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International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda^{*}

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 11 May 2009, at the International Conference Centre Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be delivered.

Item 2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. The Conference may wish to develop further and adopt the draft rules of procedure prepared by the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group at its first meeting, held in Rome from 22 to 24 October 2008, which are set forth in the report of that meeting (SAICM/ICCM.2/2). [While finalizing its rules of procedure, the Conference may wish to use provisionally the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, mutatis mutandis, to govern the current session.]

(b) Election of officers

4. Subject to the rules of procedure, the Conference will elect its president and four vice-presidents.¹ One of the vice-presidents will also act as rapporteur.
5. Upon election, the president will preside in accordance with the rules of procedure.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

6. The Conference may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

^{*} SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

¹ The composition of the bureau will ultimately be governed by the rules of procedure of the Conference, which have not yet been adopted. The composition of the bureau proposed above is based on the recommendations of the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group.

(d) Appointment of a credentials committee

7. The Conference may wish to appoint a credentials committee to discharge the functions specified in paragraph 11, below, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

(e) Organization of work

8. The Conference may wish to meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day, subject to adjustment as necessary. The Conference may wish to establish a committee of the whole to address certain agenda items.

Item 3. Report of the Credentials Committee

9. As indicated in the letter inviting Governments to participate in the second session of the Conference, the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers that will attend the session must be submitted to the Secretariat, if possible no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Information regarding any change in the composition of any delegation must also be submitted to the Secretariat. Government credentials must be issued either by a head of State or Government or by a minister for foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. If credentials are submitted in the form of a copy or by telecopier, original credentials must be submitted upon registration. Please note that submission of credentials prior to the session will greatly facilitate the advance clearing process by the Secretariat.

10. As indicated in the letter inviting them to participate in the session, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations must be duly accredited. The name of any such organization seeking accreditation is to be submitted to the Secretariat, if possible no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. At the same time, each organization must submit to the Secretariat the names of its representatives to the session. Any subsequent changes in those names must also be submitted to the Secretariat. Please note that submission of a pre-registration form or registration at the session by individual representatives will be considered a request for accreditation by the organization concerned.

11. The credentials committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will examine the credentials and accreditation of the representatives at the session and report to the Conference on the results of its examination. The Conference will consider the report of the Committee and render a decision on the extent to which credentials and accreditation have been duly submitted in proper form.

12. The representatives attending the session may participate in the session pending the decision of the Conference upon their credentials and accreditation.

Item 4. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

13. In considering the present agenda item, the Conference may wish to take into account the report of the informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008 on preparations for its second session (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/19). The Conference may also wish to refer to the reports of regional meetings held during the period 2006–2008 (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/22).

(a) Evaluation of and guidance on implementation and review and update of the Strategic Approach

14. Paragraph 24 of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy² provides that the Conference is to “evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target³ and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary”, and is to “provide guidance on implementation of the Strategic Approach to

² The three constituent documents of the Strategic Approach, the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, were first issued as annexes I, II and III, respectively, to the report of the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), along with resolutions adopted by the Conference. The constituent documents and the resolutions were subsequently reissued in an official publication by the SAICM Secretariat. The publication, *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management* (ISBN 978-92-807-2751-7), is available on the internet at <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/saicm%20texts/SAICM%20text.htm>.

³ The “2020 target” refers to the aim set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

stakeholders". These responsibilities apply to the overall implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Conference may wish to evaluate whether progress between its first and second sessions has been sufficient and may wish to consider the possible need to make course corrections to ensure adequate progress towards the 2020 target. Such considerations may be appropriate during discussions on all sub-items of agenda item 4.

15. The Conference will have before it a consolidated report by the Secretariat on implementation of the Strategic Approach during the period since its adoption in February 2006 (SAICM/ICCM.2/4). In seeking input for the report the Secretariat invited Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to complete a questionnaire on their activities to implement the Strategic Approach. The questionnaire was circulated as an interim reporting mechanism, pending consideration by the Conference of detailed draft reporting indicators for future use. The Conference may wish to consider the report and the accompanying summary of responses to the questionnaire (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/20) with a view to evaluating initial progress and making recommendations to guide stakeholders in and facilitate the further implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Conference may also wish to take strategic decisions and programme, prioritize and update the Strategic Approach as necessary.

