

What is the IOMC?

The IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals) brings together nine intergovernmental organizations actively involved in chemical safety.

The IOMC was established in 1995, following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and in particular those in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 about toxic chemicals.

Examples of successful joint activities

Harmonizing classification and labelling

www.oecd.org/env/classify

www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs

Hosting global portals to information on chemical substances

www.echemportal.org

Taking a leading role in the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues

www.iomc.info/saicm/emerging_top

www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues/tabid/5524/language/fr-CH/Default.aspx

Supporting countries in ratifying and preparing for the Minamata Convention

www.iomc.info/asgm

www.mercuryconvention.org

Supporting SAICM implementation

www.iomc.info/saicm

Chemicals and Waste Management: Essential to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



In adopting the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders outlined a transformational course of action for the people, planet, and prosperity. Chemicals and waste management are related to achieving every aspect of this Agenda.

What is the objective of the IOMC?

The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organizations' international chemicals programmes.

IOMC promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

The IOMC vision statement

“The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) shapes a sustainable future through coordinated global action to achieve the sound lifecycle management of chemicals and waste for healthy lives and the environment.”

IOMC activities in countries



The IOMC organizations implement a large number of activities at country level to improve chemicals management. A database of current activities, and country profiles published by the organizations that contain information relevant to chemicals management, can be found at www.iomc.info.

How does the IOMC operate?

The IOMC organizations coordinate their activities on chemicals management through regular meetings held twice a year, as well as informally throughout the year. Observers may be invited to IOMC meetings. The Chair of the IOMC normally serves for one year on a rotational basis. WHO is the administering organization for the IOMC, providing secretariat services.

The IOMC fosters information exchange and joint planning with the aim of ensuring effective implementation without duplication. In full consultation among all those involved, it helps identify gaps or overlaps in international activities and makes recommendations on common policies. Because intergovernmental organizations are mandated by their respective governing bodies and funded by governments, the latter will benefit directly from the IOMC through efficiencies which can be obtained through optimal coordination of the work of the IOMC participants.

The IOMC also organizes regular inter-agency meetings involving additional organizations to foster broader collaboration in the sound management of chemicals.

Who is involved in the IOMC?

FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

www.fao.org

ILO, International Labour Organization

www.ilo.org/safework

UNDP, United Nations Development Programme

www.undp.org/chemicals

UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme

www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste

UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

www.unido.org

UNITAR, United Nations Institute for Training and Research

www.unitar.org

WHO, World Health Organization

www.who.int/pcs

World Bank

www.worldbank.org

OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

www.oecd.org/env/ehs/

The Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions participates in meetings as an observer.

IOMC products

The IOMC prepares various products to support countries. These include:

National Implementation of SAICM:
A Guide to Resource, Guidance, and
Training Materials of IOMC Participating
Organizations

IOMC Strategy for Strengthening
National Chemicals Management
Capacities

IOMC: Assisting Countries with
the Transition Phase for GHS
Implementation

IOMC: Chemicals and Waste Management
- Essential to Achieving the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs)

The IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management

assists countries in identifying IOMC resources that provide cost-effective solutions to chemicals management challenges. The internet-based IOMC Toolbox takes into account the resources available in the country and presents the relevant IOMC resources, guidance documents, and training material, all available online and free of charge.

iomctoolbox.oecd.org

FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO and OECD signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1995; UNITAR joined the IOMC in 1997, the World Bank in 2010, and UNDP in 2012. In 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) reasserted the coordination function of the IOMC.

More about the IOMC



www.iomc.info



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