
Management of Chemicals at the Global Level

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Objectives

- To outline some of the challenges and trends in international chemicals production and management
- To briefly describe the international organizations, mechanisms and programs currently in place
- To discuss where this might lead future efforts

Protecting the global environment will require collaboration among developed and developing countries, business, NGOs and international organizations

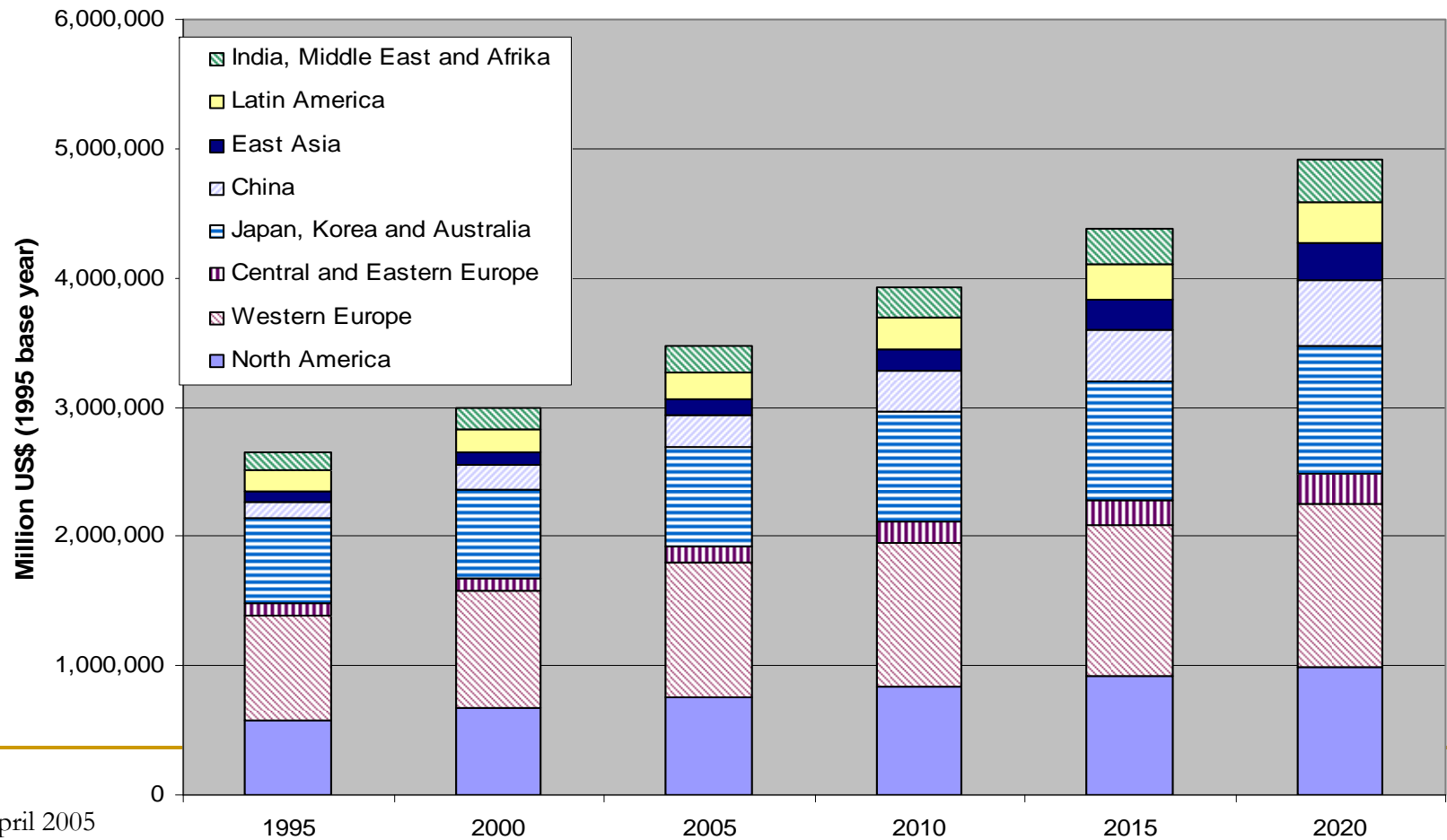
- Environmental issues in other countries are often not just local problems.
- Chemical issues are not confined to the chemical industry.
 - Chemicals are used in virtually every aspect of modern society and are the responsibility of many industries including, manufacturing and transportation and also service industries such as telecommunications, banks, investment firms and coffee houses
- Many chemical issues are complex and global in nature, therefore, multilateral efforts and bilateral relationships, are critical to successfully addressing these issues.

