1. Opening of the meeting

The sixth Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was opened at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 19 February 2018 at the Ambassador Premium hotel conference room in Lodz, Poland by Ms. Agnieszka Dudra from the Bureau for Chemical Substances (Poland), the President and CEE Bureau member of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) - Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany), the Vice-President of the ICCM5 Bureau, representing the region - Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland), the Strategic Approach Regional Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe - Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russia) and from the Strategic Approach Secretariat Ms. Brenda Koekkoek.

The regional meeting was co-chaired by the Strategic Approach Regional Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe Mr. Vladimir Lenev, and the Vice-President of the ICCM5 Bureau, representing the region - Mr. Szymon Domagalski. The meeting was conducted in English, with interpretation services provided in Russian, given the prevalence of the language in the region.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   
   (b) Objectives and expected outcome of the regional meeting

3. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:

(a) Progress review on implementation of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance within the region:

   (i) Setting the scene: an overview of the region;
   
   (ii) Panel discussion on countries experiences, including financial mechanism and QSP;
   
   (iii) Information exchange on emerging policy issues:

   a. Update from the IOMC on progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern;
b. Lead in paint – Success story, lesson learned, (presentation of the model law, awareness activities, SAICM GEF project)

c. Discussion on countries experiences and impact of emerging policy issue efforts in the region;

(iv) Update on the Strategic Approach projects finance through GEF and Special Programme;

(v) Update on Minamata Convention financial resources and mechanism;

(vi) Status of regional input to the SAICM Report on Progress, 2014-2016;

(b) Provision of guidance on implementation:

(i) Information exchange and scientific, technological and technical cooperation;

(ii) Implementation of the WHO “Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond” and its implementation;

(iii) OECD industrial chemicals management system;

4. Perspectives on the future and identification regional priorities towards and beyond 2020:

(a) Overview presentation;

(b) Update on the Global Chemicals Outlook II;

(c) Discussion on chemical and waste related political concepts.

(d) AICHI Biodiversity targets as a potential model for elaboration of chemical and waste management beyond 2020

5. SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:

(a) Overview of the intersessional process;

(b) Regional input to the independent evaluation for 2006-2015;

(c) Dialogue on regional perspectives:

(i) Vision, policy principles, objectives and milestones;

(ii) Implementation arrangements and governance;

(iii) Communication and engagement, securing high-level political commitment and visibility;

(d) Updates from the co-chairs on the second meeting of the intersessional process;


7. Preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

8. Other matters.

9. Closure of the meeting.

(b) Objectives and expected outcome of the regional meeting and regional representation in Strategic Approach related efforts.

3. The Strategic Approach secretariat provided an overview presentation of the overall objectives and expected outcomes of the regional meeting. The President and CEE Bureau member of the fifth session of the International Conference also provided her perspective on the expected outcome of the regional meeting in the context of the fifth session of the International Conference.
3. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

7. Paragraph 26 of the Strategic Approach’s Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, on implementation arrangements, recognize that regional meetings play an essential role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by providing a forum for reviewing progress in regional implementation; providing guidance on implementation to all stakeholders at the regional level; and enabling technical and strategic discussions and information exchange.

8. Participants were presented with document SAICM/RM/CEE.6/2, which sets out the report of the fifth Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 26 September 2013.

(a) Progress review on implementation of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance within the region

9. At its fourth session held from 28 September to 2 October 2015, the International Conference requested Strategic Approach stakeholders to report on implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals at the fifth session of the International Conference in 2020.

10. The aim of the Overall Orientation and Guidance is to provide direction and identify approaches for all Strategic Approach stakeholders towards facilitating the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, including concrete elements required at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management to support the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

Panel discussion of country experiences, including financial mechanism and QSP experiences

11. Participants were presented with Update on the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund (SAICM/RM/2018/2), and Update on the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/2018/3).

12. A series of country experiences were presented under the agenda item. Presentations were made by government representatives from Armenia, Macedonia and Ukraine.
During discussion the issue of rising levels of environmental crime was raised by several representatives. In particular, illegal transboundary movement of pesticides and heavy metals in Tajikistan, Poland and countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Cooperation with Interpol was suggested to tackle the issue. OECD representative informed about rapid alert system when countries can share information on illegal trade and movement of pesticides and possibility to provide best practice documents with step by step measures on what to do with pesticides.

A representative of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) provided an overall update of the Secretariat’s contribution to the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes (SAICM/IP.2/INF.4).

**Information exchange on emerging policy issues**

A UNITAR representative on behalf of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) provided an overall update of the progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

Presentation on SAICM GEF project was delivered by a WHO representative. Several representatives shared their success stories and lessons learned.

