



International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals Management: implementation of and
coherence among international instruments and programmes**

**Ratification and implementation status of existing international
instruments and programmes**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that one of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management is to “promote implementation of existing international instruments and programmes”. The international instruments and programmes relating to the sound management of chemicals include the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management itself, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the International Labour Organization Convention 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work, the International Maritime Organization Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and the International Health Regulations. In addition, national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and national chemicals management profiles prepared by countries in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) may also be considered relevant.

2. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a summary table on the ratification and implementation status, as of 10 February 2009, of the above-mentioned international instruments and programmes relating to the sound management of chemicals, for reference by participants at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. An explanation of the abbreviations used in the table and information on the instruments and programmes surveyed in the table are set out below the table.

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

Annex

Summary table on the ratification and implementation status of the principal international instruments and programmes relating to the sound management of chemicals as of 10 Feb 2009

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
Adoption date			Mar 89	Sep 98	May 01		Sep 87	Jun 90	Nov 73	May 05	Dec 02	
Afghanistan	•	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Albania	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Algeria	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Andorra	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Angola	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Argentina	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Armenia	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
Australia	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Austria	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Azerbaijan	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Bahamas	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-

1 The latest ratification status of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Montreal Protocol can be found at <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=27&subid=A&lang=en>.

2 Paragraph 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach provides: "To facilitate communication, nationally and internationally, each Government should designate a Strategic Approach national focal point to act as an effective conduit for communication on Strategic Approach matters".

3 In consultation with the friends of the secretariat planning group, the secretariat of the Strategic Approach issued a temporary questionnaire for stakeholders to use to report on their implementation of Strategic Approach activities by 30 November 2008, for the information of the Conference. For further details see documents SAICM/ICCM.2/4 and SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/20.

4 For the latest ratification status of International Labour Organization Convention 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work please visit <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratifice.pl?C170>.

5 For the latest ratification status of the International Maritime Organization Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973), as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78), please visit http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?doc_id=678&topic_id=258. The Convention includes six technical annexes. States may become Party to the Convention, however, by ratifying only annexes I and II.

6 Further information and the latest ratification status of the International Health Regulations can be found online at <http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/en/>.

7 The implementation status of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) as described in the present document is based on information on the website of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html. Reporting on GHS implementation is not compulsory and related information may also be provided elsewhere.

8 The status of the publication of national chemicals management profiles is based on information provided by UNITAR at <http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/nphomepage/np3.aspx>. Since reporting of the publication status of the national profile is not a compulsory requirement, related information may also be provided elsewhere.

9 Article 7 of the Convention requires each Party to develop and endeavour to implement a national implementation plan (NIP) for implementing its obligations under the Stockholm Convention and to transmit it to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the Party. The latest status of NIP transmission for the Stockholm Convention can be found online at <http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/NIPs/Status/tabid/161/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
Bahrain	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Bangladesh	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Barbados	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Belarus	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Belgium	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Belize	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Benin	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Bhutan	•	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Bolivia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Botswana	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Brazil	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Bulgaria	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Burkina Faso	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•
Burundi	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
Cambodia	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Cameroon	•	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Canada	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Cape Verde	-	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Central African Republic	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	-
Chad	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
Chile	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
China	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colombia	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•	-	•
Comoros	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Cook Islands	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Costa Rica	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Côte d'Ivoire	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Croatia	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Cuba	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Cyprus	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Czech Republic	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Denmark	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Djibouti	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Dominica	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Dominican Republic	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•	-	-
Ecuador	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Egypt	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
El Salvador	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Eritrea	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Estonia	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Ethiopia	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
European Community	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	-	-	-
Fiji	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	-
Finland	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
France	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Gabon	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Gambia	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Georgia	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Germany	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ghana	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Greece	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Grenada	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Guatemala	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Guinea	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Guinea-Bissau	-	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Guyana	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Haiti	•	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Holy See	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Honduras	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Hungary	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Iceland	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
India	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Iraq	•	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Ireland	-	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
Israel	•	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Italy	•	-	•	•	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	-
Jamaica	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Japan	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Jordan	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Kazakhstan	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Kenya	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Kiribati	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Kuwait	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Lao People's Democratic Republic	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	•	-
Latvia	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Lebanon	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	-
Lesotho	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Liberia	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	-	•	-
Lithuania	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Luxembourg	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-
Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	-
Madagascar	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Malawi	•	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Malaysia	•	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Maldives	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Mali	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
Malta	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Marshall Islands	-	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Mauritania	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Mauritius	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
Mexico	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Moldova	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Monaco	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Mongolia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Montenegro	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	-

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
Morocco	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Mozambique	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Myanmar	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Namibia	-	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Nauru	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Nepal	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	-
Netherlands	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
New Zealand	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
Nicaragua	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Niger	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Nigeria	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Niue	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	-
Norway	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-
Oman	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Pakistan	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Palau	•	•	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Palestine	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Papua New Guinea	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Paraguay	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	•	•
Peru	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Philippines	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
Poland	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-
Portugal	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Qatar	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Republic of the Congo	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Republic of Korea	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	•
Romania	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
Russian Federation	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Rwanda	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
Samoa	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
San Marino	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	•	-	-	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Saudi Arabia	•	-	•	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Senegal	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Serbia	•	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	-
Seychelles	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
Sierra Leone	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Singapore	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
Slovakia	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Slovenia	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Solomon Islands	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
South Africa	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Spain	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
Sri Lanka	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Saint Lucia	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Sudan	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	•
Suriname	•	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Swaziland	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Sweden	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Switzerland	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Syrian Arab Republic	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•	-	•
Tajikistan	•	-	-	-	•	•	•	-	-	•	-	-
Thailand	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	•
Togo	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	•
Tonga	•	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Trinidad and Tobago	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Tunisia	•	-	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	•	-	-
Turkey	•	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
Uganda	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Ukraine	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
United Arab Emirates	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	-
United Republic of Tanzania	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	•

