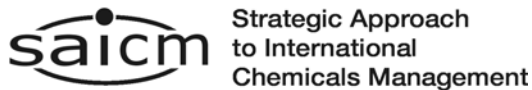




SAICM/ACG.4/3

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**Meeting of the Africa Core Group on the
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**
Nairobi, 20–21 August 2009

Report of the fourth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Introduction

1. The meeting was opened at 9.40 a.m. on 20 August 2009 by Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia), chair of the African Core Group and African regional focal point for SAICM.
2. Mr. Matthew Gubb, Coordinator, SAICM secretariat, welcomed the participants and said that the current African Core Group meeting was significant in that it was the first meeting to be held since the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in May 2009. There had already been a first review of progress under SAICM and currently regions were embarking on a phase of accelerated progress with more concrete activities on the ground to implement SAICM and to move towards the goal of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of achieving by 2020 the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.
3. In many ways, Africa had been the lead region throughout the SAICM process and he expressed his conviction that it would continue to make proposals and have ideas to lead the way for other regions. He said that the agenda before the meeting was a reminder of the outcomes of the second session of the Conference. In particular, there were three items that needed attention and offered an opportunity to develop a regional position, the Commission on Sustainable Development, review and update of the African Core Group workplan and preparation for the third African regional meeting to be held in late January 2010.

II. Adoption of the agenda

4. The agenda, as set out in SAICM/ACG.4/1 was adopted with no changes.
5. The meeting was attended by the following members: Mr. Said Ali Thaoubane (Comoros), Mr. Jean Claude Emene Elenga (Democratic Republic of Congo), Mr. John Pwamang (Ghana), Mr. Francis Kihumba (Kenya), Ms Caroline Njoki Wamai (Kenya), Mr. Ali Gebriel Werfeli (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Ms. Tawonga Mbale (Malawi), Mr. Oumar

Diaoure Cisse (Mali), Ms. A'isha Usman Mahmood (Nigeria), Ms. Elsabe Steyn (South Africa), Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia), Mr. Oladele Osibanjo (Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre for Africa), Mr. Jamidu Katima (International POPs Elimination Network), Mr. Yahya Khamis Msangi (International Trade Union Confederation) and Mr. Wilfred Ndegwa (World Health Organization). The meeting was also attended by Ms. Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria), former SAICM regional focal point, and the observer from Niger, Mr. Seydou Moussa Ali.

III. Outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and follow-up action

A. Commission on Sustainable Development

6. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the second session of the Conference had been a major milestone in that it provided the opportunity to conclude unfinished business such as the establishment of the bureau, an open-ended working group, rules of procedure and a full budget. The Conference had adopted a significant number of resolutions to set the scene for the coming period. Resolution II/7 on the Commission on Sustainable Development highlighted that chemicals would be included in the Commission's work cycle for 2010-2011. The Regional Implementation Meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was scheduled to be held from 26 to 30 October 2009 in Addis Ababa. At that meeting there would be an opportunity for the African region to provide an input to the preparation for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development scheduled for May 2010 on matters pertaining to chemicals.

7. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the African regional focal point for SAICM be provided guidance to present the African regional position at the Regional Implementation Meeting. It was further agreed that, subject to available funds, one or two additional members of the African Core Group could support the African regional focal point at that meeting. The Group drafted elements to include in an African position paper for consideration at the Regional Implementation Meeting. The elements, as prepared by three subgroups, are attached as annex I to the current report and will be developed into a position paper by the regional focal point for further consultation with the region.

B. Health Sector

8. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the convening of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was deliberately scheduled back-to-back with the World Health Assembly to allow for focus on health issues and the health sector. Although other pressing matters had precluded consideration of SAICM at the Assembly, the issue would be taken up at the meeting of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) in February 2010. A high-level round table at the Conference session had highlighted health issues and chemical management and requested the secretariat to work with WHO to develop a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in implementation of SAICM during the intersessional period. That work would commence shortly and a small consultative group would be established with representatives of all stakeholder groups, WHO, national focal points of health ministries and health associated non-governmental organizations, to prepare the strategy for consideration by the Conference at its third session in 2012. The draft strategy would be made available for initial consideration by the Open-ended Working Group in 2011.

