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**Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)**  
Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

## **Update on the SAICM project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, an update on the progress achieved by the SAICM-GEF 9771 project entitled, “*Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*”. This project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by the SAICM Secretariat. The report presented in the annex has been developed and submitted by the SAICM secretariat and has not been formally edited.

## **Annex: Update on the SAICM project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

### **I. Background**

1. In 2018, the SAICM secretariat received funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to execute a global project with the purpose of scaling-up action on SAICM 'Emerging Policy Issues' (EPIs) and supporting knowledge management and information exchange. The project is implemented by UNEP and executed by the SAICM Secretariat
2. The SAICM GEF 9771 project on [Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM](#) aims to accelerate the adoption of national and value chain initiatives to control Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and contribute to the 2020 SAICM goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. The project is comprised of three main components:
  - **Lead in paint:** Working with governments to develop laws that restrict the use of lead paint and working with SMEs to promote the phase-out of lead additives.
  - **Chemicals in products:** Increasing the ambition of different stakeholders to track and control chemicals of concern in products along the value chains of electronics, toys and building products sectors.
  - **Knowledge and stakeholder engagement:** improving access to information and knowledge on chemicals management amongst SAICM stakeholders.
4. The project activities started in 2019 and take place in over 40 countries. Multiple stakeholders and execution partners are involved in its implementation, including regional organizations, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) non-governmental organizations (NGOs), National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), and Academia.

### **II. Component 1: Lead in paint**

5. The Lead in Paint component promotes regulatory and voluntary action by the government and industry to phase out lead in paint. The project outcome is aiming for at least 40 countries with adopted legislation or final text awaiting political validation (including at least 20 countries with adopted legislation) and for at least 35 small and medium paint manufacturing enterprises in seven countries to phase out lead from their production processes.
6. In 2019, UNEP launched the project activities on lead in paint through four regional workshops in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin American regions, with the participation of more than 130 participants from government, industry, and civil society. In addition, five launch workshops for the work on paint reformulation in small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) took place in Jordan, China, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Andean countries (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia) in collaboration with NCPCs and IPEN Partner Organisations.
7. UNEP and the relevant partners executing this project component supported countries in drafting lead paint laws, conducting national consultations and implementing pilot projects with paint manufacturers to reformulate their paint production processes and phase out the use of lead in paint. These execution partners include the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), NCPCs, the US

Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the World Coating Council (WCC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

8. The support of this project has resulted in 21 countries enacting legislation to limit the use of lead in paint: Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam. Other 19 countries have a final draft lead paint law pending adoption by their legislative bodies, thus achieving the project target. To complement this work and support the implementation of the lead paint laws, a guidance document on compliance and enforcement with lead paint laws is being developed by the project partners under the leadership of the US EPA.

9. In addition, 25 paint producers in seven countries have completed paint reformulation pilots and are able to produce paint without added lead compounds. A set of technical guidelines on paint reformulation were developed and tested to provide paint manufacturers with a step-by-step approach to reformulation, indicating where to find relevant information such as alternative raw materials and additional details such as standards for testing. These guidelines help address both capacity constraints and technical barriers to the substitution of lead compounds in paints with a focus on the needs of SMEs for the effective and efficient reformulation of paint. Other SMEs are expected to benefit from these guidelines and replicate the reformulation projects in other countries.

10. To wrap up the project activities on Lead in Paint, three regional workshops have been organized in 2022 in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean regions with representatives from Ministries of Environment, Ministry of Health and civil society to allow countries to exchange best practices, experiences and lessons learned towards the development of lead paint. In parallel, dissemination workshops were organized in Nigeria, Indonesia, Ecuador and Jordan to disseminate the technical guidelines on paint reformulation.

### **III. Component 2: Lifecycle management of chemicals present in products**

11. While chemical-related impacts can often occur during a product's use or end-of-life, decisions influencing product ingredients are taken further upstream of the value chain. Therefore, action to address Chemicals of Concern (CoCs) in products needs to consider the entire value chain and impactful interventions need to be made at upstream stages to protect human health and the environment from chemical pollution.

12. With the support of this project, UNEP is developing tools and guidance to accelerate the adoption of measures by governments and private sector value chains to track and control CoCs in the supply chains of the three target sectors: building products, electronics and toys. The purpose is to create demand-led and market-based incentives for supply chains to act via public procurement and sustainable finance measures; develop quantitative life cycle assessment tools to compare chemical alternatives and avoid regrettable substitutions; enhance the ambition of and compliance with regulatory requirements on chemicals of concern. A summary of the approach can be found [here](#).

