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**Meeting of the Africa Core Group on the  
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**  
Nairobi, 20–21 August 2009  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Quick Start Programme: Status of approved projects and applications in the region**

## **Report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In resolution I/4 adopted at its first session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) established the Quick Start Programme (QSP), which aims “to support activities to enable initial capacity-building and implementation in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition”. In the resolution, the ICCM also called for the QSP to include a trust fund, administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation. It invited Governments in a position to do so, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to contribute to the QSP.

2. ICCM resolution I/4 established the QSP Executive Board, consisting of two government representatives of each of the United Nations regions<sup>1</sup> and all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the Programme. The Board reviews progress under the QSP on the basis of reports from the Trust Fund Implementation Committee and other QSP participants, and provides operational guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the QSP. As provided for in resolution I/4, the Trust Fund Implementation Committee, comprising representatives of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme on the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Development Programme, reviews and appraises project proposals to be financed by the QSP trust fund.

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\* SAICM/ACG.4/1.

<sup>1</sup> The two representatives of the African region on the Executive Board are Burundi and Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup> The participating organizations of IOMC are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

## II. Establishment and operation of the trust fund

3. Further to the adoption of SAICM, one of the first priorities of the secretariat was for the QSP and its trust fund to be established and become operational. Following the first meetings of the Executive Board and Trust Fund Implementation Committee in April 2006, the first round of applications was launched in May 2006. Since then, five more rounds have been held between September 2006 and July 2009. The seventh round will close on 31 August 2009.

4. Arrangements for the establishment of the QSP trust fund by UNEP were initiated by the SAICM secretariat in May 2006. In order for the trust fund to be operational for a maximum period of time,<sup>3</sup> the trust fund was officially established on 1 December 2006. The establishment of the trust fund was noted and approved by UNEP Governing Council in its decision 24/10 of 9 February 2007.

## III. Financial situation of the trust fund

5. Since 2006, the QSP trust fund has received pledges for an approximate total of \$20,950,000, of which \$19,834,000 has been received and recorded into the accounts of the trust fund. Over six application rounds, the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee has approved projects with a total value of \$16,019,986<sup>4</sup>. In addition, UNEP levies 5% programme support costs on disbursements made, in order to cover its trustee functions. After completion of all disbursements, the programme support costs will total approximately \$796,000. As of July 2009, the approximate balance of funds in the trust fund, taking into account future payment of pledges received, is approximately \$4,110,000 in which \$2,450,000 is earmarked for projects relating to the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the terms of a funding agreement with the European Commission.

6. In 2006, the QSP trust fund received pledges totalling approximately \$5,909,000 from 15 Governments, as per the table, below<sup>5</sup>:

Table 1: 2006 contributions to the QSP trust fund

Donor	Local currency amount	United States dollar amount
Austria	100,000 EUR	131,000
Belgium	40,000 EUR	50,000
Finland	200,000 EUR	255,000
France	50,000 EUR	66,000
India		100,000
Netherlands	100,000 EUR	129,000
Nigeria		50,000
Norway	3,000,000 NOK	485,000
Slovenia	20,000 EUR	26,000
South Africa		100,000
Spain	100,000 EUR	131,000
Sweden	25,000,000 SEK	3,650,000
Switzerland	200,000 CHF	161,000
United Kingdom	215,000 GBP	375,000
United States		200,000
TOTAL		5,909,000

<sup>3</sup> ICCM resolution I/4 states that, from the date of its creation, the trust fund will be opened for 5 years to receive contributions and for 7 years to disburse funds. The second session of the ICCM extended the period during which the trust fund will be open for contributions until the third session of the International Conference on International Chemicals Management. The secretariat on purpose delayed the establishment of trust fund until after the approval of the first QSP projects.

<sup>4</sup> The total includes \$1,966,262 in the first round, \$1,861,841 in the second round, \$2,232,155 in the third round, \$3,888,505 in the fourth round, \$4,071,489 in the fifth round and \$1,749,804 in the sixth round.

<sup>5</sup> In the case of funds pledged but not yet transferred in United States dollars, conversions are estimates. The final amounts may vary according to the exchange rate applying at the time of actual transfer.