9. The meeting was also informed of the meeting of ministers of health and environment that took place in Libreville, Gabon in August 2008. At that meeting, ministers

signed and adopted the Libreville Declaration which commits governments to take measures to stimulate the necessary policy, institutional and investment changes that should be effected to optimize synergies between health, environment and other relevant sectors. It was noted, however, that the outcome was general in nature and did not place much emphasis on chemicals.

10. Several participants underscored the importance of being fully aware and inclusive of health issues in the SAICM process. In response to a request for clarification the representative of the secretariat said that the health strategy would also take into account the results of the inter-ministerial meeting in Gabon and health related outcomes of the second SAICM African regional meeting held in Dar es Salaam in July 2008 and be prepared in a fully consultative way to produce a strategy for the health community to deal with chemicals.

11. The meeting agreed to consider health issues as an item on the agenda of the third African regional meeting tentatively scheduled for late January 2010.

C. Finance

12. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat stressed that finance was a key issue and that SAICM resolution II/3 encouraged, under the mainstreaming of chemicals issues into development programmes, that funds for the sound management of chemicals be incorporated into budgets of development cooperation and planning. The Quick Start Programme had already endorsed several projects on mainstreaming chemicals management in development planning. In that same resolution, the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme was requested to evaluate the Quick Start Programme and report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation. It was suggested that the African region members on the Executive Board be given guidance such that the views of the region on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Quick Start Programme were fully reflected. Further, the secretariat had been requested to prepare a broader financial report based on stakeholders' input on steps taken to implement SAICM financial arrangements. That report, too, encouraged views on the adequacy of the financial arrangements of SAICM. Both reports would be considered at the third session of the Conference.

13. As regards the Global Environment Facility (GEF) discussions were on-going on the GEF replenishment for the coming period and it was possible that chemicals management might be given more emphasis. To this end participants were encouraged to fully brief their representatives on the GEF Council to provide maximum visibility to chemicals management.

14. The meeting agreed to take up the issue in the African regional workplan and to consider it as an item on the agenda of the third African regional meeting to be held in late January 2010.

D. Emerging issues, past and future

15. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that consideration of new and emerging issues was one of the most important functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Four issues had been tabled at the second session of the Conference: nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, chemicals in products, electronic waste and lead in paint. In each case some follow-up action was agreed.

16. For nanotechnology follow-up action centred around awareness-raising. Much work was currently underway in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Those countries were encouraged to broaden the visibility of their work and to engage developing countries on the issue. The OECD chemicals group

had delegated the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) the task of assisting with that awareness raising. A series of workshops on nanotechnology was being planned which might be held in conjunction with SAICM regional meetings.

17. The government of Sweden, with support from other governments, had already convened a workshop on chemicals in articles/products in February 2009. The Conference had agreed to continue work on the topic and called for a steering group to be established. The emphasis of the work was to improve the knowledge and information on possible hazards of chemicals in products. A further workshop organized by UNEP would consider the issue more thoroughly.

18. At the second session of the Conference, several international bodies were invited to convene a workshop, if possible back-to-back with the open-ended working group of the Basel Convention scheduled for May 2010, to consider issues in relation to electrical and electronic products, based on a life-cycle approach and at which a series of options and recommendations for future work, through existing mechanisms, where possible, would be developed for submission to the intersessional open-ended working group and for consideration and possible cooperative action by the third session of the Conference. The emerging issue of electrical and electronic waste was acknowledged by the meeting as being a critical one to which priority should be given in the African region.

19. For lead in paints an agreement was reached to establish a global partnership – an initiative that came through the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and was now taken up by WHO and UNEP who would provide a joint secretariat for the partnership.

20. One additional issue covered was perfluorinated chemicals. While not included in the main group of issues, the United States of America had proposed that the Conference take note of the issue. It was also proposed that there be voluntary stewardship activities to reduce the use of perfluorinated chemicals and develop safer alternatives.

21. Future modalities for considering emerging policy issues that would facilitate their identification and proposals had been developed at the second session of the Conference and were set out in resolution II/4 of that Conference.

E. Reporting

22. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the second session of the Conference had agreed on a set of indicators to report against. A baseline report would be prepared by the secretariat by March 2010 followed by a progress report. Countries would be requested to comment on the baseline report. By early 2011, countries would also be requested to prepare submission on the basis of these indicators for the progress report to be submitted for the progress report to the open-ended working group in mid-2011. The principal source of the data for the reports would be national data submitted through the national focal point and might be supplemented by data from regional institutions or global initiatives. A questionnaire would be circulated to all countries with guidance to assist in its completion.