16. In addition, the Conference will have before it a draft guidance document (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/31) concerning the possible development of the Strategic Approach implementation plans referred to in paragraph 22 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. The draft guidance document has been prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in collaboration with the Secretariat. The Conference may wish to review the document and make recommendations regarding its further development.

17. The Conference will also have before it a proposal for a procedure to update the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/18). The Conference may wish to consider adopting the proposed procedure.

(b) Implementation of and coherence among international instruments and programmes

18. Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy further provides that another function of the Conference is to "promote implementation of existing international instruments and programmes". The Conference will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the ratification and implementation status of the principal international instruments and programmes relating to the sound management of chemicals (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/1). In addition, the Conference will have before it the report of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme on the operation of the Programme from 2006 to 2009 (SAICM/ICCM.2/5 and SAICM/ICCM.2/5/Add.1).⁴ The strategic priorities of the Programme include the development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives. The Conference may wish to note the information contained in the documents, consider ways in which further implementation of the instruments and programmes could be promoted to ensure adequate progress against the 2020 target, and make recommendations accordingly.

19. The Overarching Policy Strategy provides that another function of the Conference is to "promote coherence among chemicals management instruments at the international level". In that regard, the Conference will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing in its annex the final report on the work of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Chemicals and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, together with a summary of the consideration of that report by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions at their ninth and fourth meetings, respectively (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/2) and by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth

⁴ The Quick Start Programme, supported by a trust fund together with multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation, was established in accordance with paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The Programme supports activities to enable initial capacity-building and implementation of the Strategic Approach in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Document SAICM/ICCM.2/5 contains the executive summary of the report of the Executive Board. The full report may be found in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/30.

meeting (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/2/Add.1).⁵ The Conference may wish to note the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group, consider ways in which coherence between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other relevant chemicals management instruments can be promoted to ensure progress toward the 2020 target and invite the governing bodies responsible for the conventions and other instruments to consider any recommendations that it may make. Those recommendations might include proposals that Strategic Approach national focal points and inter-ministerial committees assist in coordinating work relating to the various conventions and instruments at the national level.

20. The Conference will also have before it a document that describes a number of regional ministerial initiatives on health and the environment which address and help to promote the need for improvements relating to chemical safety, including relevant international instruments and programmes (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/28). The Conference may wish to take note of the information provided in the document.

(c) Modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation

21. Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach provides that the Conference is to “receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and to disseminate information as appropriate” and is to “report on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach to stakeholders”. Paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy calls upon the Secretariat to facilitate such reporting.

22. During the period following the first session of the Conference, the Government of Canada sponsored a project on the development of possible modalities for future reporting on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach. The project was undertaken in collaboration with the Secretariat and an international project steering committee chaired by Canada. The outcomes of the project and pilot testing of the initial draft indicators were considered by stakeholders in informal discussions on preparations for the second session of the Conference, which were held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008 (see report contained in SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/19). In response to a request from participants in the informal discussions, the Secretariat developed a set of simplified draft indicators in collaboration with the original international project steering committee and other interested stakeholders. The Conference may wish to consider the simplified draft indicators and other reporting modalities, which are described in document SAICM/ICCM.2/3, with a view to deciding upon indicators to guide future reporting on implementation of the Strategic Approach.

(d) Strengthening of national chemicals management capacities

23. In its paragraph 24, the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that the functions of the Conference include to “promote the strengthening of national chemicals management capacities”. The Conference will have before it the above mentioned report on implementation of the Strategic Approach during the period since its adoption in February 2006 (SAICM/ICCM.2/4); a report of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme on the operation of the Programme from 2006 to 2009 (SAICM/ICCM.2/5 and SAICM/ICCM.2/5/Add.1); supplementary information on projects supported by the Programme (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/8); and a report of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) on its strategy for the strengthening of national chemicals management capacities (SAICM/ICCM.2/11). In addition, the Conference will have available to it a number of IOMC reference documents including a report on the work of IOMC participating organizations to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/3), an IOMC guide to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/15), an IOMC resource guide (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/16) and IOMC guidelines on assessment of capacity for implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/17). The Conference may wish to consider these documents with a view to making recommendations on the strengthening of national chemicals management capacities and prioritization of national and regional activities. If appropriate, it may also wish to consider endorsing certain guidance documents and identifying any gaps in the available guidance.

