Dear NGO colleagues,

On 6 February 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). SAICM will provide a policy framework for international efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation’s goal that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with expertise and responsibilities in the field of international chemicals management have been important stakeholders in the development of SAICM and have a significant role to play in its implementation. In order to facilitate the continuing engagement of NGOs in SAICM, the ICCM, in its resolution 1, called on “…non-governmental participants to designate Strategic Approach focal points and communicate the details of the focal points to the Strategic Approach secretariat.” These focal points will be part of the network of Strategic Approach stakeholders to be established and maintained by the secretariat in accordance with paragraph 28 of the SAICM overarching policy strategy.

The SAICM Secretariat thus invites organisations to nominate an official SAICM focal point. In order to avoid duplication, and to enhance coordination, NGOs which are part of an umbrella organisation or a network are encouraged to coordinate among themselves to nominate a single focal point.

The nomination should be communicated using the enclosed form, which should be forwarded to the SAICM Secretariat at the address below as soon as possible and not later than 28 April 2006.

SAICM Secretariat
C/o Chemicals Branch, DTIE,
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Fax (41 22) 797 34 60

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organisation participants in the International Conference on Chemicals Management (by email)
For further information, please contact the SAICM Secretariat, telephone (41 22) 917 83 34, fax (41 22) 797 34 60, or e-mail saicm@chemicals.unep.ch, or consult the website: www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

Yours sincerely,

Maged Younes
Head
Chemicals Branch, DTIE
United Nations Environment Programme