

## The Challenge

The Strategic Approach To International Chemicals Management (SAICM) mandate expires in 2020, long before we will reach the target of minimizing the health and environmental impacts of chemicals throughout their lifecycle. Overall progress has been

uneven and there is still a significant need for development and implementation of effective chemical and waste management policies and practices around the globe.

## What We Do

SAICM provides a valuable multi-stakeholder forum to discuss and address the many challenges facing the adoption and implementation of national policies to safely manage chemicals. SAICM is an ambitious initiative and is unique in its set-up as an inclusive, voluntary, global policy framework on the sound management of

chemicals across the lifecycle. It has provided a space and opportunity for government and non-government actors alike, to discuss and deliberate on the management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, within an atmosphere of relative trust and cooperation.

### Examples of existing challenges related to production and use of chemicals across the lifecycle

<p><b>Daily purchases such as clothing, toys, textiles and electronics</b> lack transparency in the life cycle of products. This hinders consumers from making informed decisions about the goods they buy.</p>	<p><b>Highly hazardous pesticides</b> have been linked to various human diseases, including cancer. Only 35% of developing countries have regulations for pesticides.</p>	<p><b>Endocrine disrupting chemicals</b>, which are found in some everyday consumer products, interfere with fertility as well as hormone receptors.</p>	<p><b>When it comes to nanomaterials</b>, science and proper toxicological testing are important elements in having products on the market.</p>

### Beyond 2020: the current landscape

<p><b>National profiles on chemicals management</b> have produced information in many countries with multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder input. They provide an important baseline for future action.</p>	<p><b>Implementation gaps remain</b>, even though concerted action has been taken through multi-lateral treaties on specific hazardous chemicals and issues of global concern.</p>	<p><b>The knowledge base on chemicals has been enhanced</b>, among others through national inventories, hazard assessments, and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTs).</p>	<p><b>The integrated approach to financing</b> has mobilized significant resources, but it needs to be operationalized at national level.</p>	<p><b>Illegal international traffic of hazardous waste</b> and counterfeit products remains an issue.</p>



**An intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020** was initiated in 2015, for decision making at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management to be held from 5–9 October 2020.

# Impact



## The Quick Start Programme

**The QSP represents another notable successful outcome for SAICM.**

Established in 2006 by the first International Conference on Chemicals Management – the Quick Start Programme (QSP) will conclude in December 2019. QSP was created to support initial capacity building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition.

Over a 10-year period **donors contributed over US\$ 40 million** towards **184 projects**. 21 projects were with civil society partners and 163 projects were with government partners across 108 different countries. QSP projects built capacity in a number of areas, such as development of national chemical profiles, GHS implementation and accident preparedness/poison centres.

## SAICM Emerging Policy Issues

SAICM is demonstrating notable successes in delivering on Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and other issues of concern. The adoption of resolutions identifying EPIs and other issues of concern, has resulted in raising their international profile.



**A Global Alliance to eliminate Lead in Paint** was established, under the auspices of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WHO, comprising a partnership of governments, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs.

**By 2019, the Alliance achieved its 2015 target** of 70 or more countries having put in place regulations to control lead in paint.

The Alliance has run effective, **annual international campaigns, which raise awareness** of the dangers of lead in paint; as well as conducting sampling of paints in the Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

**The EPI on Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials** has been led by UNITAR and OECD and centered its outcomes on awareness-raising workshops, pilot activities and production of a report, e-learning course and the production of on-line assessment tools. Following on from awareness-raising workshops, the Government of Thailand approved a five-year “National Nanosafety and Nanoethics Strategic Plan.”

**SAICM has also had success in delivering outcomes from other EPIs.** For the Chemicals in Products EPI, UNEP succeeded in engaging representatives from the toy, electronics, clothing and construction sectors. Efforts made under this EPI culminated in a voluntary, international programme for information on chemicals in products along their supply chain agreed to at ICCM4.

## Stakeholder and inter-agency collaboration



The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organisations have provided **skills, capacity training, manuals, guidelines and technical expertise** to facilitate and coordinate international action to achieve the sound management of chemicals.



**Civil society organisations have supported the most vulnerable members of society.** This includes introducing projects and collecting evidence of chemical management practices that have damaging health and environmental impacts.



Through its Responsible Care Programme, Industry has provided resources and training programmes aimed at promoting safe chemicals management throughout the chemical supply chain.

### About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

### About SAICM

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a global multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder policy framework working to promote the sound management of chemicals across the lifecycle. The UN Environment Programme hosts SAICM.