23. The meeting took note of the information provided by the secretariat.

F. National Implementation plan guidelines.

24. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that it had received several requests for advice on how to develop an implementation plan. In response to that request, UNITAR and the secretariat had developed a draft guidance document. While completely voluntary, the guidance could usefully assist in the preparation

of new SAICM-specific national implementation plans. The secretariat encouraged countries to provide feedback on the guidance especially on its usefulness and any eventual gaps.

25. One representative said that the document had been very useful and had enabled his country to develop a roadmap for chemicals management. It was suggested that countries that had experience with using such guidance share that experience with other countries either through a web forum, such as that which might be developed within the information clearing house, or at regional meetings. Lessons learned from developing other implementation plans could usefully be included in the guidance.

26. The meeting agreed to consider guidance for developing national implementation plans as an item on the agenda of the third African regional meeting to be held in late January 2010.

IV. African implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management

A. Review of regional priorities

27. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the priority list had been developed at the first African regional meeting in Cairo, Egypt from 11 to 14 September 2006¹. In the ensuing discussion, the meeting agreed that, given the lapse of time since the first regional meeting, it was necessary to review the list and current status of the regional priorities and establish new priorities, if necessary. Further it was important to determine what activities had been initiated and completed and what had been the obstacles to those priorities that had not been met.

28. The meeting agreed to develop a table with regional priorities, stating what should be done for each priority, identifying possible bodies that could assist with activities under each priority and examining progress made to date on regional priority projects identified in 2006. The meeting recommended that the African region continue with implementation of the priority areas identified in 2006. It further recommended that experience gained in addressing priority issues be shared at the sub-regional level. The meeting agreed to a number of additional priority areas.

29. As regards illegal traffic, the meeting expressed concern that while the issue was continuously being flagged as a priority problem, little action was undertaken to address that problem. It was suggested that more attention might be focused on the matter if it could be incorporated into the sector on emerging issues and included in mainstreaming and legislative activities. The secretariat was requested to facilitate the preparation of a short report on current activities relating to the issue of illegal traffic, including taking into account the results of the Symposium on Illegal International Traffic in Hazardous Chemicals held in Prague, Czech Republic in November 2006. The paper would be submitted to the third African regional meeting with the aim of suggesting concrete projects to address the issue.

30. The amended table would be submitted to sub-regional groups for comment on new priorities suggested and afford an opportunity to table any other priority issues. The revised table would be presented to the third African regional meeting to be held in late January 2010. The table developed by the current meeting is attached as annex II to the current report.

¹ SAICM/RM/Afr.1/6

B. Review and updating of the workplan of the African Core Group

31. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the workplan of the African Core Group had been developed based on the terms of reference of the group as provided in annex III of the first African regional meeting in Cairo in 2006. The meeting took note of the progress report on the work of the African Core Group from September 2006 to July 2008 as provided in annex I of the report of the second African regional meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 16 and 17 July 2008. In the ensuing discussion the meeting noted that communication between the members of the Core Group was not ideal. While much was accomplished at the meetings of the Core Group it was also important that the group optimized intersessional work through enhanced communication. The importance of convening a meeting of the African Core Group so quickly after the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was acknowledged as it would shape the way for a three year programme until the next session of the Conference in 2012.

32. The meeting agree to examine the progress report from the second African regional meetings and to determine what progress had been achieved since July 2008. Based on that examination and further discussion, the meeting developed an initial work plan for the fourth quarter of 2009 including short term objectives and targets for review. It was also suggested that the African Core Group meet the day before the third African region meeting scheduled for late January 2010. The workplan is set out in annex III to the present report, including deadlines and lead actors to support the African regional focal point for SAICM.

C. Review of terms of reference of the African Core Group

33. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the terms of reference of the African Core Group as set out in annex III of the report of the first African regional meeting. The meeting agreed that the terms of reference did not require any major amendment, however given that a bureau had been elected for the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its last session, the bureau member from the African region would be invited to join the African Core Group. Further, the terms of reference were amended to include provisions on extending the mandate of the African Core Group members from each session of the Conference until the next.

