in health and environment; maintenance of collections of documents and publications; maintenance of a bibliographic database; and publication of the WHO Environmental Health Newsletter.

Waste Management

WHO provides technical and capacity building support for the management of hazardous wastes and information on related health hazards. Particular emphasis is placed on health-care wastes, pesticides and industrial waste. The activities include the provision of guidance on best available practices, pilot projects for testing and implementing low cost treatment technologies, organisation of regional training courses and provision of training material. Information on health impacts from chemical wastes is provided through poison centers.

Risk Assessment

WHO undertakes a number of activities related to health risk assessment methodologies. These focus on, for example: developing appropriate methodologies for the assessment of human exposures and health effects of environmental hazards based on epidemiological and social science principles; developing methodologies on specific preventive interventions and environmental management approaches; and encouraging the application of food science research to environmental health issues.

With respect to global hazards assessment, WHO is undertaking to prepare scientific assessments of the health impacts of climate change and ozone layer depletion and to promote utilisation of these assessments.

Emergencies

The objective of WHO's Department of Emergency and Humanitarian Action (EHA) is, through a concerted action across WHO, to increase the capacity and self-reliance of countries in the prevention of disasters, preparation for emergencies, mitigation of their health consequences and the creation of a synergy between emergency action and sustainable development. The EHA provides technical guidance and timely and relevant health information for emergency programme. It also facilitates co-ordination with partner agencies and within WHO.

Pesticides

The WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES), set up in 1960, promotes and co-ordinates the testing and evaluation of new pesticides proposed for public health use. It functions through the participation of representatives of governments, the pesticide industry, WHO Collaborating Centres and university associations, associate laboratories, as well as other WHO Programmes.

WHOPES has two main components:

- Evaluation and assessment of alternative and existing pesticides for their safety, efficacy, acceptability and cost-effectiveness; and
- Standardisation, development of specifications and analytical methods for assuring product quality.

In addition, WHO, with FAO established the Codex Alimentarius Commission to implement the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe, headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark (<http://www.who.dk>) has technical programmes addressing issues of interest including a programme related to chemical safety.¹⁷

As a direct outcome of the European Charter on Environment and Health, WHO/Europe established the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO-ECEH), with locations in Rome, Italy and Bonn, Germany. The ECEH undertakes several relevant activities, including work on waste management.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) serves as the specialised organisation for health of the Inter-American system, as well as serving as the Regional Office for the Americas for WHO (www.PAHO.org). PAHO has several relevant activities including, for example, a programme on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief. In addition, in October 2001 PAHO held a special consultation on bioterrorism.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The World Health Assembly, the supreme decision-making body of the WHO, meets once a year in May. It consists of delegations of the 191 WHO Member States. Its main tasks are to approve the programme and budget and to decide on major policy matters.

There is an Executive Board whose functions are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, to advise it and to facilitate its work. The Executive Board is composed of 32 individuals qualified in the field of health, each one designated by a member State elected to do so by the Health Assembly. The Board meets twice a year, normally in January and May.

Regional offices are governed by Regional Committees, with representatives of the countries in the region. Through Regional Committees, Member States collectively formulate regional policies, supervise and recommend activities and approve the budget.

The Secretariat is headed by the Director-General, appointed by the World Health Assembly.

¹⁷ The ECEH office in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, which had responsibility for the chemical safety programme, was closed in December 2000. This programme was then transferred to the regional office in Copenhagen.

b) INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER (IARC)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. P. Kleihues	Tel: (33 4) 72 73 84 85
Director	Fax: (33 4) 72 73 85 75
International Agency for Research on Cancer	E-mail: com@iarc.fr (communication) dir@iarc.fr (director)
Centre international de Recherche sur le Cancer (CIRC)	Website : http://www.iarc.fr
150 cours Albert Thomas	
F-69372 Lyon Cedex 08	
FRANCE	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was established in 1965 by the World Health Organization. IARC's mission is to co-ordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. The Agency is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research. It disseminates scientific information on a wide variety of matters related to cancer research through meetings, publications, courses, and fellowships.

IARC has 13 research units: (i)Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation (Unit Chief, Dr J. Rice); (ii)Chemoprevention (Dr H. Vainio); (iii)Descriptive Epidemiology (Dr M. Parkin); (iv)Endogenous Cancer Risk Factors (Dr H. Ohshima); (v)Environmental Cancer Epidemiology (Dr P. Boffetta); (vi)Epidemiology for Cancer Prevention (Dr A. Sasco); (vii)Field and Intervention Studies (Dr S. Franceschi); (viii)Gene-Environment Interactions (Dr Z.-Q. Wang); (ix)Genetic Cancer Epidemiology (Dr D. Goldgar); (x)Genetic Cancer Susceptibility (Dr G. Romeo); (xi)Molecular Pathology (Dr H. Ohgaki); (xii)Nutrition and Cancer (Dr E. Riboli); and (xiii)Radiation and Cancer (Dr E. Cardis). Three Research Groups focus on Genome Analysis (Dr F. Canzian), DNA Repair (Dr. J. Hall) and Molecular Carcinogenesis (Dr P. Hainaut).

ACTIVITIES:

Of particular interest to this document is the work of the Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation Unit. Other activities are also relevant including, for example, the activities of the Chemoprevention and Environmental Cancer Epidemiology units.

Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation Unit The work of this unit is based on the recognised need for authoritative information about proven and possible human carcinogens in order to assess the hazards posed by exposures to chemical, physical, and biological factors. The sources of such exposures are varied and include, for example, the workplace (asbestos, solvents, reactive chemicals), medicinal drugs, the environment (ultraviolet and ionizing radiation, mycotoxins), chronic viral, bacterial and parasitic infections, and lifestyle factors (tobacco and alcohol consumption).

The main work of the Unit is production of the IARC Monographs series on the "Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans," which includes authoritative reports on the hazards posed by more than 870 agents. To prepare the Monographs, the Unit collates the relevant data, co-

ordinates and collaborates in their review by groups of independent external experts, and hosts meetings to agree to final conclusions. The Monographs are critical, independent qualitative evaluations of carcinogenicity to humans based on published data. The Monographs are a reliable source of information for the research and public health communities, and can be used as a basis for regulation by national authorities and international organisations. However, no recommendation is given with regard to regulation or legislation, which are the responsibility of individual governments and/or other international organisations. Monograph summaries and evaluations are available by Internet at <http://monographs/iarc.fr>.

The Unit also prepares a directory of agents being tested for carcinogenicity and edits a series of IARC Scientific Publications related to the mechanisms of carcinogenicity.

The Chemoprevention Unit was established in 1996 to deal with the relatively new field, which refers to interventions with pharmaceuticals, vitamins, minerals, or other chemicals (natural and synthetic) to reduce cancer incidence. A new publication series, the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention, evaluates scientific information on agents and interventions aimed at reducing cancer incidence or mortality. As part of the work of this Unit, IARC convenes working groups of international experts to prepare critical reviews and evaluations of cancer-preventive activities and other relevant properties of a wide range of agents. It publishes and disseminates these evaluations widely to national and international authorities, public health specialists and cancer researchers. It also monitors the scientific developments in the field of cancer prevention, to survey mechanistic advances and the availability of scientific tools for preventive purposes.

The Environmental Cancer Epidemiology Unit investigates environmental factors involved in cancer in human populations and their interaction with genetic factors, with the aim of contributing to primary prevention of cancer. These objectives are achieved through collaborative international epidemiological studies, which integrate molecular biology and genetic methods in a multidisciplinary approach. The work of the Unit also contributes to the IARC Monographs series on identification and evaluation of carcinogenic hazards in humans.

Training IARC's training programme aims to improve knowledge among cancer researchers worldwide, particularly in areas where local opportunities for instruction are limited. The courses also help to identify and prepare collaborators in the Agency's field programmes.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The Governing Council oversees the scientific programme, determines the budget, and elects the Director of the Agency. Each of IARC's 16 Participating States has a representative on the Governing Council, and the Director General of the WHO is an *ex officio* member.

The Director of IARC is elected by, and reports to, the Governing Council. The Director is responsible for the development and implementation of the scientific programme and oversees the day-to-day operation of the Agency. IARC staff totals 270, including visiting scientists, from over 35 different countries. IARC's overall regular budget is approximately US\$18 p.a.

The Scientific Council, a panel of external scientists appointed by the Governing Council, reviews the Agency's scientific work.

PARTII(B):

OTHER RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS/PROGRAMMES

The following eleven organisations/programmes, that are not members of the IOMC, are presented in alphabetical order

(28) GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. H. Archer	Tel:	(1-202) 473 0508
Team Leader, External Relations	Fax:	(1- 202) 522 3240 or 522 3245
The Global Environment Facility (GEF)	E-mail:	harcher@worldbank.org
1818 H Street, NW	Website:	http://www.gefweb.org
Washington, D.C. 20433		
USA		

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The GEF is a financial mechanism that promotes international co-operation and fosters actions to protect the global environment. It provides grants and concessional funds, disbursed to complement traditional development assistance by covering the additional costs (also known as “agreed incremental costs”) incurred when a national, regional, or global development project also targets global environmental objectives.

The GEF was launched in 1991 as a pilot project. In March 1994, participating governments successfully concluded negotiations to restructure the GEF and replenish its core fund. The restructuring was undertaken to provide for universal membership and improve transparency and democracy in the conduct of its affairs. In March 1998, 36 nations agreed to a new replenishment of the GEF for another four-year period.

The GEF has defined four focal areas for its programmes: biological diversity; climate change; international waters; and ozone layer depletion. Land degradation issues, primarily desertification and deforestation as they relate to the four primary areas, are also being addressed.

The GEF operates the financial mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (see Entry Nos. 13 and 12, respectively). In December 2000, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) designated the GEF as the Convention’s financial mechanism on an interim basis. (See Entry No. 19)

As of March 2001, there are 167 member states in the GEF. Any member state of the UN or one of its specialised agencies may become a GEF Participant by depositing with the GEF Secretariat a Notification of Participation.

ACTIVITIES:

Countries may be eligible for GEF funds in one of two ways: (1) if they are eligible for financial assistance through the financial mechanism of either the Climate Change Convention or the Convention on Biological Diversity; or (2) if they are eligible to borrow from the World Bank or receive technical assistance grants from UNDP through a Country Programme.

The GEF also has a complementary relationship with the Montreal Protocol (see Entry No. 5). The Protocol has its own Multilateral Fund to cover developing country costs in phasing out production or consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS). However, there are a

number of GEF-eligible countries that are Parties to the Protocol where the production or consumption of ODS is too high to qualify for support under the Multilateral Fund, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. These countries may receive funding for ozone-related projects from the GEF.

The GEF is implemented jointly by UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank. Specifically, UNDP is responsible for technical assistance activities and capacity building, and helps to identify projects and activities consistent with the purpose of the GEF and national sustainable development strategies. It is also charged with running the Small Grants Programme for non-governmental organisations and community groups around the world. UNEP is responsible for catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. It also manages the GEF's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), an independent advisory body that provides scientific and technical guidance. The World Bank is the repository of the Trust Fund, and is responsible for investment projects. It also seeks to mobilise resources from the private sector in a manner consistent with GEF objectives and national sustainable development strategies.

GEF projects are executed by a wide range of public and private partners. Besides the three Implementing Agencies mentioned above, projects are managed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Industrial Development Organization, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The STAP is composed of 12 members appointed by the Executive Director of UNEP and acts as an independent, advisory body to GEF. It provides objective, strategic, scientific, and technical advice on GEF policies, operational strategies, and programmes, and conducts selective reviews of projects in certain circumstances and at specific points in the project cycle as an integral part of ongoing processes. To assist in this task, STAP has established 5 working groups: international waters; energy mitigation strategies/climate change; adaptation/climate change; biodiversity; and land degradation.

GEF projects must be country-driven, incorporate consultation with local communities and, where appropriate, involve non-governmental organisations in project implementation.

The Work Programme approved by the Council in May 2001 comprised: biodiversity (3 projects; \$18.74 million); climate change (8 projects; \$85.53 million); international waters (2 projects; \$35.89 million); and multiple focal areas (3 projects; \$10.4 million).

GEF is designated as the interim financial mechanism of the new Stockholm Convention, but GEF's experience in dealing with the threats of toxic chemicals extends back to 1996. During the past five years, the strategic focus of GEF's assistance to countries has been supporting activities that help limit contamination of international waters by persistent toxic substances (PTS) including POPs, heavy metals, and organo-metallic compounds.

Since 1996, GEF has supported dozens of developing countries around the world in assessing the threat posed by POPs, investing in alternatives to DDT, promoting safer methods for destroying stockpiles of POPs, and rehabilitating damaged ecosystems. The experience gained in these projects will help GEF work co-operatively with developing countries to implement the new Convention.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The GEF has an Assembly, a Council, and a Secretariat. The Assembly consists of representatives of all participating countries and is responsible for reviewing the general

policies of the Facility. Its chair is elected from among the representatives, and all decisions are reached by consensus. It meets every three years.

