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Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: strengthening of national chemicals management capacities

Guidance document on developing a capacity assessment for the sound management of chemicals and national implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a copy of the April 2007 edition of the guidance document issued by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on developing a capacity assessment for the sound management of chemicals and national implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The document is reproduced as received, without formal editing, and is provided for the information of the Conference.

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Annex

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Developing a Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation

Guidance Document

APRIL 2007 EDITION

IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR and OECD

UNITAR

This document was prepared by UNITAR in collaboration with members of the Project Task Force (PTF) which was established to guide UNITAR-supported National SAICM Implementation Pilot Projects. Members of the PTF include FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO, OECD, the World Bank, OPCW, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the SAICM Secretariat (observer). In May 2007, the Inter-Organization Co-ordinating Committee of the IOMC reviewed the document and endorsed it as an IOMC publication. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or stated policies of individual IOMC Participating Organizations. UNITAR would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Switzerland and the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

The IOMC

The Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen co-operation and increase international co-ordination in the field of chemical safety. The participating organisations are FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO. The World Bank and UNDP are observers. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote co-ordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organisations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Context and Overview

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) at its first session in Dubai in February 2006. An important objective of SAICM at the national level is to build upon existing chemicals management initiatives in various sectors and strengthen coordination and coherence among various government and stakeholder initiatives. A second important objective is to link these activities to national development planning (e.g. National Sustainable Development Strategies, UN Development Assistance Frameworks, Poverty Reduction Strategies, etc). In order to achieve these objectives, the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) states that: "To sustain an integrated approach to managing chemicals, each Government should establish arrangements for implementing the Strategic Approach on an inter-ministerial or inter-institutional basis so that all concerned national departmental and stakeholder interests are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed" (SAICM OPS, para. 23).

Over the past years significant progress has been made by many countries to strengthen their chemicals management schemes. Many countries have, for example, already prepared National Chemicals Management Profiles, developed national co-ordinating platforms for chemicals management, prepared National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention, and developed Integrated National Programmes for Sound Chemicals Management. SAICM provides valuable opportunities to build upon these activities and develop a long-term strategic approach at the national level towards reaching the WSSD 2020 goal for sound chemicals management.[1] Such a strategic approach for national management of chemicals would need, as called for by SAICM, action by government and non-governmental stakeholders (including the business sector and non-governmental organizations), as well as between two or more players involved in chemicals management.

Preparing a national capacity assessment for sound chemicals management and SAICM implementation can provide a valuable tool for prioritising and planning the implementation of SAICM activities at the national level. In conducting such an assessment, countries may specifically address one of the strategic priorities of the ICCM which refers in Resolution I/4 to the "development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management", within a national SAICM implementation process.

This guidance document has been prepared with the intention to assist interested countries in preparing a national SAICM capacity assessment. The target audience for the document includes government ministries and agencies, working together with stakeholder groups such as industry, labour organizations, environmental and health NGOs, research and academia, etc., that have an interest and stake in chemicals management and SAICM implementation. It assumes that countries have prepared a National Profile and are interested and committed in taking the next steps in assessing gaps and identifying priorities.

[1] The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), included the goal of "…aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment…". The full text may be found at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf.

Part 1 of the document summarizes SAICM outcomes and key decisions, and provides an overview and context for the preparation of the national capacity assessment. Part 2 provides suggestions for organizing the process for developing the assessment at the national level. Part 3 outlines the two main proposed components of the assessment, which include (1) an assessment of the national governance framework for sound chemicals management (2) an assessment of capacities and priorities concerning specific chemicals management issues (e.g. GHS, risk reduction, etc). Worksheets are provided for both components of the assessment to facilitate the collection and analysis of information.

1.2 Background on SAICM

The SAICM development process, which started formally through a series of sessions of a Preparatory Committee ("PrepComs") commencing in 2003, included a number of key milestones, including:

- UNEP Governing Council, February 2002
- World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, September 2002
- World Health Assembly, May 2003
- International Labour Conference, June 2003
- World Summit, New York, September 2005
- SAICM PrepComs 1, 2 & 3
- First session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), February 2006

The development process was multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder in nature, involving representatives of governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) drawn from sectors such as agriculture, environment, health, industry, and labour. UNEP, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) were co-convenors of the process.

Development of SAICM culminated with its adoption by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) at its first session, which was held in Dubai in February 2006. SAICM consists of three core documents (see below), supplemented by four resolutions adopted by the ICCM on implementation arrangements, the Quick Start Programme, a tribute to the Government of the United Arab Emirates and on the IFCS. It is expected that the second session of the ICCM will be held in 2009 in order to review implementation and take stock of progress.

1.3 Overview of SAICM Outcomes and Decisions

The overall objective of the Strategic Approach is to support the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The main outcomes of the SAICM process are three key documents[2]:

[2] http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/SAICM%20texts/Final%20standalone%206%20June%2006.doc

Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management

The Dubai Declaration, adopted by Ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector, provides an agreed overview of the political commitments made for SAICM. It reflects their "…firm commitment to the Strategic Approach and its implementation." In particular, in reinforces the importance of issues such as the linkage of sound chemicals management to sustainable development and poverty eradication, contribution of SAICM to the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), implementation of international agreements, and the roles of non-governmental stakeholders and importance of partnerships.

Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

The OPS provides information on the scope of SAICM, identifies needs for effective SAICM implementation, and outlines objectives, principles, and financial and implementation arrangements. The five categories of SAICM objectives found in the OPS are:

- Risk reduction;
- Knowledge and information;
- Governance;
- Capacity-building and technical cooperation; and
- Illegal international traffic.

The Global Plan of Action (GPA)

The GPA is a more detailed document that outlines proposed work areas, activities, actors, timeframes, targets, and indicators of progress related to SAICM implementation. The GPA contains 36 work areas, and 273 activities, structured in accordance with the five categories of SAICM objectives set out in the OPS. It is recommended for use and further development as a working tool and guidance document for stakeholders implementing SAICM. Implementation of the Strategic Approach at the national level (including the initial "enabling phase") is suggested to include the development of national implementation plans. The activities listed in the GPA are included as Annex 4.

Initial capacity building activities for implementation of Strategic Approach objectives are supported, *inter alia*, by a Quick Start Programme (QSP).[3] The QSP contains a voluntary, time-limited trust fund, administered by UNEP, and may include multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation. The objective of the QSP is to "support initial enabling capacity building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition" (ICCM Resolution I/4).

Linkages between SAICM and Agenda 21

From a national capacity building perspective, SAICM gives more specific guidance to countries for the implementation relevant provisions of Agenda 21, agreed at the Rio "Earth Summit" in 1992. When adopting Chapter 19, the Heads of State at the Rio Summit concluded that elements of sound national chemicals management should include the following:

(a) adequate legislation;
(b) information gathering and dissemination;

[3] SAICM OPS, para. 19. See also http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp.htm.

(c) capacity for risk assessment and interpretation;
(d) establishment of risk management policy;
(e) capacity for implementation and enforcement;
(f) capacity for rehabilitation of contaminated sites and poisoned persons;
(g) effective education programmes; and
(h) capacity to respond to emergencies.

In developing the approach and methodology for the national SAICM capacity assessment, a practical approach has been taken by building upon and bringing together the core elements outlined above.

1.4 Initiating Enabling Activities for SAICM Implementation

The Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) of SAICM indicates that implementation of SAICM could begin with an enabling phase to build the necessary capacity to develop, with stakeholder participation, a national SAICM implementation plan (paragraph 22). In order to facilitate development of a national implementation plan, the ICCM adopted, as one of three strategic priorities of the SAICM Quick Start Programme, the "*development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management*" (ICCM Resolution I/4, Appendix 1). The enabling activities are intended to prepare for SAICM implementation in a coordinated manner and can facilitate the development of a sound governance structure that ensures the effective participation of all concerned parties within and outside of government. The following sections provide a brief introduction to some of the relevant concepts referred to in SAICM.

National Profile Preparation

Assessing and diagnosing the existing infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals is an important step towards building national capacity in a systematic way, and is also an important element of preparing for SAICM implementation. The ICCM encouraged countries to update their National Profiles (or, if one does not exist, to develop a National Profile) with SAICM in mind in order to provide baseline information about the existing chemicals management infrastructure and activities. For a number of years, UNITAR, working in collaboration with IOMC partners, has supported countries to prepare National Chemicals Profiles. A UNITAR/IOMC National Profile guidance document is being updated to take into account ICCM decisions. Information regarding UNITAR's National Profile support programme may be found at: http://www.unitar.org/cwg/np/index.html.

