



Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety – IFCS

WHAT IS THE IFCS?

It is a broad consensus-building mechanism that serves as a facilitator and advocate aiming to bring order to global actions taken in the interest of global chemical safety. It functions as an accountability mechanism for its participants. The IFCS provides countries the opportunity to place issues on the international agenda and emphasize special needs and concerns with respect to improving chemicals management. All participants, including developing countries and NGOs, find it a useful mechanism to bring emerging and contentious issues to the international agenda.

WHO IS THE IFCS?

IFCS is an alliance of all stakeholders concerned with the sound management of chemicals operating on the basis of full and open participation of all partners. It is a global platform where governments, international, regional and national organizations, industry groups, public interest associations, labor organizations, scientific associations and representatives of civil society meet to build partnerships, provide advice and guidance, make recommendations and monitor progress.

WHAT DOES IFCS DO?

The functions of the IFCS are consultative and advisory, and include :

- 1 identification of priorities for cooperative action and facilitating this cooperation,
- 2 recommend concerted international strategies,
- 3 promoting strengthening of national chemicals management coordination mechanisms,
- 4 identifying gaps in scientific understanding,
- 5 promoting information exchange and technical cooperation,

- 6 reviewing effectiveness of relevant ongoing activities,
- 7 advising governments in their work on chemical safety,
- 8 promoting cooperation among governmental and nongovernmental organizations,
- 9 evaluate progress on agreed actions and recommendations.

More information: <http://www.who.int/ifcs>

[FINAL REPORT Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety \(Forum V\) 25-29 September 2006, Budapest](#)

[Protecting Children from Harmful Chemical Exposures](#), Bangkok, Thailand, December 1 - 7, 2003

[NEW! Official Announcement IFCS : Chemical Safety and Children's Health](#)

[Priorities for Action Beyond 2006](#)