The Council is the main governing body of the GEF for all issues related to operations. It is responsible for developing, adopting, and evaluating the operational policies and programmes for GEF activities. The Council meets every six months, with additional meetings if necessary. Decisions are reached on the basis of consensus. If this is not possible, the Council can use a voting system that safeguards the interests of both recipients and donors. The “double-majority” voting system requires a 60 percent majority of countries, as well as approval by donor countries representing at least 60 percent of contributions

The Council comprises representatives of 32 constituencies: 18 members from recipient countries and 14 from non-recipient countries. The recipient country constituencies are geographically distributed. The non-recipient constituencies are formed through a process of consultation on the basis of contributions to the GEF.

The GEF Secretariat, which is functionally independent from the three implementing agencies, reports to and services the Council and Assembly of the GEF.

(29) INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. A. Ambrus
FAO/IAEA Agriculture and
Biotechnology Laboratory
Agrochemicals Unit
IAEA Laboratories
A-1400 POB 100, Vienna
AUSTRIA

Tel: (43-1) 2600 28 655
Fax: (43-1) 2600 7
E-mail: a.ambrus@iaea.org
Website: <http://www.iaea.or.at>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The IAEA serves as the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field and as the international inspectorate for the application of nuclear safeguards and verification measures covering civilian nuclear programmes. A specialised agency within the UN system, the IAEA came into being in 1957.

In October 1964, the FAO and IAEA joined forces to form the Joint Division for Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, which unified FAO's atomic energy branch and IAEA's Agricultural Unit and, in the process, created a common programme that avoided overlap and duplication of efforts. The Joint FAO/IAEA Division is part of both FAO's Agriculture Department and the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Applications (see Entry No. 20 on the FAO).¹⁸

As part of this Division, the FAO and the IAEA established in 1998 the FAO/IAEA Training and Reference Centre for Food and Pesticide Control. The Centre assists Member States to fulfill requirements related to the implementation of international standards/agreements relevant to food safety and control, the safe use of pesticide and sanitary and phytosanitary measures by providing training, quality assurance services, and technology transfer.

It was recognised that the implementation of international standards/guidelines and recommendations to ensure the quality and safety of food, particularly under the provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - being enforced by the WTO - requires suitable laboratory facilities and adequately trained personnel to monitor the wide range of potential microbiological and chemical food contaminants. Similarly, the enforcement of pesticide control legislation and international agreements, in particular the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, requires

¹⁸ In another activity of interest, the IAEA, along with UNEP, UNIDO and WHO, established an Inter-Agency Programme on the Assessment and Management of Health and Environmental Risks for Energy and Other Complex Industrial Systems. This initiative, to promote and facilitate the implementation of integrated risk assessment and management for large industrial areas, includes the compilation of procedures and methods for public health and environmental risk assessment and the transfer of knowledge and experience. As part of this work, the IAEA published in 1998 "Guidelines for integrated risk assessment and management in large industrial areas."

analytical facilities to monitor the quality of pesticide products in trade and the level of pesticide residues in food and in the environment.

The following programmes and agreements may be supported by the Centre:

- the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies;
- the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements of the World Trade Organization;
- programmes of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) related to plant and animal health measures in trade;
- the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and the Joint FAO/UNEP Prior Informed Consent Programme;
- FAO's programme on the development of Specifications for Plant Protection Products;
- UNCED-related programmes on the management of toxic chemicals, including pesticides, especially in regard to contamination of the food supply;
- the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) Plan of Action related to protecting consumers through improved food quality and safety;
- the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Council and Conference, which have repeatedly called for increased efforts to strengthen national capabilities in food control, including establishment of an international training centre;
- IAEA services providing reference test materials to laboratories as part of analytical quality assurance programmes;
- the food and environmental contamination monitoring programmes of the FAO and the IAEA;
- the on-going and future programmes of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture.

ACTIVITIES:

The Joint FAO/IAEA Division is involved in three projects of interest:

- (i) The Training and Reference Centre for Food and Pesticides Control: The objective of this work is to strengthen national capabilities for analysing food contaminants, pesticides formulations and residues, and to introduce and implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control systems in their testing laboratories. It involves:
 - organising training workshops for bench analysts, quality assurance officers, and decision-maker managers;
 - supporting inter-laboratory comparisons and proficiency testing studies;
 - advising on methods and instruments;
 - arranging fellowships; and
 - assisting the introduction of quality assurance/quality control systems according to ISO Guide 25 or Good Laboratory Practice.

Activities have included: provision of reference standards and interlaboratory comparisons for residue analysis among participants of co-ordinated research programmes and technical co-operation projects; organisation of regional and interregional training courses

and fellowship training programmes on pesticide residue and mycotoxin analysis and methods for controlling the quality of pesticide products; arranging expert visits to laboratories in Member States; and adaptation and validation of multi-residue procedures. Plans have been prepared to extend the programme to include microbiological contaminants.

- (ii) Development and Application of Methods for Monitoring Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment: The objective of this work is to develop and apply alternative methods for monitoring pesticides in food and the environment for Member states, to control compliance with national and Codex MRLs, and to generate data with which to evaluate the risks to human and environmental health resulting from pesticide use.

Activities that have been undertaken involve development and application of nuclear and related methods for monitoring pesticides in food and the environment in member States. Five co-ordinated research programmes involving participants from 40 countries and technical co-operation projects in 16 countries have been undertaken. There are three co-ordinated research programmes ongoing and technical co-operation projects in 16 countries. It is expected that these programmes will be extended to include additional countries. Several reports and publications were issued concerning monitoring pesticides in food and the environment.

- (iii) Development and Application of Methods for the Monitoring of Veterinary Drug Residues in Livestock and Livestock Products: The objective of this work is to provide support for the development and use of nuclear and related techniques for the monitoring of veterinary drug residues in livestock and livestock products to meet international requirements as set by Codex Alimentarius and related bodies. Technical co-operation projects are undertaken to assist member States to establish a testing and monitoring system for veterinary drug residues. A co-ordinated Research Programme has been initiated on veterinary drug residue monitoring in developing countries.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The Programme of Work and Budget of the Joint Division is approved by policy bodies of both FAO and IAEA and its planning is carried out in close consultation and co-operation with other branches of both organisations.

The Joint Division has responsibility for the technical and scientific direction of the Programme and for its co-ordination, to ensure that the technical services of both organisations participate fully in the joint operations.

(30) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)¹⁹

(see also Entry No. 31 for the Regional Marine Centres & Entries Nos. 3 and 8 for related conventions)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Director	Tel: (44 171) 735 7611
Marine Environment Division	Fax: (44 171) 587 3210
IMO	E-mail:
4 Albert Embankment	Website: http://www.imo.org
London SE1 7SR	
U.K.	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The International Maritime Organization is the United Nations' specialised agency responsible for improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from ships.

The purposes of the Organization are:

- to provide machinery for co-operation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters affecting shipping engaged in international trade;
- to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety and efficiency of navigation;
- to encourage prevention and control of marine pollution from ships, other craft, ports and terminals;
- to encourage removal of hindrances to international shipping services; and
- to be responsible for convening international maritime conferences and drafting international maritime conventions.

In order to achieve its objectives, IMO has prepared some 40 conventions and protocols, and well over 700 codes and recommendations concerning maritime safety, the prevention of pollution, and related matters.

The prevention and mitigation of damage to human health and the marine environment from hazardous substances forms a significant element of IMO's mandate and is the subject of comprehensive and effective international rules and regulations. Such international instruments aim to ensure that ships are built, equipped, and operated in a safe and environmentally friendly manner and to limit the damage to the marine environment in the event of ships getting involved in collisions, stranding, or other incidents involving structural damage.

¹⁹The IMO Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to this text.

IMO is one of the administering organisations, with UNEP, of the two Regional Marine Centres (REMPEC and REMPEITC- Carib) described in Entry No. 31 below.

ACTIVITIES:

Conventions

A major focus of the work of the IMO is the adoption of Conventions and other instruments. There are a number of IMO conventions relevant to chemical safety, including:

- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78) as amended. MARPOL aims to, *inter alia*, eliminate pollution of the sea by oil, chemicals, and other harmful substances, to minimise the amount of oil that could be released accidentally, and to improve prevention and the control of marine pollution from ships. It also contains special provisions for the control of pollution from more than 400 liquid noxious substances as well as for sewage and garbage disposal. (See Entry No. 3).
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation (OPRC), 1990. The goals of the OPRC are to prevent marine pollution incidents by oil in accordance with the precautionary principle, to advance the adoption of adequate response measures in the event that an oil pollution incident does occur, and to provide for mutual assistance and co-operation between States. (See Entry No. 8).

Other conventions of interest include the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended; and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (LC) 1972, as amended.

Guidance materials

IMO has promulgated international guidelines, codes, standards and recommendations dealing with the prevention of marine pollution and with emergency preparedness and response to maritime accidents involving hazardous substances. Further activities are underway to develop additional guidance materials and technical documentation.

Examples of the guidance materials in the field of marine pollution prevention and safety include:

- The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG) This Code, originally adopted in 1965, was developed in close co-operation with the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. It contains provisions on classification, terminology, identification, packing and packaging, marking, labelling and placarding, documentation, and marine pollution. It applies to the range of parties responsible for aspects of storage, handling, and transport of dangerous goods. The IMDG is updated regularly in response to changes to the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, as well as proposals from member governments. (See Entry No. 34)

The IMDG contains supplements that address:

- ❖ Emergency Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods;
- ❖ IMO/WHO/ILO Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods;
- ❖ Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships;

- ❖ IMO/ILO Guidelines for the Packing of Cargo in Freight Containers or Vehicles; and
 - ❖ Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas.
- Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code). The primary goals of this code is to promote safe stowage and equipment by highlighting the dangers associated with the shipment of certain types of cargo and giving guidance on procedures for, and handling of, such shipments. The Code deals with three basic types of cargoes: those that may liquefy, materials possessing chemical hazards, and others (including solid wastes).
 - International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) and International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk. The purpose of these Codes is to provide an international standard for the safe transport by sea in bulk of liquid dangerous chemicals or liquefied gases and other substances, respectively, by prescribing the design and construction of ships and the equipment they should carry to minimise the risks to ships, their crews and the environment.

In the field of preparedness and response, IMO publications include:

- “Emergency Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods”;
- “Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas”;
- “Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents involving Dangerous Goods” (chemicals supplement to International Medical Guide for Ships);
- “Manual on Chemical Pollution”;
- “OPRC Guide to International Assistance”;
- “Contingency Planning” (section II);
- “Guidelines for Facilitation of Response to an Oil Pollution Incident”;
- “Guidelines on Oil Spill Dispersant Application and Environmental Considerations” (in conjunction with UNEP);
- “Guiding Principles on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response in Port Areas” (in conjunction with OECD); and
- “APELL for Port Areas” (in conjunction with UNEP).

The OPRC Working Group is undertaking further activities to facilitate the implementation of the OPRC Convention. A draft Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances has been developed to expand the scope of the OPRC Convention. In addition, it is developing an oil pollution response model training programme, developing or revising manuals and guidelines for oil and chemical pollution, and promoting national training and contingency planning activities.

Training and Technical Assistance

The improvement of maritime training has been one of IMO's priorities. It is addressed in two ways: adopting standards and regulations to be adopted at national, regional or international level; and by providing practical assistance and advice to countries, particularly developing countries, for the improvement of training programmes.

IMO has therefore developed a technical co-operation programme designed to assist Governments lacking the technical knowledge and resources that are needed to operate a shipping industry successfully. In 1977, the Organization's technical assistance activities were institutionalised through its Technical Cooperation Committee. The purpose of the technical assistance programme is to help States to ratify IMO conventions and to reach the standards contained in the Convention. As part of this programme, advice is given to Governments, and each year the IMO arranges numerous seminars, workshops, and other events.

The World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden, established in 1983, provides advanced training for the men and women involved in maritime administration, education and management, including the safe transport of hazardous cargoes by sea.

IMO has co-operated in the production of a series of films/videos with supporting documentation on "Planning and Response to Chemical Spills at Sea," as well as videos on handling and storage of packaged dangerous goods in port areas.

While the IMO supplies the expertise for training and assistance projects, the finance comes from various sources. UNDP has traditionally been the most important of these, with other international organisations such as UNEP, GEF and the EU, as well as individual countries also contributing.

Response Activities

The IMO undertakes to provide information services, education and training, technical services and assistance.

Other Co-operative Activities

IMO is also involved in a number of co-operative activities with other international organisations in the field of environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. This includes work on the harmonisation of classification and labelling of chemicals being undertaken in close co-operation with the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and with the Co-ordinating Group for the Harmonisation of Chemical Classification Systems.

IMO has actively co-operated with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme of UNEP in the development of regional anti-pollution arrangements (See Entry No. 24(c)). The Regional Agreements provide for the timely notification of marine pollution emergencies likely to affect neighbouring states and provide the framework for mutual assistance in the event of accidents. One outcome of this co-operation was the establishment of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), established by IMO in conjunction with UNEP in 1976. (see Entry No. 31).

In addition, in October 1993, IMO co-sponsored with OECD and UNEP a workshop on Chemical Safety in Port Areas. As a follow-up, guidance has been prepared published in 1996 as a joint OECD/IMO publication. (see Entry No. 23 for OECD).