Capacity Assessment and Priority Setting

As called for by ICCM in relation to the SAICM QSP, an important enabling activity for national SAICM implementation is the development of a capacity assessment (including identification of priorities) as an essential step towards preparing a SAICM implementation plan. This takes into account that countries start from different baseline situations and need to focus on activities that address their national needs and priorities. It also recognises that no single country will be able to implement the many possible actions outlined in the SAICM documents at once and would need to focus on addressing the most pressing needs. This guidance document is meant to provide suggestions for preparing a national SAICM Capacity Assessment.

National SAICM Implementation Plan Development

SAICM's OPS notes that development of national implementation plans can be complemented by individual action plans on substantive topics of chemicals management. Partnerships among stakeholders are encouraged as a way to implement such plans. In order to systematically prepare for the implementation of SAICM, governments are additionally expected to:

- integrate SAICM into relevant programmes and plans, including those for development cooperation (OPS paragraph 19 (a)); and
- establish arrangements for implementing SAICM on an inter-ministerial or inter-institutional basis so that all concerned stakeholder interests are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed (OPS paragraph 23).

The UNITAR/IOMC document "Guidance on Action Plan Development for Sound Chemicals Management" provides some guidance on generic issues of developing an action plan (this document is available at: http://www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/inp.aspx).

Development of an Integrated National Programme

SAICM encourages countries to develop an integrated national programme for sound chemicals management. A programmatic approach differs from a "project by project" approach by pursuing the WSSD 2020 target in a strategic manner. Elements for a programmatic approach for sound chemicals management includes, *inter alia*, interministerial coordination, access to and exchange of information, stakeholder participation, coordinated priority setting, and integration of chemicals management activities into national development planning processes. SAICM's OPS notes that development of national SAICM implementation plans should also take into consideration existing plans and programmes, including National Profiles. The preparation of a capacity assessment can be an important step towards contributing to development of a national programme, in line with national needs and priorities. The UNITAR/IOMC documents "Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management", "Searching for Synergies: Linking Waste Management to an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management", and "Organizing a National Priority Setting Workshop for the Sound Management of Chemicals" provide some guidance countries may wish to consider in developing a national programme (these documents are available at: http://www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/inp.aspx).

1.5 Objectives of a National Capacity Assessment

Building on the information in a National Profile and other sources, the capacity assessment is intended to document and evaluate existing national capacities for SAICM implementation. Specific objectives of the Assessment may include the following:

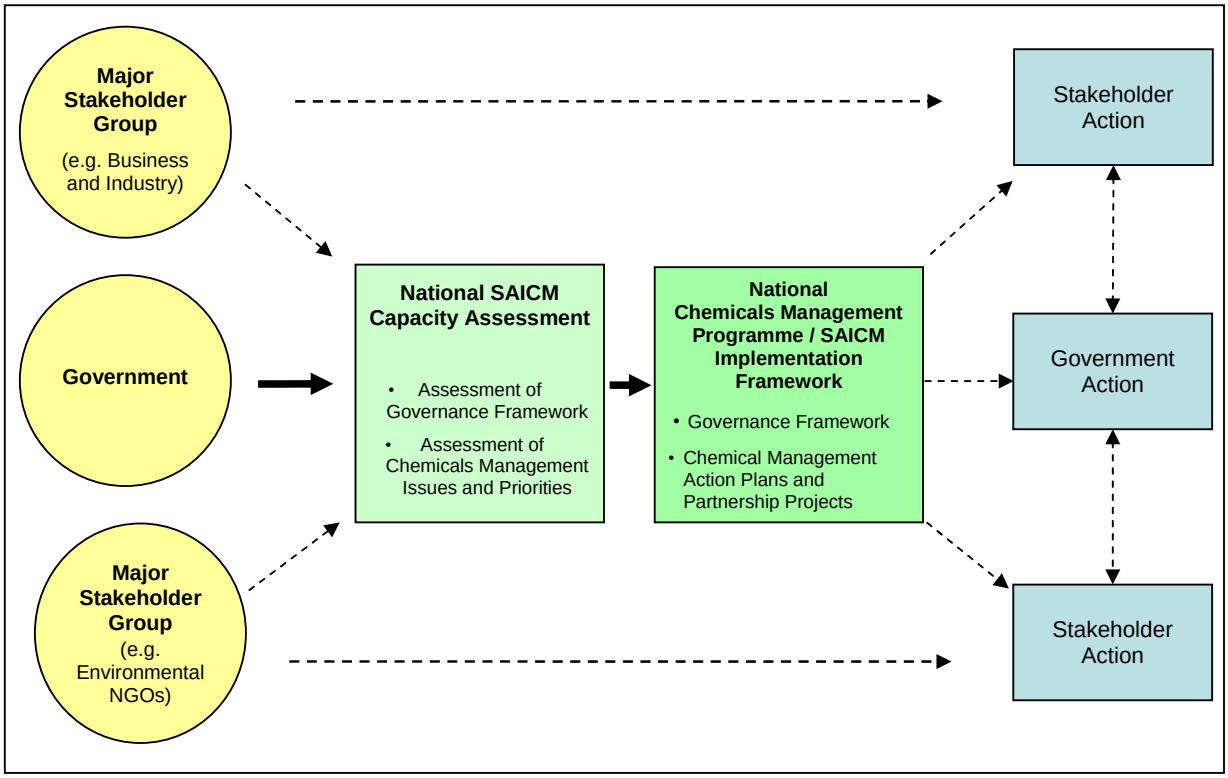
- to catalyze a process of collaboration between government and stakeholders towards understanding and identifying priority needs for SAICM implementation;
- to facilitate identification of action in government and within stakeholder groups which collectively contribute to SAICM implementation;
- to identify selected areas where partnership projects between government and stakeholder groups, or between various stakeholder groups, may be feasible; and
- to set the stage for preparation of a SAICM Implementation Plan which is linked to, as appropriate, an integrated national programme for sound chemicals management.

This guidance document is designed to assist countries in achieving the above objectives. It should be read, as appropriate, together with other UNITAR/IOMC guidance documents, including "Preparing a National Profile to Assess the National Infrastructure for Management of Chemicals" and "Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management".

1.6 Main Components of the SAICM Capacity Assessment

It is suggested that the national assessment involve two main components: an assessment of the national governance framework and an assessment of capacities for selected chemicals issues and priorities. The governance assessment covers issues such as inter-ministerial co-ordination, stakeholder involvement, legislation, or integrating chemicals management into national development planning. The assessment of chemicals management capacities addresses specific chemical management issues such as chemicals information generation and dissemination, risk reduction, import control, etc. The proposed approach and structure for conducting the assessment takes into account all three SAICM documents (the Dubai Declaration, the OPS, and the GPA). In addition, it includes concepts developed regarding elements for national capacity requirements of Programme Area E of Chapter 19, Agenda 21 ("Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals").

Figure 1: Proposed Approach for Development of a National SAICM Capacity Assessment



2. Suggested Process for Developing the Capacity Assessment

Suggestions for Preparing the Capacity Assessment

The Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS, paragraph 2) of SAICM calls for the involvement of government and all relevant non-governmental stakeholder groups. When developing the capacity assessment, the involvement of various stakeholder groups may be considered, for example, industry, labour organizations, environmental and health NGOs, research and academia, etc.

In terms of the proposed approach for the assessment, this guidance document suggests that the assessment contain two components: an assessment of the governance infrastructure and an assessment (following an initial screening process) of selected chemical management issues and priorities. It is proposed that for the governance component, government, in light of its responsibilities, take the lead and prepare a first draft. Concerning the assessment of chemicals management issues, the first step would be to obtain information from government and various stakeholder groups concerning their views if relevant capacity is already in place and if the issue is considered of high importance in terms of taking action. By compiling and comparing views from various groups, topics could emerge which have broad-based support and thus may qualify for partnership projects. This would, of course, not exclude action by a particular group (e.g. if only one group considers a particular topic to be highly important).

Holding a planning meeting early on would allow government and stakeholder groups to agree on the process and determine how input will be coordinated towards preparing the assessment. Other issues such as how the information for the assessment will be compiled (see sections 3 and 4 for the suggested methodology) could also be discussed at the meeting.

Identifying an institution or individual that has the confidence of all involved could help to ensure that the preparation of a first draft is a fair reflection of the views of various bodies and groups contributing to the process. The development and approval of a clear terms of reference for the work would be important. Candidates with a proven track record and experience with multi-stakeholder sustainable development issues would be suitable. Circulating the first and subsequent drafts of the assessment for review by all stakeholders would add value to the document, prior to a National SAICM Forum or other priority setting workshop.

At a National Forum or priority setting workshop, meeting separately (as individual stakeholder groups) on day one, followed by two days of joint meetings to discuss and finalise the report (see section 5), would allow for further detailed input and/or responses.