34. The revised terms of reference are attached as annex IV to the current report.

V. Quick Start Programme**A. Status of approved projects and applications in the region**

35. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that at the end of August 2009, the Quick Start Programme had received 10 pledges totally approximately two million US dollars. To meet the business plan fund raising target another 5 million US dollars was required. Referring to document SAICM/RM/ACG.4/INF/5, he said table 5 demonstrated that the African region was well served with 29 projects approved in application rounds 1 to 6. Most of the projects approved were underway and there was a broad spread of African countries. He said some countries in Africa that were eligible for Quick Start Programme funding had not yet availed themselves of the opportunity. He recalled that the current policy was to have a maximum of three projects per country, one national, one multi-country and one non-civil society. Some countries, however, were ready to undertake a second national project and the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme could review its policy at its next meeting if members wished. He said that there was some non-Quick Start Programme support to countries outside the trust fund.

Additionally, the secretariat resources to provide support to the Quick Start Programme would shortly be strengthened.

36. In response to a request for clarification he said that all information regarding applications to the Quick Start Programme was available on the SAICM website. Countries could work with international organizations as executing agencies if they wished. He reiterated the importance of having the application endorsed and submitted by the national focal point before the deadlines, usually in February and August.

37. In the ensuing discussion the meeting underscored the importance of receiving feedback from the African regional representatives to the Quick Start Programme Executive Board. The chair of the African Core Group meeting was requested to contact the regional representatives and appraise them of their responsibilities as laid out in the terms of reference for the African Government representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board in annex II of the report of the first African regional meeting in Cairo, especially point (b) on producing reports on the proceedings of the Executive Board. The meeting further requested that, subject to the availability of funds, outgoing representatives of the African region on the Executive Board be invited to the African Core Group meeting immediately following the end of their mandate.

VI. Preparation for the third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach

A. Agenda

38. The meeting agreed on a draft agenda for the third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, tentatively scheduled for end January 2010. The draft agenda is attached as annex V to the current report.

B. Organizational matters

39. Introducing the item the representative of the secretariat expressed his gratitude to the Government of Spain for pledging support to regional activities in Africa and Latin America. He added that currently there had been one Government offer to host the third African regional meeting. Failing receipt from any other countries that offer would be accepted. The meeting agreed that suitable dates for the third African regional meeting might be the last week of January 2010. If the timing proved impracticable for the host country, a fallback option might be to hold the meeting in a United Nations venue such as UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

VII. Information clearing house

A. Status of the information clearing house

40. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat said that the information clearing house aimed to be a broad mechanism that provided information on what was happening in organizations, governments and academia on chemicals management and was supplemental to the SAICM website, which covered core SAICM business such as meetings and related documents. It was not intended to duplicate existing sources but rather to redirect users to the available portals and websites. Once the clearing house was up and running it was hoped that users would provide feedback and suggestions on its ease of use to allow continual improvement and updating. He added that the INFOCAP system of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety would be incorporated into the SAICM information clearing house. The information clearing house

would soon be ready to launch and was only being held back by a lack of sufficient staff time.

41. The meeting took note of the information provided by the secretariat.

B. Regional contributions to the information clearing house

42. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat said that information clearing house would also have individual country pages and it was expected that countries would provide material for those pages. National documents such as national profiles, implementation plans and other national documents could be uploaded on the clearing house. Countries would be requested to help keep their pages up to date.

43. Responding to a request for clarification on the depth of information to be provided, the representative of the secretariat said that countries had ownership of the country pages and flexibility on the information they wished to share. The secretariat would provide guidance on the types of documents that could be included. The same would apply for pages from governmental, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, however rather than uploading documents from such bodies there the information clearing house would provide web links to their own websites. It was also planned that the information clearing house would offer bulletin boards and chat rooms abilities.

44. The meeting took note of the information provided by the secretariat and requested that the region be informed of its launch through the African regional focal point.

VIII. Other matters

SAICM regional action plan

45. Under the agenda item, the African Core Group addressed the key elements of the SAICM regional action plan to determine if it continued to cover the concerns of the region and whether additions or deletions were necessary. It was noted that currently, actions related to mainstreaming the chemicals agenda into development planning were not included. It was suggested that a questionnaire, similar to that used to facilitate reporting on SAICM implementation, be used to determine countries' levels of implementation of work areas. The African Core Group's views on the status of implementation of the SAICM regional action plan are attached as annex VI to the current report. It was suggested that a questionnaire be developed to assess the current status of Governments activities on the regional action plan.

