

production” and future consideration of the occupational health and safety issues associated with the smelting, refining, and finishing of nonferrous metal products. In 2001, a tripartite group of experts is expected to develop and adopt a Code of Practice on Safety and Health in the Nonferrous Metals Industries that will provide specific guidelines for use throughout the industry.

The **Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS)** was established in 1994 to identify priorities for cooperative action to implement Chapter 19 (chemicals) of Agenda 21. The fourth IFCS meeting, with the theme “Partnership for Global Chemical Safety”, will be held in Salvador, Brazil, October 14–20, 2000.

Multilateral Environmental and Other International Agreements

A number of multilateral environmental agreements and international conventions have an impact on the use of minerals and metals. These include the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Convention on the Law of the Sea; the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution; the Framework Convention on Climate Change; the proposed Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and the proposed Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

International Institutions and Networks

In addition, some international networks focus on the sustainable development of minerals and metals.

The **International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME)** was founded in 1991 to promote the development and implementation of sound environmental and health policies and practices in the production, use, re-use, recycling, and disposal of metals. In October 1999, ICME adopted a new mandate to reflect its increasing concern for sustainable development. ICME is now focusing on promoting sustainable development policies and practices by firms engaged in the mining and production of metals, which will ensure the safe production, use, recycling, and disposal of metals.

The **Mining and Energy Research Network (MERN)** is an international collaborative research program involving centres of excellence in major mineral-producing countries. It was established in