Complementary SAICM Assessment Activities of Non-governmental Stakeholder Groups

As suggested above, the assessment may reveal particular areas where two or more groups may wish to work together to achieve concrete results through partnership activities. However, it may also generate valuable information for stakeholder groups to review and consider priorities for the development of action plans specific to their group.

In initiating “group-specific” SAICM implementation activities, the various stakeholder groups may want to consider questions from their own perspectives, such as the following:

- Who is involved and who should still be invited to participate?

- How can group members be organised to ensure coordinated input into the national SAICM process?
- What is the importance of the various issues from the groups' perspective?
- Which issues may qualify for partnership projects?
- How can SAICM issues be addressed in group-specific actions?

3. Assessment of the Governance Framework

3.1 Introduction

Development of a governance framework for SAICM implementation received significant attention during the development of the Strategic Approach. Sound governance can provide an important enabling platform which can help to ensure that chemical management activities are effectively planned and co-ordinated, that working relationships for government and stakeholders in SAICM implementation are in place, and that chemical management issues are "mainstreamed" in national development planning. An assessment of governance issues and taking action where needed can assist in ensuring that there is high-level support to implement SAICM and provide a basis for developing a coordinated national programme for SAICM implementation. As suggested earlier, government is encouraged to take a lead in preparing this component of the assessment.

3.2 Proposed Areas for the Governance Assessment

Building upon the Dubai Declaration and the OPS, the following five areas are considered relevant for conducting a governance assessment:

Integrating chemicals management into national development priorities

Organizations that provide support for chemicals-related capacity building activities at the national level are calling for such activities to be reflected in a country's overall national development priorities. National priorities related to chemicals management and SAICM implementation can be reflected in a number of ways, for example, through their appearance in a national sustainable development strategy or national poverty reduction paper. If chemicals-related activities are identified in development plans that represent the result of consensus-building at the national level, donor support to chemicals-related activities may be more likely.

Sound institutional and programmatic national framework

A number of countries have taken steps to link their chemicals management capacity activities and projects within a national "programmatic" framework for the sound management of chemicals. A core feature of a programmatic approach, as noted in section 1, is that it represents a long-term national commitment to chemicals management where relevant government sectors establish and participate in a national chemical safety co-ordinating mechanism, while maintaining their independence to execute individual components and projects within their mandate and competence. Development of a *National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals* allows countries to conduct a strategic evaluation of progress made and challenges faced at the national level towards reaching the WSSD 2020 goals and the targets established by SAICM.

Effective project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Through specific projects concrete progress can be made towards building capacities for the sound management of chemicals and achievement of the WSSD 2020 Goal. A number of characteristics contribute towards the sustainable impact of capacity building projects. These include, for example:

- multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation/participation in project design and implementation;
- sound project planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- evaluation of the sustainability of the capacity and infrastructure;
- building on the experiences gained and lessons learned from previous projects and activities; and
- solid linkages of project and activity goals to overall programmatic priorities.

Legislation and enforcement

Legislation and associated regulations comprise an important component of national chemicals management. Overarching legislation can establish a generic legal framework for the control of chemicals and make the basic principles of sound chemicals management legally binding. The legislative framework should be integrated across all sectors and should seek to address the entire life cycle of chemicals, including importation, manufacture, processing, storage, transport, use, disposal and recycling. The existence of a comprehensive and well coordinated legal framework can help to avoid piecemeal, overlapping, or conflicting regulations.

Participation of the private sector and civil society in chemicals management

Civil society and the private sector have major roles in chemicals management capacity building. The private sector, in particular industry, can be a net contributor to supporting capacity building, especially given increasing calls by government for this sector to work in partnerships in support of sustainable development. Where industry is involved, systems can be developed that work on a cost recovery basis to ensure sustainability. Civil society will be involved in certain aspects of chemicals management capacity building activities, including awareness raising. Multilateral organizations such as the GEF and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, for example, recognize the potential of civil society and the private sector to assist governments in the "delivery" of chemicals management-related commitments.

3.3 Preparing the Governance Assessment

For each of the five issue areas outlined above, completing the governance assessment would involve providing information on the following:

- Strength of existing capacities (high/medium/low)
- Existing gaps or problems (if capacity is low)
- Possible action(s)
- Level of priority

For example, in reviewing the level of capacities for interministerial coordination, it may be revealed that the existing capacity may be characterised as "medium" because there is an existing coordination mechanism. However, the assessment may also reveal that certain key ministries are not participating in the existing mechanism, which could be addressed by developing a decree and informing the Ministers of the relevant agencies. The result may be that this issue is rated as an urgent and important one regarding the need to take action, thus revealing a priority area in relation to addressing governance issues.

The Worksheet in **Annex 1** has been developed to assist in compiling and analysing the above information. Specific cross-references are provided to the more detailed recommendations and activities included in SAICM GPA. Countries are encouraged to adapt the table to meet their needs,

as appropriate. An example of a partially completed governance worksheet can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Sample Worksheet for the Governance Assessment

A.2 A Sound Institutional and Programmatic National Framework				
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Level of existing capacities:** *(High / Medium / Low)*	**Summary of Strengths & Gaps**	**Possible action**	**Priority for taking action:** (High / Medium / Low)
2.1 Establishing an Inter-ministerial Coordination Mechanism (56, 166, 195, 197, 252)	Medium	• Co-ordinating mechanism in place but not formalised • Ministries of health and finance not participating	• Develop a ministerial decree • Letter from existing chair to Ministers of Health and Finance	High
2.2 Setting National Priorities (164, 165, 207, 227)	Low	• Lacking guidance and experience to facilitate a priority setting process	• Review methodologies for setting priorities • Seek assistance • Organize a national priority-setting workshop	High
2.3 Information Exchange Mechanisms (9, 36, 77, 88, 89, 90, 93, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 113, 115, 116, 141, 208, 209, 210, 214, 256, 271)	High	National Chemicals Information Exchange System and Webpage fully operational	N.A.	Low

4. Assessment of Capacities for Important Chemicals Management Issues

4.1 Introduction

In addition to governance-related issues, SAICM refers to a number of more specific work areas and chemicals management topics. In light of the great number of these topics, it is proposed that countries consider doing an initial screening and identify a select number of issues for which a more detailed assessment of capacities, gaps and possible actions could be undertaken.

4.2 Proposed Areas for the Chemicals Management Assessment

The five chemicals management areas below have been developed based on the main objectives included in SAICM, Programme Area E of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 ("strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals"), and the activities listed in the SAICM *Global Plan of Action* (GPA).

Information generation and dissemination

Information is vital to a successful chemicals management programme. Ideally, the information should be comprehensive, validated and up-to-date. For the purposes of chemicals management, information is required to: identify chemicals of concern; assess problems that may arise and identify populations and environments at risk; implement focused and effective risk management programmes; monitor and evaluate health and environmental risks; raise awareness; and prepare and respond to chemical accidents and emergencies. Examples of information issues to be examined in the context of SAICM include hazard identification, classification and labelling (GHS), exposure assessment and risk assessment.

Risk reduction

The reduction of risks related to chemical exposure can encompass a broad range of options designed to limit adverse effects on health and the environment by reducing the availability, or inherent hazards, of chemicals or by controlling the nature and extent of exposures. Risks may be reduced through the elimination or reduction of the use of hazardous materials, substituting less toxic, persistent or bioaccumulative products, implementing safety procedures for the handling of dangerous chemicals and reducing the generation of hazardous waste. Examples of risk reduction issues to be examined in the context of SAICM include safe handling and use of pesticides, workplace safety, and promotion of safer alternatives.

Education and awareness raising

Widespread cooperation among all relevant government authorities, industry, workers, non-governmental organisations and the public is fundamental to sound national chemicals management. This in turn, calls for a widespread awareness of the potential risks associated with the use of chemicals and chemical accidents, and an understanding of the ways in which chemicals can be handled safely. Examples of education and awareness raising issues to be assessed include information dissemination and training.

Accident prevention and control

Chemical accidents and incidents can negatively impact human health and the environment, as well as result in a loss of income for enterprises that experience such accidents. Proper emergency

response procedures need to be in place in cases when an accident cannot be prevented. Examples of issues to be considered under SAICM can include chemicals accidents and poisoning prevention, treatment and control.

Analytical and laboratory capacity

Laboratory facilities and analytical capacity can help support programmes and policies for the sound management of chemicals through regulatory chemical analysis, monitoring capacity, and the ability to support health and environmental surveillance (e.g. for pesticide or workplace exposures, for POPs in the environment, or for chemical contamination in ground water). The issue of analytical and laboratory capacities is referenced several times in the SAICM GPA.