Representatives from the Government of Serbia and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) presented their experiences and the impact of their work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

Participants highlighted the importance of working with businesses, educating journalists as well as decision-makers to ensure scientific-based approach to awareness raising to the general public on positive and negative impacts of chemicals.

Finally, it was highlighted that there needs to be a serious and robust discussion linked to implementation of emerging policy issues in the future, including political commitment and the necessary financial resources.

**Update on the Strategic Approach projects finance through GEF and Special Programme**

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 1/5, requested the Executive Director of UN Environment, consistent with the terms of reference for the Special Programme, to establish and administer the Special Programme trust fund and to provide a secretariat to deliver administrative support to the Programme. An update on the Special Programme Executive Board was presented by the regional representative.

The SAICM secretariat provided an update on the project preparation of the Strategic Approach GEF project. During the discussion participants reflected on the different elements of the Strategic Approach GEF project, including aspects of Knowledge Management.

**Update on Minamata Convention financial resources and mechanism**

The Regional Focal Point provided an overview update on the financial mechanism for the Minamata Convention on Mercury. A WHO representative stated GEF’s position that only countries that have ratified the Minamata Convention are eligible for the full-scale project funding. The Regional Focal Point, however, highlighted that based on the COP decision, countries which have not yet ratified the Convention but have a clear intention to do so, should also be eligible for funding.

(i) **Status of regional input to the SAICM Report on Progress, 2014-2016**

The fourth session of the International Conference requested the secretariat to develop a third progress report, including achievements, strengths and weaknesses for the period 2014-2016 and an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting. ICCM4 also directed the Open-ended Working Group to consider the need for a report for the period 2017–2019 for consideration by ICCM5.
24. Participants were presented with the document “Status of input to the 2014-2016 Strategic Approach report on progress” (SAICM/RM/2018/1). In order to collect the data that would form the basis of the report, an online survey was developed, building on past surveys. Every SAICM focal point received a separate e-mail with a personalized link to participate in the survey on progress.

25. Considering that limited input has been received from stakeholders to date, participants discussed the reporting process on progress for the period 2014-2016, which is open for reporting until 31 March 2018, identified challenges they have faced in completing the survey and several participants indicated that they will follow-up and complete the survey by deadline.

26. The results of this survey will be used as a basis to develop the progress report for 2014-2016 to be developed by the secretariat, which will be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting.

(b) Provision of guidance on implementation

(i) Information exchange and scientific, technological and technical cooperation

27. The SAICM Regional Focal Point provided an overview of implementation tools for the sound management of chemicals and waste available and facilitated a discussion for the region, stressing the importance on legally-binding instruments, a science-policy interface and highlighting that a review of financing arrangements is required in moving beyond 2020.

(ii) Implementation of the WHO “Roadmap to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond” and its implementation

28. The WHO has developed the Roadmap to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond in accordance with WHA Resolution 69.4 and approved by the Seventieth World Health Assembly in decision WHA70(23). The Roadmap was presented in document “Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond” (SAICM/IP.2/INF.2).

29. The WHO led a discussion on health sector engagement on the sound management of chemicals and waste to 2020 and beyond. Participants may wish to discuss the participation of health sector in the Strategic Approach and also to consider how other sectors may learn from this approach.

30. During discussions participants emphasized that the health sector must play a leading role, facilitating multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation. Roadmap activities should focus on risk reduction, knowledge and evidence, institutional capacity, leadership and coordination. Also taking into account countries’ different priorities, they should be able to choose different approaches to chemicals management at different stages of implementation, hence make it possible for countries to tailor the implementation of the road map to their own context.

(iii) OECD industrial chemicals management system

31. The OECD led a session on the development of an industrial chemical management system, including a reflection of country experience in Russia, presented by a representative of the Coordinating Informational Center of CIS member states.

4. Environment Sector Perspectives on the future and identification regional priorities towards and beyond 2020

32. Developments from an environment sector perspective that could present new challenges and opportunities for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Participants identified priorities of the region in moving forward.

33. Update of relevant UN Environment Assembly 3 mandates and other concepts and initiatives that link to the sound management of chemicals and waste from an environment sector perspective.

34. UNITAR representative presented Global Chemicals Outlook II and Biodiversity approach to developing a Strategic Plan.
5. SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

37. The fourth session of the International Conference, through resolution IV/4, initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The second meeting of the intersessional process will take place from 13-15 March 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

38. The overall mandate for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is set out in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals management. The task of the intersessional process is to provide recommendations to the Conference at its fifth session to enable the Conference to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

39. The Regional Focal Point highlighted that discussions under this agenda item will support the region to consider the regional priorities in the beyond 2020 context and to prepare for the second intersessional meeting.

(a) Overview of the intersessional process

40. The secretariat provided an update on the intersessional process, in particular the preparations for the second intersessional meeting, highlighting the meeting documents available to participants.

