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ENVIRONMENT

Products harmful to health and the environment

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/229 of 18 December 1984, in which the Secretary-General is requested, through the Economic and Social Council, to inform the Assembly every three years about the implementation of that resolution, as well as that of Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982 and 38/149 of 19 December 1983. These resolutions form the mandate for the issuance of regular updates of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments. 1/ They also address the need to keep the format of the list under continuing review, in co-operation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to its improvement, taking into account its complementary nature, the experience obtained and the views expressed by Governments.

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The mandate for the production of the regular updates of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments 1/ dates back to 1982, with the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 37/137 on the protection against products harmful to health and the environment. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to base such a list upon the work already being done within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations. The Assembly specified that the list should be easy to read and should contain both generic/chemical and brand names, as well as the names of all manufacturers and a short reference to the decisions taken by Governments that had led to the banning, withdrawal or severe restriction of the products. In General Assembly resolution 38/149, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 37/137, including the consolidated list. The list was first issued in December 1983 and revised in July 1984. The information contained within the list was based on replies received from 60 Governments relating to nearly 500 products.

2. After considering the Secretary-General's report (A/39/452), prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 38/149, the Assembly, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 39/229, decided, inter alia, that an updated consolidated list should be issued annually and that the data should be made available to Governments and users in such a form as to permit direct computer access to it. In order to keep costs to a minimum, the list was to be published in all official languages of the United Nations on an alternating basis, with no more than three languages per year and with the same frequency for each language. The Assembly also decided that the format of the consolidated list should be kept under continuing review, in co-operation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to its improvement, taking into account its complementary nature, the experience obtained and the views expressed by Governments. The review to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session was to cover particularly the advantages and disadvantages of introducing to the list such information as the legal, public health and commercial context of the regulatory actions, as well as complementary information on safe uses of the products. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on a review of information exchange schemes on hazardous products in operation within the United Nations system.

3. Finally, the General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 39/229, requested the Secretary-General, through the Economic and Social Council, to inform the Assembly at its forty-first session and every three years thereafter about the implementation of the resolution, as well as that of resolutions 37/137 and 38/149. After considering the first triennial review, the General Assembly, in its decision 41/450 of 8 December 1986, endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/72 of 23 July 1985, whereby the Council decided that the list should continue

to be published as one document, including generic/chemical and brand names and all manufacturers of such products.

4. In addition to providing a continuing mandate for the production and review of the list, however, General Assembly resolutions 37/137, 38/149 and 39/229 are also directed at other related areas of concern. In Assembly resolution 37/137, the Secretary-General is requested to continue to ensure the provision of the necessary information and assistance by the United Nations system in order to strengthen the national capacities of developing countries to protect themselves from the consumption and/or sale of banned, withdrawn and severely restricted products. In its resolution 38/149, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to provide, within available resources, the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries, at their request, for the establishment or strengthening of national systems for better use by those countries of the information provided with regard to banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe products, as well as for an adequate monitoring of those products. In its resolution 39/229, the Assembly, in a similar vein, also requested the Secretary-General and the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries, at their request, for the establishment or strengthening of national systems for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products, as well as for an adequate monitoring of the importation, manufacture and use of those products.

5. In addition, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, based in part on the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (see A/42/427, annex). The resolution, while not referring to the list as such, emphasizes the need for environmentally sound and sustainable development, which should be based on prudent management of global resources and environmental capacities and the rehabilitation of the environment previously subjected to degradation and misuse. The various recommendations of the World Commission and the Environmental Perspective with regard to hazardous products are aimed at protecting importing countries and ensuring that they develop the necessary infrastructure to assess the health and environmental impacts of these products. In this connection, it is urged that Governments undertake that no new chemicals are placed on international markets until they have been properly tested, that they adopt and enforce regulations on the packaging and labelling of chemicals whose use may be potentially harmful, in order to ensure that clear directions are provided in common local languages; and that they take other measures to regulate the export of chemicals to developing countries for which authorization for domestic sale has not been sought or given, by extending requirements for prior notification and information exchange to them.