Global chemical production is continuing to increase in volume and complexity

- Production of chemicals is becoming more evenly distributed internationally
 - Growth in production and use of chemicals in developing countries is outpacing the ability to implement regulatory regimes for sound management of chemicals.
 - Toxic chemicals may enter North America from these countries through long range transport or via the importation of products and articles.
- Hazard information is lacking for the vast majority of chemicals
- Sound management is critical to protecting human health and the environment

Production of chemicals increasing and starting to shift globally

World Chemical Industry Output Projection (OECD)



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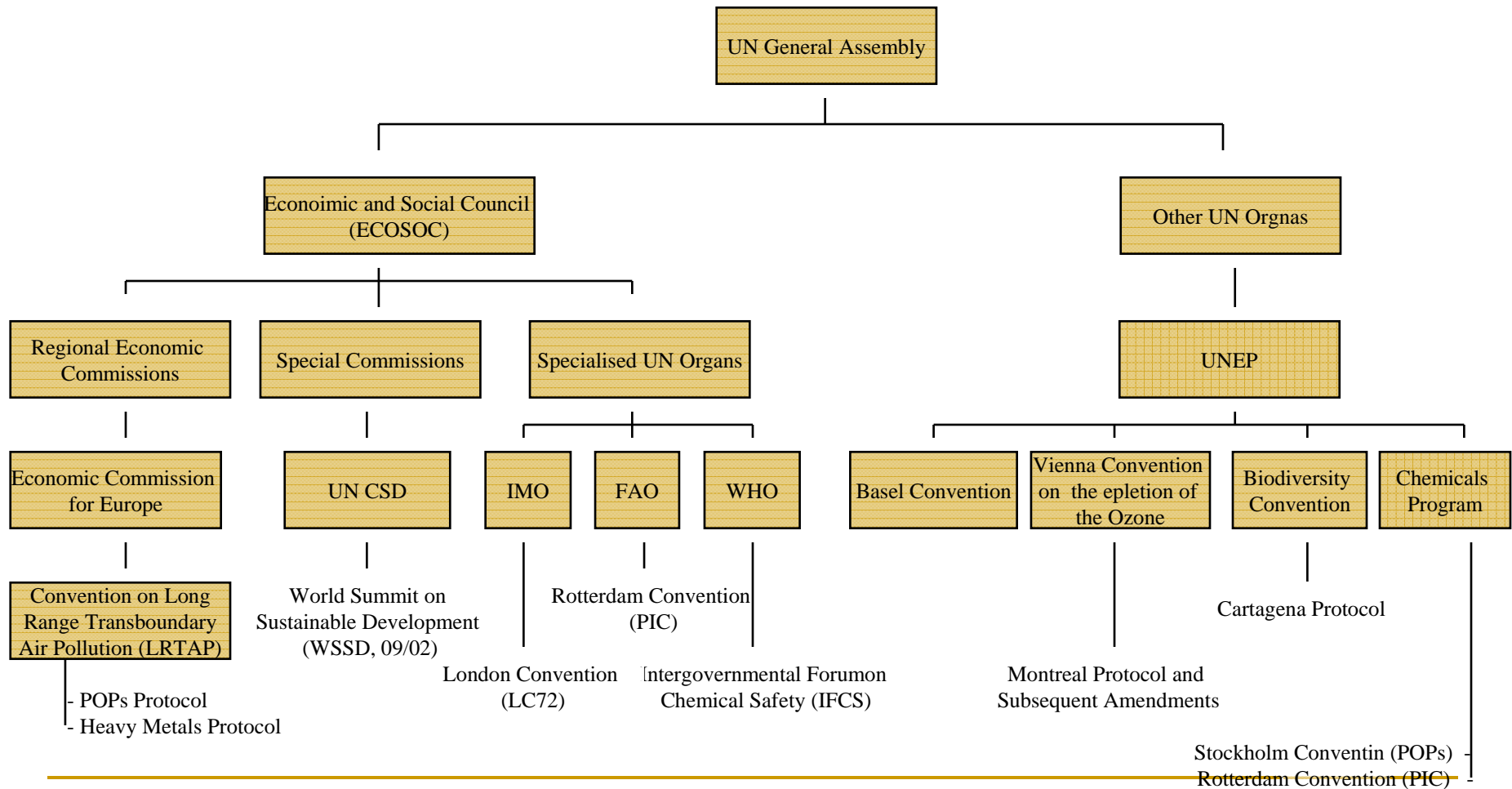
1992, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – Agenda 21 Priorities

- Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks
- Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals
- Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks
- Establishment of risk reduction programs
- Strengthening of national capabilities for managing chemicals
- Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products

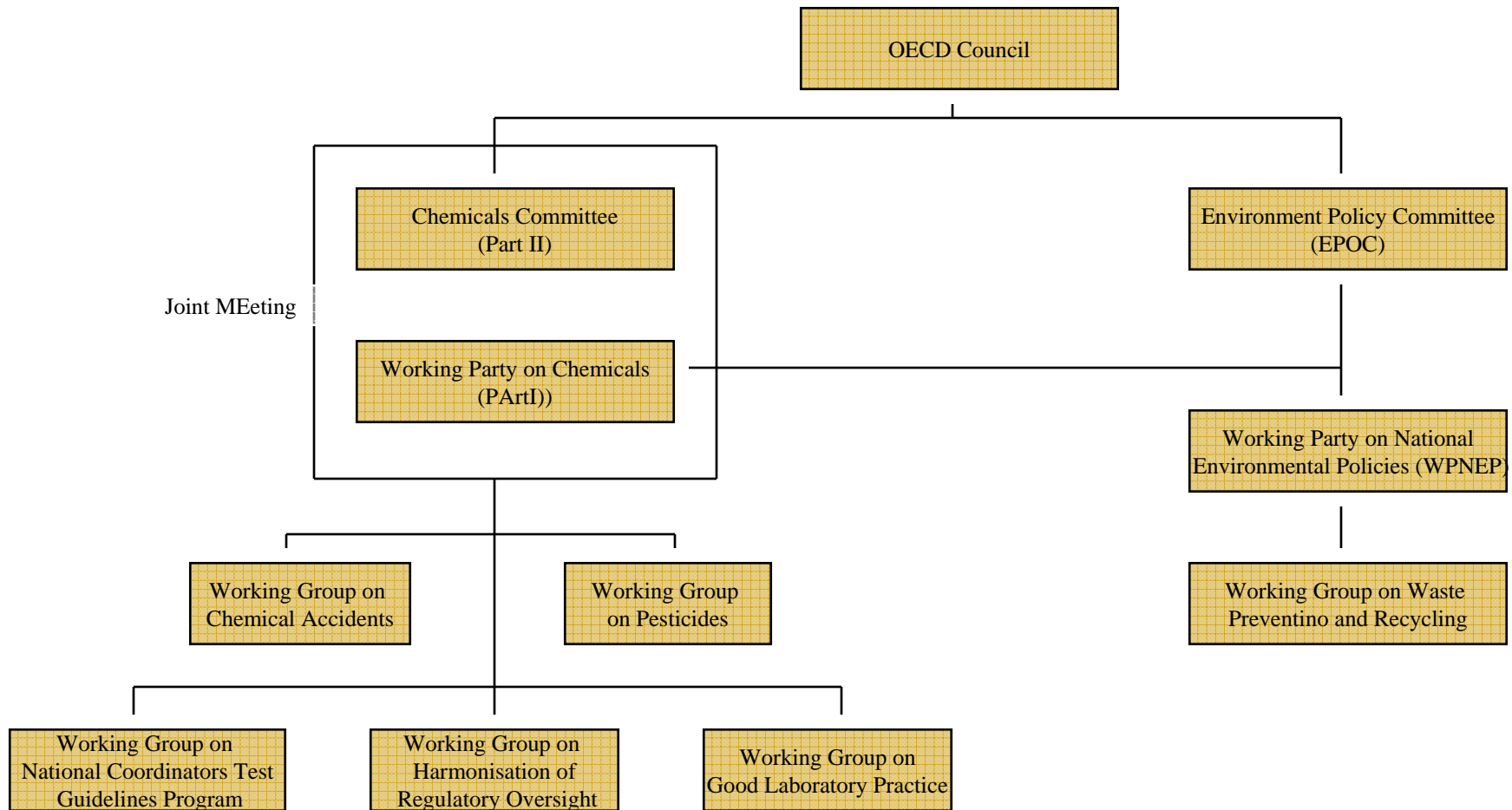
Since UNCED, dozens of global and regional agreements and programs have been initiated, strengthened or completed

