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**Third Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Coordinating Committee on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**  
Kingston, 7 March 2010

**Report of the third meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Coordination Committee on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

**I. Opening of the meeting**

1. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on 7 March by Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), chair of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Coordinating Committee and regional focal point for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) for Latin America and the Caribbean. In her remarks Ms. Guthrie warmly welcomed participants to the meeting which was being held the day before the second Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting. Mr. Matthew Gubb, Coordinator of the SAICM secretariat also welcomed the participants.

**II. Adoption of the agenda**

2. The agenda, as set out in SAICM/LACRCC.3/1 was adopted with no changes.

3. The meeting was attended by the following members: Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) as the SAICM regional focal point for the LAC region, Mr. Leopoldo Sahores (Argentina) as the immediate past regional focal point, Ms. Karin Livan (Guyana) on behalf of the subregional representative for the English-speaking Caribbean, Mr. Mario Abo Balanzo (Cuba), as subregional representative for Spanish-speaking Mesoamerica, Cuba, Dominica Republic and Haiti, Mr. Anthony Headley (Barbados) on behalf of the regional representative on the Executive Board of the SAICM Quick Start Programme, Ms. Vera Barrantes of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as the Participating Organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), Mr. Marcelo Kos Silveira Campos of the International Council of Chemicals Associations (ICCA) as the industry representative of non-governmental organizations, Mr. Nilton Freitas of the Chemicals Workers Union from ABC Region/CUT Brazil on behalf of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Worker's Unions (ICEM) as the labour representative of non-governmental organizations, Mr. Fernando Bejarano González of the Centro de Análisis y Acción en Tóxicos y sus Alternativas (CAATA) as the public interest representative of non-governmental organizations, and Ms. Lilian Corra of the International Society of

Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) as the science representative of non-governmental organizations.

4. Mr. Osvaldo Alvarez, representing the regional representative on the Bureau of the second International Conference on Chemicals Management, participated in the meeting as an observer.

### **III. Activities undertaken since the second regional coordinating committee**

5. The regional focal point proposed that the regional coordinating committee use the report of the second regional coordinating committee meeting (document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/2) as a guide for reviewing progress on activities undertaken since that meeting.

#### **A. Commission on Sustainable Development**

6. The regional focal point informed the meeting that the thematic issues and priorities developed at the second regional coordinating meeting had been well received by the third regional implementation forum on sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean held in La Antigua, Guatemala on 26 and 27 November 2009 and that good cooperation had been achieved between herself as regional focal point, the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach. She drew the meeting's attention to the background report on chemicals issues in the region that had been prepared by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The representative of the secretariat confirmed that a list of Commission on Sustainable Development contact points had been sent by email to all SAICM national focal points.

7. The regional coordination committee discussed ways of further strengthening communication and cooperation with national delegations to the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in New York from 3 to 14 May 2010. Responding to a question on the participation of non-governmental organizations at the regional implementation meeting, the regional focal point indicated that there had been some participation although this was not from a chemicals-related organization. The meeting agreed that the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean be asked to update the list of Commission on Sustainable Development contact points as necessary and that secretariat should explore possibilities for holding a meeting of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in New York immediately before the start of the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

#### **B. Health sector**

8. The secretariat informed the meeting that a consultation on the development of the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation had been held on 4 and 5 February 2010. Three participants from the region had participated in this consultation: Ms. Maria Ines Esquivel (Panama), Mr. Jules de Kom (Suriname) and Ms. Lilian Corra (ISDE). The meeting had enabled a better understanding of the current level of health-sector engagement and the sharing of ideas and suggestions for the content of the strategy. The secretariat would complete a first draft of the strategy for further consultation in August 2010. To maintain momentum ahead of formal consideration of the strategy by the open-ended working group it had been suggested that a number of the actions that might be included in the strategy be

undertaken as pilot activities.

9. The secretariat confirmed that the World Health Organization had been requested to assist in identifying health-sector focal points and that a representative of the Pan American Health Organization/WHO Regional Office for the Americas would be participating in the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting. It was agreed that the WHO representative at the regional meeting be asked to provide additional information. The regional focal point suggested that the action to identify health sector focal points might be considered a pilot activity by the region and lessons learned be reported to the third session of the Conference. One participant suggested that in addition to health sector focal points, regional offices of the World Health Organization needed to strengthen their engagement in implementation of the Strategic Approach and their contribution to relevant regional coordination mechanisms.