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The IMO Assembly is the supreme governing body. It meets biennially and is open to all member States as well as representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The Assembly adopts resolutions and recommendations that have been prepared by subsidiary bodies.

The Council, which acts as governing body between Assembly meetings, prepares the budget and work programme for the Assembly and co-ordinates the activities of the IMO organs. The Council, composed of 32 (to be increased to 40 effective 2002) Member States, is elected by the Assembly based on a system designed to give appropriate representation to large ship owning and trading nations. The Council meets twice a year.

The main technical work is carried out by the five main Committees: the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC); Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC); Legal Committee, Technical Co-operation Committee; and a Facilitation Committee and a number of subcommittees. The MSC is the highest technical body of the IMO. It has nine subcommittees dealing with different aspects of safety such as the carriage of dangerous goods, bulk liquids and gases, fire protection, and training.

The MEPC is responsible for co-ordinating and administering the activities concerning the prevention and control of pollution. The MEPC has established the OPRC Working Group to deal with matters concerning the implementation of the OPRC Convention and its related resolutions.

**(31) REGIONAL MARINE CENTRES
(JOINT ACTIVITY OF IMO AND UNEP)**

- a) **Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean (REMPEC)**
- b) **Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre Wider Caribbean (REMPEITC-Carib)**

(See Entries No. 24 on UNEP and No. 30 on IMO)

a) REMPEC

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Admiral R. Patrino
Director
REMPEC
Manoel island
MALTA
,

Tel: (356) 33 72 96/97/98
Fax: (356) 33 99 51
E-mail: rempec@waldonet.net.mt
Website: www.rempec.org

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

In 1975, highly concerned with the protection of the marine environment and the coastal areas of the Mediterranean, sixteen coastal States met in Barcelona, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

These adopted the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and a programme of research and pollution monitoring in the Mediterranean (MEDPOL).

In 1976, in Barcelona, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Mediterranean States and the European Commission (EC) adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution –the Barcelona Convention, a MAP legal instrument that entered into force in 1978. At the same time, two Protocols were adopted:

- one on dumping of pollutants from ships and aircraft (Dumping Protocol);
- the other on co-operation in combating marine pollution in case of emergency (Emergency Protocol).

The same Conference of 1976 decided to create a regional centre to help the coastal States with their commitments under the Emergency Protocol, which would assist the coastal States strengthen their response capabilities and facilitate international co-operation in the field of combating accidental pollution.

When setting up the Centre, it seemed unrealistic and an expensive option to have an operational entity at the regional level. Furthermore, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries took

the approach that in case of a massive spill, the coastal States would pool their resources with the Centre playing a co-ordinative role.

With the status of a U.N. body, it is administered and technically supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and is hosted by the Government of Malta.

In 1987, the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided to extend the mandate of the Centre to “other hazardous substances”. The Sixth Ordinary Meeting in 1989 approved the new objectives and functions of the Centre and the change of name from the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

In 1993, the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties decided to extend the mandate and functions of REMPEC to promote regional co-operation for the implementation and enforcement of the IMO Conventions for the prevention of marine environmental pollution by ships.

In 1995, the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols adopted amendments to the Barcelona Convention and an Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II).

The main objectives of the MAP Phase II are:

- to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and land resources and to integrate the environment in social and economic development, and land-use policies;
- to protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention of pollution, and by reduction and, as far as possible, elimination of pollutant inputs, whether chronic or accidental;
- to protect nature, and protect and enhance sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural value;
- to strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal States in managing their common heritage and resources for the benefit of present and future generations; and
- to contribute to improvement of the quality of life.

In 1997, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention endorsed the need to revise the Emergency Protocol within the context of MAP Phase II in order to have a sound legal basis for a regional strategy for the prevention of pollution from ships.

Initiatives to revise the Emergency Protocol commenced in 1998 when the First Meeting of National Legal and Technical Experts on the Amendment to the Emergency Protocol was held in Malta between 23 and 24 November 1998. The principal objective of the Meeting was to prepare draft amendments both to the Emergency Protocol and to the Annex of Resolution 7 which were submitted to the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, Malta, 25 –28 November 1998.

Further to the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was convened in Malta between 27 and 30 October 2000, additional preparatory work was carried out in close co-operation between UNEP’s Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, the International Maritime Organization

(IMO) and REMPEC. Consequently, a Second Meeting of National Legal and Technical Experts was held in Monaco, 2 – 6 April 2001 to discuss and agree on the draft proposed amendments, which will be submitted for adoption to the next Meeting of Plenipotentiaries towards the beginning of the year 2002.

ACTIVITIES:

One of the components of MAP Phase II is the prevention of and response to pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities. This component aims at proposing strategies and activities that will support and supplement national efforts to promote the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities.

With respect to prevention, the objectives are to prevent pollution from ships by providing incentives and encouragement for full implementation and enforcement of: MARPOL 73/78 Convention which, among other obligations, requires the realisation, where necessary, of port reception facilities for the collection of liquid and solid wastes generated by ships; as well as other provisions related to Port State Control, Vessel Traffic Services and emergency towage.

With respect to preparedness for, response to, and co-operation in cases of accidental marine pollution, the objectives are: the development of port, national, bilateral and/or subregional systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other hazardous substances including organisational structure, contingency plans, trained personnel and appropriate pollution response means; and the organisation of co-operation among Contracting Parties in preparing for and in responding to accidental marine pollution in cases of emergency.

The objectives of REMPEC in this area are to:

- strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in case of a major marine pollution accident;
- assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the development of their own capabilities for response to accidents; and
- provide a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters.

To meet these objectives, the Centre develops activities in the following areas:

Informing the Coastal States- Regional Information System (Oil and Hazardous Substances):

In order to provide the countries with timely information required to prepare and initiate response operations, the Centre has developed and keeps up to date a regional information system made up of four parts: basic documents; lists and inventories; databanks, simulation models, and decision support systems; and operational guides and technical documents.

Assistance in the Preparation of Contingency Plans: The Centre provides assistance to those countries which so request for the preparation or adaptation of port, national contingency plans, and the preparation and development of operational bilateral or multilateral agreements between neighbouring coastal states.

Training: Since its establishment, REMPEC has implemented comprehensive training for oil and, since the extension of its mandate, has included harmful substances in its training programme. The Centre annually organises regional training courses, of both a general and

specialised/practical nature and also provides, upon request, assistance to countries in organising national training courses. Based on IMO's OPRC model training, the courses are directed at:

- government administrators and senior managers;
- on-scene commanders/co-ordinators (OSC) and supervisors;
- clean-up personnel and operators of pollution response equipment.

Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Cases of Emergency: The Centre undertakes several activities in this area including: developing and keeping up-to-date a regional communications network; organising periodically communication exercises; providing a 24-hour/day duty officer service; providing, at the request of Mediterranean Coastal States in case of an accident, technical advice and facilitating and co-ordinating mutual assistance between them; and activating, at the request of the Contracting Parties in case of emergency, the Mediterranean Assistance Unit which shall provide on the spot advice and technical expertise to the national authorities.

REMPEC co-operates and maintains close links with other international agencies which carry out activities in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to chemical emergencies including UNEP, WHO, IPCS, OECD, and the European Union, as well as industry and the secretariats of relevant regional agreements for combating accidental marine pollution.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

Decisions are taken by the Focal Points of REMPEC, which report to the Contracting Parties for approval.

The financial resources for REMPEC are provided for by the Mediterranean Trust Fund within the framework of MAP, and occasionally by the Technical Co-operation Division of IMO for some training courses to be organised either at national or subregional level in the Arabic-speaking countries of the Mediterranean region.

This budget only gives the Centre the possibility to carry out its core activities; however, the needs of some of the coastal States surpass the available funds. To satisfy these needs, REMPEC complements its core activities with specific projects financed by external funding mechanisms (LIFE, MEDA, GEF).

b) REMPEITC-Carib²⁰

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

IMO REMPEITC-Carib
Scheepvaart Inspectie
Pletterijweg z/n. Willemstad
Caracao
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Tel: (599-9) 461-4012, 461-4409
Fax: (599-9) 461-1996
E-mail: imoctr@attbusiness.net
Website: <http://www.rempeitc.org>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

Under the Cartagena Convention (1983) for the protection and development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the Protocol concerning co-operation in combating oil spills in the wider Caribbean Region, the Caribbean countries drafted a Sub-Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the island States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region (St. Lucia, May 1984) (the "Caribbean Plan").

IMO, in co-operation with UNEP, has over the years played a lead role in helping countries in the Wider Caribbean develop national and regional plans for marine pollution preparedness and response and measures related to prevention and control of marine pollution. The Caribbean Islands OPRC Contingency Plan, as an up-date of the "Caribbean Plan", was adopted at a meeting convened by IMO (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles -November 1992) which contributes to the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region as well as the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC Convention) (see Entry No. 8).

Taking into account the expressed need of the Island States and Territories of the region for a regional centre to carry out functions regarding oil pollution preparedness, response, assistance / information, training and exercise, IMO proposed, - on request of Island Governments - in consultation with interested parties and donors, to establish a Regional Centre.

The Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan and the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention and Protocols took the decision, December 1994, to accept on a provisional basis the establishment of a Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC-Carib) in Curaçao and requested IMO and UNEP to consider means to sustain the operation of the Centre, and to develop the necessary institutional arrangements. The Centre started operations on the 15th of June 1995.

ACTIVITIES:

In general, the responsibilities of REMPEITC-Carib are:

- To offer response-consulting-services, at no charge, during marine pollution incidents, upon request by Governments;
- To develop and publicise training courses and programmes for combating marine pollution;

²⁰ The REMPEITC Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to this text.

- To develop partnerships with existing Caribbean pollution prevention, training and response centers; and
- To develop, collect and disseminate information on plans, methods and techniques used for combating pollution; sensitive areas in the Wider Caribbean region vulnerable to pollution; and inventories of national focal points, expertise, materials and emergency response equipment available in the region for combating oil and hazardous spills.

The 1999 – 2001 Work Programme includes the following:

Strengthening national capabilities

- Assist Governments in establishing national response systems (organisation/policy) within a national and legal setting;
- Deliver IMO Model Courses in co-operation with industry and assist country representatives to attend Industry training courses;
- Conduct national exercises for testing national contingency plans;
- Provide follow-up assistance to national, regional/sub-regional training institutions;
- Assist Governments to produce ESI maps.

Facilitate co-operation and mutual assistance

- Promote bi/multilateral agreements on oil pollution preparedness, response, and co-operation, and port safety and security;
- Update and implement the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan, draft/introduce and implement the Caribbean Mainland OPRC Plan;
- Promote direct support and involvement of States and Territories to REMPEITC-Carib.

Exchange information:

- Organise specialised meetings/seminars to promote the implementation of Conventions (e.g. the OPRC 90 Convention) and test national contingency plans on marine pollution preparedness and response;
- Expand communication in the region via News Letters and the increase use of Home page.

Co-ordinate response resources for emergencies

- Promote/conduct marine pollution education, training, and exercising;
- Conduct sub-regional/regional exercises for testing the Caribbean Island and Mainland OPRC Plan.

Assistance in establishing a legal response framework:

- Assist Caribbean states in formulating legislation to facilitate the implementation of International Conventions

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The Centre is operating under the management of IMO, in co-operation with the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) of UNEP, Kingston.

The REMPEITC-Carib is supported by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles in hosting the Centre on Curaçao and by making available facilities and support services.

(32) UNITED NATIONS ²¹
(CONSOLIDATED LIST OF PRODUCTS WHOSE CONSUMPTION AND/OR
SALE HAVE BEEN BANNED, WITHDRAWN, SEVERELY RESTRICTED OR
NOT APPROVED BY GOVERNMENTS)
(A CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE UN, WHO AND UNEP CHEMICALS)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Division for ECOSOC Support and
Coordination
Department of Economic and Social
Affairs
One United Nations Plaza
Room DC1-1428
New York, N.Y. 10017
USA

Tel: (1-212) 963-4628
Fax: (1-212) 963-1712
E-mail: esa@un.org
Website:

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The preparation of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments was initiated in response to General Assembly Resolution 37/137 of December 1982. The purpose of the list is to provide Governments and others with up-to-date information on regulatory decisions in other countries. It complements and consolidates information produced within the UN system, including the publications of WHO and UNEP.

The List is designed to be easy to read and it contains both generic and brand names, as well as the names of all manufacturers and references to the government decisions that led to the banning, withdrawal or severe restrictions. The List is maintained up to date and reissued regularly.

This effort is directly related to the implementation of Agenda 21, Chapter 19 and, in particular, the programme area entitled "information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks".

ACTIVITY:

By presenting information, in a unified manner, on restrictive regulatory decisions taken by governments on a range of pharmaceutical products and agricultural and industrial chemicals, the List serves as a source of information for Governments in their decisionmaking concerning these products. Others use the List for educational purposes and to promote actions to improve protection of health and the environment.

The scope of products included in the List has remained the basically the same since the first issue, including both monocomponent and combination pharmaceutical and chemical products. Psychotropic and narcotic substances are included only to the extent that they are controlled more rigorously than is provided for under international conventions. The List also contains,

²¹ The Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to this text.

in Part II, commercial information, such as product name and CAS number, trade and brand names, and manufacturers.