II. REVIEW OF THE CONSOLIDATED LIST

A. Arrangements for the production of the list

6. The arrangements for the production of the consolidated list have remained the same as that reported in the first triennial review (A/41/329-E/1986/83). It will be recalled that in 1985, the United Nations Secretariat, in close co-operation with WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), carried out a review of the list. The review covered arrangements for the preparation of future issues, the need for criteria for the inclusion of products, the question of introducing into the list certain types of information, such as the legal and public health context of regulatory actions, which had not been included in the first issue of the list, and the treatment of commercial data.

7. As a result, a memorandum of collaboration was agreed upon that outlined the division of responsibilities among the United Nations, WHO and UNEP/IRPTC, taking into account their respective competences and the concerns expressed by Member States. Accordingly, WHO collects, screens and processes the information relating to regulatory measures taken by Governments on pharmaceutical products, and on health-related and environmental reasons for these measures, and UNEP/IRPTC performs a similar function with regard to chemical products and consumer products that are regulated because of their chemical ingredients. The United Nations Secretariat co-ordinates these inputs, ensures that relevant information available in other organizations is utilized for the purposes of the list, and collects and reviews the commercial data. It also edits, translates and publishes the list.

8. It was also agreed that the list would include, where available, references to legal documents so that the user could obtain these and ascertain the legal context and coverage of the regulations. The review also covered the extent to which information on safe uses of products and related questions (such as methods for pesticide application and precautionary measures to be taken by the applicator) should be included in the list. It was decided at that time that, while this type of information would be useful, the task of compiling existing information and, if necessary, evaluating new products, was a major undertaking not currently carried out by the organizations of the United Nations system and for which resources were not available. Accordingly, access to relevant information would be limited to bibliographical references to risk evaluation and other technical publications that have been prepared by the competent United Nations agencies involved.

B. Coverage and scope of the list

9. With each ensuing edition of the consolidated list, the coverage, in terms of numbers of products and reporting Governments, has expanded. The second issue 1/ covered nearly 600 products regulated by 67 Governments and the third issue, now in the final stages of publication, covers over 600 products regulated by 93 Governments. The fourth issue will mark an additional substantial increase.

10. The scope of information contained in the third and fourth issues of the list remains the same as that established for the second issue. The third issue (which will appear in Arabic, French and Spanish and contains regulatory and commercial data current as at 1 March 1988) and the fourth issue (which will be available in English, Russian and Chinese and contains information current as at 1 March 1989) are organized in two parts. Part one, compiled by the United Nations, WHO and UNEP/IRPTC, covers both mono-component and combination pharmaceutical products and chemical products. Psychotropic and narcotic substances have been included only in cases where a country has notified WHO, either that the substance is controlled more rigorously than is provided for under the relevant international conventions, or that the substance has been subjected to national control before being considered for international scheduling.

11. The information on chemical products continues to refer to products that have been banned for health or environmental reasons, or are only authorized for specified uses. The list does not cover the large number of widely used industrial chemicals to which occupational exposure limits, for example, maximum allowable concentrations, have been assigned by national authorities, on which information is available in ILO and IRPTC publications. Food additives, for which international standards have been established under the FAO/WHO Codex alimentarius, also continue to be outside the scope of the list. Information relating to consumer products has been limited to those products which are hazardous because of their chemical composition.

12. While the third and fourth issues of the list have expanded the coverage, the information cannot be regarded as exhaustive. In this context, it should be noted that decisions taken by a limited number of Governments on a specific product may not be representative of other Governments' positions, particularly in view of differing risk-benefit considerations. It is also important to realize that all pharmaceutical and chemical products are potentially harmful if not correctly used. In addition, the fact that a given product is not listed as regulated by a country does not necessarily mean that it is permitted in that country; it may mean that the relevant regulatory decision has not been communicated to the United Nations, WHO or UNEP, or that, in the case of pharmaceuticals and pesticides that are frequently subject to compulsory registration procedures, the product has not been submitted for registration.

