

Update on SAICM implementation – emerging policy issues

2 September 2009

The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) addressed a number of emerging policy issues with a view to establishing co-operative actions. Resolution II/4 contains the agreed actions on lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. ICCM2 also considered the management of perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives and agreed the co-operative actions contained in Resolution II/5.

In each case, as appropriate, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the private sector, are tasked to carry-out the agreed actions. The secretariat has made contact with stakeholders identified as having a lead role for specific issues and is providing the following update on developments since May 2009.

- **Lead in paint (Resolution II/4 B).** UNEP Chemicals and WHO are in process of establishing the global partnership to promote phasing out of the use of lead in paint. A formal arrangement between UNEP Chemicals and WHO to serve as the joint secretariat for this partnership has already been initiated. A number of donors have indicated their willingness to participate in partnership activities. Current activities and progress include: i) an outreach to potential partners, which upon becoming members of the global partnership, are expected to contribute resources (financial or in-kind) or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities; ii) an initial working meeting which will be organized to adopt a framework and terms of reference for the initiative (tentatively scheduled to take place in mid November 2009 in Geneva), iii) a questionnaire to elicit information from potential partners and contributors on possible contributions to the global partnership; iv) distribution of a newsletter update and information on the planned approach to the global partnership work and v) the establishment of the website relevant to this global partnership as a portal to background information.

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- **Chemicals in products (Resolution II/4 C).** UNEP Chemicals is well advanced in defining the plan of a Chemicals in Products Project on which it will report to the SAICM Open-ended Working Group in mid 2011. Nominations have been sought from the Bureau for members of a steering group for the project and plans are in hand to hold a small scoping meeting before the end of 2009. This meeting will help to define the scope and focus of a study to be undertaken to analyze existing information systems according to stakeholder needs.

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- **Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (Resolution II/4 D).** UNIDO has agreed to work with the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Convention to develop, plan and convene a workshop to be held in association with the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention to consider issues associated with electrical and electronic products based on a life-cycle approach. The workshop will be held during the week of 17 May 2010 and a steering committee is in the process of being established.

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- **Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.** OECD and UNITAR are planning a series of workshops to be held in association with SAICM regional meetings over the course of 2010 to inform developing countries and those with economies in transition about potential applications and risks from nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. OECD are also looking at opportunities to be undertaken in collaboration with UNITAR for pilot awareness raising activities to be undertaken in countries. This might include the consideration of capacity assessment and action plan development in association with chemicals management plans.

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- **Managing perfluorinated chemicals.** OECD are considering how best to develop, facilitate and promote national and international product stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches for perfluorinated chemicals based on their existing work programmes and in association with other participating organizations of the IOMC.

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Future nomination of emerging policy issues

In accordance with the annex to Resolution II/4, the secretariat has prepared guidance and revised the questionnaires to be used for the nomination of emerging policy issues to be considered at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Nominations can be made at any time before November 2010. Details of nomination procedures can be found on the SAICM website (www.saicm.org).

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