Next meeting of the African Core Group

46. It was agreed that the next meeting of the African Core Group would be held on the Sunday prior to the meeting of the third African regional meeting in January 2010.

IX. Closure of the meeting

47. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 2.15 pm on Friday 21 August, 2009.

Annex I

Elements for an African regional position on preparations for consideration of chemicals management by the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

GROUP I PRESENTATION TO POTENTIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AT UNECA RIM

- ❖ All chemical MEAs namely Montreal Protocol, UNFCCC, STOCKHOLM Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, International Health Regulation are frameworks that are covered by the OPS since they protect the environment and human health.
- ❖ Although each framework has specific goal and objective, there is need to have a coordinating mechanism in order to build synergy and avoid re-inventing the wheel.
- ❖ Group agreed that CSD outcomes should be fed into SAICM and ICCM 3 in order to achieve the overall goal SCM by 2020.
- ❖ SAICM should be used as a driver to promote SCM at national, regional and global levels
Noted that SAICM being a voluntary process there is difficulty in enforcement at national and regional levels.

GROUP 2

BULLET FIVE

1. The SAICM implementation has achieved the following:
 - QSP
 - Multi stakeholder participation
 - Regional co-operation models
 - Identifying four global emerging policy issues
 - Developed rules of procedure and global plan for implementation
 - Global Plan of Action
 - Strategic Approach

2. The challenges and obstacles towards SAICAM implementation are:
 - Capacity building
 - Inadequate resources
 - Lack of sustainable financial mechanism

BULLET SIX

The African group and Peru groups nominated e-waste as an emerging policy issue and it was adopted at ICCM2.

- Contributed to the development of revised modalities for considering emerging policy issues.

The new modality does not adequately address the concerns of the African region and other developing countries taking into consideration the following:

- Financial resource constraints
- Scientific capability constraints, etc

BULLET SEVEN

Most African countries have not mainstreamed sound chemicals management into development strategies.

- There is weak recognition of the need to mainstream sound chemicals management at the National, sub-regional and regional levels.

The following sustainable strategies need to be put in place and implemented in order to mainstream sound management in the short, medium and long term in the region:

- Make sound chemicals management a priority issue at all levels
- Development of chemical policies at the national, sub-regional and regional levels
- Ensure sustainable budgetary allocations at national level, sub-regional and regional levels

BULLET EIGHT

There is need for a national, sub-regional or regional mechanism for financing sound management of chemicals.

The following are obstacles to sustainable financing of sound management of chemicals at national, sub-regional and regional levels:

- Non-prioritisation of sound chemicals management at the national, sub-regional and regional level
- Lack of chemicals policy at the national, sub-regional and regional level
- Weak national economies to support sound chemicals management

There is also need to be put in place national, sub-regional and regional strategies for financing and implementing sound chemicals management beyond the QSP.

WORKING GROUP III – CSD INPUTS

The group agreed that the paper should address the following:

- i. Achievements
- ii. Challenges
- iii. Expectations from CSD
- iv. Opportunities
- A. Regional efforts in relation to achievement of the 2020 objectives
 - a. Achievements
 - i. Regional plan of action has been developed
 - ii. Regional SAICM coordination mechanism has been established
 - iii. 2 Regional meetings have been held
 - iv. Identified regional priorities
 - v. Several QSP projects have been or under implementation
 - vi. Contributed to the QSP directly or indirectly in kind
 - vii. Identified emerging issues, one of them, the ewaste has been approved for further work
 - b. Challenges
 - i. Implementation is slow due to lack/inadequate resources / capacity/ financial / infrastructure
 - ii. Communication with the region is a challenge because of absence of established system
 - iii. Lack /insufficient political will/ support
 - iv. Chemical management being a cross cutting issues and thus lacking of coordination and champion
 - v. SAICM has not been domesticated
 - vi. Increased trade barriers to trade – Africa is always catching up
 - c. Expectation
 - i. CSD to embrace sound chemicals management as a sustainable development issue
 - ii. CSD may assist to develop link between economic growth, industrialization, poverty reduction, human health – if this happens it will help to create the needed political capital to implement SAICM
 - d. Opportunities
 - i. Mutisectoral / multistakeholder nature, if properly harnessed, may assist in the leveraging needed resources (personnel, expertise and finances)
 - ii. Provides opportunity for private sector to take proactive intervention than waiting for regulator to impose compliance
 - iii. Civil society provide a vehicle for reaching out to grassroots
- B. Acknowledgement by CSD of SAICM and invitation to provide CSD policy review on chemicals
 - a. Draw a link between sound chemicals management to Sustainable Development, namely:
 - i. Economic development
 - ii. Social development
 - iii. Environmental development
 - b. Draw some demonstrations the fact that chemicals pose both positive and negative impacts.
 - c. Underscore the fact that without sound chemicals management sustainable development may not be achieved