13. With regard to agricultural and industrial chemicals, it should be noted that regulations often refer to chemical groups, such as arsenic compounds, rather than to specific chemicals. Starting with the third issue of the list, references to such more generally applicable regulations are made jointly with those of the chemical element representing the group - in the above case, arsenic. Similarly, information concerning salts, esters or other groups of derivatives is grouped with the acid or other main compound.

14. Products are listed alphabetically within sections. International Nonproprietary Names (INN) have been used whenever possible to identify pharmaceutical products, and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) names, where available, have been used for chemicals. Each product entry includes, where available, the Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CAS number), other

scientific names, common names and synonyms; the effective date on which the regulation came into force; a summary of regulatory measures taken by Governments; brief explanatory comments where possible; and legal and bibliographical references. A listing of the references cited in part one and, if available, the addresses where copies of the documents can be obtained are given in an annex to the list.

15. Part two of the list, compiled by the United Nations Secretariat, presents commercial information, including data on trade names and manufacturers, relating to a large proportion of the products in part one. It provides an easy method to cross-reference commercial names with the recognized common scientific names. Trade-name data are included for most of the chemical products and monocomponent pharmaceutical products; there are no trade-name data for combination pharmaceuticals. Owing to limited resources, manufacturer data are provided only in respect of agricultural and industrial chemicals. For widely manufactured generic products, manufacturer data are not included. In this context, it should be noted that, since manufacturers and distributors may maintain a trade name while changing the ingredients or formulation, it is important to check the contents of a specific product using an identified trade name.

16. The commercial data were compiled through a review of various on-line data bases and commercial directives for alternative nomenclature for the regulated products. Commercial names were then separated from alternate scientific names. Data on individual manufacturers were gathered primarily from scientific and commercial publications and export marketing lists of various countries; they were collected irrespective of the manufacturer's form of ownership and include transnational and national enterprises from all regions. Manufacturer data relating to transnational corporations were verified in accordance with the procedure established with the Commission on Transnational Corporations. Other manufacturer data were checked against published sources.

17. Starting with the third issue of the list, a special effort was made to obtain manufacturers' data with respect to State-owned chemical enterprises, through requests addressed to the Permanent Missions of Member States known to have State-owned chemical enterprises.

18. The commercial information is organized under the same headings as the regulatory data in order to facilitate easy reference. Each product entry includes the product name and CAS number, a listing of known trade names and, for certain products, a listing of known manufacturers, as an indication of where the manufacturers are based, and the trade names used by the manufacturers.

C. Format of the list

19. The General Assembly, in its resolution 37/137, agreed, inter alia, that the list should be "easy to read and understand". To this end, a new format and graphic presentation of the data were developed starting with the third issue. The type set is larger and the characters are in upper and lower case. Aside from making the book more readable, the improved design is expected to increase sales revenue.

D. Publication in language versions

20. In its resolution 39/229, the General Assembly stipulated that the consolidated list should be published and made available in all the official languages of the United Nations in sets of alternating languages each year, with no more than three languages per year and with the same frequency for each language. The rationale for this decision was "to keep costs to a minimum"; in actual fact, however, this has not proven to be the case.

21. The various data bases maintained by WHO, UNEP/IRPTC and the United Nations Secretariat are in English and the updating and modification of the information to be contained in the consolidated list is done in that language. Consequently, a copy of the list in English could be made available each year, with no delays such as found in the process of translation.

22. The absence of an English version of the list occurred for the first time with the publication of the third issue. This has presented many practical problems. WHO, for instance, gathers data on pharmaceutical products for inclusion in the list by correspondence with designated information officers in Ministries of Health. The information is first issued in the Pharmaceuticals Newsletter to regulatory authorities and discussed in many instances more discursively in the WHO Drug Information bulletin. All entries that are considered for inclusion in the consolidated list, however, are first verified with the countries concerned and all interested manufacturers are also offered the opportunity to make representations on the proposed entries. This correspondence is done in English, and the absence of an English third issue of the list has impeded WHO's consultative process.

