

## *Foreword*

There is a major environmental problem in assessing the effects of chemicals on human and non-human targets. The number of chemicals produced increases, the quantity increases and also the ability to detect them in the smallest amounts as they are dispersed, diluted and sometimes reconcentrated. The resources available to carry out all the possible investigations and measurements are small in comparison with the tasks.

In these circumstances, the identification of priorities and useful, reliable techniques is necessary. On success in this area depend the benefits to society and the environment which can be achieved by providing a scientific basis for judgment and decisions. These decisions may result in government regulations and influence the ways consumers choose and industry matches the choice with production. It has been the task of SCOPE since 1978 to find ways of bringing together the world scientific community for continuous review of the problems, which require interdisciplinary and cooperative effort.

Under the creative leadership of Norton Nelson, and building on the thinking embodied in the *Principles of Ecotoxicology* edited by Gordon C. Butler, a plan was developed for a Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals. This was established jointly with the World Health Organization. Subsequently the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Labour Organization associated themselves with the effort, within the framework of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), sponsored by those three United Nations organizations.

This volume is the second in a series and demonstrates the value of SGOMSEC in assembling in a workshop leading scientific workers so that they can rapidly establish what degree of agreement exists on scientific problems following the advance submission and study of papers. This book shows their success in achieving this and pointing to the areas where further work is required.

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