10. The secretariat confirmed that a representative of the Organization of American States was anticipated to be present at the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting and that an update on the status of the implementation of the actions under the Mar del Plata Declaration of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas might be requested at that time.

11. The secretariat drew attention to two other proposed aspects of the strategy which involved the health sector's own use of chemicals and the need to strengthen the engagement of the health sector in the recognition and understanding of the health impacts of chemicals.

12. It was requested that work to strengthen the engagement of the International Labour Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations also be undertaken, particularly as these organizations were active in the region. It was suggested that the FAO be invited to update the region on progress with its work to identify highly hazardous pesticides for risk management, which had previously been identified as a specific priority for regional cooperation. The committee also requested ILO and FAO to identify their relevant regional offices so that SAICM Focal Points could seek their involvement in SAICM implementation activities. UNITAR agreed to convey the views and requests of the regional coordinating committee to the IOMC.

13. The committee requested the secretariat and IOMC to study the options to obtain also a stronger engagement of the labour and agriculture sectors in SAICM implementation. UNITAR agreed to share the strategy developed for strengthening engagement of the Health Sector to the IOMC organizations as an example to apply within other sectors.

14. The representative of the secretariat gave an update on the outcomes of the Executive Board of the World Health Assembly, the availability of two recommended resolutions that would be considered at the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in May 2010 and the opportunities that this also presented for interaction with health ministries at a national level.

### **C. Finance**

15. The regional focal point informed participants that letters had been sent to relevant regional donor and development agencies as requested by the second regional coordinating meeting but that since this had only recently been completed, no responses had yet been received. The subregional representative for Spanish-speaking Meso-America reported that the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas had only recently began operations, therefore an opportunity for the discussion of the financing of chemicals management issues had not yet presented itself. Members reiterated their wish to use all

available forums for advocating for more sustainable financing of SAICM even though not all forums provided funds for implementation activities. The capacity building-related work for Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, funded by the European Commission, provided a good example of what could be achieved to leverage funding opportunities for chemicals-related work under more general economic, cultural and social development agreements. The non-governmental representative of the science-sector reiterated her wish to see additional progress in relation to regional development banks and in particular to improve their level of awareness of chemicals issues.

#### **D. Emerging issues, past and future**

16. The secretariat provided a brief update on progress with each of the emerging policy issues considered in detail at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/17 submitted by the Government of Peru on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and an informal document on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials which had been foreshadowed by the International Pesticides Elimination Network. Both topics had also been considered by the third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The representative of the International Council of Chemicals Associations informed representatives of a planned conference on the use of nanotechnology in the food industry planned to be held in the region. The representative of the non-governmental organization from the science sector called for the need for additional scientific input to the awareness-raising discussions on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials indicating that a number of health-related concerns should be discussed in more rigorous scientific detail.

#### **E. Reporting**

17. The representative of the secretariat provided an update on work on reporting progress on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Participants reiterated the need to have clear deadlines for when reports were needed so that stakeholders could provide comment on the planned on-line questionnaire and provide their reporting data when the form is finalized.

#### **F. National implementation plan guidelines**

18. The regional focal point drew attention to the outstanding action to develop a regional implementation plan that had been discussed at the first meeting of the regional coordinating committee held in Port of Spain from 11 to 13 June 2008, at a Caribbean Workshop on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and related chemicals and waste management instruments, held in Bridgetown from 10 to 13 March 2009 and at the second meeting of the regional coordinating committee, held in Santiago on 15 and 16 November 2009. She expressed her strong wish for the regional meeting to make progress on this issue and underscored the role of the regional coordinating committee as reflected in its terms of reference.

19. The representative of the UNITAR introduced a draft discussion document, circulated in advance of the meeting by email, on the possible development of a regional implementation plan. The document contained in the annex to the present report outlines some of the issues to be developed and sets out some possible next steps. She also drew attention to work that had been supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and UNITAR in collaboration with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development to develop a SAICM Implementation Plan for Central America and the Dominican Republic for 2010-2013.