23. The Secretariat likewise verifies the data proposed for inclusion in part two of the list with manufacturers. Manufacturers are also requested to review the accuracy of the data on the basis of a completed English text of the list for possible modifications in the next issue. UNEP/IRPTC has also indicated that the regular publication of the list in English would be useful for its work in this area.

24. Finally, the demand for the list in English by users has been great. This is supported not only by the volume of requests received by the United Nations Secretariat but also by sales figures. The number of copies of the list ordered in English from the sales offices at New York and Geneva has far surpassed that for any other language. Sales of the list in English has generated considerable revenue. In this context, the yearly publication of the list in English could be considered to be economically beneficial to the Organization.

25. Delays in the issuance of the regular updates of the consolidated list have been partly attributable to the amount of time required to translate an entire English text into the other languages. The United Nations data base, however, now has fields available for storing data in Spanish and French. It should be possible in future to accelerate the translation process into those languages simply by adding, deleting or modifying translated entries directly on the computer, since much of the data remains current from issue to issue. Accordingly, it would appear feasible to publish the list in those languages on an annual basis.

26. The storage capacity does not yet exist, however, for Arabic, Chinese and Russian, although it is anticipated that it will be available at a later stage. The distribution of copies has been limited to that for official purposes, since the sales office does not market the list in these languages. It might be considered, for the time being, whether it would not be most economical for the Organization to publish the list each year in English, Spanish and French and alternate each of the other three official languages annually. At the same time, ways of opening up the market for distribution in Arabic, Chinese and Russian could be explored, including the possibility of marketing the text externally.

E. Question of direct computer access

27. The question of direct computer access, called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/229, remains under study. The computer programmes, input methods and processing steps currently in use were designed at the stage when the regulatory information was collected directly from Governments by the United Nations Secretariat. Since the memorandum of collaboration went into effect, WHO and IRPTC have been transferring data to the Secretariat. Efficiency of data transfer and direct computer access have become interrelated issues.

28. In order to produce a version of the consolidated list that could either be written on magnetic tape or made available for searching, it would be necessary to undertake a significant level of systems analysis and programming, for which resources have not been available to date. Furthermore, at present, the Electronic Services Division in the United Nations Secretariat does not have a data-base management system appropriate for the production of a new, interactive version of the list, which would allow direct computer access. The United Nations Secretariat plans to pursue the question further, in tandem with WHO and IRPTC.

29. UNEP/IRPTC maintains a legal file from which information for inclusion in the consolidated list is extracted. The IRPTC legal file has made on-line accessible by the European Economic Community Databank: Environmental Chemicals Data and Information Network (ECDIN) through EURONET, TELEPAC or TYMNET. The legal file, together with other IRPTC files, is also available from the Department of National Health and Welfare of Canada, through the National Telecommunications Network of Canada (INET 2000). UNEP/IRPTC is also initiating a project to convert its files in such a way that they would be available for use on personal computers; plans are to have such a system available within the next two to three years. It should also be noted that WHO is exploring the possibility of providing direct computer access to the pharmaceutical data.

F. Public health context

30. WHO regularly provides explanatory comments on pharmaceutical products to provide a context for certain regulatory actions. These comments serve to clarify cases in which Governments have taken conflicting regulatory actions in the light of different national priorities. UNEP/IRPTC and the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), a joint programme of ILO, UNEP and WHO, are not in a

position to provide comments on regulatory actions related to agricultural and industrial chemicals owing to the sheer number of products in which these chemicals appear and the manifold applications of such products. Moreover, it is virtually impossible to comment on prohibitions or use restrictions for chemical products as risk-benefit assessments and subsequent decisions may differ considerably from country to country depending on different national or local conditions most frequently incompletely known to IRPTC and IPCS.

