

# Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals<sup>a</sup>

## The future we want for the sound management of chemicals

### I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Governments identified the goal of “achiev[ing] by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment” (see appendix A). That goal was further adopted as part of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session in 2006.

2. The importance of the sound management of chemicals for the protection of human health and the environment, and therefore for sustainable development, has been recognized on a number of subsequent occasions, including by heads of State and Government and high-level representatives at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. In the outcome document of the Conference, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>b</sup> they reaffirmed the aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (see appendix B). The United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 1/5, welcomed the important contribution of the Strategic Approach in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, and emphasized the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement as well as the need for continued strengthening of the Strategic Approach.

3. Guided by the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, the Strategic Approach provides a policy framework to support efforts for achieving the World Summit goal. It complements the international chemicals and waste framework by including existing multilateral environmental agreements and addressing the need for and importance of comprehensive national chemicals management frameworks. The Strategic Approach is the only global mechanism which covers all agricultural and industrial chemicals, throughout their life cycles. It has created an inclusive and overarching multi-stakeholder and multisectoral platform for achieving the World Summit goal of sound chemicals management by 2020. Environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety are reflected in the Strategic Approach and the Quick Start Programme. With its integrated overall approach, the Strategic Approach allows for a balanced consideration of all factors relevant to chemicals management, including the identification of emerging policy issues, and it provides a flexible framework for international action that both complements and goes beyond legally binding approaches.

4. While significant achievements have been made towards achieving the 2020 goal, changes that have occurred since its establishment in 2002 and since the Strategic Approach was adopted in 2006 have resulted in a need to reflect on progress towards the 2020 goal, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritize actions. There is also a continued need to understand and address the different challenges and capacities among all countries – developing countries, countries with economies in transition and developed countries. In order to ensure lasting achievements by 2020 and beyond, stakeholders must respond to the advances made in the overall chemicals and waste cluster, build on the solid foundations and momentum that the Strategic Approach and the Quick Start Programme have helped to create, and make optimal use of resources.

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<sup>a</sup> As endorsed at ICCM4 that took place 28 September to 2 October 2015.

<sup>b</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

## II. Aim of the overall orientation and guidance

5. The aim of the overall orientation and guidance is to provide direction and identify approaches for all Strategic Approach stakeholders<sup>c</sup> towards facilitating the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, including some concrete elements required at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management to support the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

## III. Progress in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy

6. Since the Strategic Approach was adopted in 2006, considerable progress has been made in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy. As requested by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session, held in September 2012, the overall orientation and guidance takes into consideration the core achievements of the Strategic Approach.

### A. Risk reduction

7. Achievements towards the implementation of the risk reduction objective of the Overarching Policy Strategy have resulted in enhanced risk reduction measures of a cross-cutting nature; the identification of risk reduction measures beyond those contained in legally binding instruments; strengthened policy and regulatory frameworks; and compliance and enforcement measures, in particular for procedures for the regional harmonization of pesticide regulation and authorization processes. These achievements are more apparent in countries with national focal points for chemicals and a demonstrated capacity for coordination.

8. The organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) have developed chemicals management tools and guidance to support the implementation of risk reduction measures at national and regional levels. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) launched the Responsible Care Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy in 2006 and has provided financial support for more than 60 projects between 2008 and 2014. Civil society participating organizations in the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) carried out more than 300 activities in 50 countries between 2009 and 2012, including work on all five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and 146 of the 273 items in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach.

### B. Knowledge and information

9. Progress has been made in the development and exchange of knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through regional meetings and workshops, improving the sharing of information, encouraging cooperation, supporting the establishment of priorities and reinforcing regional delivery.

10. The Strategic Approach has fostered enhanced coordination and cooperation among intergovernmental organizations and has expanded stakeholder participation in the sharing of knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals and waste. More than 108 projects under the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund have contributed to the development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management. In addition, the Strategic Approach has raised the profile of the emerging policy issues and supported informed decision-making on the future use and regulation of a number of substances. These initiatives have contributed to bridging the knowledge and information gap between developed and developing countries on a range of emerging policy issues. Through the emerging policy issue of chemicals in products, progress has been made in identifying the wide range of stakeholders' needs for access to chemicals in products information, as identified in paragraph 15 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, and in encouraging the dissemination of relevant information on chemicals in products among all stakeholder groups.

11. Progress has also been made in implementing and promoting the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, including relevant supporting tools and materials. The Quick Start Programme Trust Fund has directly supported 24 projects on the labelling of chemicals

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<sup>c</sup> The Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 2, reads: "The main stakeholders in the Strategic Approach are understood to be Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in the management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles from all relevant sectors, including, but not limited to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labour and science. Individual stakeholders include consumers, disposers, employers, farmers, producers, regulators, researchers, suppliers, transporters and workers".

according to internationally harmonized standards and on the assessment and strengthening of national and regional capacity for implementing the Globally Harmonized System.