There has been an increase in the number of products listed and the number of Governments reporting with each new edition. The first issue covered less than 500 products regulated by 60 Governments; currently, the list contains information on more than 700 products covering actions by 94 countries.

It was recently decided that the List should be divided into two parts, to be published in alternative years, one focusing on pharmaceuticals and the other on chemicals. As a result, the sixth issue of the List published in 1997 contained information on pharmaceuticals only; the seventh issue scheduled for publication in 2001 will contain information on chemicals only.

WHO regularly provides explanatory comments on pharmaceutical products to provide a context for certain regulatory actions. It is not possible to provide similar comments on regulatory actions related to agricultural and industrial chemicals due to the large number of products in which these chemicals appear, the many applications of such products, and the large differences in the risk-benefit assessments among different countries. However, in the case of pesticides and chemicals covered by the Rotterdam Convention, Decision Guidance Documents, prepared by the Convention Secretariat, provide detailed information including summaries of risks and benefits and reasons for regulatory action.

The List is available as a sales publication from the UN. Consultations are underway with regard to making the List database available free of charge via the Internet.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs plans to undertake an in-depth analysis of the utilisation of the list immediately after the publication of the seventh issue.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The List is prepared as a co-operative effort of the United Nations, the WHO and UNEP Chemicals. WHO collects, screens and processed the information related to pharmaceuticals and on health-related and environmental reasons for measures and UNEP Chemicals performs similar functions for chemical products.

As a UN activity, the Consolidated List is subject to review by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly. The ECOSOC was established by the Charter as the principal organ, under the authority of the General Assembly to co-ordinate the economic, social and related work of the UN and its family of specialised and affiliated institutions. The 54 members of the ECOSOC are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.

**(33) UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION
OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
(JOINT UNEP/OCHA ENVIRONMENT UNIT)**

(see Also Entry No. 24 on UNEP)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. V. Sakharov
Chief
Environmental Emergencies Section
Emergency Services Branch
Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41 22) 917 1142
Fax: (41 22) 917 0257
E-mail: ochaunep@un.org
Website: [http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/
programs/response/unep/index.html](http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/programs/response/unep/index.html)

In case of Emergency Only: (41 22)
917 2010 (24 hours)

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The Environmental Emergencies Section is a joint venture between UNEP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that serves as the integrated United Nations emergency response mechanism to activate and provide international assistance to countries facing environmental emergencies. The Environmental Emergencies Section is available for urgent assistance on a 24-hour a day, 7 day-a-week basis through OCHA's established emergency hotline and duty system, to assist those in need. The Section is responsible for the provision of practical assistance to countries affected by environmental disasters (such as chemical and oil spills, industrial and technological accidents, forest fires and other sudden-onset emergencies) and natural disasters that cause or threaten environmental damage leading to potentially serious health and environmental implications.

ACTIVITIES:

The Environmental Emergencies Section aims at responding rapidly and effectively to environmental disasters and to provide assistance to countries unable to cope with such events on their own. Countries often turn to the Environmental Emergencies Section for assistance, particularly when there is a conflict of interest or when an independent and unbiased assessment of the situation is required. In practical terms, the Section may carry out any or all of the following activities to assist those facing an environmental emergency:

- *Notify* - Promptly alerts the international community and issues situation reports to a comprehensive list of worldwide contacts;
- *Broker* - Quickly establish direct contacts between the affected country and donor governments that are ready and willing to assist;
- *Inform* – Act as a clearinghouse to channel available information, data and advice from donor sources and institutions to relevant authorities in the affected country;

- Mobilise – Swiftly mobilises and co-ordinates multilateral assistance if needed;
- Assess - Arrange the urgent dispatch of international experts to assess the impacts of an emergency and make impartial and independent recommendations about immediate response and mitigation.

The Section serves as an excellent example of a practical approach that optimises the use of limited resources by pairing the expertise of two organisations into a single integrated structure. It provides a pragmatic, targeted and efficient structure filling identified gaps in the international coverage of environmental emergency response, without duplicating the efforts of other organisations. This integrated approach highlights the vital role and importance of inter-agency co-operation to achieve positive results in this complex and important area.

The Section has also developed a number of tools to assist developing nations build their own domestic capacity to better manage environmental emergencies when they occur. Most recently, the Section has developed the following to assist countries in this endeavour:

- Practical considerations for Developing Emergency Response Mechanisms;
- Guidelines for the Development of a National Environmental Contingency Plan;
- Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies following Chemical Emergencies; and
- Guidelines for Environmental Assessment following Natural Disasters.

The Section has provided assistance for a number of specific accidents and emergencies, including forest fires, which have become an increasing threat to the environment and to biodiversity. Some examples of emergencies that the Section has co-ordinated assistance for and, in certain cases, deployed expert assessment missions include:

- Venezuela (2000): Contamination of a port area in Venezuela from chemical containers that were damaged in the massive floods, consequently leaking their contents and causing significant environmental pollution;
- Romania, Hungary & Yugoslavia (2000): Two major tailings leaks into the river that resulted in significant contamination of the Danube and other tributaries ultimately affecting Hungary and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as Romania.
- Turkey (1999): A significant fire and oil leak from a petrochemical facility damaged by the earthquake.
- Yugoslavia & Kosovo (1998): Environmental consequences arising from the conflict.
- Indonesia (1997), Brazil & Russia (1996, 1998): Massive forest fires.

The Environment Section works closely with other organisations such as the European Commission (EC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN agencies with relevant specialised knowledge. It also co-operates closely with other UNEP bodies, including UNEP (in particular its APELL programme), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, UNEP Chemicals, the Global Resources Information Database (GRID), Earthwatch, and all UNEP Regional Offices.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

An international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) was established to review the activities and provide guidance to the Section, as well as to share experiences and discuss new approaches to environmental emergencies. The AGEE meets on a bi-annual basis, with its next (fifth) meeting scheduled to take place in November 2002.

The Geneva-based Environmental Emergencies Section operates through a global network of National Focal Points consisting of governmental organisations responsible for environmental emergencies at the national level. The Secretariat is located in the Emergency Services Branch of OCHA Geneva and is also part of UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) located at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

(34) UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

- a) Environment and Human Settlements**
- b) Transport of Dangerous Goods including work of the UN Committee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods**

OVERVIEW:

The UNECE is a forum for dialogue aimed at encouraging greater economic co-operation among member states. UNECE activities include policy analysis, development of Conventions, regulations and standards, and technical assistance. The UNECE holds annual sessions; the fifty-fifth session took place in May 2000.

The membership of the UNECE consists of 55 member states from countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as North America and Central Asia.

The work of UNECE focuses on economic analysis, environment and human settlements, statistics, sustainable energy, trade, industry and enterprise development, timber and transport.

a) UNECE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(See also Entries Nos. 4, 9 and 10 on related conventions)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. K. Bärlund	Tel: (41 22) 917-2370
Director	Fax: (41 22) 907-0107
Environment and Human Settlements	E-mail: Kaj. Bärlund@unece.org
Division	Website: http://www.unece.org
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	
Palais des Nations	
CH-1211 Geneva 10	
SWITZERLAND	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The Environment and Human Settlements Division serves two Committees (the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Human Settlements), as well as the Governing Bodies of the environmental conventions adopted by the UNECE including:

- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979), and its protocols (see Entry No. 4)

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (1991);
- Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (1992) (see Entry No. 9);
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) (see Entry No. 10); and
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (1998).

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), one of the subsidiary bodies of the UNECE, meets annually. Non-governmental organisations are also invited to participate in these meetings. The Committee provides collective policy direction in the area of environment and sustainable development, prepares ministerial meetings, develops international environmental law, and supports international initiatives in the region. Its main aim is to assess countries' efforts to reduce its overall pollution burden and manage its natural resources, to integrate environmental and socioeconomic policies, to strengthen co-operation with the international community, to harmonise environmental conditions and policies throughout the region, and to stimulate greater involvement of the public in environmental discussions and decision-making.

The Committee's work is based on three strategic pillars:

- Participation in the two major international co-operative processes, the "Environment for Europe" process and the regional promotion of Agenda 21;
- The development and carrying-out of Environmental Performance Reviews in the Central and Eastern European countries; and
- The increase of the overall effectiveness of environmental conventions and of the exchange of experience on their implementation.

ACTIVITIES:

Environment for Europe Process brings together Environment Ministers, along with organisations and institutions working on environmental issues in the region, at pan-European conferences to formulate environmental policy.

The fourth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" took place in Århus (Denmark) from 23 to 25 June 1998. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation adopted the Ministerial Declaration. The Ministers decided to strengthen support within the Environment for Europe process for the newly independent States and those countries of Central and Eastern Europe that were not part of the European Union's accession process.

The Ministerial Conference adopted the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. It was signed by representatives of 35 countries and the European Community. The Ministers also adopted the Resolution on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. An independent NGO session on "Strengthening Participatory Democracy for Sustainable Development" took place within the framework of the Conference.

Two new Protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants, were adopted and signed by 33 countries and the

European Community. The Ministers also adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. The Declaration on Persistent Organic Pollutants was endorsed by representatives of 18 countries and the European Community.

The Ministers endorsed the Pan-European Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol and signed the Declaration on the Phase-out of Added Lead in Petrol. The Ministers endorsed the Resolution on Biological and Landscape Diversity and agreed to strengthen the process of integrating biodiversity and landscape conservation objectives into sectoral policies. The Ministers also endorsed the Policy Statement on Energy Efficiency and welcomed the Guidelines on Energy Conservation in Europe.

The Ministers decided that the “Environment for Europe” process should continue with the same institutional arrangements and that the next ministerial conference would take place in 2002, preferably in a newly independent State. Subsequently, it has been decided that the Conference will be held in Kiev (Ukraine) on 23 –25 May 2003.

Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) are periodic reviews by a group of international experts, which assesses a country’s efforts to reduce its overall pollution burden and manage its natural resources, to integrate environmental and socio-economic policies and to strengthen co-operation with the international community. The UNECE EPR programme has three main objectives:

- To assist countries in transition to improve their management of the environment by establishing baseline conditions and making concrete recommendations for better policy implementation and performance;
- To promote a continuous dialogue between UNECE member states by exchanging information about policies and experiences; and
- To stimulate greater involvement of the public in environmental discussions and decision-making.

International Environmental Legislation that is most relevant to this report involves the implementation of the three UNECE Conventions that address safe handling of chemicals and their effect on the environment and human health. These instruments, as well as related activities, described above. See Entry No.4 for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; see Entry No. 10 for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; and see Entry No. 9 for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The UNECE holds an annual formal session to review the economic situation in the Region and decide on its work programme. Quarterly informal meetings are held to discuss specific questions. The fifty-fifth session of the ECE took place from in May 2000.

The Committee on Environmental Policy is one of the seven principal subsidiary bodies and about 25 working groups of experts addressing various aspects of UNECE work. It meets twice a year.

b) UNECE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND SPECIAL CARGOES SECTION²²

(See also Entries Nos. 2 and 18 on related conventions)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. O. Kervella	Tel: (41-22) 917-2456
Chief	Fax: (41-22) 917-0039
Transport of Dangerous Goods	E-mail: olivier.kervella@unece.org
and	Website: http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm
Special Cargoes Section	
UNECE Transport Division	
Palais des Nations, Office 418	
1211 Geneva 10	
SWITZERLAND	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The UNECE Transport of Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section provides the Secretariat support for the ECOSOC Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which produces the "Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods". These Recommendations are addressed not only to Governments for the development of their national requirements for traffic of dangerous goods, but also to international organisations for regulations and international/regional agreements or conventions governing the international transport of dangerous goods by sea, air, road, rail and inland waterways.

In addition, the Section supports a number of UNECE bodies dealing with the transport of dangerous goods. They are subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee and, therefore, they are concerned only with inland transport, i.e., road, rail and inland waterway. These bodies are:

- the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15), which is responsible for the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (see Entry No.2) and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)(see Entry No. 18); and
- the Joint Meeting of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the RID Safety Committee, also called the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting. The RID/ADR/ADN Joint meeting is serviced jointly by the ECE Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF). It is responsible for ensuring harmonisation between ADR, ADN and RID (Regulations concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by rail).

²² The Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to this text.

ACTIVITIES:

ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

At the United Nations level, all work related to the transport of dangerous goods (other than radioactive material) is co-ordinated by the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which produces the "Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", also called the "Orange Book". The Recommendations cover principles of classification and definition, listing, packaging requirements, testing procedures, marking, labelling, placarding and shipping documents. They are supplemented by a Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3).

The Recommendations were first published in 1956 and have been regularly amended and updated, most recently in their eleventh revision published in 1999 (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.11). They now contain the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which can be easily transposed into national or international legislation. They aim at providing basic provisions that will lead to uniform development of national and international regulations concerning the various modes of transport, yet flexible enough to adapt to special requirements. The Recommendations contain basic provisions for the safe carriage of dangerous goods, but they have to be completed by additional requirements that may have to be applied at national level or for international transport depending on the mode of transport envisaged. The Recommendations are global in scope and while not mandatory, there are strong incentives for countries and organisations to use them when developing and revising regulations, including the benefits from increased safety, worldwide harmonisation and facilitation of trade.