⁵ The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 June 2008. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention was held in Rome from 27 to 31 October 2008. A summary of the consideration of the report by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting, held in Geneva from 4 to 8 May 2009, will be made available in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/2/Add.1.

(e) Financial and technical resources for implementation

24. Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that another function of the Conference is to “work to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available for implementation” and to “evaluate the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach”. Paragraph 19 provides that the financial arrangements for the Strategic Approach include, among other things: actions at the national or sub-national level to support financing of Strategic Approach objectives; enhancing industry partnerships and financial and technical participation in the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives; integration of Strategic Approach objectives into multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation; making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding;⁶ supporting initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives by establishing the Quick Start Programme; and inviting Governments and other stakeholders to provide resources to enable the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to fulfil the tasks set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. In its resolution I/4 the Conference provided that the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme should report to the Conference at its second and third sessions on the implementation of the Programme.

25. The Conference will have before it a background document on financial considerations (SAICM/ICCM.2/12); a report on obstacles that could prevent potential donors from contributing resources to support implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/13); the report by the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme on the operation of the Programme from 2006 to 2009 (SAICM/ICCM.2/5 and SAICM/ICCM.2/5/Add.1); supplementary data on the operation of the Programme (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/8); the Quick Start Programme business plan and an assessment of performance against the indicators contained therein (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/24); a report by the Secretariat on the performance of Strategic Approach financial arrangements, based on submissions by stakeholders (SAICM/ICCM.2/6); a report by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility on its support for projects relevant to the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/23) and a note by the Secretariat on the Global Environment Facility replenishment process (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/27). The Conference may wish to consider those documents and any other relevant information with a view to evaluating the performance of the financial arrangements and making recommendations on ensuring the availability of sufficient resources to enable developing countries to achieve the 2020 target.

26. The Conference will also have before it document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/14, summarizing deliberations on financial considerations at regional group meetings during the period 2006–2008.

(f) Emerging policy issues

27. Another function of the Conference listed in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy is to “focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”. The Conference will have before it a report by the Secretariat on proposals for four emerging policy issues to be considered in detail by the Conference: nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials; chemicals in products; electronic waste; and lead in paint (SAICM/ICCM.2/10). The Conference will also have before it a number of other pertinent documents submitted by stakeholders, including the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/4 and SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/5), a report by the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry on its work on emerging issues in chemicals management (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/6) and submissions by the proponents of emerging policy issues recommended for consideration by the Conference. In addition to the documents relating to the four issues identified for detailed consideration, an annotated list of all the emerging policy issues proposed by stakeholders during preparatory consultations will be available to the Conference for its information (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/33).

28. The Conference may wish to consider the above reports with a view to recommending possible cooperative action on priority emerging issues.

⁶ Including by “inviting the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol within their mandates to consider whether and how they might support implementation of appropriate and relevant Strategic Approach objectives”.

(g) **Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation**

29. In its paragraph 24, the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that the functions of the Conference include to “promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation”. The Conference will have before it notes by the Secretariat on the establishment of the information clearing house for the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/7) and on the engagement of scientific organizations in support of implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/8). Reports by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry on emerging issues, referred to above, and on persistent organic pollutants and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/6 and SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/7) will also be available to the Conference. The Conference may wish to consider the above-mentioned documents with a view to recommending further action needed to ensure adequate progress towards the 2020 target in the period between the second and third sessions of the Conference and, if appropriate, recognizing the availability of relevant national, regional and global information resources that could contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Approach and tracking progress in implementation.

Item 5. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations

30. In resolution I/1 adopted at its first session, the Conference commended the Strategic Approach to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the Strategic Approach with a view to incorporating its objectives into their programmes of work within their mandates and to report thereon to the Conference. Furthermore, in their Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, ministers, heads of delegation and others assembled at the first session of the Conference committed themselves to striving “to integrate the Strategic Approach into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes consistent with their mandates as accorded by their respective governing bodies”. The Conference will have before it a note by the Secretariat on action taken by the governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations in relation to the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/9). In addition, the Conference will have before it the above-mentioned report on the work of IOMC participating organizations to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/3). The Conference may wish to take note of the information contained therein.