### **C. Governance**

12. The Strategic Approach has significantly enhanced the engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders and promoted discussion on a range of issues, in particular those topics not covered under legally binding agreements. The Strategic Approach focal points now include 175 Governments (158 Governments represented by environment or foreign affairs ministries, and 17 by health, labour or agriculture ministries) and 85 non-governmental organizations, including a broad range of representatives from industry and civil society. The Strategic Approach secretariat has facilitated connections, coordination and involvement on the part of all stakeholder groups across the chemicals and waste cluster. At its third session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management agreed on a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

13. Foundational and institutional capacity has been strengthened at the national level in some countries, and also at the regional and global levels. Over 151 projects under the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund have contributed to the development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives. In addition, the Quick Start Programme has directly supported 15 countries<sup>d</sup> in incorporating sound chemicals management into their national development plans, which has resulted in an increase in both national and international financing to contribute to chemicals management.

### **D. Capacity-building and technical cooperation**

14. The Quick Start Programme Trust Fund has served as a primary tool for enabling activities related to capacity-building and technical cooperation through the implementation of 184 projects approved for funding under the Programme's Trust Fund in 108 countries – 40 countries in the African region, 30 in Asia and the Pacific, 10 in Central and Eastern Europe and 28 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Quick Start Programme is demonstrating the effectiveness of a multi-donor funding mechanism that responds to defined needs and its practice of securing wide stakeholder ownership of projects and initiatives has broader implications for other Strategic Approach implementation activities. There are 29 projects that are multi-country in nature. Of the Quick Start Programme projects, 54 have been awarded to least developed countries or small-island developing States, and 21 have been led by civil society. The vast majority of all the projects supported by the Quick Start Programme have contributed to the creation of foundational capacity. Furthermore, Quick Start Programme projects have significantly contributed to an enhanced knowledge of the chemicals and waste management situation of the countries concerned, by developing policy and legal frameworks, strengthening institutional capacity, mainstreaming and raising awareness, thereby leading to enhanced opportunities for industry involvement.

15. Establishing an issue as an emerging policy issue or as a “challenge of global concern” has raised the level of attention to such issues at the national, regional and global levels and resulted in enhanced synergies, policy responses, formal and informal networks among stakeholders, and the identification of appropriate implementation mechanisms and possible sources of funding.

16. Capacity, technical cooperation and technology transfer at the regional level have been further fostered through information sharing and exchange on best practices in relevant regional meetings and forums, through regional projects under the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, voluntary industry initiatives, the promotion of partnerships and the establishment and active engagement of Strategic Approach regional focal points. In addition, the IOMC participating organizations have supported the implementation of risk reduction measures and mainstreaming at the national and regional levels.

### **E. Illegal international traffic**

17. Efforts have been undertaken at the global, regional and national levels to address illegal international traffic, in particular for wastes covered by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. However, a comprehensive global picture of the matter, in particular the frequency of incidents over time and the quantities of materials involved, is not well documented. Measures taken by Governments and industries to promote compliance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements are mostly aimed at the

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<sup>d</sup> Armenia, Belize, Cambodia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Republic of Moldova, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Viet Nam.

development of legal frameworks and legitimate businesses that are generally equipped to comply with legal requirements. It may be assumed that a significant volume of unrecorded trade in banned chemicals, counterfeit chemicals and hazardous waste is still occurring even in countries with strong legislation, owing to the difficulties in monitoring and effectively enforcing the requirements for such movements.

## F. Summary of the status of implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy

18. While progress has been made in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy, it is recognized that the progress differs from one objective to another and between sectors, countries and regions. Significant further coordination and cross-cutting efforts are required by all stakeholders in order to achieve the Strategic Approach 2020 objective. In particular, progress has been achieved in the areas of risk reduction, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation, whereas less progress has been measured in that of knowledge and information, and little information is available to assess progress related to illegal international traffic.

## IV. Guidance towards the achievement of the 2020 goal

19. The following set of 11 basic elements<sup>e</sup> has been recognized as critical at the national and regional levels to the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management, namely:

- (a) Legal frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste;
- (b) Relevant enforcement and compliance mechanisms;
- (c) Implementation of chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as health, labour and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms;
- (d) Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders;
- (e) Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach, such as the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
- (f) Industry participation and defined responsibility across the life cycle, including cost recovery policies and systems as well as the incorporation of sound chemicals management into corporate policies and practices;
- (g) Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment and economic budgeting processes and development plans;
- (h) Chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the use of best practices;
- (i) Strengthened capacity to deal with chemicals accidents, including institutional-strengthening for poison centres;
- (j) Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment;
- (k) Development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives.