The Recommendations are addressed both to Governments (for the development of national requirements) and to the international organisations concerned with the regulations of the transport of dangerous goods by sea, air, road, rail and inland waterways. The main international instruments based on the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods are:

- the IMO International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) (see Entry No. 30);
- the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions for the Safe Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Air;
- the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR) (see Entry No. 2);
- the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways (ADN) (see Entry No. 18); and
- the Regulations concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by rail (RID).

They have also been used for the determination of classes of wastes under the Basel Convention (see Entry No. 6) and they formed one of the major bases for the effort to harmonise chemical classification (see Entry No. 21 for ILO). The hazard identification system has been implemented by emergency services throughout the world.

The Recommendations are regularly revised in light of technical progress, the advent of new substances and materials as well as modern transport systems, and the requirement to ensure the safety of people, property and the environment.

In its resolution 1999/65, the ECOSOC decided to reconfigure, as from 1 January 2001, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, in the context of the implementation of Programme Area B of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21.

European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (Adopted on 30 September 1957; entered into force on 29 January 1968; amended on 19 April 1985; annexes A and B are amended on a regular basis every two years (Edition in force: ECE/Trans/130, Vol. I and II; next amendment to Annexes: 1 July 2001) (ECE/TRANS/130, Vol. I and Vol. II). (See Entry No. 2.)

The annexes of ADR are based on the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods as regards the listing and classification of dangerous goods as well as marking and labelling and packaging standards, but it also contains much more detailed provisions with respect to:

- the types of packaging which may be used;
- the consignment procedures;
- transport equipment (vehicle to be used, vehicle construction and equipment); and
- transport operation (training of drivers, supervision, emergency procedures, loading and unloading, placarding of vehicles).

Annexes A and B of ADR are also applicable to national traffic in European Union countries (Directive 94.55.EC).

The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) The ADN was adopted by a diplomatic conference on 25 May 2000, and is not yet in force. (See Entry 18)

The Agreement itself is similar to ADR. It is intended to increase the safety of international carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways; to contribute effectively to the protection of the environment, by preventing any pollution resulting from accidents or incidents during such carriage; and facilitating transport operations and promoting international trade.

- Annex A contains provisions concerning the listing and classification of the dangerous substances and articles, the packagings to be used, the labelling, and transport documents;
- Annex B1 contains provisions for the construction and operation of vessels intended for the carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form or in bulk in solid form;
- Annex B2 contains provisions for the construction and operation of tank-vessels;
- Annex C concerns administrative procedures (certificates of agreement, recognition of classification societies, control of vessels, training and examinations, etc.); and
- Annexes D1 and D2 contain transitional provisions.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Committee of Experts is composed of experts from twenty-three countries particularly interested in the international transport of dangerous goods. Other countries may participate as observers as well as international governmental and non-governmental organisations interested with specific aspects of the transport of dangerous goods. The Committee of Experts meets biennially to review and update its recommendations that are adopted and published by resolution of the ECOSOC.

As from 1 January 2001, the Committee will become the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

A Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods has been established and is responsible for reviewing proposals from voting member countries and observers in relation to amendments to the UN Recommendations and issues relevant to the Committee's work programme. The Subcommittee meets three times in a two-year period.

A Sub-committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals will be established in 2001. Its membership has not yet been determined.

While the above ECOSOC subsidiary bodies are not UNECE bodies, but are bodies with activities of worldwide scope, the Secretariat of the UNECE is responsible for their service.

The Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE is the supervisory body to the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Joint Meeting of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the RID Safety Committee.

The Secretariat functions are carried out by the Transport Division, Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section, of the UNECE. The Secretariat co-operates with the Secretariats of other organisations, and conventions, that utilise the Recommendations.

**(35) UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. P. Bernal
Assistant Director-General
Executive Secretary IOC
UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
F-75700 Paris
FRANCE

Tel: (33-1) 46 68 39 83
Fax: (33-1) 46 68 58 10
E-mail: p.bernal@unesco.org
Website: <http://ioc.unesco.org>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion.

To fulfill its mandate, UNESCO performs five principal functions:

- prospective studies;
- the advancement, transfer and sharing of knowledge, relying primarily on research, training and teaching activities;
- standard-setting action (the preparation and adoption of international instruments and statutory recommendations);
- expertise provided to Member States for their development policies and projects in the form of "technical co-operation";
- exchange of specialised information.

Of interest to this report is the work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Man and Biosphere Programme and other work to facilitate implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

ACTIVITIES:

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

The IOC, founded in 1960, is based on the recognition that oceans significantly influence both global environmental changes and sustainable development. Therefore, it is essential to understand and to be able to predict global and regional ocean conditions and the interaction

with the atmosphere, biosphere and land. The IOC helps to expand knowledge and improve capabilities through a commitment to oceanographic research, systematic ocean observations, technology development and transfer, and related education and training.

The work of the IOC focuses on promoting marine scientific investigations and related ocean services, with a view to learning more about the nature and resources of the oceans. It is active at the global as well as regional level. The IOC focuses on four major themes:

- develop, promote and facilitate international oceanographic research programmes to improve understanding of critical global and regional ocean processes and their relationship to the sustainable development and stewardship of ocean resources;
- ensure effective planning, establishment and co-ordination of an operational global ocean observing system to provide the information needed for oceanic and atmospheric forecasting, for oceans and coastal zone management by coastal nations, and for global environmental change research;
- provide international leadership for education and training programmes and technical assistance essential for systematic observations of the global ocean and its coastal zone and related research; and
- ensure that ocean data and information obtained through research, observation and monitoring are efficiently handled and made widely available.

Among the IOC priority projects related to this report are:

- to develop and implement the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) to assess the health of the ocean, marine living resources and the coastal environment, and to improve climate models and weather predictions;
- to address critical scientific uncertainties related to the management of the marine environment and the ocean's role in climate change via the World Climate Research Programme and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme; and
- to develop national capacities for oceanographic research and observation programmes, particularly in developing countries.

The IOC is also one of the co-sponsors, along with UNEP and IMO, of the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment Programme (GIPME). (See Entry No.24(c)).

The IOC Global Ocean Observing system contributes to the UNEP Global Earth Monitoring System and is a part of UN's Earthwatch.

Climate Change

UNESCO undertakes a number of activities related to climate change. These include the International Environmental Education Programme (IEEP), which is undertaken in collaboration with UNEP. It promotes the introduction of environmental education and information at all levels of education.

In addition, to facilitate implementation of the Framework Convention, UNESCO is a Co-sponsor the inter-agency Climate Agenda, including the World Climate Programme and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), a co-operative effort with WMO, UNEP and the International Council of Scientific Unions. (see Entry No. 37 for WMO.)

UNESCO also promotes systematic observations of the oceans to improve climate models and monitor the impacts of climate change, by implementing a Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). In addition, it promotes systematic observation of terrestrial ecosystems and processes to improve climate models, by contributing to the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and it promotes research to understand the role of the ocean as a source and sink for greenhouse gases.

Furthermore, UNESCO promotes research on the role of the hydrological cycle in the climate system and the impacts of climate change on water resources and strengthens training, education, public awareness programmes and information about climate change for decision-makers.

Biological Diversity

UNESCO contributes to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the activities of its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and of the IOC. Work is undertaken to promote in situ conservation of biodiversity by strengthening the network of biosphere reserves and associated work on ecosystem management. It contributes to the preparation of a research agenda under the Convention and participates in country studies of biological diversity, and helps develop guidelines for conducting these studies. It also works to enhance the worldwide co-ordination of research on biological diversity including inventories and monitoring.

UNESCO develops education and public awareness programmes related to biological diversity. It also strengthens developing country capacities in the ecological and biological sciences, including taxonomy and biotechnology. Among other things, UNESCO is involved in training of specialists, strengthening institutions and disseminating scientific information.

UNESCO also monitors the impacts of global change on biological diversity by contributing to the Global Terrestrial Observing System.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The General Conference of Member States is UNESCO's supreme governing body. It meets, in general, every two years. The General Conference approves the Organization's Programme and Budget.

The Executive Board, composed of 58 representatives of Member States, generally meets twice a year. Acting as a kind of administrative council, it prepares the work of the General Conference and is responsible for effective execution of Conference decisions.

The Secretariat is the Organization's executive branch. Under the authority of the Director-General, elected for a 6-year term, the staff implement the programme adopted by Member States.

The IOC is composed of its Member States, an Assembly, an Executive Council and a Secretariat. Additionally the IOC has a number of Subsidiary Bodies. These include the Committee for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (which includes, e.g., the IOC-IMO-UNEP Group of Experts on Effects of Pollutants).

(36) WORLD BANK

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Ms. K. Georgieva
Director
Environment Department
World Bank
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

Tel: (1-202) 477-1234
Fax: (1-202) 477-0568
E-mail:
Website: <http://www.worldbank.org>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The World Bank assists countries in order to alleviate poverty and improve living standards through sustainable growth and investment in people. The Bank recognises that such goals can only be achieved if they address local, regional and global environmental issues.

The World Bank takes into account issues of sustainable development and protection of the environment in the development and review of lending projects. Guidance has been developed for use in Bank-funded projects to ensure appropriate attention to pollution prevention, including issues related to chemical safety. The Bank also encourages countries to address environmental issues as part of their development, by measuring and internalising the cost of environmental damage from pollution, and by identifying environmentally-friendly processes and technologies.

In 1995 the World Bank initiated a "Global Overlays Program" and in 1997 announced a set of actions that it would take to achieve important global environmental goals. It is also involved in the implementation of a several international initiatives related to chemicals management including those addressing climate change and biodiversity.

ACTIVITIES:

The Global Overlays Program, launched in 1995, consists of conceptual framework and toolkit for mainstreaming global environmental objectives into national environmental planning and Bank operations. Similar to a graphic overlay, which attaches a new layer to an already existing surface, the global overlay concept adds a global dimension to the sector studies that the Bank undertakes on a regular basis for its client countries. The overlays provide a means for integrating global concerns with national development strategies.

Global overlay theme papers indicating how global environment issues can be incorporated into sector policy and investment planning have been completed for the agriculture, energy, forestry, and transport sectors. These are being applied in nine country and sector-specific operations.

In line with measures outlined at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the Environment in June 1997, the Bank announced a forward-looking strategy to support the objectives of the global environment conventions, integrate global

environmental concerns into country assistance strategies and economic and sector work, and, where appropriate, set measurable targets for activities to protect and improve the global environment.

The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook 1998, was adopted to replace the *Environmental Guidelines 1988*. The Handbook provides technical advice in the context of Bank-funded projects. It promotes the concept of sustainable development by focusing attention on the benefits of pollution prevention, including cleaner production and good management techniques.

The Handbook includes three parts: a summary of key policy lessons in pollution management, aimed primarily at government decision makers; good practice notes on implementation of policy objectives; and detailed guidelines to be applied in the preparation of Bank projects.

The guidelines cover numerous industrial sectors and represent state-of-the-art thinking to reduce emissions as part of the production process and are designed to, *inter alia*, protect human health and reduce loadings to the environment. The guidelines address a number of chemical pollutants (e.g., arsenic, lead and mercury), pollutant control technologies (e.g., ozone depleting chemicals and sulfur oxides) and industry sectors (e.g., pesticide manufacturing, pulp and paper mills and phosphate fertilizer plants).

Facilitating Global Environmental Initiatives The World Bank is involved in a number of activities and innovative financing mechanisms relating to major Global Environmental initiatives and agreements, including Global Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Stratospheric Ozone Depletion/Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector part of the World Bank Group, helps the private sector develop projects that promote the objectives of the climate change and biodiversity conventions.

- Montreal Protocol The World Bank is one of four implementing agencies (along with UNDP, UNIDO and UNEP) for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The Montreal Protocol/POPs Unit Staff at the World Bank co-ordinates the efforts of other World Bank staff and local partners to assist countries to meet their Protocol obligations. The World Bank works with local government and financial agency partners to enable national execution of ODS phaseout activities.
- Persistent Organic Pollutants The World Bank is currently assisting client countries to prepare for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (see Entry No. 19) through its Montreal Protocol/POPs Unit. Countries are presently in the early stages of developing capacity to meet their future obligations under the Convention, which was signed in May 2001. Under a Canadian POPs Trust Fund of CDN\$ 20 million established at the World Bank and in its role as an implementing agency of the GEF, which has been named the interim financial mechanism for the Convention, the Bank is working with countries in all regions to help them better understand the Convention's obligations and the present status of the three categories of POPs (pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintended by-products) within their countries. In addition, the Bank is assisting countries identifying initial capacity building and enabling activities to help address identified issues. To assist client countries further, the World Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding on POPs with UNEP Chemicals in order to ensure a more co-ordinated and effective approach to working with client countries on the POPs issue.