- d. Go on to link SAICM to the broad picture of sustainable development and thus essential for SAICM to contribute to CSD policy review
- C. Role of Private Sector in supporting the SAICM
 - i. Industry contribute to investment in chemical production and chemical beneficiation (particularly to contribute to economic development in Africa)
 - ii. However, they have to do the above responsibly
 - iii. Contribution to knowledge, information in the chemicals management
 - iv. Contribute to research and development of alternatives
- b. Challenges
 - i. Majority of companies in Africa are multinationals and at times they take advantage of weak regulatory regime to apply double standards
 - ii. Call – multinational to apply same standards the apply in their mother countries
- D. The Importance of chemicals management for achievement of MDGs
 - i. Draw a link between sound chemicals management to MDGs (similar to that done for sustainable development)
- E. Progress achieved in fostering synergies between MEAs
 - a. Progress
 - i. Preparations are in progress to hold a super COP
 - ii. SAICM framework advocates and promotes synergies among MEAs that is why it recommends from mainstreaming of chemicals management
 - b. Challenges
 - i. The pace is slow.

Annex II

Summary of progress made on possible regional priority projects identified in 2006

No	Priority	Regional	Sub-regional	National	Civil Society	Private sector	Comments
1	Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, including capacity-building, training of various workers (maritime workers, industrial workers, farmers)		X	X		X	SADC ECOWAS Standards approach
2	Capacity-building for an integrated management system to implement SAICM	X	X	X	X	X	
3	Illegal traffic of chemicals and waste, including training of customs officials on the control of international illegal traffic in toxic substances						
4	Development of a subregional approach to identifying and managing priority chemicals of concern such as mercury, cadmium and lead	X	X	X			Not Cadmium
5	Development of a subregional approach for hazardous waste disposal		X				Through Basel Centre
6	Implementation of a harmonized pesticides registration system		X	X			ECOWAS, CILSS and Mauritania
7	Issuing and updating of national chemical profiles			X		X	ASP and Quick Start National Implementation Plan

8	Development and improvement of chemical laboratory capacity, including reference laboratories and obtaining accreditation to verify competency		X				SADC Accreditation System
9	Establishment of a subregional poison centre network						
10	Establishment of a subregional database for sharing information on hazards, risks, training material, etc					X	SADC SAICM
11	Establishment of indicators of implementation						Done
12	Capacity-building and training for strategic chemicals management	X	X	X	X	X	Various
13	Harmonization of regulations on the control and management of chemicals and wastes		X				EAC - 10 Regulations identified SADC GHS
14	Establishment of early warning systems and emergency response systems and development of facilities including a database to deal with chemical accidents and other chemicals-related emergencies			X		X	Emergency response Systems
15	Chemicals in products						Chemicals in milk
16	Electronic-waste						
17	Unlocking funding nationally, regionally and internationally						
18	Reporting on progress against indicators						

The above table reflects a summary of some of the priorities which illustrates that Africa had made the following progress:

- Substantive efforts through government, civil society and the private sector with regard to capacity building to implement SAICM and training for strategic chemicals management, developing regional positions for mercury and lead as well as developing sub-regional approaches to hazardous waste (Priority Areas 2, 4, 5, 11 and 12).
- Limited sub-regional efforts were made with regard to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of chemicals, harmonized pesticide registers, chemicals testing and laboratory accreditation, databases for sharing information and harmonization of regulations (Priority areas 1, 6, 8, 10, 13).
- Some national activities were made with regard to emergency response systems and updating national profiles (Priority areas 7 and 14).
- No activities were initiated on illegal traffic and waste, early warning systems and sub-regional poison centres (Priority area 3, 9 and 14).
- New priorities that were identified were reporting for 2012, chemicals in products, e-waste and liberating funds for activities (Priority area 15, 16, 17 and 18).