20. While it is recognized that countries are faced with different challenges and have different capacities, it is critical that all the 11 elements are addressed at the national and regional levels in order to achieve sound chemicals management. The 11 basic elements can support stakeholders to assess progress towards short-term and medium-term measurable steps at the national level; guide regional delivery; set national priorities for achieving the 2020 goal; and forge links to the sustainable development goals. The Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action together remain a major resource for Strategic Approach stakeholders to develop their priority activities, and should always be taken into account.

21. The extent to which all countries will make progress towards reaching the 2020 goal depends on their ability to prioritize the sound management of chemicals and waste and effectively mainstream them into national budgets and planning documents. Developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, may experience greater challenges towards achieving the 2020 goal, and their progress will depend in part on the availability of financial resources from the private sector and bilateral, multilateral and global agencies or donors.

<sup>e</sup> The 11 elements have been developed on the basis of input from the 2013 and 2014 regional meetings of the Strategic Approach and are not set out in any order of priority.

22. In recognition of the progress made, and taking into account the 11 basic elements, six core activity areas<sup>f</sup> are identified below for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy towards the achievement of the overall 2020 goal:

- (a) Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement;
- (b) Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation;
- (c) Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes and budgets;
- (d) Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies;
- (e) Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society;
- (f) Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020.

23. Guidance and action points are set out below for the identified core activity areas. Each activity area contributes directly to the implementation of the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

## **A. Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement**

### **1. Overall guidance**

24. The involvement of all relevant stakeholders and sectors, at all levels, is key to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach and the 11 basic elements set out in paragraph 19 above, as are a transparent, inclusive and open implementation process and public participation in regulatory and other decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety.

25. Greater awareness and the involvement of various sectors – in particular health, agriculture, labour and industry – as well as public interest groups, in policy deliberation, development and implementation are critical in providing an informed basis for the sound management of chemicals at the national level, and also at the regional and global levels.

26. There is a need for stronger engagement and increased assumption of responsibility by downstream entities, in particular industries, to address the distribution and use of chemicals in the manufacture of products and throughout their life cycle, and for a more extensive approach to stewardship.

### **2. Action points**

27. Stakeholders, and in particular national focal points, should take action to ensure that the sound management of chemicals involves a balance of sectors and stakeholders and that all sectors increase their active participation in a coordinated manner. Such actions include developing and strengthening linkages with health, agriculture, labour, industry and public interest groups, and with other international agreements and relevant initiatives supporting the mainstreaming of chemicals in the broader development agenda.

28. Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders should apply the three components of an integrated approach to financing<sup>g</sup> the sound management of chemicals and wastes in their efforts as well as planning to mobilize and manage financial resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

<sup>f</sup> These activity areas are based on the analysis set out in document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2 and are not set out in any order of priority.

<sup>g</sup> The integrated approach is addressed in section V of the present document.

29. Governments should have in place strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders to enhance the national-level governance of the sound management of chemicals and waste, paying particular attention to the development and implementation of legislative requirements for promoting effective risk reduction measures. They should focus on highly hazardous substances and other substances which are known to present major risks in their country. Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders should define the responsibilities of the industry sector and the national administrations. This should also include encouragement and reinforcement of voluntary initiatives which are aimed at putting in place and enhancing fundamental risk management practices. National focal points should coordinate information exchange on these matters, both within their countries and, with the assistance of regional focal points, beyond.

30. National Strategic Approach focal points should cooperate proactively with the national focal point of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations to coordinate activities on chemicals and health and maximize collective efforts relating to chemicals and waste management, in particular those relating to strengthened capacity to deal with chemical accidents.

31. All industry sectors should participate in developing and implementing legal requirements, policy, projects and partnerships on the sound management of chemicals and waste. The stewardship of chemicals should be extended, in the context of the Strategic Approach, to the full life cycle, including primary producers, the downstream manufacturing sector, through to distributors and vendors, building on existing initiatives where relevant. Both sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies could be used to engage chemical producers and users in pursuing the 2020 goal.

32. To ensure maximum impact, IOMC should continue to perform a coordinating function for intergovernmental organization activities, work programmes and information sharing. Countries should stress the importance of Strategic Approach implementation in national development plans to promote enhanced integration of the Strategic Approach within programmes and projects. Other coordinating bodies, such as the United Nations Environment Management Group, should further promote coherent system-wide support for efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through cooperation with IOMC participating organizations. Finally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should ensure sufficient administrative and programmatic support for the Strategic Approach secretariat.

### **3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy**

33. This activity area contributes to all the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy, in particular to governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation. Active promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste within each relevant sector and the integration of programmes across all sectors will maximize the impact of collective capacity-building efforts. Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development plans should ultimately ensure that it is a significant component of national policy frameworks.