13. In-depth research and analysis on chemicals of concern in electronics, buildings and toys have been conducted since 2019 for the development of guidance documents, tools and mapping of alternatives to be used in these sectors. To date, two USEtox-tools and seven guidance reports on chemicals of concern in these three sectors have been published:

- a. Electronics: [Report on legislative and regulatory approaches addressing CoC in electronics](#), [How Ecolabels address the issue of CoC and recommendations](#), [List of Regulatory Frameworks for CoC in electronics](#),

- b. Building sector: [Report on CoC and potential alternatives in the building sector](#), [Sustainable Building Finance: Supporting Green Mortgage Development in Sri Lanka](#), USEtox-based model to assess chemicals in building products in the context of life cycle assessment (LCA), [Green Rating System for New Constructions](#), [Green Labelling System for Sustainable Building Materials and Products](#).
- c. Toys: [Review of regulatory requirements for CoC in toys in China](#), [Review of regulatory requirements for CoC in toys in LMIC importing toys from China](#), USEtox-based tool to screen toxicity of chemicals in toys

14. In addition, global guidance documents for Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) covering provisions for the management of chemicals of concern and for eco-innovation in the electronics and buildings & construction sectors have been developed. These guidance documents are being tested in Colombia and Sri Lanka to obtain feedback on their implementation and to incorporate these lessons into the final documents, which will be published by the end of 2022.

15. The work on electronics will be complemented by the publication of two regional studies on the life-cycle management of electronics and circularity in Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Furthermore, testing of the USEtox-based tool, as well as a toolkit on the chemicals management system for the toys supply chain, will be undertaken in China before the end of 2022, in partnership with BCRC China and SCIES. These activities will support awareness raising of the different stakeholders from 2023 onwards.

16. To date, with support from local implementing partners and international experts, 12 workshops have been delivered to train almost 400 representatives from governments and private sector entities on these tools and guidance, while a workshop in China disseminated the project tools to over 1700 toys-producing companies. Outreach and dissemination of the tools and guidance is an active activity of the project and will continue through 2023.

#### **IV. Component 3: Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement**

17. The objective of this component is for countries and stakeholders to access up to date information produced by the project and other stakeholders on the SAICM EPIs, and actively contribute to communities of practice for peer-to-peer learning exchanges, to support decision-making and development of new initiatives towards the 2020 SAICM goal and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This project component also contributes to the ‘Knowledge and Information’ objective of SAICM.

18. A Knowledge Management strategy for SAICM was developed to establish an approach to create, identify, document, strengthen, and disseminate knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals and EPIs. This Knowledge Management strategy was completed in a participatory way with input from SAICM stakeholders - provided to OEWG3 as an information document: SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/28

19. With the support of the project, the SAICM Secretariat launched a Knowledge Platform available at [www.saicmknowledge.org](http://www.saicmknowledge.org). This new platform is a one-stop shop for up-to-date information about SAICM emerging policy issues with resources and publications, news and opinion articles, chemicals and waste-related events and communities of practice for exchanging with other stakeholders on the sound management of chemicals and waste and related linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. The platform was created to ensure that knowledge and information on chemicals management are available, accessible, user-friendly, adequate and appropriate amongst all SAICM stakeholders.

20. Four [Communities of Practice \(CoPs\)](#) have been established since 2020 to build an effective global network of experts on Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and provide a space for regular knowledge exchanges and long-term engagement. Members of these Communities of Practice are representatives from academia, governments, industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, consumers, and citizens. Within the SAICM Communities of Practice, stakeholders come together regularly to exchange and discuss their knowledge, best practices and experiences on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Over 40 online discussions have taken place since their launching and summaries of these discussions are available in the SAICM Knowledge Platform. These Communities of Practice were established in partnership with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and have more than 1,000 members registered to date.

21. The project has also enabled the development and publication of over 12 policy briefs and thematic papers on SAICM EPIs, a [Gender Review Mapping with a focus on Women and the impact of chemicals](#), and more than 170 [stories](#) related to chemicals, health, and the SDGs, and other activities related to the project.

## **V. Mid-Term Review**

22. These project successful results have been confirmed by a Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted by an independent consultant in 2021. In this MTR the project was rated as Highly Satisfactory after assessing all criteria: strategic relevance, effectiveness, financial management, efficiency, monitoring & reporting, sustainability, and other factors & cross-cutting issues. Such rating places the project within the 10% of most successful GEF projects currently assessed at the mid-term, according to the latest assessment of MTRs conducted by the GEF Secretariat.

23. The MTR recommended a targeted project extension up to 2023 for a sub-set of activities related to knowledge management and for piloting the guidance documents under component 2 on chemicals in products. This extension will allow the SAICM Secretariat to go a step further and disseminate these important tools and best practices acquired with the project to all SAICM stakeholders. It will also give us the opportunity to bring these experiences to ICCM5 through a meaningful project closing event in 2023.

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