4.3 Identifying Important and Urgent Chemicals Management Issues (Step 1 - Screening)

In identifying issues considered important, it is proposed that government and key stakeholder groups review, from their perspectives, various chemicals management issues, such as classification and labelling, safe handling and use of pesticides, training, or chemical accidents, and determine their importance and priority. Depending on the ratings by stakeholder groups, different scenarios may be possible. For example, some issues may be considered as a “high priority” by all groups; other issues may be considered as a high priority only for a particular stakeholder group. It is possible that the issues rated as a high priority by all groups could be included in a short list of national priority issue areas from a chemicals management perspective.

Additionally, it is suggested to rate each issue regarding its potential priority in relation to *development planning*. This could allow, for example, identification of a list of priority chemicals management issues that could be included in national development planning strategies.

The Worksheet in **Annex 2** has been developed to assist in identifying the priorities of the various stakeholder groups and making a summary assessment. Specific cross-references are provided to the more detailed recommendations and activities included in SAICM GPA. Countries are encouraged to adapt the table to meet their needs, as appropriate. An example of a partially completed worksheet can be found in Table 2.

Table 2: Sample Worksheet for Identifying Important and Urgent Chemical Management Issues

B.1 Information generation and dissemination							
Stakeholder Input	*Government*		*Stakeholder Group (e.g. Industry)*		*Stakeholder Group (e.g. NGOs)*		*Priority Rating for Chemicals Management* / *Potential Priority for Development Planning*
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	
1.1 Hazard Identification, Classification and Labelling (GHS) (11, 22, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 100, 101, 107, 108, 168, 249, 250)	High	• Current classification system not aligned with system of trade partners	High	• Protect workers health • Improves trade	High	• Chemicals without hazard symbols used by consumers	• High priority by consensus • Medium
1.2 Exposure Assessment (2, 4, 9, 34, 35, 66)	Medium	• Comprehensive system too expensive, but targeted efforts for specific chemicals desirable	Low	• Systematic monitoring or workers health already in place	High	• Residents in pollution hot spots are exposed to high levels of pollutants	• Medium Priority by Government • Low Priority of Industry • High Priority of NGOs • Low
etc.							

4.4 Conducting an Initial Capacity Assessment for Important and Urgent Chemicals Management Issues (Step 2)

The results from Step 1 may generate a list of a number of important and urgent chemicals management issues. As a next step, it is proposed to prepare a more in-depth capacity assessment for those issues. Such an assessment would not replace preparing an in-depth situation analysis in the case that an action plan on a particular issue is developed, but it would provide a more detailed sense of existing capacities and possible action that could be taken.

Once an initial listing of priority issues is developed, an assessment of the capacities, gaps and possible actions can provide a basis for identifying SAICM implementation activities considered most relevant, and for which partnerships could be initiated. For example, if one area – such as GHS – is rated as a high initial priority by all groups, a next step would be to outline specific gaps, the possible action to be taken to address the gaps, and which actors are concerned to take action. Lastly, an indication of the urgency of taking action to address a given capacity gap could also be provided to help indicate immediate next steps.[4]

The Worksheet in **Annex 3** has been developed to assist in compiling the suggested information. Countries are encouraged to adapt the table to meet their needs, as appropriate. An example of a partially completed worksheet can be found in Table 3.

[4] Groups that wish to review capacities for all chemicals management issues (as listed in Annex 1) could do so by including all these activities in the Step 2 assessment.

Table 3: Sample Worksheet for Assessing Capacities and Gaps for Important and Urgent Chemicals Management Issues

B.1 Information generation and dissemination				
Chemicals Management Issue Area	**Capacity Gaps**	**Possible Action**	**Concerned Actors**	**Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low**
Hazard Identification, Classification and Labelling (GHS)	Lack of legislation	Development of new regulations	Ministry of Industry Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour Ministry of Transport Ministry of Agriculture	High
	Lack of labelling in the workplace	Development of industry labelling standard based on GHS; Enforcement of relevant legislation	Business and Industry Ministry of Labour	High
	Lack of worker and consumer awareness	Development of training and awareness raising materials	Business and Industry; Labour Unions; Consumer Organizations	High
Priority Issue 2…				
Priority Issue 3…				

4.5 Identifying Opportunities for Partnership Projects (Step 3)

Through completion of the set of worksheets for chemicals management issues, a list of possible national priorities for action and opportunities for partnership projects may be identified. The capacity assessment of important and urgent chemicals management issues can indicate which activities and actions are of highest priority. It may also indicate activities and actions suitable to partnerships projects involving two or more stakeholder groups.

For example, if GHS implementation was identified as a priority and subsequently included in the assessment of chemicals management issues, priority areas of action such as development of new regulations may be identified. The assessment may further identify action suitable to partnerships, such as the development of training and awareness raising materials for workers and the public, which could involve a partnership between the private sector, labour unions and consumers organizations (see Table 3).

5. Proposed Structure of the Capacity Assessment

Several options exist for structuring the final Capacity Assessment Report. Below is one suggestion regarding how the results of the assessment could be included in a report which can inform discussions on selecting a number of priorities for follow-up action.

Executive Summary

The executive summary would outline the rationale for the report and provide a general overview of the findings. Key capacities and gaps may also be summarized.

Summary Assessment: National Governance Framework

This section of the report would summarise the results of the governance assessment, including identified priority areas and proposals for action.

Summary Assessment: Chemicals Management Issues and Priorities

This section would summarise the identified priority chemicals management issues, as well as the results of the capacity assessment and proposals for action.

Opportunities for Partnership Projects

A final section of the report could summarise common priorities and recommend opportunities for partnership projects involving government and relevant stakeholder groups (industry, labour organizations, environmental and health NGOs, research and academia, etc.) or partnerships between two or more different stakeholder groups.

Annexes: Completed Worksheets

The completed worksheets could be included as annexes for reference.

Annex 1: Worksheet for Governance Assessment

Please refer to section 3 and Annex 4 of this guidance document when completing these tables.

A.1 Integrating Chemicals Management into National Development Priorities				
Category [5] (and related GPA activities)	**Level of existing capacities: High / Medium / Low**	**Summary of Strengths and Gaps**	**Possible action**	**Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low**
1.1 Mechanisms for Integrating Chemicals Management into Development Priorities (1, 24, 181, 182, 183, 184, 205, 225, 257)				

A.2 A Sound Institutional and Programmatic National Framework				
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Level of existing capacities: High / Medium / Low**	**Summary of Strengths and Gaps**	**Possible action**	**Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low**
2.1 Establishing an Inter-ministerial Coordination Mechanism (56, 166, 195, 197, 252)				
2.2 Setting National Priorities (164, 165, 207, 227)				
2.3 Information Exchange Mechanisms (9, 36, 77, 88, 89, 90, 93, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 113, 115, 116, 141, 208, 209, 210, 214, 256, 271)				

[5] If necessary and appropriate, the categories could be further divided into “subcategories”, based on the different “sub-groups” of activities that may be identified.

A.3 Effective Project Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation				
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Level of existing capacities:** **High / Medium / Low**	**Summary of Strengths and Gaps**	**Possible action**	**Urgency & importance of taking action:** **High / Medium / Low**
3.1 Project Planning (217, 222)				
3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (80-87, 131, 136, 254)				

A.4 Legislation and Enforcement				
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Level of existing capacities:** **High / Medium / Low**	**Summary of Strengths and Gaps**	**Possible action**	**Urgency & importance of taking action:** **High / Medium / Low**
4.1 Legislation, Regulations and Policies – General (12, 15, 45, 46, 121, 169, 176, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 186, 187, 193, 194, 199, 200, 204, 211, 212, 213, 226)				
4.2 Pesticides Legislation and Policies (114, 117, 153)				
4.3 Policies for Pollution Prevention and Cleaner Production (43, 44, 118, 119, 120, 185, 191, 241, 242)				

A.5 Participation of the Private Sector and Civil Society in Chemicals Management				
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Level of existing capacities:** **High / Medium / Low**	**Summary of Strengths and Gaps**	**Possible action**	**Urgency & importance of taking action:** **High / Medium / Low**
5.1 Stakeholder Participation (187, 196, 206, 245, 266)				
5.2 Voluntary Initiatives in the Private Sector (189, 190, 236)				
5.3 Capacities of Civil Society (188)				

Annex 2: Worksheet for Identification of Important and Urgent Chemicals Management Issues

Please refer to section 4.3 and Annex 4 of this guidance document when completing these tables.