## **B. Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation**

### **1. Overall guidance**

34. There is an urgent need to set and strengthen chemicals regulations and controls in a number of countries and to extend cooperation with a view to building the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes and promoting the adequate transfer of cleaner and safer technology to those countries. Some developed countries also face challenges in meeting the 2020 goal.

35. It is critical that the Overarching Policy Strategy be implemented and, in particular, all, or as many as possible, of the 11 elements identified, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

36. The enforcement of existing legal frameworks and infrastructure, and compliance mechanisms, as well as the establishment of coordinating mechanisms between the various entities involved in the traffic chain, are key in setting up the necessary infrastructure to eradicate illegal activities.

## 2. Action points

37. Working together with relevant sectors and stakeholders, Governments should have in place the requisite national legislative and regulatory frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste as well as the relevant enforcement and compliance mechanisms to achieve basic sound management of chemicals and waste. IOMC participating organizations should continue to help countries in identifying their capacity-building needs and promoting the development and use of relevant guidance and the adoption of chemical management policy instruments, approaches and enforcement measures that are appropriate to those countries.
38. Through the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, Strategic Approach national focal points should identify the key actors at the national, regional and global levels towards strengthening the capacity of health, environment, industry, labour, planning and agriculture agencies, among others, to establish and address priorities. Capacity for dialogue between relevant agencies, enterprises or industry associations and trade unions is also important.
39. The Strategic Approach national focal points should strive to cooperate closely with the entities responsible for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, related health and labour conventions as well as relevant voluntary mechanisms at the national level, including the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the International Health Regulations (2005), the International Labour Organization's Convention concerning Safety in the use of Chemicals at Work and the International Code of Conduct for Pesticide Management.
40. Capacities to prepare for and respond to chemical accidents and poisonings are to be strengthened, including through the programme for Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL), the national implementation of the International Health Regulations and the institutional strengthening of poisons centres. By 2020, all parties to the International Health Regulations should strive to meet their core capacity requirements for chemicals; and all countries should have access to a poison information service.
41. Stakeholders should contribute to national institutional strengthening of the chemicals and waste cluster, taking steps in particular to implement the integrated approach to financing, including through mainstreaming and ensuring defined roles and responsibilities for industry. Stakeholders should also contribute by providing and accessing resources, where possible, under the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, agreed upon by the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014.
42. Stakeholders should ensure that future actions address the elements identified by the regions and build upon the significant contributions of Quick Start Programme projects. The results of these projects should be integrated into national systems in a way that ensures continuing support and commitment.
43. Where illegal international traffic is concerned, all stakeholders should contribute to improving governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation to strengthen the capabilities of key players, such as customs and border enforcement officers, including through such existing initiatives as the Green Customs Initiative. Building on existing initiatives whenever relevant, national Governments should strengthen the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular through regulating and monitoring the production, transport and use of hazardous chemicals and waste with a view to preventing illegal traffic, and through promoting regional and international cooperation.
44. Regional delivery mechanisms should be more efficiently used by Strategic Approach stakeholders. Regional collaboration in chemical regulation and enforcement allows limited resources to be shared while greater results are achieved. This may be accomplished by further engaging centres with a range of competencies and within their respective mandates, such as the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the regional offices of UNEP, WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), regional bureaux of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and joint UNEP/UNIDO cleaner production centres.

### 3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

45. Measures to strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemicals and waste will also contribute to the attainment of all the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy, and in particular to the objectives on governance, illegal international traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals and wastes as well as risk reduction.

## C. Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes and budgets

### 1. Overall guidance

46. The post-2015 development agenda presents an opportunity to reinforce links between development and the sound management of chemicals by 2020 and beyond. The meaningful inclusion of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development goals is essential to minimizing adverse effects on human health and the environment from the production and use of chemicals and supporting economic viability in a global marketplace.

47. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste into national development plans in developing countries and into the international development assistance priorities will contribute to the reshaping of budgets, allowing for the possibility of national and international financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The benefits of action and the cost of inaction will justify greater investment in this area.

48. Actions taken to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste should be designed, financed and implemented with sustainability in mind, also bearing in mind that project funds are finite while ongoing enforcement, monitoring and capacity development are essential to effective mainstreaming.

### 2. Action points

49. Recognizing the different roles of stakeholders, all those involved in national planning processes, strategies and budgets need to understand the relevance of sound chemicals and waste management to poverty eradication and other sustainable development goals, such as those relating to health, water quality and food security and safety. National focal points should engage relevant ministries in mainstreaming efforts, including ministries of finance, health and labour.