- The Global Environment Facility The Bank serves as an implementing agency for the GEF, along with UNDP and UNEP. (See Entry No. 28 on the GEF).
- Biodiversity Since UNCED, the World Bank, in concert with its client countries, has expanded its efforts toward slowing losses and protecting endangered species at global, national, and local levels. In doing so, the Bank's approach has evolved from "doing no harm" to strategically "mainstreaming" biodiversity conservation into all aspects of its lending and non-lending work. The Bank's strategy attempts to preserve species outside protected areas by incorporating biodiversity concerns into development planning, expanding and consolidating protected area networks while strengthening management capacity, and implement policies and incentives to reduce biodiversity loss.

In the future, the objective is to have all relevant Bank-funded sector work will fully integrate biodiversity into the Bank's Country Assistance Strategies, including an assessment of the underlying causes of species loss and the impacts on ecological goods and services.

- Global Climate Change The World Bank Group has recently embarked on a review of issues and options relating to energy and the environment. The Environment Department and the Energy, Mining & Telecommunications Department of the World Bank, in collaboration with the Technical and Environment Department and Power Department within the IFC, have prepared an environmental strategy paper for the energy sector, which will result in a better understanding of policy and lending priorities in these areas. This Sector Strategy Paper will also serve as the basis for more detailed operational guidelines that will shape country-specific assistance programmes.

(37) WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)²³

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

World Climate Programme	Tel: (41-22) 730 8314
World Meteorological Organization	Fax: (41-22) 733 2829
7 bis, avenue de la Paix	E-mail: IPA@www.wmo.ch
Case Postale 2300	Website: http://www.wmo.ch
1211 Geneva 2	
SWITZERLAND	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The WMO co-ordinates global scientific activity to allow increasingly prompt and accurate weather information and other services for public, private and commercial use. Within the UN, the WMO provides an authoritative scientific voice on the state and behaviour of the atmosphere and climate.

The WMO facilitates international co-operation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological, hydrological and other observations, and in the promotion of rapid exchange of meteorological information, the standardisation of meteorological observations and the uniform publication of observations and statistics.

WMO carries out a number of programmes including, of particular interest, is the World Climate Programme which provides support for the international activities related to climate change and the Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme which includes work related to ozone monitoring and greenhouse gases.

ACTIVITIES:

World Climate Programme: The purpose of the WCP is to provide an authoritative international scientific voice on climate change and to assist countries to apply climate information and knowledge to sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21. The Programme aims to use existing climate information to improve economic and social planning, to improve the understanding of climate processes through research so as to determine the predictability of climate and the extent of man's influence on it, and to detect and warn governments of impending climate variations which may significantly affect critical human activities.

There are four main components of the WCP: the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (WCDMP), the World Climate Applications and Services Programme (WCASP), the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP), and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP).

The WMO and UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 in order to assess available information on the science, impacts and the cross-cutting economic and other issues related to climate change and, in particular, a possible global warming induced by human activities. The work of the IPCC assisted governments to make

²³The Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to this text.

policy decisions in the negotiations and implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

A new Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was established by the WMO, the IOC of UNESCO, UNEP and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). The objectives of the GCOS are to insure the acquisition of data for: climate system monitoring, climate change detection and response monitoring; application of climate information to national economic development; and research toward improved understanding, modelling and prediction of the climate system. The GCOS will use an integrated approach to the total climate system including the atmosphere, the oceans, the land, the cryosphere and the biosphere.

Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme co-ordinates and fosters research on the structure and chemical composition of the atmosphere and its related physical characteristics, the physics of weather processes and weather forecasting. The Programme aims to help Members to implement research projects and to disseminate relevant scientific information, to draw the attention of Members to outstanding research problems of major importance (such as atmospheric composition and climate change), and to encourage and assist Members in incorporating the results of research into forecasting or other techniques appropriate to operation activities.

As part of this Programme, the WMO established the Global Atmosphere Watch. This includes the Global Ozone Observing System with over 140 ground-based ozone stations supplemented by satellites that constitute an international ozone monitoring network. The System provided input into the development of the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

Another part of the Global Atmosphere Watch is the Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network that, among other things, provides observational evidence of the increasing atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases such as CO₂ and methane.

The WMO also has a Technical Cooperation Programme that seeks through capacity building activities to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. WMO assists countries in obtaining the technical expertise and equipment for the development of their national meteorological and hydrological services. In this activity, WMO works with other international partners such as UNDP, UNEP, GEF and regional development banks.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The World Meteorological Congress is the supreme body of WMO. It meets once every four years and determines policies, approves the programme and budget and adopts regulations.

The Executive Council is composed of thirty-six members. It meets at least every year to prepare studies and recommendations for the Congress, to supervise the implementation of Congress resolutions and regulations and to advise Members of technical matters.

Members are grouped in six regional associations. Each of them meets every four years to co-ordinate meteorological and operational hydrological activities within their Region and to examine questions referred to them by Council.

WMO has eight technical commissions addressing aeronautical meteorology, agricultural meteorology, atmospheric sciences, basic systems, climatology, hydrology, instruments and

methods of observation, and marine meteorology. Each commission meets once every four years.

The Secretariat serves as the administrative, documentation and information centre of the WMO.

For the GCOS, a Steering Committee identifies requirements, defines design objectives, and recommends co-ordinated actions. A Joint Scientific Committee performs a similar function for the WCRP. These committees also review and assess implementation of the various components of the two programmes. WMO hosts the secretariat and central planning offices for both GCOS and the WCRP.

(38) WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Mr. E. Wijkstrom	Tel: (41-22) 739-5729
Economic Affairs Officer	Fax: (41-22) 739-5620
World Trade Organization	E-mail: Erik.Wijkstrom@wto.org
Trade and Environment Division	Website: http://www.wto.org/enviro/environm.htm
Rue de Lausanne 154	
1211 Geneva 21	
SWITZERLAND	

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The WTO is the international agency overseeing the rules of international trade. Its purpose is to help trade flow smoothly, in a system based on rules, to settle trade disputes between governments, and to organise trade negotiations.

When Trade Ministers approved the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations in April 1994, they also took a Decision to begin a comprehensive work programme on trade and environment in the WTO.

In addition to references in the Preamble to the WTO Agreement to the objective of sustainable development and to the need to protect and preserve the environment, individual Agreements, such as the one on Technical Barriers to Trade and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures take explicitly into account the use by governments of measures to protect human, animal and plant life and health and the environment.

The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) has brought environmental and sustainable development issues into the mainstream of WTO work.

Of interest to this report is the work of the CTE on the issue of export of domestically prohibited goods as well as consideration of the relationship between the WTO agreements and the development of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

ACTIVITIES:

The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) has been given a broad-based remit covering all areas of the multilateral trading system. It has been given both analytical and prescriptive functions: to identify the relationships between trade and environmental measures in order to promote sustainable development, and to make recommendations on whether any modifications to the provisions of the multilateral trading system are required.

Two important parameters have guided the CTE's work. One is that WTO competence for policy co-ordination in this area is limited to trade and those trade-related aspects of environmental policies that may result in significant trade effects for its Members. In other words, there is no intention that the WTO should become an environmental agency, nor that it should get involved in reviewing national environmental priorities, setting environmental standards, or developing global policies on the environment. Another parameter is that if problems of policy co-ordination to protect the environment and promote sustainable

development are identified through the CTE's work, steps taken to resolve them must uphold and safeguard the principles of the multilateral trading system which governments spent seven years strengthening and improving through the Uruguay Round negotiations. It is recognised that an open, non-discriminatory and equitable system of rules to secure market access opportunities, which already provides significant scope for national environmental protection policies, is essential to help developing countries towards sustainable development.

Export of domestically prohibited goods: Concerns were raised by a number of developing countries in the mid-1980s that certain hazardous or toxic products were being exported to them without them being fully informed about the environmental or public health dangers the products could pose. In 1989 a Working Group on the Export of DPGs was established under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) – the predecessor to the WTO.

The Working Group had produced a Draft Decision on Products Banned or Severely Restricted in the Domestic Market. It contained three principal obligations: that a Contracting party should consider whether the export of a DPG should be subjected to measures equivalent to those taken domestically; that if equivalent measures were not applied to exports, a Contracting Party should promptly notify the GATT Secretariat of measures taken domestically and the reasons; and that a Contracting Party should provide any additional information on a specific DPG if asked to do so.

However, the Decision was never agreed to for many reasons that still remain including the fact that DPGs are not adequately defined. In addition, the exports of several types of DPGs are already addressed in other international organisations and instruments and therefore several delegations were concerned about duplication of ongoing work. These instruments principally address chemicals, pharmaceuticals and hazardous wastes.

There is some support for further work on DPGs within the framework of the WTO because of gaps in international efforts, for example concerning consumer products. Furthermore, some of the existing instruments are voluntary in nature.

The export of DPGs was addressed by the CTE at its meeting on 5-6 July 2000. Bangladesh presented its national experience and recommendations concerning DPGs (WT/CTE/W/141). Bangladeshi called for Members to notify DPG exports in the area of domestically prohibited consumer products according to the GATT notification system established in 1982. Bangladesh also called on the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development to build capacity in developing countries on DPGs and increase information sharing on DPGs. There was considerable support for Bangladesh's recommendations to move the discussions forward by increasing transparency and technical assistance related to trade in DPGs. These issues were within the competence of WTO to address.

Reference was also made to work underway in a broad range of MEAs and international organisations related to DPGs, including the WHO, FAO, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention (PIC), and the Stockholm Convention (POPs), then in draft form. Following Bangladesh's proposal, the Secretariat prepared an update of previous work on DPGs, focusing on the gaps in the coverage of other international instruments, such as consumer products (WT/CTE/W/161).

At the CTE meeting on 27 – 28 June 2001, the UN Secretariat made a presentation on the United Nations “Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments” (see Entry No. 32) on the coverage of domestically prohibited goods (DPGs) (WT/CTE/W/194). This List is

designed to help governments keep up to date with regulatory decisions taken by other Governments and to assist them to consider the scope for eventual regulatory action. Members stressed the need to disseminate this List as widely as possible, including on the Internet. Members underlined the importance of technical assistance, capacity building, and information dissemination to assist developing countries to control imports of DPGs and prevent illegal trade. The emphasis was on improving mechanisms to enable effective control and permit domestic legislation on DPGs to be put in place.

To date, no agreement has been reached on reviving the notification system or how to address the DPG issue at large.

Relationship to Multilateral Environmental Agreements: One area of particular focus in the CTE's discussions has been the relationship between WTO provisions and trade measures applied pursuant to MEAs. It has been clear throughout the discussions on this issue in WTO that the preferred approach for governments to take in tackling transboundary or global environmental problems is co-operative, multilateral action under an MEA. That was the approach endorsed by political leaders at the highest level in 1992 at the UNCED.

A range of provisions in the WTO can accommodate the use of trade-related measures needed for environmental purposes, including measures taken pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Of key importance are the WTO provisions relating to non-discrimination and to transparency as well as the exceptions clauses allowing a WTO Member to legitimately place its public health and safety and national environmental goals ahead of its general obligation not to raise trade restrictions or to apply discriminatory trade measures. These provisions have been a major focus of work of the CTE and will be kept under review in the future work programme.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The main decision-making bodies of the WTO are the Councils and Committees (including the Committee on Trade and Environment) consisting of the WTO's entire membership. Administrative and technical support comes from the WTO Secretariat in Geneva.

PART II (C):

CO-ORDINATING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMMES

The following three co-ordinating mechanisms/programmes are presented in alphabetical order

**(39) COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD)
PLUS INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (IACSD)²⁴**

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

United Nations	Tel:	(1-212) 963-2803
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Fax:	(1-212) 963-4260
Division for Sustainable Development	E-mail:	dsd@un.org
2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-2220	Website:	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm
New York, N.Y. 10017		http://acc.unsystem.org (IACSD)
USA		

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established in December 1992 to help ensure effective follow-up of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition to signing two conventions, the representatives to UNCED adopted Agenda 21, a 200-page plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 addresses “Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products”. Other chapters address related issues, including chemical pollution and hazardous wastes.

The role of the CSD is threefold:

- to review progress at the international, regional and national levels in the implementation of recommendations and commitments contained in the final documents of the UNCED;
- to elaborate policy guidance and options for future activities to follow up UNCED and achieve sustainable developments; and
- to promote dialogue and build partnerships for sustainable development with governments, the international community and other groups identified in Agenda 21 as key actors.

The Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) was established in October 1993 to bring together UN organisations concerned with the issues related to UNCED follow-up. The mandate of IACSD is to identify major policy issues relating to the follow-up to UNCED by the United Nations system and to consider ways and means of addressing them so as to ensure effective system-wide co-operation and co-ordination in the implementation of Agenda 21 and other UNCED outcomes. In addition, it helps to co-ordinate system-wide response to the recommendations of the CSD and ensures appropriate system-wide division of labour.

²⁴ The Secretariat has noted that the future modalities of inter-agency co-operation are under review and there will likely be substantive modifications put into effect before the end of 2001.

To effectively implement these functions, the IACSD designates agencies from the UN system to be “Task Managers” for specific issue areas. The Task Managers are responsible for inter-agency co-ordination, catalysing joint initiatives, identifying common strategies, preparing reports to the CSD, and information exchange under specific areas of Agenda 21 and the work programme of the CSD. UNEP is the Task Manager for matters relating to toxic chemicals as well as for atmosphere, hazardous wastes, desertification, and biodiversity.

