

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND THE WORKING PARTY ON
CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Task Force on Hazard Assessment

**PLANS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RISK ASSESSMENT OF COMBINED
EXPOSURES TO MULTIPLE CHEMICALS**

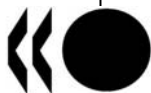
3rd Meeting of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment

**29-30 June 2010, OECD Conference Centre
2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris**

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JT03285580

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This document has been prepared by WHO/IPCS and the OECD Secretariat and provides information about the planned International Workshop on Risk Assessment of Combined Exposures to Multiple Chemicals.

ACTION REQUIRED: *The Task Force on Hazard Assessment is invited to take note of the report and comment on opportunities for further work on methodologies on assessment from combined exposures to multiple chemicals.*

BACKGROUND

1. At the last Joint Meeting, the World Health Organization provided information about its project to develop a Framework for Risk Assessment of Combined Exposures to Multiple Chemicals. The draft framework has been subject to a public and peer review process and is in the process of being finalized.

The draft is available at

http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/methods/harmonization/areas/combined_exposure/en/index.html

2. WHO informed the Joint Meeting about its plans to hold an international workshop on combined exposures, cosponsored by the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI)/HESI, which is a non-governmental organization in official relations with WHO. The workshop would present the WHO framework (see Annex 1), discuss a number of case study examples, and identify needs for further work by the international community and/or at national level. The Joint Meeting had expressed an interest in the issue of combined exposures and decided to consider at a future meeting, proposals for OECD work on this subject. The OECD Joint Meeting accepted the invitation of WHO to be a co-host of the international workshop.

3. Planning for the joint workshop commenced at a WHO meeting at Imperial College, London, United Kingdom, 18-19 February 2010. This meeting also made the necessary decisions to finalize the WHO framework document. The OECD Secretariat participated in the meeting. The meeting agreed on a broad agenda for the workshop. The meeting decided upon the case studies to be discussed in the break-out groups (see Annex 2) and identified organizations to prepare them, if not already available. It was also envisaged that the European Commission be invited to present the findings of their desk study on the state-of-the-art of combined exposure assessment.

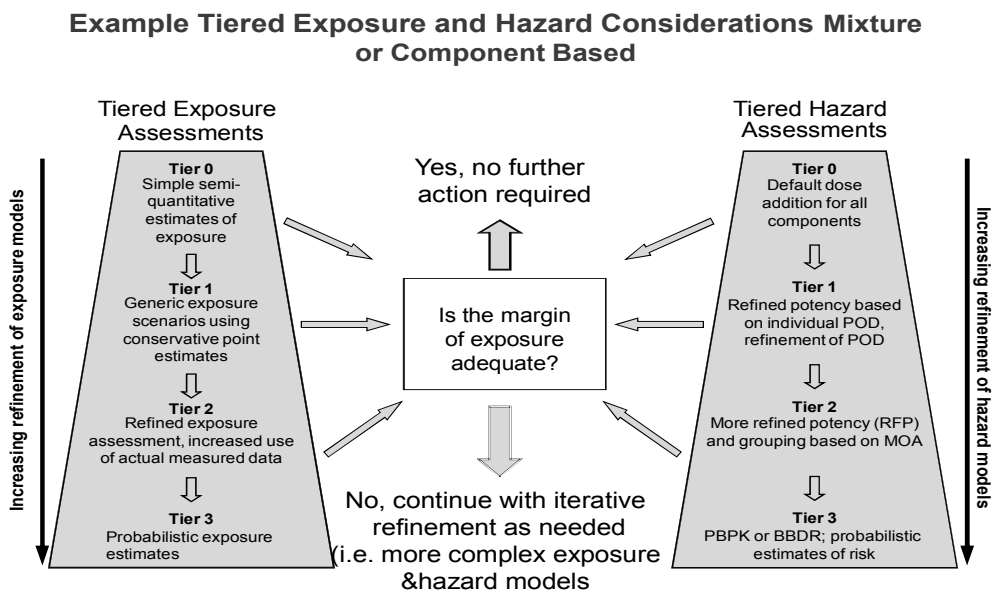
4. A draft list of participants for the workshop will be prepared by the WHO/OECD/ILSI(HESI) Secretariat. The list will comprise WHO invited experts and organizations (including representatives of the HESI Mixtures Project Committee) plus OECD delegation nominations, to total approximately fifty participants. The venue would likely be either Geneva or Paris, over two days, in early 2011. Further planning for the workshop will take place by teleconference, with a date for the workshop being set before the European Summer break.

ANNEX 1

FOCUS OF THE WHO ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

A framework for the risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals has been developed to maximize efficiency in the consideration and generation of available information. The objective of framework analyses is “fit for purpose” assessment, to ensure that no more resources are invested than are necessary to make a decision for the purpose at hand, namely to set a group of chemicals aside as a non-priority for further consideration or to inform risk management. This is based on a tiered approach that involves integrated and iterative consideration of exposure and hazard, with each tier being more refined than the previous one, i.e., less conservative and uncertain, but more labour and data intensive.

Below is a schematic representation of the framework for the risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals.



See text for details

ANNEX 2

Case studies to be presented, discussed or simply available at the workshop

- case study on a mixture of PBDE congeners
- case study on carbamates
- case study on Threshold of Toxicological Concern
- case study on triazole pesticides
- case study on contaminated site