50. All stakeholders should contribute to establishing, demonstrating and communicating the economic value of sound chemicals and waste management in terms that are understandable to all those involved in national planning and budgeting processes, and Governments should encourage and reinforce voluntary initiatives that underpin relevant regulatory policy.

51. While some countries have institutionalized mainstreaming and are starting to demonstrate tangible outcomes, their mainstreaming efforts need to be further developed as one of the basic elements required to attain the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders should take concerted steps to include chemicals and waste issues within national plans and strategies, in order to signal to Governments, donors and intergovernmental organizations the need for enhanced mobilization of both internal and external resources.

52. Stakeholders should identify ways to enhance institutional and technical capacity for coordination, decision-making and monitoring related to mainstreaming as well as to streamline work aimed at catalysing cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels through existing delivery mechanisms. WHO, the World Bank, ILO and UNDP country offices and other key players at the national level need to be engaged in Strategic Approach implementation.

### 3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

53. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste underpins progress towards each of the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and is one of the three elements in the integrated approach to financing. Activities in this area contribute in particular to the implementation of the objectives on governance, on knowledge and information and on capacity-building and technical cooperation. It will also encourage the further development and dissemination of knowledge and information on the benefits of action, as well as on the estimated financial and other impacts of unsound chemicals management, promoting uptake of the sound management of chemicals and waste within each relevant sector and justifying investment in the sound management of chemicals.

## **D. Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies**

### **1. Overall guidance**

54. Emerging policy issues have been identified by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, providing a unique global framework for identifying, promoting and advancing chemical safety objectives.<sup>h</sup> The emerging policy issue process is demonstrating the broad scope and potential effects of activities that can be undertaken under the Strategic Approach, as, thanks to its non-binding nature, it offers a forum in which the risks of emerging policy issues and measures to deal with them can be considered and leads to increased awareness and national, regional and global responses.

55. The emerging policy issues under the Strategic Approach offer the prospect of addressing large groups of chemicals at the same time, marking a shift from a chemical-by-chemical approach to a more general one, identifying and managing the risks of chemicals and conducive to significant progress towards the 2020 goal and beyond. This is also true for the management of other issues of concern, such as perfluorinated chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides. Accordingly, in addressing emerging policy issues, Strategic Approach stakeholders should first consider the extent to which those issues would already be addressed through the implementation of components of the existing Global Plan of Action. Any gaps identified in such consideration should be documented and specific actions developed.

### **2. Action points**

56. Risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues should continue to be promoted by Strategic Approach stakeholders, by drawing heightened political attention to those issues, sharing best practices information and fostering enhanced coordination, collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders.

57. The emerging policy issue leads have developed workplans on the current emerging policy issues to promote enhanced cooperative actions in these areas and to achieve specific risk reduction measures by 2020, including targets and indicators in order to assess progress. Other issues of concern, such as perfluorinated chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides, can be addressed by building on existing work supported by stakeholders and identifying gaps that require additional risk reduction action. Strategic Approach stakeholders should take steps to enhance their involvement in these efforts wherever possible.

58. Strategic Approach stakeholders in countries where lead paint remains in use should continue their efforts to regulate lead in paints and reinforce those efforts as a key risk reduction achievement in line with the targets set out in the business plan.

### **3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy**

59. Continued actions in this activity area contribute in particular to the implementation of the objectives on risk reduction, knowledge and information, as well as capacity-building and technical cooperation. This activity area supports, among other things, efforts to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries by encouraging and facilitating the appropriate use of work already done and chemicals management models already established by other countries and international organizations; protecting vulnerable groups and respecting ecosystem integrity; making objective scientific and best practice information available for integration into risk assessments and associated decision-making; and the establishment or strengthening of partnerships and mechanisms for technical cooperation.

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<sup>h</sup> The emerging policy issues include lead in paint, chemicals in products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. In addition, perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives were identified as an area of concern.

## **E. Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society**

### **1. Overall guidance**

60. The Strategic Approach fosters a strengthened science-policy interface and promotes transparent cooperative actions on global priorities, including voluntary industry initiatives, product stewardship, green chemistry and information exchange. International and regional cooperation, including sharing data between countries, provides an effective and cost-efficient means for strengthening chemicals and waste management.

61. One prerequisite for well-functioning chemicals control is the availability of data and knowledge of the impact of substances on the environment and health. Based on the right information on the hazards and distribution of chemicals, both industry and governmental authorities can fulfil their respective responsibilities to contribute to sustainable development. In this context, implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is among the most important measures a country can undertake, as it provides information on the hazards along the supply chain for chemical products. Chemical hazard and risk reduction information for manufactured products is not covered by the Globally Harmonized System: this information could be made available through the chemicals in products programme. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances (eChemPortal)<sup>i</sup> is accessible globally and provides another source of chemical hazard data.