B.1 Information generation and dissemination							
Stakeholder Input	***Government***		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Priority Rating for Chemicals Management***
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	***Potential Priority for Development Planning***
1.1 Hazard Identification, Classification and Labelling (GHS) (11, 22, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 100, 101, 107, 108, 168, 249, 250)							
1.2 Exposure Assessment (2, 4, 9, 34, 35, 66)							
1.3 Toxicology (5, 130)							
1.4 Epidemiology and Monitoring (38, 85, 151, 152, 201)							

1.5 PRTRs (124, 125, 126, 177, 178, 179, 180, 192)							
1.6 Risk Assessment (3, 7, 8, 55, 61, 64, 65, 86, 87, 127, 128, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 202, 203)							

B.2 Risk Reduction							
Stakeholder Input	***Government***		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Priority Rating for Chemicals Management***
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	***Potential Priority for Development Planning***
2.1 Chemical Safety – General (6, 2, 50, 80, 198)							
2.2 Safe Handling and Use of Pesticides (23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 39, 40, 52)							
2.3 Chemical Safety in the Workplace							

(12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 42, 79, 138, 139, 140, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 149, 155, 167)							
2.4 Chemical-Specific Risk Reduction (20, 49, 57, 58, 59, 60)							
2.5 Industry-sector Specific Risk Reduction (19, 30, 98, 148)							
2.6 Obsolete Pesticides and Wastes (47, 48, 68, 243)							
2.7 Prevention and Control of Chemical Pollution and Waste (67, 69, 70, 71, 162, 258, 259, 260, 262, 272, 273)							
2.8 Promote Safer Alternatives (53, 54, 52, 244, 73, 84, 122, 134, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160)							

B.3 Education and awareness raising							
Stakeholder Input	***Government***		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Priority Rating for Chemicals Management*** ---------- ***Potential Priority for Development Planning***
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	
3.1 Education (110, 123, 150, 154)							
3.2 Information Dissemination (17, 18, 36, 62, 111, 112, 146, 161, 163)							
3.3 Training (41, 51, 72, 83, 218, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 238, 240, 251, 253, 255, 270)							

B.4 Accident prevention and control							
Stakeholder Input	***Government***		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Priority Rating for Chemicals Management*** ---------- ***Potential Priority for Development Planning***
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	
4.1 Chemical Accidents (48, 74, 75, 78)							
4.2 Poisoning Prevention, Treatment and Control (5, 76, 221, 237)							

B.5 Analytical and laboratory capacity							
Stakeholder Input	***Government***		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Stakeholder Group*** *__[name of group]__*		***Priority Rating for Chemicals Management*** ---------- ***Potential Priority for Development Planning***
Category (and related GPA activities)	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	**Priority** High / Medium / Low	**Reason for Judgment**	
5.1 Analytical and Laboratory							

Capacities (63, 82, 181, 219, 220, 228, 247, 246, 248)							

Annex 3: Worksheet for the Capacity Assessment of Important and Urgent Chemicals Management Issues

Please refer to section 4.4 of this guidance document when completing these tables.

B.1 Information generation and dissemination

Chemicals Management Issue Area	Capacity Gaps	Possible Action	Concerned Actors	Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low

B.2 Risk Reduction

Chemicals Management Issue Area	Capacity Gaps	Possible Action	Concerned Actors	Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low

B.3 Education and awareness raising

Chemicals Management Issue Area	Capacity Gaps	Possible Action	Concerned Actors	Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low

B.4 Accident prevention and control				
Chemicals Management Issue Area	**Capacity Gaps**	**Possible Action**	**Concerned Actors**	**Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low**

B.5 Analytical and laboratory capacity				
Chemicals Management Issue Area	**Capacity Gaps**	**Possible Action**	**Concerned Actors**	**Urgency & importance of taking action: High / Medium / Low**

Annex 4: List of Activities under the Global Plan of Action[6]

SAICM Objective 1: Risk Reduction (Activities 1- 79)

1. Develop national profiles and implement action plans for sound management of chemicals.
2. Fill gaps in abilities to access, interpret and apply knowledge.
3. Develop and use new and harmonized methods for risk assessment.
4. Develop better methods and criteria for determining the impact of chemicals on human health (and thereby on the economy and sustainable development), for setting priorities for action, for the detection of chemicals and for monitoring the progress of SAICM.
5. Build capacities of countries to deal with poisonings and chemical incidents.
6. Include a range of preventive strategies.
7. Develop guidance materials to assist in the preparation of initial national assessments of children's environmental health and the identification of priority concerns; develop and implement action plans to address those priority concerns.
8. Establish needed infrastructure for research that will reduce uncertainty in risk assessment.
9. Develop mechanisms to share and disseminate information that can be used to reduce uncertainty in risk assessment.
10. Eliminate as a priority any child labour that involves hazardous substances.
11. Develop harmonized data elements on occupational health and safety for recording relevant workplace data in company-specific databases.
12. Consider legislation to protect the health of workers and the public, covering the entire spectrum of work situations in which chemicals are handled, including such sectors as agriculture and health.
13. Develop a system of health and environmental impact assessment in chemicals handling and incorporate it in occupational safety and health programmes.
14. Develop, enhance, update and implement ILO safe work standards, ILO guidelines on occupational safety and health management system (ILO-OSH 2001) and other non-binding guidelines and codes of practice, including those particular to indigenous and tribal populations.
15. Develop national occupational safety and health policies containing specific text on chemicals management, with a clear emphasis on preventive measures, requiring that workplace risk assessments and hazard prevention measures be carried out based on the recognized hierarchy of prevention and control measures.
16. Establish integrated programmes for all public health and safety practitioners and professionals, with an emphasis on identification, assessment and control of occupational chemical risk factors in all workplaces (such as industrial, rural, business and services).
17. Promote exchange of information on successful experiences and projects related to chemical occupational safety and health.
18. Develop and disseminate chemical safety data sheets to assist enterprises in protecting their workers.
19. Avoid worker exposure through technical measures where possible; provide appropriate protective equipment; improve the acceptance of wearing protective equipment and stimulate further research on protective equipment to be used under hot and humid conditions.
20. Protect workers from chemicals causing asbestosis, other asbestos-related diseases and occupational cancers, those chemicals included in the Rotterdam Convention because of their occupational risks and other hazardous chemicals based on their occupational health risks.
21. Develop guidance on a harmonized approach to the setting of occupational exposure limits.
22. Establish roles and responsibilities of employers, employees, chemical suppliers and Governments in the implementation of GHS.
23. Encourage full implementation of the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.
24. Give appropriate priority to pest and pesticide management in national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction papers to enable access to relevant technical and financial assistance, including appropriate technology.
25. Base national decisions on highly toxic pesticides on an evaluation of their intrinsic hazards and anticipated local exposure to them.
26. Prioritize the procurement of least hazardous pest control measures and use best practices to avoid excessive or inappropriate supplies of chemicals.
27. Promote development and use of reduced-risk pesticides and substitution for highly toxic pesticides as well as effective and non-chemical alternative means of pest control.
28. Distinguish programmes that have achieved cost effective, significant and sustainable risk reductions from those which have not and incorporate evaluation mechanisms and measures of progress in future programmes.
29. Promote integrated pest and integrated vector management.

[6] For complete information related to the activities including possible work areas, actors, targets/timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects please see the Global Plan of Action available at: http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/SAICM%20texts/Final%20standalone%206%20June%2006.doc.