- Global agreements and implementation protocols include Stockholm (PoPs), Rotterdam (PIC), Basel (waste), Montreal Protocol (ozone), UNFCCC and Kyoto (climate change), ILO Conventions (worker safety)
- Regional agreements important for North America are UN ECE (NA and Europe), NAECE (NAFTA) and the Eight Circumpolar Countries
- Other programs and institutions include OECD, IOMC, IPCS, FAO and IFCS
- Industry, labor and public interest groups also participate in programs and institutions

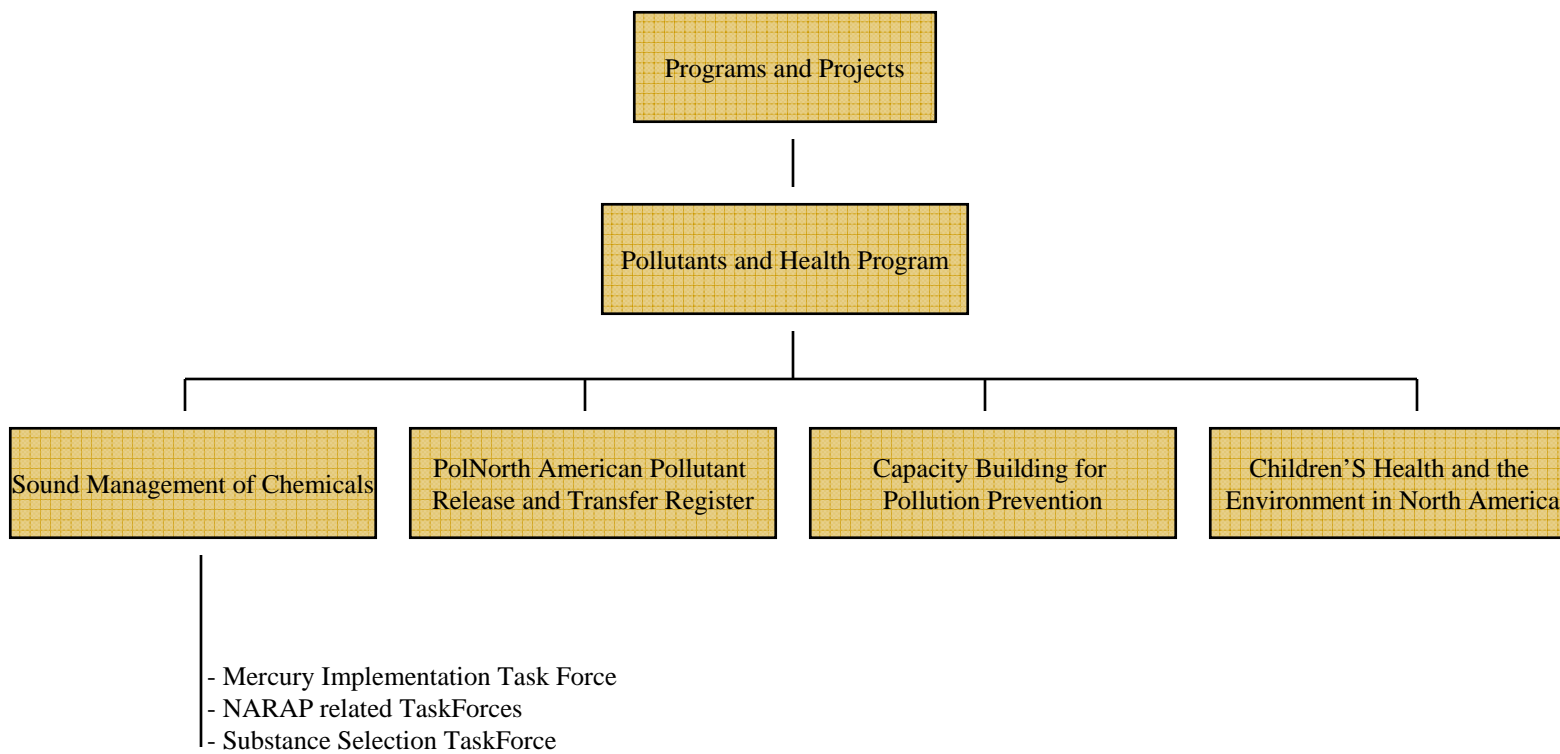
UN Related Organisations/Conventions



OECD



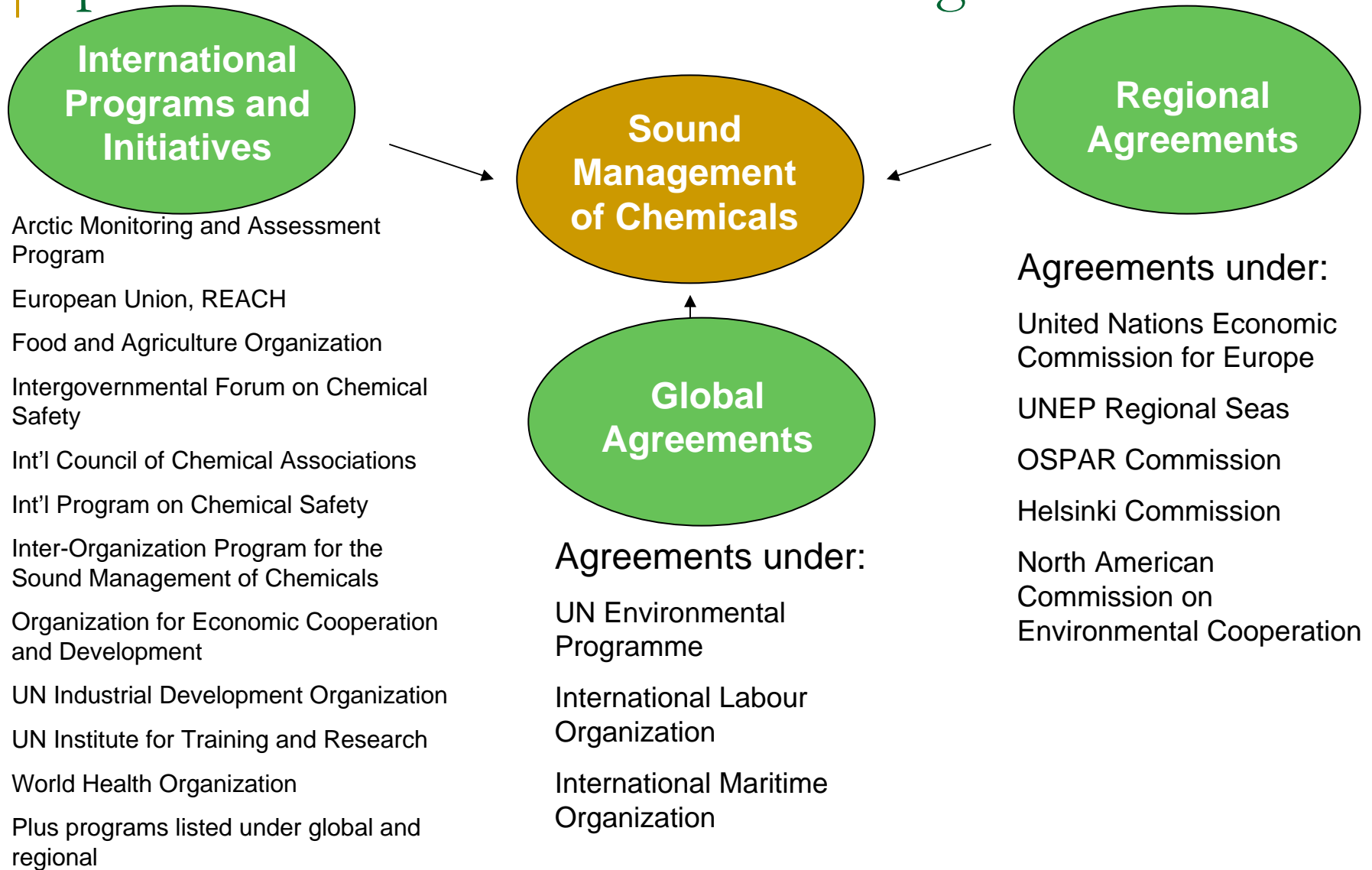
NACEC



Organizational Functions

<i>Org.</i>	<i>Core competence</i>	<i>Not/less competent</i>
UNEP	Give policy direction, convene/ launch process, secretariat, organizer, legal obligations	Generate statistics or tech. info, set specific targets or rules
OECD	Data, Stats., tech. standards, economic analysis, risk assessment, best practices	Give Policy direction, set targets, rules, convene or organize
NACEC	Regional action plans, knowledge sharing, capacity building	set rules or standards; regionally focused
