

Report of the Africa Core Group Second Teleconference, 28 February 2007¹

1 Welcome

The ACG teleconference was opened by Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, SAICM regional focal point (RFP) for Africa at 13.10 GMT. She welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked them for their hard work. She began the discussion by inviting comments on the agenda.

2 The Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.

3 Brief on Expected follow up actions on WP and progress reporting:

The regional focal point introduced the expected follow-up actions on the ACG work plan and invited representatives of the group in attendance to present progress report on the status of their work.

4 Feedback on tasks from ACG work plan

The following are feedback and comments on activities of the ACG as outlined in the work plan;

Activity 9

ICCA provided a brief report on the draft ‘thought starter’ on the process for promoting national economic instruments to cover the cost of chemicals management.

She said South Africa is preparing a draft with input from the ICCA and IPEN. It is anticipated that the first draft of the “Thought Starter” will be ready for circulation to the ACG by end of March 2007.

Egypt informed the meeting that they already have a system in place for cost recovery and would share it with members of the ACG via email. He also proposed to have a meeting with ACG members present at the upcoming Arab meeting on SAICM scheduled for Cairo from 1 to 2 April 2007.

The RFP then drew the attention of the Group to the experience of Ghana in this regard, which she said was indicated by the AMCEN Secretariat during the Nairobi GC 24 meeting.

The value of experience sharing by countries in the region was noted by the meeting as important in facilitating the use of such economic instruments for sound chemicals management in the region.

¹ The minutes of the teleconference is set out according to the agenda of the meeting

Activity 1

Egypt stressed that capacity building and awareness raising on SAICM was necessary and he identified the following elements as important for a regional project

- The amount of funds available
- Pilot-style project with a few countries, which would then be replicated in another group of countries.
- Capacity building on global harmonized systems

Activity 2

In response to some points of clarifications on the brief by Egypt on some of his activities in respect of the feedback on the proposed QSP Business Plan, the Secretariat clarified the process of submitting inputs into the ongoing review of the first draft of the Business Plan and the schedule of a teleconference on the subject matter.

The meeting then considered the continuous absence and unavailability of Burundi as the second regional representative on the QSP Executive Board and agreed that it would be useful for the Secretariat to bring this to the attention of the Government of Burundi in order to ensure that the region does not lose out on the required representation within the Board.

Activity 3

Morocco informed the meeting that she had initiated contact with lead actors identified for the activity but has not received any response to her email. She took the opportunity to invite comments and feedback on her message.

Activity 6

In response to South Africa's comments on the list of SAICM National Focal Points in Africa, the RFP drew the attention of members to the need to come up with the list of NFPs within their constituencies to facilitate information sharing within sub-regions as necessary.

Activity 7

Liberia briefed the meeting on his initial thoughts in respect to monitoring provision of resources for SAICM implementation in Africa and requested for further ideas and inputs by members. It is expected that an initial paper on this will be prepared before the end of the month.

Activity 8

Egypt said not much has been done on the activity. IPEN would take the lead among the actors in preparing a 'thought starter' on new GEF focal area with cognizance to information provided by the Secretariat in an earlier email.

Other Activities

ACG representatives dealing with other activities of the work plan were not available to provide comments on their work

5 Brief on AMCEN/UNEP ROA meeting and identified follow up actions

The RFP reported on the outcome of her meeting with the representatives of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP/ROA) and the AMCEN secretariat during the UNEP Governing Council meeting in Nairobi in early February. She described the work that should be done on AMCEN 11 follow –up actions with respect to Decision 5 on the SAICM

6 Input into AMCEN work programme for 2007-2008

The RFP invited the ACG to provide inputs to AMCEN work programme for 2007-2008 particularly as it relates to issues of coordination and synergies between the ACG and planned activities under the scope of the African 10 Year Framework Programme (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production and the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan She invited participants to study the documents from the AMCEN Secretariat and the UNEP/ROA, which she had circulated prior to the teleconference and to submit inputs on these two areas as necessary by email

7 Participation of members in relevant subregional meetings

The regional focal point noted that there were a number of subregional meetings and activities that the ACG members are being invited to participate, these include the SAICM Arab regional meeting in Cairo in early April and the Ministerial meeting for adoption of NEPAD Subregional Environmental Action Plan for Eastern Africa, scheduled for 28-30 March. She asked the secretariat to clarify if funding would be available for the participation of ACG representatives to these meetings.

The secretariat said that there would only be such funding if the meeting is organized by the SAICM secretariat.

8 Other Business

The RFP observed that ACG members from French speaking countries have not been participating in the teleconferences. She said this could be attributed to the fact that the ACG meetings are conducted in English only. She asked the secretariat if something could be done to address the problem.

The secretariat advised that not much could be done because there is no resource for French translation during the teleconference. A suggestion was that bi-lingual representatives could communicate the outcomes of the teleconference to representatives from the French speaking countries so that they can be informed of the work of the group. The meeting agreed that the RFP is to follow-up with an email encouraging participation by these members.

9 Next meeting

The next teleconference was proposed for late March 2006.

Attendance:

No.	Name	Affiliates
1.	Ms. Abiola Olanipekun	RFP (Nigeria)
2.	Mr. Tarek El-Ruby	Egypt
3.	Ms. Jamidu Katima	IPEN (Tanzania)
4.	Ms. Seloua Amaziane	Morocco
5.	Mr. Henry Williams	Liberia
6.	Mr. Thamsanqa Mbekeni	South Africa
7.	Mr. Oladele Osibanjo	BCRCC (Nigeria)
8.	Ms. Lorraine Lotter	ICCA (South Africa)
9.	SAICM secretariat	SAICM secretariat