(b) Regional input to the independent evaluation for 2006-2015

41. The fourth session of the International Conference, through resolution IV/4, mandated the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The aim of the evaluation is to provide information to enable the intersessional process to develop recommendations and to enable the International Conference at its fifth session to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The independent evaluator, Mr. Robert Nurick, presented the draft results of the evaluation via Skype, focusing on the results from the region.

42. In closing the presentation, he asked participants to review the Results of the focus group discussions held with National Focal Points (NFPs) from Africa, LAC, CEE and AP regions in Brasilia, February 2017 and provide feedback to him.

(c) Updates from the co-chairs on the second meeting of the intersessional process

43. The co-chairs of the intersessional process, Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. David Morin (Canada), provided a presentation via Skype on developed document: the ‘Co-Chairs’ Overview Paper’ (SAICM/IP.2/5), to support preparations for the second intersessional meeting. The paper includes the elements brought forward at the first meeting of the intersessional process. They highlighted the importance of regional input to the process.

(d) Dialogue on regional perspectives

44. During the dialogue on regional perspectives, participants reflected on the following topics; (i) vision, (ii) policy principles, (iii) priorities, objectives and milestones, (iv) implementation arrangements, governance and financing, (v) high-level political commitment and visibility. The summary of the discussions is presented in the Annex 1 at the end of this report.

45. Participants agreed that the Regional Focal Point, with the support of the secretariat, would merge the results into one regional perspective document in follow-up to the meeting. The Regional Focal Point agreed to work with the region to finalize the regional perspective document in consultation with the region in the lead up to the second meeting of the intersessional process.
6. **Moving forward: review of regional outreach, coordination and sub regional initiatives**

47. By its resolution II/2, the Conference encouraged Regional Focal Points to continue to play a facilitative role within the regions and requested them to report to the Conference on the outcomes of regional meetings and other regional activities during the intersessional period.

48. The Regional Focal Point noted his commitment to supporting outreach in the region. Participants suggested to more actively involve NGOs and media (big outlets and influential local media) in awareness raising campaigns to the general public.

7. **Preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group**

49. At its fourth session, the Conference confirmed the third Open-ended Working Group, in accordance with resolution II/6, to prepare for the fifth session of the Conference in 2020 and requested the secretariat to organize the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

50. The representative of the secretariat provided a brief update on the preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. It was indicated that the meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2019.

51. The secretariat went on to invite all stakeholders in a position to do so to make financial contributions early in support of this meeting and also invited interested offers to host the third meeting of the Working Group.

8. **Other matters**

9. **Closure of the meeting**

52. Participants were asked to evaluate the meeting and provide input to the secretariat via an online evaluation tool.

53. The President of the fifth session of the International Conference provided closing remarks. She highlighted that implementation for the sound management of chemicals and waste comes from the national level. She stressed the need to clarify relation of the Strategic Approach to Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, in particular that legally-binding instruments of conventions could benefit the Strategic Approach. She suggested to use Lead in Paint project as an example to address the issue of other chemical substances. She called on enhanced responsibility of all stakeholders in moving forward, including support from industry and the developed world.

54. The Strategic Approach Regional Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe closed the meeting. In doing so, he thanked the host country, participants for active participation in the meeting, the secretariat for the support and the Conference President for her presence.

55. The meeting closed at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 February 2018.
Introduction

This document provides a summary overview of different Central and Eastern European views on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. It is developed based on the discussion that took place at the regional meeting held in Lodz, Poland from 19-21 February 2018.

(I) Vision

In looking for a vision for “Beyond 2020”, participants acknowledged and reaffirmed the “2020 goal” of the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle to prevent or minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Participants suggested that there be a non-time bound or long-term vision with concrete short term timelines for measurable objectives which can be supported by concrete milestones or steps that should be taken towards such objectives.

Participants agreed that vision should be consistent with UNEA resolution 1/5 and SDG 12.4, and proposed following vision:

“To avoid or minimize adverse effects of chemicals and waste to human health and the environment during the lifecycle”

They further noted that reference to the following vision should be included in the short slogan/motto promoted vision. The slogan should be easy to communicate to attract public and political attention. Participants proposed following words to be used to formulate slogan: Environment, Health, Chemicals, Sustainable, Safe, Toxic/pollution-free future, wellbeing, no harm.