ACTIVITIES:

The second session of the CSD, held in May 1994, considered thematic areas based on chapters of Agenda 21, including Chapter 19 on toxic chemicals and Chapter 20 on hazardous wastes.

At its Fifth Session, in April 1997, the CSD, as a preparatory body for Earth Summit +5, considered overall progress achieved since UNCED. A report assessing progress since UNCED was prepared by the Secretary-General for that Meeting (E/CN.17/1977/2). Addendum 18 of the report, prepared by UNEP as Task Manager, addresses toxic chemicals and specifically the progress made in the implementation of the objectives set out in Chapter 19, taking into account the Decisions of the CSD from its second session. It provides information on the key objectives of international work on chemicals management and successes in meeting the objectives, including improved communication and co-ordination among governments, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations (specifically the establishment of IOMC and IFCS). The report also addressed promising changes with respect to chemicals control, unfulfilled expectations, and emerging priorities.

A five-year review of Earth Summit progress was held in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session. The Special Session adopted a document entitled Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and adopted a programme of work for the CSD for the period 1998 – 2002. The next comprehensive review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and consideration of future work will take place in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, for which the tenth session of the CSD will serve as the preparatory body.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The CSD was established as a functional commission of the ECOSOC by Council Decision 1993/207. The CSD reports to ECOSOC and, through it, to the General Assembly. (ECOSOC functions under the authority of the General Assembly. It co-ordinates the economic and social work of the UN and its family of specialised and affiliated institutions. Its 54 members are elected by the General Assembly for 3-year terms. It meets once a year for 4 – 5 weeks).

The CSD is composed of 53 members elected by the ECOSOC for three-year terms (thirteen from Africa; eleven from Asia; ten from Latin America and the Caribbean; six from Eastern Europe; and thirteen from Western Europe and other). Representatives from other States, UN organisations, and accredited governmental and non-governmental organisations can attend as observers.

The CSD meets annually for two to three weeks. It held its first substantive session in June 1993 and recently held its ninth session, in April 2001.

[Note: CSD-9 was immediately followed, in May 2001, by a three-day meeting of CSD-10 acting as a preparatory committee for the Johannesburg Summit. CSD-10 will meet in three further sessions in 2002 in the same capacity.

The members of the CSD elect a Chair and four vice chair (Bureau). The CSD establishes ad hoc expert groups to assist with issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21. It receives substantive and technical support from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) is composed of representatives of United Nations Funds, Programmes, Specialised Agencies, Convention Secretariats and ACC Sub-committees at the level of senior officials. IACSD meets twice a year. Its meetings are open to all interested programmes, agencies and organisations of the United Nations system that are members or participants of the ACC. . Secretariat support is provided by DESA. The ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources and the ACC Subcommittee on Ocean and Coastal Areas report to IACSD. (website: <http://acc.unsystem.org>)

In September 2000, the IACSD held its sixteenth meeting and discussed preparations for the 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED. It also proposed formats for the preparations of documentation for the 2002 review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21.

(40) INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY (IFCS)

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. J. Stober
Executive Secretary, IFCS
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia, 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 791 36 50 / 3873
Fax: (41-22) 791 48 75
E-mail: ifcs@who.ch
Website: <http://www.ifcs.ch>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The IFCS, established in response to a recommendation of UNCED, is a mechanism for co-operation among governments, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations for promotion of chemical risk assessment and the environmentally sound management of chemicals.

The IFCS was established, and held its first meeting, in April 1994 at the International Conference on Chemical Safety, convened by the Executive Heads of UNEP, ILO and WHO, at the invitation of the government of Sweden. Representatives from more than 100 countries together with those from UN bodies, other intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations took part in the Conference. The Conference adopted the Terms of Reference for the IFCS, adopted a Resolution with detailed recommendations on priorities for action, and took steps to provide for necessary administrative and financial arrangements.

The IFCS is a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives of governments meet, together with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, to consider all aspects of the assessment and management of chemicals. The aim is to integrate and consolidate national and international efforts to promote the objectives of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. The IFCS provides policy guidance, identifies priorities, develops strategies and, where appropriate, makes recommendations to governments, international organisations, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organisations involved in chemical risk assessment and environmentally sound management of chemicals. In so doing, IFCS seeks to achieve improved co-ordination, with a particular emphasis on regional and sub-regional groups to deal with the issues. The IFCS has neither the mandate nor the resources to implement recommendations; rather that is a task for governments and other participants.

There is a strong emphasis on the full and open participation of all partners with the result that the IFCS operates by consensus, although only governments have the right to vote.

FUNCTIONS:

The functions of the IFCS, as set out in its Terms of Reference, include to:

- identify priorities for co-operative action on chemical safety, advise and, where appropriate, recommend concerted international strategies for hazard identification and risk assessment and for environmentally sound management of chemicals;

- assist in securing the collaboration, through governments, of national, regional and international bodies active in the field of chemical safety, and avoid any duplication of effort in this area;
- promote the strengthening of national co-ordinating mechanisms and of national capabilities and capacities for chemicals management, especially in relation to infrastructure building, training, education, research and monitoring, and provision of information;
- promote international agreements and commitments on harmonised classification and labelling of chemicals;
- assist in identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and promote information exchange and scientific and technical co-operation, including training, education and technology transfer;
- review periodically the effectiveness of relevant ongoing activities to implement recommended international strategies concerning chemical safety and make recommendations for further activities and, where necessary, advise on the strengthening or establishing the necessary follow-up mechanisms;
- advise governments in their work on chemical safety with particular reference to legislative aspects, promote co-operation among governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and encourage the appropriate distribution of work among organisations and other bodies within and outside the UN system;
- promote the strengthening of national programmes and international co-operation for the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents;
- promote the strengthening of programmes for the prevention of and response to poisoning by chemicals; and
- perform other functions in pursuance of the Forum's purposes and aims.

The IFCS also has a role in promoting and supporting the IOMC (co-ordinating the efforts of inter-governmental organisations in the field of chemical safety).

The third session of the Forum (Forum III) was held 15 –20 October 2000 in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. Forum III conducted a full review of the IFCS deciding on its future direction and assessed the progress that has been made on Chapter 19, Agenda 21 (i.e.: expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks; harmonising classification and labelling; exchanging information on toxic chemicals and chemical risks; establishing risk reduction programmes; strengthening national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals; and preventing illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products). Forum III revised and updated the Priorities for Action that had been adopted by the Forum in 1994. The revised Priorities include the potential to: improve chemical safety at all levels; prevent or reduce adverse health and environmental effects of chemicals throughout their life-cycle; be suitable for immediate implementation by most countries; and use existing tools for rapid implementation. These recommendations primarily set out responsibilities for governments, including detailed and achievable targets. Several also deal with work by international bodies related to the development of effective tools for use by governments. These recommendations address both immediate actions and goals to be achieved in the long-term clearly delineating the goals and target dates.

Forum III adopted by acclamation the Bahia Declaration, a statement to reaffirm commitment to the Rio Declaration, and to recommit to the challenges for chemical safety set in 1992 at Rio. IFCS participants committed to strengthen efforts and build partnerships to accomplish specific targets during the next decade. Key goals are those specified in the Priorities for Action. All IFCS partners – countries, international organisations, industry, labour unions, public interest groups – are called upon to actively participate in realising these Priorities within a defined time-frame. The Declaration recognises the importance of providing technical and financial assistance and technology transfer to enable accomplishment of IFCS priorities.

While the IFCS gives particular attention to Chapter 19, its remit is much more wide-ranging to include all questions related to chemical risks. Therefore, it also addresses linkages with other areas of Agenda 21 such as hazardous waste and human health.

STRUCTURE:

Forum III conducted a full review of the IFCS. In view of the fact that the Forum has undergone a gradual evolution as it has adapted its procedures to improve the organisation of its work to better meet the needs of its participants, certain changes were proposed and accepted. These included: discontinuation of the Intersessional Group; election of five Vice-Presidents, one from each region, and an independent President; and provision for the important role of National Focal Points.

The Forum Standing Committee (FSC) under the chairmanship of the President of the Forum provides advice and assistance in managing the process of preparations for Forum meetings, monitors progress on the work of the IFCS, and serves as a mechanism for the IFCS to effectively and efficiently initiate the process for the IFCS to respond to new developments and issues as they may arise. The FSC is comprised of 25 IFCS participants including five regional Vice Presidents and is supported by the Executive Secretary. The FSC is not empowered to take decisions for the IFCS Officers or the Forum itself. Except for the President who, as an independent chairperson acts in accordance with the recommendations of the Forum as a whole, members of the Forum Standing Committee serve as conduits for the views of participant countries in their respective IFCS regions or respective NGO or IGO constituency. The FSC meets on a regular basis undertaking its work primarily via teleconferences.

Ad hoc Working Groups have been established by the Forum or the FSC to undertake specific tasks. For example, an ad hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was established to help respond to a request by the UNEP Governing Council to initiate an assessment process on POPs and to develop recommendations and information related to international action. The FSC has established several working groups to prepare issues to be brought forward to Forum IV: hazard information (data generation and availability); acute pesticide poisoning (extent of problem and risk management options); assistance for capacity building; and occupational safety and health. In addition, a PCB Strategy Task Group has been established to facilitate the involvement of IFCS participants at all levels in activities organised by UNEP to assist in the development and implementation of PCB action plans.

Each government should have a single National Focal Point identified/communicated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to act as a conduit for communication on IFCS activities and information dissemination. The Focal Point should represent all national departments sharing responsibilities in chemical safety (health, environment, agriculture, industry, etc.) and their respective concerns providing national inputs into policy directions and recommendations of the IFCS.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The Forum is convened approximately every three years. The Forum has met three times thus far, most recently in October 2000 in Brazil. Forum IV will be held in 2003 hosted by the Government of Thailand, and Forum V will be held in late 2005 or 2006 hosted by the Government of Hungary.

The WHO serves as the administering agency for the IFCS and its Secretariat. IFCS expenses are covered by voluntary contributions from Member States and other IFCS participants.

(41) INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (IOMC)²⁵

SECRETARIAT CONTACT/ADDRESS:

Dr. T. Meredith
Head, IOCC Secretariat
c/o WHO
20, Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

Tel: (41-22) 791-4348/3590
Fax: (41-22) 791-4848
E-mail: mereditht@who.ch or iomc@who.ch
Website: <http://www.iomc.ch>

MANDATE/OVERVIEW:

The IOMC was established in 1995, in response to recommendations of UNCED, to serve as a mechanism for co-ordinating efforts of intergovernmental organisations in the assessment and management of chemicals.

The IOMC is designed to be a co-operative undertaking among intergovernmental organisations that, within the framework of their own respective constitutional mandates, work as partners to promote international work related to the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment. The seven participating organisations are the UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR and OECD known collectively as Participating Organizations (POs). The IOMC was established by a memorandum of understanding signed by executive heads of each of the POs. Other intergovernmental organisations may also become part of IOMC with the unanimous consent of the POs.

The mandate of the IOMC is co-ordination, with the scientific and technical work carried out within the existing structures of the POs, either individually or jointly. In addition, co-ordination of activities with other organisations, institutes or programmes in the field of chemical safety may be carried out within the framework of the IOMC.

ACTIVITIES:

According to the memorandum of understanding among the POs, co-ordination will focus on the six priority areas identified by Agenda 21, Chapter 19, as well as other areas as agreed by all POs. The six areas are: international assessment of chemical risks; harmonisation of classification and labelling of chemicals; information exchange on chemicals and chemical risks; establishment of risk reduction programmes; strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals; and prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

An Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC), composed of representatives of the POs, has been established to co-ordinate and foster joint planning of relevant activities. Through the IOCC, the POs consult on the planning, programming, implementation and monitoring of their activities with the aim of ensuring effective implementation without duplication.

²⁵ The Secretariat did not provide comments/updates to this text.

At the technical level, co-ordinating groups have been established to consider specific programme or subprogramme areas, and others will be established as considered appropriate. These technical co-ordinating groups provide a means for all interested bodies working in the respective areas to consult with each other on programme plans and activities on a regular basis, and to discuss ways and means of ensuring that the activities are mutually supportive. These co-ordinating groups are charged with monitoring the progress of the work in their area of concern, identifying issues and reporting on these matters to the IOMC.

The subjects addressed by the co-ordinating groups include:

- harmonisation of chemical classification and labelling;
- pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs);
- assessment of existing industrial chemicals and pollutants; and
- chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response.

Participation in the Groups may be extended to interested governments, other international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Giving capacity building high priority, the IOCC has prepared an in-depth review and analysis of the on-going and planned capacity building activities of the organisations supporting the six programme areas of Chapter 19, with particular attention given to Programme Area E.

In order to facilitate its work, the IOCC has prepared (and periodically updates) an inventory of the chemical safety activities of the POs that support the objectives and programmes of Agenda 21, Chapter 19. The Report is available on the IOMC website.