Acronyms:

ASP: African Stockpile Programme

CILSS: Comité Inter-Etats pour la Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel

EAC: East African Community

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

SADC: Southern African Development Community

Annex III

**AFRICAN CORE GROUP ON SAICM
INITIAL WORK PLAN: FOURTH QUARTER 2009**

No	Activities	Lead actors ² to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs
1	To provide technical assistance in the formation of regional and subregional project proposals as requested by the African SAICM regional focal point	BCRC, IPEN, ITUC, South Africa Assistance from: UNITAR for GHS activities and UNEP/UNDP for mainstreaming	January 2010 (at least one project proposal)	Proposals for regional or sub-regional projects on GHS, mainstreaming and heavy metals
2	To assist the regional focal point in harmonization and follow-up efforts intersessionally.	All Ghana (re FAO), UNEP, WHO	January 2010	Ghana to discuss with FAO regional office in Accra the possible nomination of a SAICM focal point SAICM secretariat and WHO to advise ACG of SAICM focal points in UNEP and WHO African regional offices
3	To review, from time to time, the SAICM Global Plan of Action for the purpose of adapting it to national and regional priorities.	All	January 2010	Progress on regional priority projects summarized in Annex II above.
4	To prepare, in collaboration with the regional focal point, materials and agendas for regional meetings.	All	21 August 2009 (during ACG meeting)	Draft agenda for the African regional meeting in late January 2010 in Annex V below
5	To assist the regional focal point in preparing and presenting draft regional position papers for submission to key regional and global meetings.	All	30 September 2009	Briefing/position paper for use by regional focal point at African CSD/Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) in Addis Ababa, October 2009 Nomination of an additional ACG member to accompany the regional focal point to the CSD/RIM meeting, subject to the availability of funding

² The regional focal point will be involved in all activities as coordinator and adviser

No	Activities	Lead actors ² to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs
6	To serve, through members of the Group, as conduits for the views of subregions on SAICM implementation	All	January 2010	Ongoing liaison, including through the mechanism of the new SAICM information clearing house when available
7	To facilitate reporting on SAICM implementation in Africa and on the provision of resources to support such implementation	Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, IPEN	January 2010	African comments (facilitated by ACG) on the draft guidelines on reporting indicators
8	To facilitate African promotion of the establishment of a new chemicals management focal area in the Global Environment Facility	All	January 2010	Ongoing liaison with African GEF Council members
9	To facilitate the promotion and adoption of national economic instruments that can help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management	BCRCC, IPEN, South Africa	January 2010	Request/proposal for training on the use of economic instruments
10	<p>To coordinate implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of SAICM in Africa.</p> <p>To facilitate the full involvement of all stakeholders, coordination and cooperation, communication with other regional coordinators and the SAICM secretariat</p> <p>To report progress on implementation of the Regional Action Plan and information exchange within the African region and with other regions.</p> <p>To identify and mobilize available African institutional support, for example from the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, SADC and other development banks</p>	All	January 2010	Status of implementation of the SAICM regional action plan in Africa in Annex I above

Annex IV

Composition, procedures and terms of reference of the African Core Group on SAICM

1. The African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) comprises the following members:
 - (a) The African SAICM regional focal point;
 - (b) Two Government representatives from each of the five African subregions (North, East, South, West and Central);
 - (c) The two African Government regional representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
 - (d) One representative from each of the following three sectors of civil society: industry, labour and public interest;
 - (e) One representative of a key regional organization (for example, one that has region-wide responsibilities relevant to the sound management of chemicals) to be determined from time to time;
 - (f) One representative from a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals with a significant regional chemical safety program;
 - (g) The immediate past African SAICM regional focal point.
2. The working procedures of the African Core Group on SAICM are:
 - (a) To the extent possible, to undertake its work through correspondence, teleconferencing and, whenever eight or more members attend the same chemicals or wastes-related forum, meetings in person to reach consensus on issues of current concern;
 - (b) To use English as the working language of the Group. The provision of interpretation during meetings shall be decided on a case-by-case basis, but whenever possible the language difficulties of the region shall be taken into account;
 - (c) To designate alternates or technical advisers to participate in meetings as required in order to ensure continuity and involvement.
3. The roles and responsibilities of the African Core Group on SAICM are:
 - (a) To provide technical assistance in the formation of regional and subregional project proposals as requested by the African SAICM regional focal point;
 - (b) To assist the regional focal point in harmonization and follow-up efforts intersessionally;
 - (c) To review, from time to time, the SAICM Global Plan of Action for the purpose of adapting it to national and regional priorities;
 - (d) To prepare, in collaboration with the regional focal point, materials and agendas for regional meetings;
 - (e) To assist the regional focal point in preparing draft regional position papers for submission to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
 - (f) To serve, through members of the Group, as conduits for the views of subregions on SAICM implementation;