G. Utilization of the consolidated list

31. In order to determine the use to which the list is being made, a questionnaire has been included in each issue, starting with the second issue. There have been approximately 100 responses received. An analysis of the responses received from users of the second issue reveals that the list has been instrumental in actions ranging from information dissemination to the review of licensing provisions, laws and regulations, leading in some cases to the enforcement of new laws or regulations.

32. Two thirds of the respondents were from developing countries. One quarter were government regulators, customs enforcement personnel or policy makers; about 40 per cent were members of non-governmental organizations and the balance were affiliated with academic institutions, media and international organizations. No responses were received from manufacturers.

33. Most respondents used the list for a multiplicity of products, but information on pesticides was cited most often (75 per cent), followed by pharmaceuticals (60 per cent), industrial chemicals (43 per cent) and consumer products (43 per cent).

34. The majority of respondents from Governments indicated that they had taken some action based on the information contained in the list. Most often, the list was used to ascertain which products were severely restricted or banned elsewhere, but were still available in the respondent's country. In many cases, this led to the national restriction or ban of those substances.

35. With regard to non-governmental organizations, academics and media officials, many cases were cited whereby public interest groups used the list to urge Governments and manufacturers to remove hazardous products from the marketplace. In one developing country, the list was used as part of documentary evidence in a public hearing for the continuation of a ban on a certain category of drugs. In another instance, information in the list was used in a campaign to apprise farmers and other consumers of the health-related effects of using certain products. One international non-governmental organization used data from the list as a basis for administering seed grants to groups in developing countries to survey their domestic situation with regard to hazardous products.

36. Feedback regarding the usefulness of the list by all respondents is quite positive. One consumer's group from a developed country wrote: "The Consolidated List is an authoritative source of information. It must be maintained so as to

prevent unnecessary injuries and deaths". An environmental group from a developing country wrote: "The Consolidated List is an indispensable document to achieve international regulations on dangerous chemicals". A number of respondents cited additional products and commercial data for inclusion in the list.

37. Nearly half of the respondents were interested in the possibility of on-line access to the information in the consolidated list. Concern was expressed, however, about the costs such an undertaking could entail.

38. While no questionnaire responses have been forthcoming to date from manufacturers, the Secretariat has noted that the list has had an impact in this sector. In one instance, for example, a large manufacturer of pesticides contacted the Secretariat to ascertain that a particular product it was producing would not appear in the list, as this was a condition of sale for a particular government client.

III. PROTECTION AGAINST PRODUCTS HARMFUL TO HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

39. An important element in reviewing the list is to ensure that the list continues to serve its intended function of consolidating information related to hazardous products based upon the work being done by the relevant inter-governmental organisations.

40. Since the last review, several initiatives have been taken in the United Nations system relative to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 37/137, 38/149 and 39/229. These will impact upon the future format and content of the list.

A. Prior informed consent

41. The General Assembly, in its resolution 37/137, agreed that products that have been banned from domestic consumption and/or sale because they have been judged to endanger health and the environment should be sold abroad by companies, corporations or individuals only when a request for such products is received from an importing country or when the consumption of such products is officially permitted in the importing country. In its resolutions 38/149 and 39/229, the Assembly requested the organisations of the United Nations system to provide the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries, at their request, for the establishment or strengthening of national systems for managing hazardous products, as well as for an adequate monitoring of the importation of those products. In its resolution 42/186, the Assembly also recommended that trade in hazardous industrial products, such as toxic chemicals and pesticides, and in some other products, such as pharmaceuticals, should be subjected to regulations to ensure sharing by the contracting parties, Governments and consumers of information on their environmental and health implications and on methods for their safe use and disposal.

42. Both UNEP and FAO have been elaborating guidelines for the principle of prior informed consent. In the case of FAO, a government consultation was held in Rome, from 10 to 15 January 1989, to propose, inter alia, amendments to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which had come into force in 1985. It was suggested that prior informed content, in the context of the Code, would mean that the international shipment of a pesticide that is banned or severely restricted, in order to protect human health or the environment, should not proceed without the explicit agreement of the designated national authority in the importing country having been provided with all the relevant information.