30. Encourage industry to extend product stewardship and to withdraw voluntarily highly toxic pesticides which are hazardous and cannot be used safely under prevalent conditions.
31. Establish pesticide management programmes to regulate the availability, distribution and use of pesticides and, where appropriate, consider the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.
32. Implement a pesticide registration and control system which controls risks from the initial point of production/formulation to the disposal of obsolete products or containers.
33. Review pesticides available on the market to ensure their use in accordance with approved licenses.
34. Establish health surveillance programmes.
35. Establish poisoning information and control centres and systems for data collection and analysis.
36. Provide extension and advisory services and farmer organizations with information on integrated pest management strategies and methods.
37. Ensure proper storage conditions for pesticides at the point of sale, in warehouses and on farms.
38. Establish a programme to monitor pesticide residues in food and the environment.
39. Make less toxic pesticides available for sale and use.
40. License and sell pesticide products in containers that are ready to use, unattractive for re-use, inaccessible to children and labelled with clear, unambiguous directions that are understandable for local users.
41. Ensure that agricultural workers are appropriately trained in safe application methods and that personal protections are sufficient to allow the safe use of products.
42. Promote the availability and use of personal protective equipment.
43. Encourage sustainable production and use and promote the transfer, implementation and adoption of pollution prevention policies and cleaner production technologies, in particular best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP).
44. Promote the development and use of products and processes that pose lesser risks.
45. Incorporate the concept of pollution prevention in policies, programmes and activities on chemicals management.
46. Support the further development and adoption of FAO and WHO specifications on pesticides.
47. Identify contaminated sites and hotspots and develop and implement contaminated site remediation plans to reduce risks to the public and to the environment.
48. Ensure the remediation of contaminated sites, including those caused by accidents.
49. Eliminate lead in gasoline.
50. Develop schemes for integrated pest management.
51. Provide training in alternative and ecological agricultural practices, including non-chemical alternatives.
52. Promote access to lower-risk or safer pesticides.
53. Undertake development of pest- and disease-resistant crop varieties.
54. Promote the use of safe and effective alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives to organic chemicals that are highly toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative.
55. Prioritize for assessment and related studies groups of chemicals posing an unreasonable and otherwise unmanageable risk for human health and the environment, which might include: persistent bioaccumulative and toxic substances, (PBTs); very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia, the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous system; and persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
56. Articulate an integrated approach to chemicals management taking into account multilateral environmental agreements and strategies that target a broad spectrum of chemicals.
57. Promote reduction of the risks posed to human health and the environment, especially by lead, mercury and cadmium, by sound environmental management, including a thorough review of relevant studies such as the UNEP global assessment of mercury and its compounds.
58. Consider the need for further action on mercury, considering a full range of options, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions (based on UNEP Governing Council decision 23/9).
59. Take immediate action to reduce the risk to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes (based on UNEP Governing Council decision 23/9).
60. Consider the review of scientific information, focusing especially on long-range environmental transport, to inform future discussions on the need for global action in relation to lead and cadmium, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session in 2007 (based on UNEP Governing Council decision 23/9).
61. When assessing risk to the general population, consider whether certain segments of the population (i.e., children, pregnant women) have differential susceptibility or exposure.
62. Implement warning systems with regard to the risks posed by the production, use or disposal of chemicals.
63. Apply science-based approaches, including those from among existing tools from IOMC organizations on, inter alia, test guidelines, good laboratory practices, mutual acceptance of data, new chemicals, existing chemicals, tools and strategies for testing and assessment.
64. Encourage the development of simplified and standardized tools for integrating science into policy and decision-making relating to chemicals, particularly guidance on risk assessment and risk management methodologies.

65. Establish knowledge on risk assessment procedures, building on existing products such as those generated by OECD, including, inter alia, guidance on the OECD High Production Volume Chemicals hazard assessments, (Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship ((Q)SAR) Analysis, review of pesticide hazards and fate studies, emission exposure scenario documents, information exchange and coordination mechanisms.
66. Establish programmes for monitoring chemicals and pesticides to assess exposure.
67. Apply life-cycle management approaches to ensure that chemicals management decisions are consistent with the goals of sustainable development.
68. Facilitate the identification and disposal of obsolete stocks of pesticides and other chemicals (especially PCBs), particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
69. Establish and implement national action plans with respect to waste minimization and waste disposal, taking into consideration relevant international agreements and by using the cradle-to-cradle and cradle-to-grave approaches.
70. Prevent and minimize hazardous waste generation through the application of best practices, including the use of alternatives that pose less risk.
71. Implement the Basel Convention and waste reduction measures at source and identify other waste issues that require full cradle-to-cradle and cradle-to-grave consideration of the fate of chemicals in production and at the end of the useful life of products in which they are present.
72. Carry out measures that will inform, educate and protect waste handlers and small-scale recyclers from the hazards of handling and recycling chemical waste.
73. Promote waste prevention and minimization by encouraging production of reusable/recyclable consumer goods and biodegradable products and developing the infrastructure required.
74. Develop integrated national and international systems to prevent major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness and response to all accidents and natural disasters involving chemicals.
75. Encourage the development of an international mechanism for responding to requests from countries affected by chemical accidents.
76. Minimize the occurrence of poisonings and diseases caused by chemicals.
77. Provide for national collection of harmonized data, including categorization by, for example, type of poison, chemical identity, structure, use or function.
78. Address gaps in the application of safety procedures relevant to the operation of chemical-intensive facilities, including the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and products.
79. Design, site and equip chemical facilities to protect against potential sabotage.

SAICM Objective 2: Knowledge and Information (Activities 80- 164)

80. Develop and establish targeted risk assessment approaches to evaluating exposure and impacts, including socio-economic impacts and chronic and synergistic effects of chemicals on human health and the environment.
81. Evaluate whether different segments of the population (e.g., children, women) have different susceptibility and/or exposure on a chemical-by-chemical basis in order of priority.
82. Develop, validate and share reliable, affordable and practical analytical techniques for monitoring substances for which there is significant concern in environmental media and biological samples. Develop a targeted process to assess and monitor levels of a discrete number of priority contaminants in the environment.
83. Develop scientific knowledge to strengthen and accelerate innovation, research, development, training and education that promote sustainability.
84. Promote research into technologies and alternatives that are less resource intensive and less polluting.
85. Collect data on the use patterns of chemicals for which there is a reasonable basis of concern where necessary to support risk assessment characterization and communication.
86. Design mechanisms to enable investigators from less developed countries to participate in the development of information on risk reduction.
87. Fill gaps in scientific knowledge (e.g., gaps in understanding of endocrine disruptors).
88. Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at the collection, compilation and use of additional scientific data.
89. Generate and share information detailing the inherent hazards of all chemicals in commerce, giving priority to hazard information for those chemicals that have the greatest potential for substantial or significant exposures.
90. Establish national priorities for information generation for chemicals that are not produced in high volumes.
91. Encourage the use of IPCS health and safety cards (international chemical safety cards, or ICSCs)
92. Agree to time frames for industry, in cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders, to generate hazard information for high-production volume chemicals not addressed under existing commitments.
93. Promote the establishment of generally applicable guidelines on the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of Governments, producing and importing enterprises and suppliers of chemicals concerning the generation and assessment of hazard information.
94. Further harmonize data formats for hazard information.
95. Establish recommendations on tiered approaches to addressing screening information requirements for chemicals that are not produced in high volumes.

96. Identify possible approaches for prioritization for such chemicals that are not necessarily based on production volume but, e.g., build on significant exposures.
97. Ensure that each pesticide is tested by recognized procedures and test methods to enable a full evaluation of its efficacy, behaviour, fate, hazard and risk, with respect to anticipated conditions in regions or countries where it is used.
98. Encourage industry to generate new science-based knowledge, building on existing initiatives.
99. Establish information management systems for hazard information.
100. Prepare safety data sheets and labels.
101. Complete GHS awareness-raising and capacity-building guidance and training materials (including GHS action plan development guidance, national situation analysis guidance and other training tools) and make them available to countries.
102. Establish arrangements for the timely exchange of information on chemicals, including what is necessary to overcome barriers to information exchange (e.g., providing information in local languages).
103. Consider establishing a clearing-house for information on chemical safety to optimize the use of resources.
104. Ensure that all Government officials from developing countries and countries with economies in transition responsible for chemicals management have access to the Internet and training in its use.
105. Eliminate barriers to information exchange for the sound management of chemicals in order to enhance communication among national, subregional, regional and international stakeholders.
106. Strengthen the exchange of technical information among the academic, industrial, governmental and intergovernmental sectors.
107. Establish procedures to ensure that any hazardous material put into circulation is accompanied, at a minimum, by appropriate and reliable safety data sheets which provide information that is easy to access, read and understand, taking into account GHS.
108. Articles and products containing hazardous substances should all be accompanied by relevant information for users, workplaces and at disposal sites.
109. Improve the information base, including via electronic media such as the Internet and CD ROMs, in particular in developing countries, ensuring that information reaches appropriate target groups to enable their empowerment and ensure their right to know.
110. Include a range of preventive strategies, education and awareness-raising and capacity-building in risk communication.
111. For all chemicals in commerce, appropriate information detailing their inherent hazards should be made available to the public at no charge and generated where needed with essential health, safety and environmental information made available. Other information should be available according to a balance between the public's right to know and the need to protect valid confidential business information and legitimate proprietary interests.
112. Undertake awareness-raising for consumers, in particular by educating them on best practices for chemical use, about the risks that the chemicals they use pose to themselves and their environment and the pathways by which exposures occur.
113. Establish information-exchange mechanisms on contamination in border areas.
114. Improve access to and use of information on pesticides, particularly highly toxic pesticides, and promote alternative safer pest control measures through networks such as academia.
115. Encourage and facilitate exchange of information, technology and expertise within and among countries by both the public and private sectors for risk reduction and mitigation.
116. Facilitate access to research results related to alternative pest control (both chemical and non-chemical) and crop protection measures by pesticide users, those exposed to pesticides and extension services.
117. Evaluate the efficacy of pesticide risk reduction programmes and alternative pest control methods currently implemented and planned by international organizations, Governments, the pesticide, agriculture and trade sectors and other stakeholders.
118. Undertake research into innovative means of cleaner production, including those involving waste minimization in all economic sectors.
119. Encourage management practices that take into account the full life-cycle approach to sustainable chemicals management, emphasizing front-end pollution prevention approaches.
120. Address matters of policy integration in consideration of life-cycle issues.
121. Utilize the life-cycle management concept to identify priority gaps in chemicals management regimes and practices and to design actions to address gaps in order to identify opportunities to manage hazardous products, unintentional toxic emissions and hazardous wastes at the most advantageous point in the chemical life cycle.
122. Promote products that are either degradable and are returned to nature after use or at end use are recycled as industrial feedstocks to produce new products.
123. Incorporate life-cycle issues in school curricula.
124. Develop a national PRTR/emission inventory design process involving affected and interested parties.
125. Use PRTRs tailored to variable national conditions as a source of valuable environmental information for industry, Governments and the public and as mechanisms to stimulate reductions in emissions.
126. Develop manuals and implementation guides to explain in a simple form the benefits provided by a registry and the steps necessary to develop one.
127. Manufacturers, importers and formulators should assess data and provide adequate and reliable information to users.
128. Responsible public authorities should establish general frameworks for risk assessment procedures and controls.