(g) To facilitate reporting on SAICM implementation in Africa and on the provision of resources to support such implementation;

(h) To facilitate African promotion of the establishment of a new chemicals management focal area in the Global Environment Facility;

(i) To facilitate the promotion and adoption of national economic instruments that can help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management;

(j) To coordinate implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of SAICM in Africa, including by facilitating the full involvement of all stakeholders, coordination and cooperation, communication with other regional coordinators and the SAICM secretariat, progress reporting on implementation of the Regional Action Plan and information exchange within the African region and with other regions and by identifying and mobilizing available African institutional support, for example from the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

4. Members of the African Core Group shall be elected at each session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and shall serve until the close of the following session of the Conference.

Annex V

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING (late January 2010)

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and follow-up action.
4. Health issues:
 - (a) Results of the Libreville Health and Environment Ministerial Conference
 - (b) SAICM health sector strategy
5. Reporting guidelines.
6. Emerging issues:
 - (a) Past issues
 - (i) Electronic wastes
 - (ii) Lead in pain
 - (iii) Nanotechnology
 - (iv) Chemicals in products
 - (b) Feedback on issues proposed by the African region but considered at the second session of the International Conference on chemicals Management
 - (c) Future issues i.e. nominations.
7. Preparations for the 18th session of the Commission on sustainable Development.
8. Illegal traffic.
9. Terms of reference of the African Core Group.
10. Financing the implementation of SAICM.
11. SAICM implementation:
 - (a) Sharing experience, including on use of guidance documents;
 - (b) Questionnaire;
 - (c) Regional action plan.
12. Regional projects and priorities (for example Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, mainstreaming).
13. Quick Start Programme:
 - (a) Status of approved projects and applications in the region;
 - (b) Preparation for the Quick Start Programme evaluation;
 - (c) Board meeting.
14. Information clearing house:
 - (a) Status of information clearing house;
 - (b) Regional contributions to the clearing house;
15. Other matters.
16. Closure of the meeting.

Annex VI

VIEWS ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAICM REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

The African Core Group (ACG) at its meeting in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009 reviewed the status of implementation of the African regional action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and agreed as follows:

1. There is an urgent need to ensure that the regional action plan serves as a living document to facilitate the implementation of SAICM at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
2. The concept of “mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals into national, sub-regional and regional planning and sustainable development strategies” should be introduced as a core component of the regional action plan principles and approaches.
3. The regional focal point should be supported by the SAICM secretariat to identify and mobilize available institutional support at both sub-regional and regional levels, for example from the African Union, the African Development Bank, Economic Commission of West African States, the South African Development Community, the Arab Maghreb Union, etc to sustain the effective implementation of SAICM.
4. The regional focal point should maintain active communication and engagement of National Focal Points on their specific roles in implementation of the regional action plan.
5. Capacity to implement SAICM should be strengthened through effective partnerships.
6. There is a need to review targets and timeframe for activities under the five SAICM objectives to reflect the particular circumstances of African countries with respect to the low levels of implementation and achievement of targets.
7. There is a need to catalyse actions and activities within the regional action plan to ensure the fulfilment of the 2020 goal.
8. There are inadequate human, technical and financial capacities with national government to meet the set targets.
9. A revised regional action plan should be developed inter-sessionally for presentation to the full regional meeting.
10. The regional focal point should be actively involved in the mechanism for monitoring reporting and evaluation of the progress of the regional action plan in close collaboration with the African Core Group.