20 In the ensuing discussion participants strongly supported engaging all subregions and sectors in the development of the regional implementation plan and the need to take into account similar initiatives in other forums such as the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas. Participants considered the possibility of applying to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund for funding support to develop a regional plan but were mindful of the lead-times required for applications for the ninth round. In conclusion, the regional coordinating committee expressed the view that the regional implementation plan should be completed ahead of the meeting of the open-ended working group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (August 2011) and that only modest additional resources would be needed. The secretariat undertook to assist in identifying possible sources of financial support for this work. The Committee requested UNITAR's support to develop a Regional Implementation Plan. The representative of UNITAR indicated that should it be invited to do so by the regional meeting, and within available resources, UNITAR would be honoured to assist with the development of the implementation plan. She also undertook to bring this matter to the attention of the other participating organizations of the IOMC to draw upon the expertise available in other intergovernmental organizations, as well as the SAICM Secretariat, and to call-upon regional organizations that already have relevant regional plans or similar initiatives, to be engaged in the development of the plan. The non-governmental organization representative from the labour sector suggested that the Trade Union Federation of the Americas would also be among regional bodies that should be invited to provide information and comment as appropriate.

#### **V. Quick Start Programme**

21. The representative of the secretariat updated participants on the status of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and the number of approved projects from the Latin American and Caribbean region. He also drew attention to the upcoming meeting of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board planned for 19 and 20 April 2010 and the opportunity provided by the regional meeting to provide guidance to regional representatives on the Executive Board, namely Barbados and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. He also drew attention to the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme that would be carried out by the Executive Board for consideration by the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the terms of reference for that evaluation that were under preparation and on which comments were invited.

22. In the ensuing discussion, representatives underscored the importance of encouraging donors to maintain their contributions to the Fund in keeping with the approved business plan of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and the desirability of 'relaxing' the eligibility criteria for projects which limited the number of projects that could be undertaken by governments. Representatives also discussed the linkage between Quick Start Programme and the Global Environment Facility and the importance of national SAICM focal points continuing to engage with Global Environment Facility focal points regarding the broadening of the chemicals window and to acknowledge the potential synergies in funding.

#### **VI. Work plan of the Latin American and the Caribbean regional coordinating committee**

23 The regional focal point drew participants' attention to annex of the document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/2 containing the workplan of the Latin American and the Caribbean regional coordinating committee. Following a review of the workplan and consideration of the progress discussed under proceeding items it was noted that some items remained

incomplete and would require more vigilant and additional follow-up. A copy of the workplan annotated to show progress is contained in Annex II of the present report.

24. Participants reiterated the importance of the participation of all subregional representatives in the regional coordinating committee and for all subrepresentatives to report on actions carried out. The regional focal point and secretariat agreed to convey these concerns to those members who were not able to participate in the third regional coordinating committee meeting.

#### **IV. Preparations for the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

25. The representative of the secretariat informed participants of side events that would take place during the course of the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting.

#### **V. Other matters**

26. The representative of the International Council of Chemicals Associations requested that information on the planned high-level meeting “Rio + 20” which would take place in 2012 along with other significant meetings in the region should be brought to the attention of the regional meeting.

27. The representative of Cuba made a statement on his concerns regarding the joint scheduling of meetings, as had occurred in the present case, with funding for only one delegate per country. This precluded the participation of the different experts for each of the topics concerned and in the present case meant that Cuba would not be represented at the discussions on mercury and nanotechnology which followed the second regional meeting.

#### **VI. Close of the meeting**

28. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the regional focal point closed the meeting at 6.30 p.m.

## **Annex I**

### **Draft discussion document presented by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on possible development of a regional implementation plan for the Latin American and Caribbean region**

#### ***I. Background***

Development of SAICM implementation plans (SIPs) can assist in identifying a clear path that could be followed within a specific timeframe to make progress towards effective SAICM implementation, identifying priority actions and assigning responsibilities and timelines to execute these actions.

At various meetings, both the LAC RCC and the region have several times discussed the possible development of a Regional SAICM Implementation Plan, including:

- the first LAC regional meeting on SAICM (Panama City, 14-16 February 2008), one of the agenda items discussed was the development of a regional action plan for implementation of SAICM, considering the existing subregional initiatives, such as HEMA's and MERCOSUR's.
- the First Meeting of the LAC RCC (Port of Spain, 13 June 2008), the RCC reiterated its support for the preparation of a Regional Strategy as the way forward for the region's implementation of SAICM and identified main elements to develop this strategy.
- the Second Meeting of the LAC RCC (Santiago, 15-16 November 2009), the RCC prepared a list of cross-cutting issues and specific areas of regional cooperation to be presented to the Second LAC Regional Meeting on SAICM as the basis for a regional SAICM implementation plan (Kingston, 08-09 March 2010).