The IOMC also publishes a Calendar of Meetings and Events to inform governments, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations on forthcoming events of the POs in the area of chemical safety. All meetings deal with chemical safety and relate to the Programme and Work Areas of Chapter 19, Agenda 21. The Calendar, available on the IOMC website, is updated regularly by the POs.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATION:

The IOCC normally meets twice a year and may invite observers to attend its meetings. Meeting agendas and summary reports are published on the IOMC website. The Chairmanship of the IOCC rotates among the POs.

The POs share in the costs of the Secretariat, through financial and in-kind contributions and secondment of staff.

ANNEX I:
RELEVANT UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISIONS

UNEP Governing Council Decision 19/13D

At its 19th Session in February 1997, the Governing Council considered various activities related to chemicals management, in light of the ongoing discussions concerning legal instruments related to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Several proposals were made related to enhancing effectiveness of international, regional and national approaches to chemicals management. Rather than taking specific action at that time, the Governing Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a report to provide background information and an evaluation of options, to provide a basis for making further decisions.

Specifically, the Governing Council reached the following decision that it:

1. Invites the Executive Director, in close collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to develop a report outlining options for enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals, including the instrument on the prior informed consent procedure under development and a likely future agreement on persistent organic pollutants. The report should:
 - (a) Outline options of both a legal and administrative nature;
 - (b) Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of these options in relation to environmental benefits, administrative and organisational aspects including costs and effectiveness;
 - (c) Outline the roles and responsibilities of current legal instruments and organisations with responsibilities for chemicals;
 - (d) Take into account the capabilities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
2. Invites the Executive Director to submit the report to the Governing Council for consideration at its twentieth session and to forward the report to the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for its consideration.

UNEP Governing Council Decision 20/23

At its Twentieth Session in February 1999, the UNEP Governing Council considered the report prepared on chemicals management, in response to Decision 19/13. In addition to the Decision set out below which calls for further discussion on the subject in 2001, if appropriate, many governments expressed appreciation for the report on enhanced coherence, especially the survey on international legal instruments and organisations and suggested that it be revised and issued for general distribution.

Specifically, the Governing Council reached the following decision that it:

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on chemicals management,

1. Notes with appreciation the actions taken pursuant to those elements of Governing Council decision 19/13 endorsed by the Governing Council in February 1997;
2. Invites the Executive Director to consider preparing for a general policy discussion, if deemed appropriate, on chemicals management, in accordance with decision 19/13, at the Governing Council session in the year 2001.

ANNEX II:
KEY WORD INDEX

TERMS	ENTRY NUMBERS
Accident(s) or incident(s) (involving chemicals or wastes)	3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, 33, 34, 40, 41
Agricultural chemicals	(see also “Pesticides”) 32
Agriculture	4, 12, 13, 20, 24, 29, 32, 36, 40
Air pollution (or air quality)	(see also “Ozone”) 3, 4, 24, 26, 34, 37
Alternatives (chemicals or responses)	5, 17, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28
Banned (or severely restricted) chemicals (and wastes)	4, 17, 32, 38
Biological diversity (or biodiversity)	11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 24, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39
Biotechnology or biosafety	13, 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 35
Carcinogen (or carcinogenicity)	22, 27
Chemical safety data sheets	(see “(Material) safety data sheets”)
Chemical weapon(s)	6, 14, 26
Classification of chemicals (or wastes)	2, 3, 6, 21, 22, 23, 26, 30, 34, 40, 41
Cleaner production (or cleaner industry)	23, 24, 25, 36
Climate change	12, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 37
Endocrine disruptors	22, 23, 24
Existing chemicals	(see also “High production volume chemicals”) 23, 26, 41
Exports (of chemicals and/or wastes)	(see also “Trade in chemicals”) 5, 6, 7, 14, 16, 17, 20, 38
Food safety (including food additives and food contamination)	13, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29

Greenhouse gases	3, 12, 23, 25, 35, 37
Hazard evaluation (or assessment or characterisation)	6, 7, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 40
Hazardous waste (or wastes)	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 38, 39, 40
Health	(see “Human health”)
Heavy metals	4, 28, 34
High Production Volume chemicals	23, 24
Human health	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41
Incident(s)	(see “Accident(s)”)
Industrial chemicals	4, 17, 19, 32, 36, 41
Labelling (or chemical labels)	2, 7, 13, 17, 20, 21, 23, 26, 30, 34, 40, 41
Marine	3, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 24, 30, 31, 35, 37
(Material) safety data sheets	7, 17, 21, 22, 26
Ozone	4, 5, 12, 24, 25, 27, 28, 36, 37
Persistent organic pollutants (or POPs)	4, 6, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 40
Pesticides	4, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 36, 40
Pharmaceuticals	27, 32, 38
Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for trade in chemicals (or advance informed agreement)	6, 7, 13, 17, 20, 24, 26, 29
Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (or PRTR)	23, 24, 26, 41
Risk assessment (or risk evaluation)	7, 13, 22, 23, 24, 27, 32, 40, 41
Risk management	13, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 40
Safety data sheet	(see “(Material) safety data sheet”)
Technical assistance (or development assistance)	5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 40

Trade in chemicals or wastes (import/export)	(see also “Exports”) 5, 14, 17, 20, 23, 29, 38
Transport (of dangerous goods)	2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 18, 21, 23, 24, 30, 34
Waste	(see “Hazardous wastes”)
Water (pollution)	3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 24, 26, 28, 34
Worker(s) (or labour)	7, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 40

ANNEX III:

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACC:	Administrative Committee on Coordination (UN)
ADN:	European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway
ADR:	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (UNECE) (the acronym is from the French title)
AGEE:	Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit)
AGP:	Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO
APELL:	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (UNEP)
BIAC:	Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD
BINAS:	Biosafety Information Network and Advisory Service (UNIDO)
CAC:	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CAMEO:	Computer Aided Management for Emergency Operations (developed by US EPA)
CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCEET:	Center for European Economies in Transition (OECD)
CCMS:	Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (NATO)
CCNR:	Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine
CCPR:	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues
CCTTE:	Computerized Listing of Chemicals being Tested for their Toxicological Effects (IPCS/ UNEP Chemicals)
CDM:	Clean Development Mechanism (Kyoto Protocol)
CEFIC:	European Chemical Industry Council
CETDG:	Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN)
CEITs:	Countries with economies in transition
CFCs:	Chlorofluorocarbons

CG/HCCS:	Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (IOMC)
CHEMISEED:	Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development in the Chemical Industry (UNECE)
CICADs:	Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (IPCS)
CIS:	International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (ILO) (acronym originates from French title)
CMA:	Chemical Manufacturers' Association (US) (now called the American Chemistry Council)
COE:	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (ECOSOC)
COP:	Conference of the Parties (used by numerous Conventions)
CSD:	Commission on Sustainable Development (UN)
CTE:	Committee on Trade and Environment (WTO)
CTIED:	Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)
CWC:	Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction)
CWM:	Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management (UNITAR)
CXLs:	Codex maximum residue limits
DGDs:	Decision Guidance Documents (for PIC procedure)
DHA:	Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
DPCSD:	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UN)
EC:	European Commission
ECB:	European Chemicals Bureau
ECEH:	European Centre for Environment and Health
ECETOC:	European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals
ECMT:	European Conference of Ministers of Transport
ECO:	Pan American Center for Human Ecology and Health (PAHO/WHO)
ECOSOC:	Economic and Social Council (UN)
EDCs:	Endocrine disrupting chemicals
EHC:	Environmental Health Criteria (document) (IPCS)

EHG:	Office of Global and Integrated Environmental Health (WHO)
EMG:	Environmental Management Group
EPOC:	Environment Policy Committee (OECD)
EPR:	Extended producer responsibility
EU:	European Union
EXICHEM:	Existing Chemicals Database (OECD)
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCCC:	Framework Convention on Climate Change
GCOS:	Global Climate Observing System
GEENET:	Global Environmental Epidemiology Network (WHO)
GEF:	Global Environment Facility
GELNET:	Global Health and Environment Library Network (WHO)
GEMS:	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEO:	Global Environment Outlook (UNEP)
GESAMP:	Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GETNET:	Global Environmental Technology Network (WHO)
GHGs:	Greenhouse Gases
GHS:	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GIFAP:	International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products
GINC:	Global Information Network for Chemicals (project of ILO, UNEP, WHO and OECD, with support of Japan)
GIPME:	The Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment Programme (co-sponsored by UNEP, the IOC, and IMO)
GLP:	Good Laboratory Practice (Principles)
GMEF:	Global Ministerial Environment Forum
GPA:	Global Programme of Action (for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities) (UNEP)
GRI:	Global Reporting Initiative
GRID:	Global Resources Information Database (UNEP)

HEADLAMP:	Health and Environment Analysis for Decision-Making Project (WHO)
HCFCs:	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HELCOM:	Helsinki Commission
HHWB:	Human Health and Well Being (UNEP)
HSG:	Health and Safety Guides (IPCS)
IACSD:	Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development
IAEA:	International Atomic Energy Agency
IARC:	International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO)
ICAO:	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC:	Intersecretariat Coordinating Committee (IPCS)
ICCA:	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICDO:	International Civil Defense Organisation
ICEM:	International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Union
ICFTU:	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICPDR:	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICRC:	Inventory of Critical Reviews on Chemicals (UNEP/ECETOC)
ICRC:	Interim Critical Review Committee (Rotterdam Convention)
ICSC:	International Chemical Safety Cards (IPCS)
ICSU:	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEA:	International Energy Agency
IETC:	International Environmental Technology Centre (UNEP)
IFC:	International Finance Corporation
IFCS:	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGO:	Inter-governmental organization
ILO:	International Labour Organization/International Labour Office
INC/FCCC:	The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change
IMDG:	International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMO)
IMO:	International Maritime Organization

INC:	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
INTOX:	Poison Information Database Management System (IPCS)
IOC:	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)
IOCC:	Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOMC)
IOMC:	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS:	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM:	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC:	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (now known as UNEP Chemicals)
ISCS:	International Chemical Safety Cards
ISG:	Intersessional Group (IFCS)
ISO:	International Organization for Standardization
ITC:	International Trade Centre (joint activity of UNCTAD and WTO)
IUPAC:	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
IVM:	Integrated Vector Management
JECFA:	Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (FAO/WHO)
JMP/JMPR:	Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (FAO/WHO)
LMO:	Living Modified Organism
LRTAP:	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (UNECE)
MAP:	Mediterranean Action Plan
MARPOL:	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships as modified by the 1978 Protocol (IMO)
MCSD:	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MEAs:	Multilateral Environmental Agreements (WTO)
MEDU:	Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan
MEPC:	Marine Environment Protection Committee (IMO)
MFMP:	The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
MRLs:	Maximum Residue Limits
MSC:	Maritime Safety Committee (IMO)

NACC:	North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NATO)
NATO:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCPC:	National Cleaner Production Centre (UNIDO/UNEP)
NEA:	Nuclear Energy Agency
NGO:	Non-governmental Organization
OCHA:	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
ODS:	Ozone Depleting Substances
OECD:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPCW:	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OPRC:	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (1990)
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PAC:	Programme Advisory Committee (of the IPCS)
PCS:	Programme for the Promotion of Chemical Safety (IPCS)
PHE:	Protection of the Human Environment Programme (WHO)
PIC:	Prior Informed Consent (FAO/UNEP)
PO:	Participating Organization (of the IOMC)
POPs:	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTRs:	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
PTS:	Persistent Toxic Substances
REC:	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
REMPEC:	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
REMPEITC-Carib:	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre Wider Caribbean
RENPAF:	Regional Network on Safe Pesticide Production and Information for Asia and Pacific (UNIDO)
RID:	Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (UNECE)
RTDG:	Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN)

SBI:	Subsidiary body for Implementation (of the Climate Change Convention)
SBSTA:	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (of the Climate Change Convention)
SCOPE:	Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment
SEED:	The Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (UNDP)
SETAC:	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
SGOMSEC:	Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals (Joint activity of IPCS and SCOPE)
SIDS:	Screening Information Data Sets (OECD)
SMEs:	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOLAS:	International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (IMO)
STAP:	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)
TIED:	Technology, Industry and Economics Division (UNEP)
TUAC:	Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD
UN:	United Nations
UNCCEE:	UNEP/Risø Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment
UNCED:	UN Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD:	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP:	UN Development Programme
UNECE:	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP:	UN Environment Programme
UNEP GC:	UNEP Governing Council
UNEP DTIE:	UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNESCO:	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC:	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGASS:	UN General Assembly Special Session
UNIDO:	UN Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR:	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNSETDG:	UN Subcommittee of Experts for the Transport of Dangerous Goods
VOCs:	Volatile Organic Compounds

WBCSD:	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WCMC:	World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP)
WCO:	World Customs Organization
WCIRP:	World Climate Impacts and Response Strategies Programme (UNEP)
WCP:	World Climate Programme (WMO and UNEP)
WEC:	World Environment Centre
WHA:	World Health Assembly
WHO:	World Health Organization
WHO – ECEH:	World Health Organization, European Centre for Environment and Health
WHOPES:	WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme
WIPO:	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO:	World Meteorological Organization
WMU:	World Maritime University
WTO:	World Trade Organization
WWF:	Worldwide Fund for Nature
WWW:	World Wide Web

