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)

.definition 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

.IPSCP:
  - 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?