Countries/ territories	SAICM		Conventions ¹								Programmes/ Instruments	
	NFP ²	Reporting ³	BC	RC	SC		MP	ILO C.170 ⁴	MARPOL 73/78 ⁵	IHR (2005) ⁶	GHS ⁷	NCMP ⁸
					SC	SC NIP ⁹						
United States of America	•	•	-	-	-	-	•	-	•	•	•	•
Uruguay	•	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Uzbekistan	•	•	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Venezuela	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	•	-	•
Viet Nam	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	•	•	•	•
Yemen	•	-	•	•	•	-	•	-	-	•	-	•
Zambia	•	•	•	-	•	-	•	-	-	•	•	•
Zimbabwe	•	-	-	-	-	-	•	•	-	•	-	-
Total	163	36	172	127	162	88	194	17	147	194	65	102
<i>By region¹⁰</i>												
<i>Africa</i>	47	3	48	37	48	28	53	3	33	53	7	31
<i>Asia-Pacific</i>	42	9	42	30	43	18	54	4	38	55	13	26
<i>Central and Eastern Europe</i>	22	12	25	17	20	12	25	1	22	25	13	14
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	30	7	30	21	29	11	33	4	29	33	8	20
<i>West European and others group</i>	21	5	26	21	21	18	27	5	25	27	24	11

10 The European Community and Holy See are not classified as belonging to any region.

Symbols

- Party/Provided
- Non-Party/Not provided

Abbreviations

BC	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO C.170	International Labour Organization Convention 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work
MARPOL 73/78	International Maritime Organization Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MP	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer
NCMP	National chemicals management profile
RC	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
NFP	SAICM national focal point
SC	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
NIP	Stockholm Convention national implementation plan

Brief note on the international instruments and programmes listed in the present annex¹¹

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989)

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. It was adopted in 1989 and entered into force in 1992. (<http://www.basel.int/>)

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (2002)

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) addresses the classification of chemicals by types of hazard and proposes harmonized hazard communication elements, including labels and safety data sheets. It aims at ensuring that information on physical hazards and toxicity from chemicals be available in order to enhance the protection of human health and the environment during the handling, transport and use of these chemicals. The GHS also provides a basis for harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at the national, regional and worldwide levels, an important factor also for trade facilitation. (http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html)

11 The information provided here is taken from the websites, where indicated, at the end of each paragraph.

International Health Regulations (2005)

The International Health Regulations constitute an international legal instrument that is binding on 194 countries. The Regulations aim to help the international community to prevent and respond to public health emergencies that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide. As of January 2009, 193 countries had designated national focal points for the Regulations. Four key technical areas of work have been identified that call for significantly strengthened national and global efforts in relation to national disease prevention, surveillance control and response systems, public health security in travel and transport, World Health Organization (WHO) global alert and response systems and the management of specific risks, including public health events involving chemicals. Every state must assess its capacities by June 2009 and develop a plan of action to ensure that those capacities are functioning by 2012. In order for WHO to monitor implementation of core capacities to implement the Regulations, a limited number of indicators for measuring the progress of national implementation of the Regulations have been developed in collaboration with WHO regional offices, States Parties to the Regulation and other relevant partners. The Director-General of WHO reports annually to the World Health Assembly on implementation of the Regulations.

International Labour Organization Convention 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work (1990)

The International Labour Organization Convention 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work applies to all branches of economic activity in which chemicals are used. The implementation of the Convention helps to protect workers from the hazards of chemicals, to prevent or reduce the incidence of chemically induced illnesses and injuries resulting from the use of chemicals at work and consequently to enhance the protection of the general public and the environment.

(<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C170> and

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cis/oshworld/chemcode/01.htm>)

International Maritime Organization Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

The International Maritime Organization Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering the prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. It is a combination of two treaties adopted in 1973 and 1978 and updated by amendments over the years. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) was adopted in November 1973 and covered pollution by oil, chemicals, harmful substances in packaged form, sewage and garbage. The Protocol of 1978 relating to the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1978 MARPOL Protocol) was adopted at a conference on tanker safety and pollution prevention in February 1978, which was held in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976 and 1977. As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent convention. The combined instrument is referred to as the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78), and entered into force in October 1983 (Annexes I and II). The Convention includes six technical annexes. States may become Party to the Convention, however, by ratifying only annexes I and II.

(http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?doc_id=678&topic_id=258)

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was agreed in September 1987 and entered into force in January 1989. It requires its Parties to eliminate in accordance with agreed timelines the production and import of nearly 100 chemicals that have ozone-depleting properties.

(<http://ozone.unep.org/>)

National chemicals management profiles

A national chemicals management profile provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the existing national legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructure related to the sound management of chemicals in the context of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. In developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the national profiles have served as a useful basis for identifying national chemicals management priorities and for initiating targeted and coordinated follow-up action. In countries with advanced national chemical management schemes, national profiles on chemicals

management have pulled together, into a single document, a wide range of information about national activities and programmes in the area of national chemicals management and thus contribute both to the national and international exchange of information about these activities.
(<http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/nphomepage/index.html>)

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (1998)

The objectives of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade are to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm, as well as 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 was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2004. (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=5&sid=16>)

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically and accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife. Exposure to persistent organic pollutants can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and even diminished intelligence. Given their long-range transport, no one Government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from persistent organic pollutants. In response, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of persistent organic pollutants into the environment.
(<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/tabid/54/language/en-US/Default.aspx>)