(II) Policy principles

The future approach should complement the 2030 SDG Agenda and reaffirm core Strategic Approach documents, such as the Dubai Declaration. Some suggested possible principles include:

- Polluter-pays
- Precautionary approach
- Circular economy
- Zero waste
- Substitution/ Access to information replacement and environmentally appropriate alternatives to hazardous substances
- Sustainable consumption and production/integrated life cycle approach
- Extended producer responsibility
- Sustainable chemistry
- Good governance
- Right to know
- Science-policy interface
- Full participation of women, vulnerable groups, and stakeholders/inclusivity
- Protection of workers
- Intergenerational equity
- Agroecology
- Liability and compensation
- Proximity (waste)
- The right to a healthy environment
- Gender equity
- Responsible use
(III) Priorities, objectives and milestones

Priorities for the Central and Eastern European region

Participants emphasized the following: the need for a higher quality of life, a lifecycle approach, a non-toxic environment, a thought set of prevention, no harm to public health, a need to act, safe alternatives and legislation.

During discussion participants also noted the following priorities:

- Chemicals in products
- Highly hazardous pesticides
- The development of science-based studies to inform political decisions
- Strengthened communication
- Pharmaceutical wastes

Participants also suggested an increased involvement of the Electronics and toy industry; the fragrance industry; and the International Council of Mining and Metals. They stressed the need for more science and academia.

Objectives and milestones

Participants at the meeting suggested that the strategic goals (objectives) should be ambitious, long term, and limited in number. Those strategic objectives should be further complemented by several concrete milestones, with timelines. As a strategic objective participants suggested the following examples of goals.

- To prevent and reduce risks and adverse impacts
- To maximize benefits of chemicals through sustainable production and use
- To increase knowledge and awareness of chemicals of concern
- To avoid the most hazardous substances, and to practice substitution
- To enhance implementation through multi-sectoral and participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building
- Develop whole of society approaches to reduce risks of chemicals and waste

Each strategic objective should be complemented by several concrete, measurable, and if feasible time limited milestones. The timelines for proposed milestones should be agreed during further discussion. During the regional meeting participants proposed following proposal for milestones:

- A basic industrial chemical management system in all countries
- Implementing obligations under legally binding instruments
- Safe alternatives
- Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in all countries
- Making best practices and capacity building in mitigating chemicals threats within chemical conventions operational and international
- Increasing risk communication
- Engaging vulnerable groups of the population
- Including public data on chemicals in consumer products
- Implementation of a Science Policy interface
- Development of a proper revision mechanism of implementation of targets
- Safe disposal of toxic waste and polluted soil
- Addressing contaminated sites
- Decreasing illegal traffic and illegal use of chemicals and waste
• Removing hazardous chemicals from waste streams
• Enabling transparency or disclosure of hazardous chemicals in the products supply chain
• Producing guidance and develop international standardized chemicals training
• Minimization of chemicals use and reducing waste
• Prohibiting and/or eliminating persistent organic pollutants for example all known persistent organic pollutants in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,
• Destroying all stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants;
• Reducing waste
• Reducing to a minimum the illegal transboundary movement of chemicals and hazardous waste,
• In addition, it was suggested to establish specific milestones regarding transboundary movements of chemicals as per the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

(IV) Implementation arrangements, governance and financing

Facilitating implementation

Participants emphasized the need of an enhanced role for science as follows:

• A science-policy interface
• A science advisory to the chemicals and waste community
• Building capacity of developing countries
• Building a united voice for academia

The need for free trade and common safety standards was also noted.

Regarding governance, participants stressed the need to:

• Underline complementarity and synergies
• Pursue a science policy interface
• Focus on improved coordination, including with helpful national workshops
• Reflect on how to address illegal traffic (consider establishing TRAFFIC for chemicals, an NGO that tracks illegal traffic related to wildlife)
• Connectivity to multilateral environment agreements including the Montreal Protocol
• Review of waste addressed under the Montreal Protocol
• Connect to safety and security agenda

Target governance groups and individuals to enhance implementation.

Participants made suggestions for additional stakeholder communities to be involved for future enhanced implementation as follows:

• Interpol and Customs agencies in countries
• The agriculture community
• Youth groups
• The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
• The circular economy community (but note this is targeted to the waste aspect, the circular economy has weak links to protecting human health)
• Distributors and suppliers
• Consumer product associations
• Additional consumer organizations

Suggestions for financing.

During the discussion on financing of the SMCW beyond 2020 participants reflected on all three components of the integrated approach which include mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external financing. Participants elaborated also on financing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and
potential sources of financing from this agenda and from Climate Change agenda. Participants emphasized the need for a sustainable mechanism for implementation and a predictable finance mechanism.

(V) High-level political commitment and visibility

At the international level
- Engage the UN media sources.
- Ensure connectivity to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Connect decisions to decision making forums of IGOs (i.e. UNEA and WHA)

At the national level
- Better science to build more media attention
- Engaging journalists and the media in general

Links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants supported linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals as given in document SAICM/IP.2/8 for the intersessional process: Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones

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