43. By its decision 14/27 of 17 June 1987, 2/ the Governing Council of UNEP adopted the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade. The guidelines are aimed at enhancing the sound management of chemicals, and special provisions have been included regarding the exchange of information on banned or severely restricted chemicals in international trade, which call for co-operation between exporting and importing countries in the light of their joint responsibility for the protection of human health and the environment at the global level.

44. By the same decision, the Executive Director of UNEP was requested to convene an ad hoc working group of experts to develop modalities of prior informed consent and to recommend ways of incorporating the principle of prior informed consent into the Guidelines. At its second session, held in New York from 13 to 16 February 1989, the Working Group reached consensus on a prior informed consent procedure and on a measure for incorporating the prior informed consent principle and procedure into the London Guidelines. Prior informed consent is defined in the Guidelines as "the principle that international shipment of a chemical that is banned or severely restricted in order to protect human health or the environment should not proceed without the agreement ... or contrary to the decision of the designated national authority in the importing country".

45. FAO and UNEP are in the process of elaborating compatible procedures for the operation of prior informed consent, whereby the decisions of importing countries as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of banned or severely restricted pesticides and other chemicals would be formally obtained and disseminated. At the time of the preparation of the present report, both organizations have yet to receive approval for the proposed amendments to the Code and to the London Guidelines by their governing bodies.

46. Should the prior informed consent scheme be approved, the list would identify the pesticides and other chemicals subject to prior informed consent and the countries which have elected to participate. It would also be considered whether additional information not at present reflected in the list, but to be required in a prior informed consent decision guidance document, such as alternatives considered effective replacements by the country taking the control action or uses continued in effect, should be included in the list. It is also expected that, subject to the type of collaboration to be established between FAO and UNEP, there may be other modifications which cannot at present be determined.

B. Technical assistance

47. Many activities are being undertaken by the United Nations system to help developing countries protect themselves from hazardous products. While it is not possible in the present report to document fully all efforts, some illustrative examples may be given. Under the proposed revision of the London Guidelines, States with more advanced chemical regulatory programmes are asked to provide technical assistance to other countries in developing infrastructure and the capacity to manage chemicals. IRPTC/UNEP is also asked to encourage funding agencies to provide assistance for institutional strengthening, and other United Nations organizations are requested to strengthen their activities related to the safe management of chemicals.

48. Since 1983, UNEP/IRPTC has assisted 10 developing countries in setting up national registers of potentially toxic chemicals, which are meant to be complementary to the more global information contained in IRPTC. UNEP/IRPTC also provides training to developing countries in the control of chemical hazards and risk assessment.

49. FAO has held training workshops in the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in several developing countries and is considering further work in this area.

50. The International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), a collaborative endeavour of UNEP, WHO and ILO, engages in technical co-operation with developing countries in order to strengthen their infrastructure for the safe production, importation, transportation, storage, use and disposal of chemicals, and to improve the capabilities of national authorities to make use of the risk assessment of chemicals as provided by IPCS.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

51. The noxious effect on human health and the environment of hazardous products is gaining increased international recognition. Recent treaties, for example, have been negotiated with regard to the depletion of the ozone layer as the result of the indiscriminate use of certain chemicals and the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. In both instances, the consolidated list reports on the relevant chemicals and chemical components.

52. With regard to the production of the list, the collaboration among the United Nations Secretariat, WHO and UNEP/IRPTC continues to be satisfactory. Efficiency of production would be improved if a data-base system could be established that would be usable by the three organizations, and if the list could be made available every year in English.

53. The importance of the list for the dissemination of information on hazardous products has been recognized. The practical limitations on the information a one-volume document can contain are also clear. It is therefore necessary for the list to continue to refer to all of the technical work being accomplished within

the system and to make sure that for each product entry, reference is being made to the relevant complementary publications and conventions.

Notes

1/ For the first and second issues of the consolidated list, see United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.85.IV.8 and E.87.IV.1.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/42/25), annex I.