7. In 2007, the QSP trust fund received pledges totalling approximately \$7,674,000 from 13 Governments, including four new donors, as per the table below:

Table 2: 2007 contributions to the QSP trust fund

Donor	Local currency amount	United States dollar amount
Australia	60,000 AUD	57,000
Austria	120,000 EUR	159,000
European Commission	2,400,000 EUR	3,108,000
Finland	200,000 EUR	272,000
Madagascar		5,000
Netherlands	100,000 EUR	137,000
Norway	6,000,000 NOK	1,103,000
Republic of Korea		40,000
Slovenia	10,000 EUR	29,000
Spain	45,000 EUR	65,000
Sweden	15,000,000 SEK	2,266,000
Switzerland	150,000 CHF	133,000
United States		300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7,646,000</b>

8. In 2008, the QSP trust fund received pledges totalling approximately<sup>6</sup> \$5,359,000 from 14 Governments, including two new donors, as per the table below:

Table 3: 2008 contributions to the QSP trust fund

Donor	Local currency amount	United States dollar amount
Australia	250,000 AUD	236,000
Austria	105,000 EUR	156,000
Czech Republic	30,000 EUR	38,000
European Commission	1,950,000 EUR	2,500,000 <sup>7</sup>
Finland	200,000 EUR	311,000
France		107,000
Hungary	10,000 EUR	13,000
Madagascar		5,000
Netherlands	100,000 EUR	155,000
Norway	6,000,000 NOK	848,000
Slovenia	120,000 EUR	176,000
Spain	300,000 EUR	389,000
Switzerland	150,000 CHF	125,000
United States		300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,359,000</b>

9. In 2009, 10 pledges have been made so far, totalling approximately<sup>8</sup> \$2,012,000, as per the table below:

Table 4: 2009 contributions to the QSP trust fund

Donor	Local currency amount	United States dollar amount
Czech Republic	20,000 EUR	28,000
Finland	200,000 EUR	288,000
Germany	160,000 EUR	218,000

<sup>6</sup> Figures are approximate because exact US dollars amounts cannot be calculated until funds are transferred and converted at the prevailing exchange rate.

<sup>7</sup> This contribution is earmarked for projects relating to the implementation of the multilateral environment agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the terms of a funding agreement with the European Commission.

<sup>8</sup> Figures are approximate because exact US dollars amounts cannot be calculated until funds are transferred and converted at the prevailing exchange rate.

Madagascar		5,000
Netherlands	50,000 EUR	70,000
Norway	5,000,000 NOK	830,000
Romania	10,000 EUR	13,000
Slovenia	20,000 EUR	26,000
South Africa		50,000
Spain		390,000
Switzerland	100,000 CHF	94,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,012,000</b>

#### IV. Projects approval

10. Over the first six rounds of applications to the Trust Fund the secretariat received 185 project proposals. Following the secretariat screening of applications for completeness and eligibility, 151 applications were appraised by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee. The Committee approved 82 projects for total funding of approximately \$16,019,986. In addition, 51 projects were recommended for further development and resubmission. The approved projects will be implemented by 66 Governments and nine civil society organizations and involve activities in 76 countries, including 35 least developed countries and small island developing States. Summary information is provided in the following tables:

Table 5: Summary of QSP trust fund approved projects from rounds 1 to 6

	Overall	Round					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<b>Total projects approved</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Civil society projects</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Government projects</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Individual</i>	65	4	20	9	12	15	5
<i>Multi-country</i>	9	3	0	0	3	1	2
<b>Countries involved</b>	<b>76</b>						
<i>Africa</i>	29						
<i>Asia-Pacific</i>	18						
<i>Central and Eastern Europe</i>	7						
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	22						
<b>LDCs and SIDS</b>	<b>35</b>						
<b>Total funding granted (US\$)</b>	<b>\$16,019,986</b>	\$1,966,262	\$1,861,841	\$2,232,155	\$3,888,505	\$4,071,489	\$1,999,734

#### V. Applications and projects from the African region

11. The African region has been active in the SAICM Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund. 51 out of 141 project proposals have been submitted from governments and 18 out of 44 project proposals from the civil society organizations in the African region. The QSP is providing funding to 29 government-led projects and four civil society projects in Africa. The approved projects are concerned with initial enabling activities related to developing or updating national chemicals management profile and establishing integrated national programmes for sound chemicals management, strengthening capacities to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention, to develop Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, to implement the Stockholm Convention, enhance safe management of public health pesticides along with other activities. The majority of the projects have an executing agency. The region received approximately US\$6.7 million out of total funding US\$16 million, after the 6th round of QSP trust fund in April 2009. More details are provided in tables 6 and 7:

Table 6: Governments (33) and projects (29) supported through the Trust Fund in Africa

