

Steps towards an Intergovernmental Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP)

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What is the Problem?

- ◆ Many chemical property data and findings on exposure and effects **not harmonized**.
- ◆ **High uncertainties** limit a science-based treatment of transboundary chemical pollution.
- ◆ **Support and funding** for measuring chemical properties, compiling emission inventories, conducting monitoring programs, performing modeling studies still **too low**.
- ◆ **Existing organizations limited** in their geographical or thematic scope.

Tasks of an IPCP (I): Provide Scientific Support for Politics

- ◆ **Compile** and **evaluate existing results** of research into transboundary chemical pollution
- ◆ Harmonize and **share data**
- ◆ Provide **evaluated results** for decision makers: reports on priority topics
- ◆ Support development of **political consensus** as a prerequisite for taking actions

Tasks of an IPCP (II): Support Future Science

- ◆ **Create awareness** among policy makers; support funding
- ◆ **Coordinate scientific research** in priority areas
- ◆ Put **emphasis** on fields not part of the scientific mainstream, e.g. chemical property measurements

Steps Towards an IPCP (I)

- ◆ Define role and responsibility of IPCP, also in relationship to existing institutions:
 - ➔ IPCS: International Programme on Chemical Safety
 - ➔ IFCS: Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
 - ➔ EMEP: European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme
 - ➔ AMAP: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
 - ➔ EEA: European Environment Agency
 - ➔ Others

- ◆ IPCP:
 - ➔ focused on **scientific assessment** of transboundary chemical pollution, similar to AMAP and EEA
 - ➔ global scope, similar to IPCS and IFCS

Steps Towards an IPCP (II)

- ◆ Possible first mandate of IPCP: support implementation of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants?
 - ➔ POPs cause transboundary pollution
 - ➔ POPs research faces many fundamental scientific challenges
 - ➔ POPs contamination long-term issue
- ◆ Additional mandates desirable?

Summary

◆ Problem:

- ➔ Scientific results inconsistent, not harmonized, difficult to use
- ➔ Political and financial support insufficient

◆ Tasks:

- ➔ Scientific support of politics
- ➔ Political support of science

◆ Steps:

- ➔ Define role and responsibility, in particular in comparison to existing organizations. Stockholm Convention?