129. Carry out hazard evaluations in accordance with the requirements of harmonized health and environmental risk assessments, including internationally recommended methodologies.
130. Harmonize principles and methods for risk assessment, e.g., methods for vulnerable groups, for specific toxicological endpoints such as carcinogenicity, immunotoxicity, endocrine disruption and ecotoxicology, for new tools.
131. Address gaps in the development of new tools for risk assessment, harmonization of risk assessment methods, better methods to estimate the impacts of chemicals on health in real-life situations and the ability to access, interpret and apply knowledge on risks.
132. Address gaps in the study of chemical exposure pathways and opportunities for pathway intervention (e.g., in food production).
133. Further develop methodologies using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach.
134. Compare assessments of alternative products and practices to ensure that they do not pose larger risks.
135. Fill gaps in abilities to access, interpret and apply knowledge (e.g., improve availability of information on the hazards, risks and safe use of chemicals, in forms relevant to end users, and improve use of existing risk assessments).
136. Develop common principles for harmonized approaches for performing and reporting health and environmental risk assessments.
137. Improve understanding of the impact of natural disasters on releases of harmful chemicals and resulting human and wildlife exposures, as well as possible measures to mitigate them.
138. Establish a means of developing and updating internationally evaluated sources of information on chemicals in the workplace by intergovernmental organizations, in forms and languages suitable for use by workplace participants.
139. Promote research on the development of appropriate protective equipment.
140. Make information on workplace chemicals from intergovernmental organizations readily and conveniently available at no charge to employers, employees and Governments.
141. Strengthen global information networks in the sharing, exchange and delivery of chemical safety information (e.g. ILO, WHO, INFOCAP).
142. Promote the establishment of ILO SafeWork programmes at the national level and the ratification and implementation of ILO conventions 170, 174 and 184.
143. Implement an integrated approach to the safe use of chemicals in the workplace by establishing new mechanisms for expanding and updating ILO conventions related to hazardous substances and linking them to various other actions such as those associated with codes, information dissemination, enforcement, technical cooperation, etc.
144. Establish approaches and methods for communicating the results of international risk assessments to appropriate workplace participants and stipulate related roles and responsibilities of employers, employees and Governments.
145. Promote the establishment of national inspection systems for the protection of employees from the adverse effects of chemicals and encourage dialogue between employers and employees to maximize chemical safety and minimize workplace hazards.
146. Strengthen chemical-safety-related information dissemination among social partners and through public media at the national and international levels.
147. Stress the importance of workers' right to know in all sectors (formal and informal), i.e., that the information provided to workers should be sufficient for them to protect their safety and health as well as the environment.
148. Eliminate workplace hazards posed by chemicals through simple, practical methods, in particular chemical control banding.
149. Establish the right of employees to refuse to work in hazardous environments if they are not provided with adequate and correct information about hazardous chemicals to which they are exposed in their work environment and about appropriate ways in which to protect themselves.
150. Promote education and training on children's chemical safety.
151. Promote the use of comparable indicators of children's environmental health as part of a national assessment and prioritization process for managing unacceptable risks to children's health.
152. Consider potential enhanced exposures and vulnerabilities of children when setting nationally acceptable levels or criteria related to chemicals.
153. Develop broad strategies specifically directed to the health of children and young families.
154. Incorporate chemical safety and especially understanding of the labelling system of GHS into school and university curricula.
155. Provide appropriate training and sensitization on chemical safety for those exposed to chemicals at each stage from manufacture to disposal (crop growers, industries, enforcement agents, etc.).
156. Undertake research into alternative additives.
157. Undertake research into alternatives for other lead-based products.
158. Undertake research on and implement better agricultural practices, including methods that do not require the application of polluting or harmful chemicals.
159. Establish ecologically sound and integrated strategies for the management of pests and, where appropriate, vectors for communicable diseases.
160. Promote information exchange on alternative and ecological agricultural practices, including on non-chemical alternatives.
161. Implement information, education and communication packages on the sound management of chemicals, targeting key stakeholders including waste handlers and recyclers.

162. Support research on best practices in waste management resulting in increased waste diversion and recovery and reduced chemical hazards for health and the environment.
163. Undertake awareness-raising and preventive measures campaigns in order to promote safe use of chemicals.
164. Work to ensure broad and meaningful participation of stakeholders, including women, at all levels in devising responses to chemicals management challenges and in regulatory and decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety.

SAICM Objective 3: Governance (Activities 165- 207)

165. Have in place multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder mechanisms to develop national profiles and priority actions.
166. With regard to the implementation of national programmes:

- Develop comprehensive national profiles;
- Formalize inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanisms on chemicals management issues, including coordination of national Government and multi-stakeholder positions in international meetings;
- Develop national chemical safety policies outlining strategic goals and milestones towards reaching the Johannesburg Summit 2020 goal;
- Develop national chemicals safety information exchange systems;
- Develop national strategies to mobilize national and external resources and to raise the importance placed on chemicals management within national sustainable development frameworks;
- Develop policies of systematic stakeholder involvement, bringing synergies from related initiatives on chemicals management.

167. Support efforts to implement an integrated approach to the safe use of chemicals at the workplace by establishing effective mechanisms for following up and updating information on international instruments related to hazardous substances.
168. Review national legislation and align it with GHS requirements.
169. Promote ratification and implementation of all relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, encouraging and improving partnerships and coordination (e.g., Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention, ILO conventions and IMO conventions related to chemicals such as the TBT Convention) and ensuring that necessary procedures are put into place.
170. Establish or strengthen coordination, cooperation and partnerships, including coordination among institutions and processes responsible for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the international, national and local levels, in order to address gaps in policies and institutions, exploit potential synergies and improve coherence.
171. Consider approaches to facilitate and strengthen synergies and coordination between chemicals and waste conventions, including by developing common structures.
172. Consider evaluating the possibilities and potential benefits of using the Basel and/or Stockholm Convention ways and means for waste management and disposal of wastes of reclaimed ozone-depleting substances regulated under the Montreal Protocol.
173. Develop pilot projects to pursue implementation of coordination between the national focal points of chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements (Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions and Montreal Protocol) to achieve synergies in their implementation.
174. Address gaps at the domestic level in implementation of existing laws and policy instruments promulgated in the context of national environmental management regimes, including with respect to meeting obligations under international legally binding instruments.
175. Ensure coherence with the proposed Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.
176. Promote, when necessary, the further development of international agreements relating to chemicals.
177. Establish the required framework for creating national PRTRs.
178. Promote a political consensus in favour of public access to national environmental information.
179. Manage information dissemination from PRTRs so that risks are communicated in a timely and accurate fashion without unduly alarming the public.
180. Promote harmonization of environmental performance requirements in the context of international trade.
181. Establish the capacity to collect and analyse social and economic data.
182. Consider and apply approaches to the internalization of the costs to human health, society and the environment of the production and use of chemicals, consistent with Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration.
183. Develop methodologies and approaches for integrating chemicals management into social and development strategies.
184. Include capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals as one of the priorities in national poverty reduction strategies and country assistance strategies.
185. Enhance efforts to implement values of corporate social and environmental responsibility.
186. Develop frameworks for promoting private-public partnerships in the sound management of chemicals and wastes.
187. Develop a framework to promote the active involvement of all stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, managers, workers and trade unions in all enterprises – private, public and civil service (formal and informal sector) – in the sound management of chemicals and wastes.
188. Build the capacities of NGOs, civil society and communities in developing countries so that their responsible and active participation is facilitated. This may include provision of financial support and training in chemical safety agreements and concepts.