62. The absence of an information clearing house has major implications for and impacts on mainstreaming, implementation and capacity-building efforts. The full use of a more developed and sustained system for sharing relevant health and safety information, while ensuring that proprietary information is appropriately protected, is required in order to encourage all stakeholders to increase contributions and exchanges of information. A Strategic Approach clearing house for sharing efforts related to the 11 basic elements is of particular importance.

### **2. Action points**

63. Businesses, Governments and civil society organizations, including academia, non-governmental organizations and trade unions, should work together to identify effective ways of communicating relevant best practices, hazard and risk information on chemicals used in products and processes, to enable informed decision-making by employers, workers, users and consumers, and to promote environmentally sound and safer alternatives. A chemicals in products programme under the Strategic Approach needs to address challenges related to the diverse and large number of product sectors involved.

64. Controls relating to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System feature highly as a driver of demand for chemicals and waste management and control services. Governments should, as a priority, implement the Globally Harmonized System in national legal frameworks. IOMC, in coordination with relevant committees, such as the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals of the Economic Commission for Europe, should identify needs and ways to further encourage and support coordinated implementation at the regional level.

65. The Strategic Approach secretariat should implement, in cooperation with stakeholders, an information clearing house that supports the provision of advice to countries on the implementation of the Strategic Approach, in particular in relation to the basic elements identified in paragraph 19 and in sharing information related to best practices. Strategic Approach stakeholders should contribute actively to the clearing house.<sup>j</sup> In the absence of additional funding, consideration should be given to complementary mechanisms, such as the joint clearing house of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Global Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse hosted by the Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of UNEP, or other IOMC resources.

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<sup>i</sup> Available from: [www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/echempportalglobalportaltoinformationonchemicalsubstances.htm](http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/echempportalglobalportaltoinformationonchemicalsubstances.htm).

<sup>j</sup> The report by the secretariat on activities of the secretariat and draft indicative budget (SAICM/ICCM.4/14) prepared for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management includes a proposal for enhanced follow through in this area. Stakeholders may wish to agree on a plan to define the objective, overall approach, components, responsibilities and means of delivery and operation of a clearing house mechanism, and assess the use that can be made of existing mechanisms.

66. While recognizing the importance of protection of confidential business information to stimulating innovation towards more sustainable products, industries should review their approach to classifying business information as confidential to ensure that, while protecting their legitimate interests, they do not prevent the dissemination of relevant health, safety and environmental information to workers as well as suppliers, distributors, users and consumers.

67. In line with the request of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session, stakeholders should support the emerging policy issue of chemicals in products, including the implementation, on a voluntary basis, of relevant activities such as those contained in the chemicals in products programme, which will facilitate the provision and availability of, and access to, relevant information on chemicals in products along the supply chain and throughout the product life cycle among all stakeholder groups, and encourage and recognize progress through extended producer responsibility.

68. Chemical producers and suppliers should make information on chemical exposure, hazards and safer alternatives available to distributors, workers, consumers and users at all levels in the supply chain so that chemicals may be produced, used and discarded safely in an environmentally sound manner. Chemical producers should work with users and civil society organizations to identify chemical risks that can be managed by using safer alternatives and processes while still providing needed capabilities in a cost effective way.

69. Strategic Approach stakeholders should develop and strengthen global, regional and national integrated health and environment monitoring and surveillance systems to contribute to timely and evidence-based decisions about chemicals and waste management.

70. Chemical regulators, civil society organizations and users can also usefully collect and share best practice information about risks under particular conditions of use, risk reduction strategies that have been successfully implemented and alternatives to hazardous chemicals that have been used successfully.

### **3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy**

71. This activity area contributes to the implementation of the objectives on knowledge and information, risk reduction and illegal international traffic. Actions in the activity area promote the application of preventative measures such as pollution prevention; aim to make available science-based standards, risk-management procedures and information-sharing; and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels for the exchange of relevant information aimed at the prevention and control of the illegal international traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes.

## **F. Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020**

### **1. Overall guidance**

72. In order to secure the necessary level of political support and financing to achieve the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, it is essential to demonstrate credible and continuous progress at the national, regional and international levels.

73. The Strategic Approach secretariat has developed periodic reviews<sup>k</sup> on Strategic Approach implementation by stakeholders for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management using the 20 indicators of progress agreed upon by the International Conference at its second session. A number of Strategic Approach stakeholders have made helpful contributions towards evaluating progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach, including Governments, IOMC, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) and ICCA.

