INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (IOMC) INTER-ORGANIZATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (IOCC) SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

The 43rd meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the IOMC was held on 15-16 April 2015 at UNITAR, in Geneva. Bob Diderich (OECD) chaired the meeting.

The IOMC meeting began with a report from the SAICM Secretariat on preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) and discussion of IOMC participation in and contributions to the conference. The IOMC agreed to provide posters and documents describing its work, to present a proposal for collaboration on highly hazardous pesticides, and to propose side events on the IOMC toolbox, nanotechnology, per fluorinated chemicals (PFCs), illegal trade in pesticides, priorities for the health sector, the sustainable development goals, and indicators. The IOMC then made plans to draft an article to mark its 20 years of collaboration, to be available at ICCM4 and for publication as IISD commentary, and also to prepare a 20th anniversary brochure based on the article.

The meeting heard reports on progress with implementation and ratification of the Minamata Convention on mercury as well as with the IOMC mercury group, which was created after the 41st IOMC meeting to coordinate IOMC initiatives related to mercury. The IOMC participating organizations reported individually on their respective activities in support of implementation and ratification of the Minamata Convention.

The IOMC received an update from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and discussed IOMC participation in the following month's joint BRS COPs and Science Fair. Following this the IOMC received an update from a representative of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the two organizations discussed plans to continue sharing information and facilitating cooperation, notably on prevention of and response to chemical accidents.

The IOMC discussed the outcome of a meeting with the Secretariat of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) Issues Management Group on Chemicals Management (IMG). The IOMC agreed to send comments to the IMG on its draft report and proposal to extend the IMG mandate, and it decided to invite the UN bodies involved in the IMG exercise to a meeting in 2016 to gauge their interest in future engagement with IOMC.

The IOMC heard reports on progress with the IOMC toolbox on chemicals management and the UNEP Special Programme on financing chemicals and waste. The IOMC briefly considered, and agreed to discuss at its next meeting, the issue of "green growth" and economics and the link to chemical safety.

The 44th IOMC meeting will be hosted by OECD in Paris on 4-5 November 2015. The 45th IOMC meeting will be hosted by UNEP in Spring 2016.