

# A Brief Guide to Some Chemical Agreements and Conventions

CHEMICALS - DIFFERENT combinations of the 100+ elements found in the world - make up all the living and inanimate matter in the world. There would be no life without them. But producing and using those combinations can pose problems, which is why we need agreements on how to manage them.

SAICM is a one-stop shop for high-level, multi-sector chemical management, but it does not work in a vacuum. For a list of global and other chemical agreements in force, see *The Global Pursuit of the Sound Management of Chemicals* (John Buccini, The World Bank, 2004), or look, for example, at UNEP's Chemical Information Exchange Network, CIEN (<http://jp1.estis.net/communities/cien/>). Some of the most immediately relevant agreements to SAICM's current concerns include (with the initials in brackets of the organizations chiefly concerned):

## Global

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (FAO/UNEP)

International Health Regulations (2005) (WHO)

Convention on the Use of White Lead in Painting (ILO)

Convention on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work (ILO)

Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (UNEP)

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and Related Protocol (UNEP)

Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (UNEP)

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (UNEP)

## **Regional**

Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) initiative of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation Between the Government of Canada, the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America

European Community Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical substances (REACH)

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and Related Protocols (UNECE)

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (UNECE)

## **International Programmes (apart from those mentioned above)**

International Council of Chemical Associations

International Programme on Chemical Safety

Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

World Health Organization