31. In its resolution I/3 adopted at its first session, the Conference invited the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety to “continue its important role in providing an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues, and to continue to contribute through this to the implementation of the Strategic Approach... and the work of other chemicals-related international organizations and institutions”. The Conference will have before it a report by the Forum on its contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/10) and a proposal from the Forum for integration of the Forum into the Conference (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/21). The Conference may wish to take note of the report and consider the proposal of the Forum.

32. The second session of the Conference is being held immediately before the sixty-second World Health Assembly in accordance with expectations set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach and resolution I/1 of the Conference providing that sessions of the Conference should be held back-to-back with meetings of governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations. The Conference will have before it a report by the World Health Organization summarizing the Organization’s activities in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach and highlighting public health issues arising from the use of chemicals in various sectors (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/11). The Conference may wish to take note of the report of the World Health Organization and to consider communicating to the World Health Assembly a message regarding the importance it attaches to public health issues in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

33. Decision 22/4 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme calls for the Strategic Approach to be “regularly reviewed to assess progress on chemical safety, in the light of the targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant processes”. One of the targets contained in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁷ is the achievement of sound chemicals

⁷ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.I. and corrigendum) chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

management by 2020, which was subsequently also taken up as the overall objective of the Strategic Approach.⁸ Progress in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is regularly evaluated by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Participants at the second session of the Conference may therefore wish to note that at its eleventh session, held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2003, the Commission agreed on a multi-year programme of work which included “chemicals” as one of the thematic clusters to be considered in its 2010–2011 cycle. The Conference will have before it a briefing note provided by the Secretariat of the Commission on preparations for the Commission’s consideration of chemicals in its 2010–2011 cycle (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/12). The Conference may wish to consider adopting a resolution commending the report of the second session of the Conference to the attention of the Commission as a potential contribution to the latter’s deliberations and encouraging Strategic Approach stakeholders to engage actively in the Commission’s work on chemicals.

Item 6. Activities of the Secretariat and adoption of the budget

34. The Conference will have before it a report by the Secretariat on its activities, expenditures and income during the period 2006–2009 and the proposed programme of work and budget of the Secretariat for the period 2009–2012 (SAICM/ICCM.2/9). The Conference may wish to take note of the information contained in the above-mentioned document and consider the possible action suggested. If necessary, updated information will be provided on expenditures incurred and contributions pledged or received in document SAICM/ICCM.2/9/Add.1.

Item 7. Venue and date of the third session of the Conference

35. In paragraph 26, the Overarching Policy Strategy provides for the third session of the Conference to be held in 2012 unless otherwise decided by the Conference. The Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 adopted by the Conference at its first session call for sessions of the Conference, where appropriate, to be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach. The Conference will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the scheduling of the first and second sessions of the Conference back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Assembly, respectively, and on the meetings of governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations expected to take place in 2012 (SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/13). The Conference may wish to agree on a venue and date for its third session or to determine a process by which the date and venue of its next session can be decided following the conclusion of the current session.

Item 8. Other matters

36. The Conference may wish to consider other matters raised by participants in the course of the session.

Item 9. Adoption of the report

37. At its final meeting of the session, the Conference will be invited to consider and adopt the report on the work of the Conference at its second session as prepared by the Rapporteur. The report, containing text relating to the proceedings in the plenary meetings of the session through the afternoon of Thursday, 14 May 2009, will be presented for consideration and approval by the Conference on Friday, 15 May. The Conference may at that time wish to approve the report, with any amendments that it may wish to make. In keeping with the practice followed by the Conference at its first session, the Conference may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the plenary meetings taking place on Friday will be prepared by the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated into the session report under the authority of the President of the Conference. The final report on the work of the session will be circulated after the closure of the session.

⁸ “The overall objective of the Strategic Approach is to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.” Paragraph 13, Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. See also paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, reproduced in the appendix to the Overarching Policy Strategy.

Item 10. Closure of the session

38. It is expected that the session will be closed by the President by 6 p.m. on Friday, 15 May 2009.
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