### **2. Action points**

74. While current Strategic Approach reporting mechanisms are useful in assessing progress towards the 2020 goal, Strategic Approach stakeholders should devise and communicate further means of demonstrating progress in support of decision-making at the national, regional and global levels. Since the means of demonstrating progress can vary from country to country, national focal points should take the immediate lead in identifying, describing and – as far as possible – quantifying specific

<sup>k</sup> The latest summary of progress is available in the summary report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for 2011–2013 (SAICM/ICCM.4/3).

indicators of progress in their country. In doing so, they should take account of the Global Plan of Action, in particular its indicators of progress, as well as the 11 basic elements.

75. Stakeholders should use the current above-mentioned 20 indicators to monitor overall progress towards the 2020 goal, evaluate their usefulness and consider their links to the sustainable development goals, in particular with regard to assessing non-quantitative aspects of progress. Stakeholders should put in place mechanisms to increase timely reporting in their respective areas of responsibility, with the intention of increasing overall reporting in the future. Implementing partners, in particular from among the IOMC participating organizations and relevant conventions, can play an enhanced role in mapping out global progress in areas relevant to the basic elements for the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management.

76. Stakeholders should review the report and existing strategy on health sector engagement<sup>1</sup> and apply any lessons learned in developing a strategy to achieve the fuller engagement of representatives of other economic sectors in Strategic Approach meetings, projects and initiatives. This should promote the development of a broader ownership base, which is essential to achieving successful and durable outcomes in pursuit of the 2020 goal.

77. The national focal point in each country should be encouraged to engage with stakeholders to provide other instances or indicators of progress, which should be quantified wherever possible. As far as possible, they should use the indicators of progress in the Global Plan of Action but may also devise other indicators related to the 11 basic elements which can readily be measured and incorporated into reports on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

78. With limited information available on progress related to the illegal international traffic objective in the Overarching Policy Strategy, stakeholders should review information made available to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions together with other relevant regional information in order to gain a better picture of the global situation related to illegal international traffic and develop a core set of priorities for 2015–2020 based on the lessons learned.

### **3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy**

79. Enhancing capacity to assess progress in Strategic Approach implementation will support the International Conference on Chemicals Management, in particular in fulfilling its functions to evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to measuring progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary. By identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing future actions, optimum progress in each of the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy may be achieved by 2020.

## **V. Optimizing the use of resources towards achievement of the 2020 goal**

80. The implementation of the Strategic Approach should, amongst other things, build on the successes of and investments in the Quick Start Programme and emerging policy issue projects that have identified needs and built foundational capacities at the national level for the sound management of chemicals. All stakeholders should make efforts to mobilize and manage financial resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

81. At its second and third sessions, the International Conference on Chemicals Management recognized that stable and predictable funding, involving a broad base of donors, at the national, regional and global levels, is necessary to achieving the 2020 goal. The Conference acknowledged, through resolution III/I, that long-term financing of the Strategic Approach should be based on the concept of an integrated approach to financing that includes mainstreaming, industry involvement and external financing. The integrated approach provides an opportunity to institutionalize support for sound chemicals management and stabilize financing. At the same time, experience so far in leveraging financial and technical resources from the different funding components of the integrated approach remains varied.

82. Overall, progress has been made in financing and the broadening of the donor base for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through an increase of \$13 million in the financial resources available under the Global Environment Facility for all aspects of Strategic Approach implementation, and the establishment of a special programme to support institutional

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<sup>1</sup>SAICM/OEWG.2/8.

strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach. Since 2006, the Strategic Approach donor base has broadened, peaking in 2012, with welcome progress made in the provision of technical and financial assistance for Strategic Approach implementation in terms of the total number of countries offering both technical and financial assistance and also as a proportion of the countries that are not listed as aid recipients by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.<sup>m</sup> At the same time, it is noted that continued resources are required to address the implementation needs of the Strategic Approach, including taking into consideration the closure for new contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

83. Accordingly, Strategic Approach stakeholders must take steps to implement an integrated approach to financing chemicals and waste, including, in particular, making tangible progress on its three components. Strategic Approach stakeholders must also engage a broader base of donors to support implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy to the year 2020, including financing to sustain operation of the Strategic Approach secretariat to support stakeholders throughout this period.

84. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste into national development planning priorities, processes and budgets can influence multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation by supporting the inclusion of sound chemicals and waste management in funding priorities, either as a priority area or as a cross-cutting issue, and in developing policies and enforcing legislation controlling the production and use of chemicals.

85. Countries should take measures to further encourage industry involvement, including the development of policies on the responsibilities of the industry sector and national administrations, and should develop financial solutions and appropriate mechanisms and economic instruments including cost recovery systems. All those involved in national planning processes must internalize the costs and integrate the economic benefits of providing resources for sound chemicals management. In doing so, they should include the rationale for mainstreaming and the development of capacity for assessing the costs of inaction and benefits of action on chemicals issues at the national, regional and global levels.