#### ***II. Issues to be considered***

In further discussions regarding the possible development of a LAC regional SAICM implementation plan, a number of issues should be considered, including:

- Any LAC Regional SAICM Implementation Plan should build on existing similar initiatives (e.g. HEMA Plan of Action, MERCOSUR Plan of Action, Central American and Dominican Republic SIP).
- A regional plan should also build into/take into account national SIPs already developed within the region.
- Multistakeholder and multisectoral considerations.
- During the preparation of a LAC regional implementation plan, suggestions made in section 5 of the document "Guidance for Developing SAICM Implementation Plans" could also be taken into account, as necessary.

#### ***III. Possible benefits of a regional SAICM implementation plan***

Development of a regional SAICM implementation plan could provide a number of possible benefits, including:

- Planning for implementation of actions on common priorities for the region
- Increase the possibilities to obtain support for clear and identified priority actions (increasing the possibility to address needs in all countries of the region)

- Development of a coordinated regional approach to SAICM implementation in the region (everyone following the same agreed objectives)
- Identification of responsibilities, timeframes and necessary resources

#### ***IV. Possible next steps***

In considering next steps for possible development of a regional implementation plan, the RCC may wish to:

- review the document *Guidance for Developing SAICM Implementation Plans* (as requested at last RCC meeting)
- discuss possible modalities for development of a RIP (who, when, how)
- resources needed: are there existing resources? Should a proposal be sent to the QSPTF?
- final revision and approval of list of cross-cutting issues and specific areas of regional cooperation by the Second LAC Regional Meeting, Kingston (08-09 March 2010)
- compile national and subregional priorities that are already identified in the region and integrate them in to the list.

## Annex II

### WORK PLAN OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE November 2009 to March 2010

Updated at third regional coordinating committee meeting (7 March 2010)

#### Health:

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
1	Recognizing the role of WHO in SAICM, including its participation in the SAICM secretariat, secretariat requested to invite WHO should contact through its regional offices Ministries of Health, asking them to nominate contact persons on chemical safety and health within Ministry of Health; also inviting them to liaise with SAICM national focal points	Secretariat	Before next regional meeting	- Letter sent out - Written report on results of activity (to be submitted to regional meeting)	Letter sent to WHO on 10 February 2010  WHO/PAHO confirmed participation in second regional meeting  Identification of focal points outstanding
2	Recalling and emphasizing the corporative agenda included in the HEMA Declaration of Mar del Plata and that OAS was tasked with its follow-up, OAS should be invited to report on follow-up to HEMA Declaration to regional meeting	Regional Focal Point with the assistance of Committee members and the secretariat	Before next regional meeting	Report from OAS (for regional meeting)	OAS invited to attend second regional meeting

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
3	Subregional representatives to engage national SAICM focal points to ascertain what activities the Health Ministries have been engaged in support of SAICM implementation	Subregional representatives	Before next regional meeting	Report from subregional representatives (oral report from each of the subregions)	
4	Health sector contact persons, as identified under activity 1, to be invited to the upcoming SAICM regional meeting;	Secretariat in collaboration with WHO to issue invitation.	Before next regional meeting	Invitations to be issued	

**Finance**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
5	<p>The regional focal point is to write to various regional donor and development agencies identified at the first regional meeting (Panama) to obtain information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Whether a focal point had been assigned for chemicals safety issues</li> <li>b. Whether there was a chemicals window for the allocation of funding in this area</li> <li>c. How such funds can be accessed</li> <li>d. Which activities, if any, had been undertaken for the</li> </ul>	Regional Focal Point in collaboration with the RCC members and the secretariat	Ongoing	Report on the implementation of those activities to the regional meeting	<p>Completed ahead of regional meeting</p> <p>RFP sent letters to: CARICOM, IADB, MERCOSUR, and OAS. SAICM sec sent letter to GEF.</p> <p>Responses awaiting</p>