MEAs, REAs	Issue-specific discussion, Decision taking and rule making	Generate stats or tech. info, launch new process
SAICM	Open process for agreement on cross-cutting Int'l chemicals work	Generate stats or tech info, set rules or standards

Specific international actions lacking coherence



The World Summit on Sustainable Development committed to a strategic approach to international chemicals management

- UNEP Governing Council, adopted a plan to develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM) by 2005.
- SAICM is aimed at achieving:
 - that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.
 - enhancing the coherency and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals
- SAICM will address a broad array of chemical issues including: risk assessment and management; availability and accessibility of information; worker safety; pesticide use and disposal; hazardous wastes; classification and labelling; research; and monitoring

SAICM – Multi-sectoral

- Convened jointly by UNEP, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PrepCom2 brought together more than 300 government representatives, 14 UN bodies and specialized agencies, eight intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and 40 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).
- A key feature of the SAICM process is its engagement of all sectors of society and the fact that Governments, Inter-governmental organizations, Industry and Non-governmental organizations all have a voice at the table and have a sense of shared responsibility.
 - This also leads to increased transparency since discussions inclusive.
- Policy integration across the sectors at both national and international levels will be important to ensure effective management of risks throughout chemicals' life-cycle of production, use and disposal.

Where to go for information

- The report prepared for the World Bank by John Buccini entitled “The Global Pursuit of the Sound Management of Chemicals” in 2004 is a comprehensive (and comprehensible) overview of international chemicals management.
- More information can be found on the SAICM Web site at <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/> or by contacting the ICCA or you can call me.