189. Encourage use of voluntary initiatives (e.g., Responsible Care and FAO Code of Conduct).
190. Promote corporate social responsibility for the safe production and use of all products, including through the development of approaches that reduce human and environmental risks for all and do not simply transfer risks to those least able to address them.
191. Promote innovations and continuous improvement of chemicals management across the product chain.
192. Promote within the industrial sector the adoption of PRTRs and cleaner production methods.
193. Promote a culture of compliance and accountability and effective enforcement and monitoring programmes, including through the development and application of economic instruments.
194. Strengthen policy, law and regulatory frameworks and compliance promotion and enforcement.
195. Establish national multi-stakeholder coordination bodies on chemicals to provide information and increase awareness of their risks.
196. Explore innovative consultation processes, such as mediated discussions, with a view to finding common ground and agreement among affected sectors of society on critical issues that impede efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals.
197. Incorporate capacity-building strategies and promote activities to enhance each country's legal and institutional framework for implementing chemical safety across all relevant ministries and Government agencies.
198. Encourage countries to harmonize their chemical safety norms.
199. Establish effective implementation and monitoring arrangements.
200. Complete periodic questionnaires to measure implementation of the Bahia Declaration.
201. Develop objective indicators for evaluating the influence of chemicals on human health and the environment.
202. Ensure that pesticides and chemicals issues are considered within environmental impact assessments covering protected areas.
203. Evaluate the dispersion of pollutant releases (air, water and ground) in protected areas.
204. Develop national strategies for prevention, detection and control of illegal traffic, including the strengthening of laws, judicial mechanisms and the capacity of customs administrations and other national authorities to control and prevent illegal shipments of toxic and hazardous chemicals.
205. Ensure mutual supportiveness between trade and environment policies.
206. Include civil society representatives in Government committees formulating, carrying out and monitoring SAICM implementation plans.
207. Provide assistance and training for the development of national profiles.

SAICM Objective 4: Capacity-building and technical cooperation (Activities 208 - 262)

208. Establish a systematic approach in order to facilitate the provision of advice concerning capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals at the country level to countries that request it. For example:
- Consider establishing a help desk which would provide basic advice to countries and/or refer requests to relevant sources (policy institutions, experts, data banks, information, etc) of expertise, policy guidance, funding and guidelines;
- Ensure that the process above builds on existing information and tools for capacity building and acts in a complementary way to existing initiatives;
- Consider establishing monitoring mechanisms as part of the SAICM stocktaking processes to evaluate the usefulness of the process;
- Implement a pilot project to test and refine the concept prior to global implementation.

209. Strengthen capacities pertaining to infrastructure in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through financial assistance and technology transfer to such countries with a view to addressing the widening gap between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
210. Promote the development of databases based on scientific assessment and the establishment of centres for the collection and exchange of information at the national, regional and international levels.
211. Promote programmes to develop chemicals-management instruments (national profiles, national implementation plans, national emergency preparedness and response plans).
212. Coordinate assistance programmes at the bilateral and multilateral levels that support capacity-building activities and strategies by developed countries.
213. Develop sustainable capacity-building strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, recognizing the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building for chemical safety.
214. Promote contributions to and use of, e.g., INFOCAP for exchanging information and increasing coordination and cooperation on capacity-building activities for chemical safety.
215. Strengthen capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition pertaining to implementation of international conventions concerning chemicals.
216. Involve all stakeholders in the elaboration and implementation of comprehensive plans for enhanced capacity-building.
217. Develop competencies and capacities for the national planning of projects relevant to the management of chemicals.
218. Establish programmes for scientific and technical training of personnel, including customs personnel.

219. Establish national or regional laboratory facilities, complete with modern instruments and equipment, including those necessary for testing emissions and operating according to national standards.
220. Establish regional reference laboratories operated in accordance with international standards.
221. Establish or strengthen national infrastructure, including for information management, poison control centres and emergency response capabilities for chemical incidents.
222. Develop resources for national implementation plans and projects.
223. Address capacity needs for regulatory and voluntary approaches to chemicals management.
224. Improve coordination at the national level and strengthen policy integration across sectors, including the development of partnerships with the private sector.
225. Integrate the sound management of chemicals capacity within ministries involved in supporting chemicals production, use and management.
226. Strengthen technical capacity and availability of technology (including technology transfer).
227. Strengthen mechanisms for reporting and consolidating information necessary to produce baseline overviews that will help determine domestic management priorities and gaps (e.g., PRTRs and inventories), taking into account industry reporting initiatives.
228. Develop infrastructure to redress the lack of accreditation bodies and accredited and reference laboratories with capacity to sample environmental and human matrices and foodstuffs.
229. Establish the necessary training and infrastructure for undertaking the necessary testing of chemicals for their management across their life cycle.
230. Develop training programmes in risk assessment and management-related health techniques and communication.
231. Address training needed to develop capacity in legislative approaches, policy formulation, analysis and management.
232. Provide training in the application of relevant liability and compensation mechanisms.
233. Provide training in emergency response.
234. Provide the necessary technical training and financial resources for national Governments to detect and prevent illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous goods and hazardous wastes.
235. Outline specific capacity-building measures for each region.
236. Develop tools to assist industry to provide simplified chemicals information to Government and individual users.
237. Establish and strengthen poison control centres to provide toxicological information and advice; develop relevant clinical and analytical toxicological facilities according to the needs identified and resources available in each country.
238. Provide training in cleaner production techniques.
239. Consider means to control the transboundary movement of dirty technologies.
240. Clearly define needs with respect to training of trainers.
241. Design clear and simple manuals and guides on practical measures to assess production methods and implement improvements.
242. Promote the transfer of technology and knowledge for cleaner production and manufacture of alternatives.
243. Establish infrastructure for analyzing and remediating contaminated sites. Provide training in rehabilitation approaches. Develop capacity to rehabilitate contaminated sites. Develop remediation techniques. Increase international cooperation in the provision of technical and financial assistance to remedy environmental and human health effects of chemicals caused by chemical accidents, mismanagement, military practices and wars.
244. Develop capacity to identify alternatives to lead in gasoline, establish the necessary infrastructure for analysing gasoline and upgrade the infrastructure needed to introduce unleaded gasoline.
245. Develop mechanisms to facilitate collaborative national and international research and shared technology.
246. Establish needed infrastructure for research into the impact of exposure to chemicals on children and women.
247. Establish accredited testing facilities for chemicals.
248. Establish accredited testing facilities to undertake testing of hazard characteristics of chemicals for classification and verification of label information.
249. Promote training in hazard classification.
250. Make available sufficient financial and technical resources to support national and regional GHS capacity-building projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
251. Provide training on links between trade and environment, including needed negotiating skills.
252. Encourage cooperation between secretariats of multilateral trade and multilateral environmental agreements in development of programmes and materials to enhance mutual understanding of the rules and disciplines in the two areas among Governments, intergovernmental institutions and other stakeholders.
253. Provide training in the concept of protected areas.
254. Undertake capacity-building in identifying and monitoring biological indicators.
255. Promote the necessary training and capacity-building for all people involved directly and indirectly with chemical use and disposal.
256. Develop and enhance the capacity to acquire, generate, store, disseminate and access information, including INFOCAP.
257. Establish the capacity to undertake social and economic impact assessment.

258. Implement capacity-building programmes on waste minimization and increased resource efficiency, including zero waste resource management, waste prevention, substitution and toxic use reduction, to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded materials.
259. Develop national and local capacities to monitor, assess and mitigate chemical impacts of dumps, landfills and other waste facilities on human health and the environment.
260. Undertake training programmes for preventing the exposure of waste handlers and recyclers, particularly waste scavengers, to hazardous chemicals and waste.
261. Train customs officials to detect illegal transboundary movements of waste.
262. Implement demonstration projects on waste minimization and efficient resource management in different countries with bilateral or multilateral support.

SAICM Objective 5: Illegal traffic (Activities 263 - 273)

263. Promote with WCO the dissemination and use of customs risk profiles and material safety sheets as official means of identifying probable cases of illegal traffic.
264. Address the matter of resources and operational mechanisms for technical and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, either directly or through a relevant regional organization.
265. Assess the extent and impact of illegal traffic at the international, regional, subregional, and national levels.
266. Expand the level of coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders.
267. Address how international conventions related to the sound management of chemicals and national laws may be more effectively applied to the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous chemicals.
268. Promote efforts to prevent illegal international trafficking of toxic and hazardous chemicals and to prevent damage resulting from their transboundary movement and disposal.
269. Promote the adoption by intergovernmental organizations of decisions on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and hazardous products.
270. Train customs, agricultural and health officials to detect illegal toxic hazardous chemicals.
271. Create a global information network, including early warning systems, across international borders, especially at the regional level.
272. Strengthen national strategies for prevention, detection and control of illegal transboundary movements of waste.
273. Promote efforts to prevent illegal traffic of waste.

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