86. The industry sector should be encouraged to enhance green chemistry in the design, production and use of products. The contribution of the industry sector should be pursued more actively through, first, direct industry engagement, fostering and enhancing partnerships, voluntary initiatives and dialogue, and developing policies that define the roles of industry and Governments and their obligation to share the responsibility for and costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste; and, second, greater use of economic instruments to ensure that the appropriate costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste are internalized by industries.

87. In seeking dedicated external financing, Strategic Approach stakeholders should secure funds from new or innovative donor sources and provide guidance on the use of resources available under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, within the chemicals and waste cluster. Stakeholders should also provide resources to support the effective implementation of the Special Programme on institutional strengthening of the chemicals and wastes cluster to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach while recognizing that the Special Programme is not intended to support the full range of Strategic Approach implementation actions.

## VI. Global approach for continued collaboration in the long term

88. Projections show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases occurring in countries with economies in transition and developing countries. The need for strong capacity for governance, knowledge and information-sharing, and risk reduction so as to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, will not end in 2020.

89. The continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is recognized. The need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects of chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment will continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 and could be accompanied by supplementary targets and indicators, within a defined time frame.<sup>n</sup>

<sup>m</sup> Based on responses received as described in the second report on progress in Strategic Approach implementation, for 2011–2013 (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4).

<sup>n</sup> UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.2, annex, para. 12.

90. At the same time, it remains vitally important that every effort is made in the meantime to achieve the 2020 goal through the unique participatory approach of the Strategic Approach to addressing chemicals and waste issues beyond legally binding agreements.

## Appendix A

### Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation<sup>a</sup>

23. Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants so that it can enter into force by 2004, and encourage and improve coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation;

(b) Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety by 2005, and urge that the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Forum, other international organizations dealing with chemical management and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;

(c) Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

(d) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data;

(e) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

(f) Encourage development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals, such as through national pollutant release and transfer registers;

(g) Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds.

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<sup>a</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 03. II. A. 1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

## Appendix B

### Paragraphs 213–223 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”<sup>a</sup>

#### Chemicals and waste

213. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. We further recognize that growing global production and use of chemicals and their prevalence in the environment calls for increased international cooperation. We reaffirm our aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We also reaffirm our commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste, at all levels, that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges, and encourage further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments.

214. We call for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management<sup>b</sup> as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, including to respond to emerging challenges.

215. We are deeply concerned that many countries, in particular the least developed countries, lack the capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles. Additional efforts are needed to enhance work towards strengthening capacities, including through partnerships, technical assistance and improved governance structures. We encourage countries and organizations which have made progress towards achieving the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 to assist other countries by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices.

216. We commend the increased coordination and cooperation among chemical and waste conventions, namely the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and encourage continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among them and with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. We take note of the important role of the regional and coordinating centres of the Basel Convention and of those of the Stockholm Convention.

217. We commend existing public-private partnerships, and call for continued, new and innovative public-private partnerships among industry, governments, academia and other non-governmental stakeholders, aiming to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound chemicals and waste management, including for waste prevention.

218. We recognize the importance of adopting a life-cycle approach and of further development and implementation of policies for resource efficiency and environmentally sound waste management. We therefore commit to further reduce, reuse and recycle waste (the 3Rs) and to increase energy recovery from waste, with a view to managing the majority of global waste in an environmentally sound manner and, where possible, as a resource. Solid wastes, such as electronic waste and plastics, pose particular challenges, which should be addressed. We call for the development and enforcement of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations.

219. We urge countries and other stakeholders to take all possible measures to prevent the unsound management of hazardous wastes and their illegal dumping, particularly in countries where the capacity to deal with these wastes is limited, in a manner consistent with the obligations of countries under relevant international instruments. In this context, we welcome the relevant decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 17 to 21 October 2011.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/28, annex.

<sup>b</sup> See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I–III.

<sup>c</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CHW.10/28, annex I.

220. We recognize the importance of science-based assessments of the risks posed by chemicals to human beings and the environment and of reducing human and environmental exposure to hazardous chemicals. We encourage the development of environmentally sound and safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products and processes. To this end, we encourage, inter alia, life-cycle assessment, public information, extended producer responsibility, research and development, sustainable design and knowledge-sharing, as appropriate.

221. We welcome the ongoing negotiating process on a global legally binding instrument on mercury to address the risks to human health and the environment, and call for a successful outcome to the negotiations.

222. We recognize that the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and release of high global warming potential hydrofluorocarbons to the environment. We support a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.

223. We acknowledge that sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element for the sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste, initiated to consider the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to sound management of chemicals and waste, and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and waste agenda. We look forward to the forthcoming proposals by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management and at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will be held in Nairobi, from 18 to 22 February 2013.

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