



Technical briefings on emerging policy issues

Sunday 10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management

11-15 May 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

Programme

1. **Opening and Welcome**
2. **Overview and context**
SAICM/ICCM.2/10 & SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1
3. **Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials**
SAICM/ICCM.2/INF 34
4. **Chemicals in products**
SAICM/ICCM.2/INF35
5. **Electronic waste**
SAICM/ICCM.2/INF36
6. **Lead in paint**
SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/38
7. **Future procedure for emerging policy issues**
SAICM/ICCM.2/10
8. **Questions and answers**

Functions of ICCM are found in Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

- Paragraph 24 (j) describes the function “to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”.
- Also relevant are following OPS paragraphs
 - paragraphs 14 (g) “to ensure that existing, new and emerging issues of global concern are sufficiently addressed by appropriate means
 - Paragraph 15(g) which calls for an acceleration of the pace of scientific research on identifying and assessing the effects of chemicals on human beings and the environment, including emerging issues.

Preparatory work on emerging policy issues began in June 2008

- A simple questionnaire was developed for stakeholders to nominate emerging policy issues for ICCM2.
- Questionnaire sought following information:
 - Description of the issue
 - Summary of the actions taken so far
 - Nature of the proposed actions requested from ICCM2
- Submissions were invited by end of August 2008.

14 June 2008

<p>Questionnaire for Governments and organizations on emerging chemicals management issues for possible consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session</p>	<p>Please return by 18 August 2008 to:</p> <p>SAICM Secretariat 11-11 Avenue des Nations 1215 CH-1202 Geneva, Geneva Tel: +41 22 797 2411 Fax: +41 22 797 2400 Email: saicm@chem.unep.ch</p>
<p>Issuer: UNEP/WHO</p>	<p>Submitter: Government or organization address, contact name</p>
<p>State the problem (Briefly describe the emerging issue and why it is a priority for cooperative action. Use only the initials or acronyms that are relevant in this regard, attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</p>	
<p>Action so far (Describe any action taken so far, including, for example, guidance issued, preventive actions undertaken, laws or regulations at the national level, or other consideration of the international level by bodies such as the Scientific Committee on Toxicology, Pollution Review Committee or the Scientific Committee on Chemicals, Chemicals and Health, and other intergovernmental working groups, attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</p>	
<p>Proposed cooperative action (Describe the proposed cooperative actions, or options, for such actions, which SAICM is recommended to consider, attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</p>	

Emerging policy issues were proposed from 21 stakeholders

- The African region – from its second regional meeting on SAICM, held on 16-17 July 2008
- 10 Governments: Bahrain, Belarus, Burkina Faso, France (EU Presidency), Japan, Macedonia, Peru, Samoa, Ukraine & the US
- IFCS
- IOMC
- UNEP and WHO
- 6 non-governmental organizations & groups: BIAC, CENN, EcoTox, OEHRU, Toxics Link & Zambian Consumers Association

Overview of nominations

- 36 emerging policy issues were submitted for further consideration
 - **Issues** include chemicals with specific characteristics, e.g. PBT, PFOS or life-cycle-related risks e.g. heavy metals in waste; risk management needs in specific locations, or specific sectors
 - **Reasons for cooperative action** – magnitude & importance of problem, risks to vulnerable groups, lack of cooperation on shared problems, need for better implementation of international policies & legal agreements, need to accelerate risk assessment
 - **Actions proposed depend on issue described** incl. national measures, need for guidance, development of scientific criteria and testing strategies, regional cooperation development of voluntary actions and initiation of cooperative international work

A definition emerged during the Rome informal discussions

“An issue involving the production, distribution, and use of chemicals, which has not yet been recognized or sufficiently addressed but may have significant adverse effects on human beings and/or the environment”

Annotated list of submissions on emerging policy issues

- Annotated list of submitted emerging policy issues was prepared following the request made during the informal discussions
 - Available as document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/33 as a reference tool
 - Summarizes available background information on each issue
 - Identifies other relevant work
 - Cluster or groups issues – 21 sets of related topics
- Used by stakeholders in selecting emerging policy issues for additional preparatory work ahead of Conference

Four emerging policy issues identified for further preparatory work

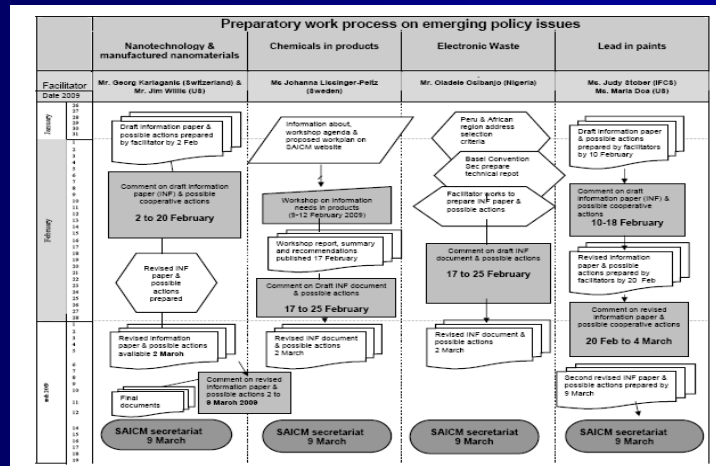
- Nanotechnology & manufactured nanomaterials (IOMC, IFCS & Japan)
 - Facilitators: Georg Karlaganis, Switzerland & Jim Willis, US
- Chemicals in products/articles (EU, Japan, IFCS (Toys))
 - Facilitator: Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Sweden
- Electronic Waste (African region & Peru)
 - Facilitator: Oladele Osibanjo
- Lead in paint (Toxics Link, US (Hg & Cd))
 - Facilitators: IFCS, Executive Secretary, Judy Stober & Maria Doa, US

* Note: Remaining submitted issues not addressed by ICCM2 could be considered in the prioritization process in next intersessional period

Facilitators to lead additional preparatory work

- An information paper (INF 34, INF35, INF 36, INF38) setting out
 - the issue, consistency with definition
 - background, proponents & work followed in preparing the paper
 - how the issue meets each of the selection criteria
 - any other relevant information e.g. workshop reports
- A contribution to a document containing proposed cooperative actions
 - SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1

Preparatory work



10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

11

Preparatory work

- Facilitators prepared draft INF papers and draft proposals for cooperative actions (following template & guidance)
 - SAICM secretariat posted documents on SAICM website
 - SAICM secretariat notified all SAICM focal points
 - At least 2 rounds of comment sought on both documents
- Comment posted on SAICM website for reference
- Facilitators took advantage of other avenues of consultation where possible (e.g. workshops)
- Documents then prepared for distribution to Conference

10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

12

The information papers address six selection criteria



1. The magnitude of the problem/issue
2. The relevance of the issue
3. The extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature
4. The level of knowledge about the issue
5. The extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies
6. The feasibility of the action(s) proposed

10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

13

SAICM secretariat contact



Lesley Onyon
SAICM Secretariat
Telephone (41 22) 917 8118
Fax (41 22) 797 3460
E-mail LOnyon@chemicals.unep.ch
www.chem.unep.ch/saicm

10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

14