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
	implementation of HEMA.				
6	The subregional representatives to liaise or to contact national SAICM focal points to engage their respective GEF focal points (replenishment negotiation to advocate for a new chemicals window within the GEF, on the understanding that such a new window should not impact on POPs funding)	Subregional representatives	Before next regional meeting	Report on the implementation of envisaged activities	Partially completed. Subregional representatives to continue to advocate in the GEF forum
7	The relevant subregional representative from South America (Ecuador) was asked to contact MERCOSUR secretariat to ascertain what activities are undertaken in relation to SAICM implementation (pesticides, mercury and GHS) Other regional economic integration organizations should also be contacted. The relevant subregional focal representative for Meso-America (Cuba) was requested to explore possibility of ALBA (the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas) involvement assisting in financing of SAICM implementation.	Subregional representatives	Before next regional meeting		Initial contact with ALBA reported .  No information on progress with other regional economic integration organizations

**Emerging Issues:**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
8	Recommendation to BCRCs (Uruguay, Argentina) that information on lead in paints for industrial applications be included on website.	Regional Focal Point		Report to next RCC meeting on follow-up	
9	Subregional representatives are to advise national focal points of relevant milestones and deadlines for the nomination process, including the deadline of 30 November 2010 (progress report)	Subregional representatives	Before next regional meeting	Report (oral) to regional meeting	

**Reporting**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
10	Subregional representatives would to draw attention of national focal points on the reporting modalities and timeline (deadlines) based on information to be provided by the secretariat.	Subregional representatives and secretariat	Ongoing		

### SAICM Implementation plans

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
11	Subregional representatives to inform focal points about the document and encourage its use; national focal points to report back on experience in using document through secretariat/UNITAR	Subregional representatives and national SAICM focal points	ongoing		
12	LAC RCC to review guidance document, in particular the section in relation to the development of regional implementation plan, and provide comments to the secretariat and UNITAR. Comments will be channelled through regional focal point to secretariat and UNITAR.	LAC RCC	By January 2010	Written comments	Document circulated to the Committee by UNITAR no written comments received. Members articulated at RCC3 that they were satisfied with the document. Last comments would be sent to the Regional Focal Point at the end of March 2010. The RFP would send to UNITAR.
13	Outline of the proposed steps that should be taken in the development of the regional implementation plan, as referred to in ToR, will be drafted by the LAC RCC for consideration at the regional meeting.	LAC RCC	By next regional meeting	Outline of proposed steps for development of regional implementation plan	Discussed at RCC3 and agreed process at regional meeting
14	To facilitate the full involvement of all stakeholders as well as coordination, cooperation and communication with other regional coordinators and the SAICM secretariat in the development of implementation plans.	LAC RCC	By the next regional meeting	Report by all RCC members on the activities undertaken in this regard.	

**Quick Start Programme**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
15	National focal points to be advised of the need to encourage more stakeholder involvement, including from various sectors, in development and submission of QSP projects.	QSP Executive Board representatives, sectoral members at the LAC RCC and national focal points.	Ongoing		
16	National focal points to be contacted and encouraged to disseminate information on decisions taken by Executive Board in relation to requirements for projects (more than one per region); plus encouragement of involvement of different sectors and stakeholders.	QSP Executive Board representatives	Ongoing		

**Global Plan of Action**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
17	To review, from time to time, the SAICM Global Plan of Action for the purpose of adapting it to national and regional priorities.	All stakeholders	Ongoing		

**Participation**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
18	UNITAR, on behalf of IOMC, encouraged to request that IOMC participating organizations based in the region should participate in regional meeting	UNITAR	Before the next regional meeting	Report on outcome of discussions with the other IOMC members	
19	LAC RCC to disseminate meeting report to absent members of the LAC RCC. Soliciting (“looking further to receiving”) further information on the continued participation of OAS in the LAC RCC.	Regional Focal Point	Before next the regional meeting	Report (oral) to the next RCC meeting.	

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**Commission on Sustainable Development**

No	Activities	Lead actors to support the Regional Focal Point	Deadline	Outputs	Progress reported at RCC3
20	SAICM secretariat to contact CSD secretariat to obtain information on CSD focal points. LAC RCC to liaise with national SAICM focal points with a view to raise awareness among CSD focal points concerning SAICM.	Subregional representatives	Before the next regional meeting	Report from subregional representatives to the next meeting of the RCC on this issue.	Completed