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Burkina Faso	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a Strategic Approach national capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Burundi	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile and developing a national chemicals database in Burundi	UNITAR	\$99,250	2nd	individual
Chad	LDC	Strengthening integrated chemicals management for effective Strategic Approach implementation in Chad	UNITAR	\$119,900	2nd	individual
Comoros	LDC-SIDS	Developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment, holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop and updating a national chemicals management profile in Comoros	UNITAR	\$52,900	2nd	individual
Congo (Republic the of)		Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
Côte d'Ivoire		Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
		Strengthening the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to control the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention, the International Health Regulations (WHO, 2005) and other relevant MEAs, as necessary, and ensuring their environmentally sound management	Basel Convention Secretariat	\$249,930	4th	individual
Djibouti	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
		"Strengthening the capacity of Djibouti to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention, the International Health Regulations (WHO, 2005) and other relevant MEAs as per necessary, and ensure their environmentally sound management"*	Basel Convention Regional Centre	\$249,930	6th	individual
Egypt		Assessment and capacity-building in chemicals and chemical waste Management in Egypt	UNIDO	\$250,000	5th	individual
Eritrea	LDC	Developing a national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop in Eritrea	UNITAR	\$70,150	2nd	individual
Gabon		Country support for the Implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa: Development of guidelines and capacity building for Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment in view of developing country plans for joint action*	UNEP-WHO	\$248,400	6th	multi-country
Gambia	LDC	Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and supporting Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Capacity Building in the Gambia	UNITAR	\$250,000	6th	individual

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Ghana		Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop in Ghana	UNITAR	\$50,750	2nd	individual
Kenya		Strengthening capacities in Kenya for national Strategic Approach implementation	UNITAR	\$249,900	3rd	individual
		Country support for the Implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa: Development of guidelines and capacity building for Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment in view of developing country plans for joint action*	UNEP-WHO	\$248,400	6th	multi-country
Lesotho	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop in Lesotho	UNITAR	\$54,950	2nd	individual
Liberia	LDC	Developing a national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop in Liberia	UNITAR	\$71,050	3rd	individual
		Liberia, UNDP and UNEP partnership initiative for integration of the sound management of chemicals considerations into development plans and processes	UNDP and UNEP	\$250,000	5th	individual
Madagascar	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
		Recycling/disposal of insecticide-treated nets, exploratory project*	WHO	\$250,000	5th	individual
Malawi	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop in Malawi	UNITAR	\$50,576	2nd	individual
Mali	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop in Mali	UNITAR	\$58,400	3rd	individual
		Chemical Accident Prevention Programme for West Africa (CAPP-WA)*	-	\$250,000	6th	multi-country
Mauritania	LDC	Mauritania, UNDP and UNEP partnership initiative for the integration of sound management of chemicals considerations into development plans and processes	UNDP and UNEP	\$250,000	5th	individual
Morocco		Strengthening national capacity in safe management of public health pesticides in Morocco	WHO	\$175,000	5th	individual
Nigeria		Establishing an institutional framework and strengthening national capacity within an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and implementation of the Strategic Approach in Nigeria	-	\$230,000	1st	individual
Rwanda	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Sao Tome and Principe	LDC-SIDS	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national Strategic Approach capacity assessment and holding a national Strategic Approach priority-setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Senegal	LDC	Strengthening national capacities in Senegal for Strategic Approach implementation	UNITAR	\$250,000	5th	individual
		Chemical Accident Prevention Programme for West Africa (CAPP-WA)*	-	\$250,000	6th	multi-country
Seychelles	SIDS	Developing an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and Strategic Approach implementation in Seychelles	UNITAR	\$250,000	5th	individual

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Sudan	LDC	Development of a sustainable integrated national programme for sound management of chemicals	UNIDO	\$144,072	3rd	individual
Tanzania	LDC	Capacity enhancement for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the United Republic of Tanzania	-	\$248,819	4th	individual
Uganda	LDC	Uganda, UNEP & UNDP partnership initiative for the implementation of the Strategic Approach	UNDP and UNEP	\$250,000	1st	individual
Zambia	LDC	Strengthening capacities for Strategic Approach implementation and supporting GHS capacity-building in Zambia	UNITAR	\$250,000	5th	individual

Table 7: QSP civil society project implemented in Africa (4)

Organization	Project title	Country(ies)	Funding	Round	Project type
AGENDA, iLima-Kenya & NAPE	Strategic Approach implementation in East Africa: law reform and capacity-building for sound chemicals management in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	\$250,000	5th	civil society
Day Hospital Institute for Development and Rehabilitation	National awareness campaign for all stakeholders on the safe use and management of pesticides according to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides	Egypt	\$199,000	2nd	civil society
Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union	Strengthening the capacity of agricultural workers and worker organizations in the implementation of the Strategic Approach	United Republic of Tanzania (LDC)	\$241,800	1st	civil society
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry	Scientific capacity-building in support of the Strategic Approach in Africa	Africa	\$250,000	4th	civil society

## VI. Contributions to the non-trust fund Quick Start Programme

12. At its first meeting, the QSP Executive Board decided that declarations of contributions to the non-trust fund QSP should be made, using a specific form, which would be used to assist reporting on QSP contributions and to determine membership of the Executive Board. Declarations of contributions list cooperation, activities and initiatives undertaken under the non-trust fund QSP.

13. As of July 2009 non-trust fund QSP contributions have been declared by the Governments of Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In preparation for the fourth meeting of the QSP Executive Board, four Board members updated their declaration forms and submitted them to the secretariat.<sup>9</sup>

14. Other stakeholders wishing to declare contributions to the QSP are encouraged to do so using the official reporting form available on the SAICM web site.<sup>10</sup> The Board will then determine if new contributions qualify as contributions to the QSP according to its objective set out in ICCM resolution I/4.

<sup>9</sup> All declared contributions are available on the SAICM web site: [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/fundraising/qsp.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/fundraising/qsp.htm).

<sup>10</sup> The declaration form template, as approved by the QSP Executive Board at its second meeting, is available on the SAICM web site: [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/fundraising/qsp.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/fundraising/qsp.htm).

## VII. Secretariat support to the QSP

15. ICCM resolution I/4 requested the SAICM secretariat to perform the following functions in relation to the QSP:

- a) Facilitate meetings of the QSP Executive Board and Trust Fund Implementation Committee;
- b) Provide administrative support to the QSP trust fund; and
- c) Screen trust fund project proposals for completeness and eligibility.

In addition, the secretariat's functions defined in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy include the provision of guidance to stakeholders in the initiation of project proposals.

16. By July 2009 the secretariat will have convened and serviced four meetings of the Executive Board and seven meetings of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee. The secretariat coordinates preparation and follow-up for each meeting with the meeting chair or co-chairs. Such work included preparing meeting documents, organizing teleconferences, preparing correspondence and arranging travel for funded participants.

17. Over six rounds, the secretariat reviewed for completeness and eligibility all 185 applications received, including through individual correspondence and requests for clarification. Following each application round and the appraisal of projects by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee, the secretariat informs applicants of the decisions of the Committee, facilitates confirmation of conditionally approved projects and prepares legal agreements with funding recipients or project executing agencies. As of July 2009, 56 agreements have been signed out of a total of 74 approved projects in the first five rounds of applications. Another eight agreements for projects approved in the sixth round will be developed in the second half of 2009.

18. Following the formal establishment of the QSP trust fund in December 2006, arrangements for the administration of the trust fund and management of QSP trust fund projects were completed in March 2007. Such arrangements include an agreed administration fee structure for the trust fund and for individual project budgets.<sup>11</sup> In addition, streamlined arrangements for management of QSP trust fund projects, under Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) rather than full project documents requiring approval through the UNEP Project Approval Group, were approved by the Deputy Executive Director on 19 March 2007.

19. Due to the introduction in 2008 of new requirements for legal instruments by UNEP, MoUs arrangements and conditions completed in 2007 have recently been reviewed and modified to meet new format requirements. Following the development of new agreement templates, consultations have been undertaken with project executing agencies and Government and civil society funding recipients to use such new agreements for projects approved after May 2007.

20. The secretariat also maintains a record of QSP trust fund contributions and facilitates the conclusion of agreements with donors, the transfer and recording of funds, as well as reporting. Such tasks are coordinated with UNEP Chemicals administration and the treasury section of the Budget and Financial and Management Service of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

21. In preparation for the six application rounds completed so far, the secretariat responded to approximately 190 requests for information or guidance on project proposals and application requirements. In addition, the secretariat has made over 30 presentations of the QSP in the course of international conferences and meetings and published in June 2008 a QSP information bulletin.

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<sup>11</sup> Following consultations between UNEP, donors and the secretariat, the Executive Director of UNEP agreed in January 2007 to reduce UNEP's programme support costs, as trustee, from 13% to 5%. In addition, a majority of the participating organizations of the IOMC and UNDP, which may be involved as executing agencies in QSP trust fund projects, have advised that they would be prepared to act in that capacity for a fee of 8% of project budgets.

22. With the support of a grant of €150,000 provided by the European Commission, the secretariat was able to establish in September 2007 temporary professional position, in line with ICCM resolution I/1. The continuation of the position depends on further donor contributions to cover costs in succeeding years. It should be noted that the steadily growing workload, due to the number of projects submitted and approved, as well as increased needs for reporting, donor coordination and secretariat support, have also affected the capacity of the SAICM secretariat to service equally all aspects of the QSP.

23. From April 2008, consultancy resources have been used to assist the secretariat in its support of the QSP. In light of the continuously increasing volume of projects and the associated servicing requirements, the proposal of the secretariat for the provision of additional staff resources to support QSP operations has been approved at the second session of the International Conference on International Chemicals Management.

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