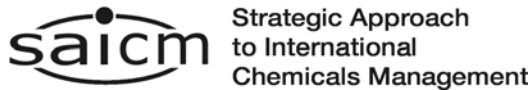




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**Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on the
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**
Kingston, 8, 9 and 12 March 2010

Report of the second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Opening

1. The Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica, on 8, 9 and 12 March 2010. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 8 March 2010 by Ms. Jean Dixon, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Jamaica. Opening statements were made by Ms. Dixon, Ms. Leonie Barnaby on behalf of Ms. Onika Miller, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica, Mr. Matthew Gubb, Coordinator of the SAICM secretariat and Ms. Princess Osbourne, SAICM national focal point for Jamaica.

2. Ms. Dixon welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and expressed the sympathies of the Government to the Governments and peoples of Chile and Haiti in the wake of the recent earthquakes. She said Jamaica was privileged to host four consecutive chemicals management meetings: the current meeting, a consultation on the forthcoming negotiations on an international legally binding instrument for mercury, an awareness raising meeting on nanotechnology and a workshop on industrial chemicals management. The objective of the SAICM regional meeting, she said, was to facilitate consultation on issues arising from the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and develop a regional perspective on preparations for the first SAICM Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the Conference. All the meetings would address significant issues in chemicals management and the associated health and environmental concerns. She said the usefulness of chemicals in various sectors had always been recognized but that they must be handled in a way that ensured environmental sustainability. She observed that while nanotechnologies are beneficial and utilised in various spheres of life, there could also be significant associated risks which all should be aware of. It was therefore very timely that a workshop on this important subject had been included in the schedule for the week. She voiced her thanks to the Governments of Spain and Switzerland and to various members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) for their support for the meetings.

3. Ms. Barnaby welcomed participants to Kingston and said the Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica shared the portfolio for SAICM with the Ministry of Health, allowing for linkages to be built between health and development and leading to harmonized sound management of chemicals. She said a number of coordinated activities were being developed and implemented in that domain. She noted the increasing engagement of the health sector in the implementation of SAICM adding that further strengthening was required of the partnerships with non-governmental organizations and the private sector as well as increased efforts in public awareness-raising. She said Jamaica had benefitted from assistance provided by the government of Switzerland and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to develop an integrated programme for the sound management of chemicals and an inter-ministerial committee for that purpose. Noting major milestones reached in chemicals management that had improved the quality of environment and health of the population, she said Jamaica would continue to work assiduously to achieve further goals.

4. Mr. Gubb welcomed the participants on behalf of the SAICM secretariat and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Jamaica for hosting the meeting and to the governments of Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America for their contributions to the week's meetings. He also welcomed the presence and assistance of participating organizations of the IOMC, a number of their regional offices and other regional organizations. He commended the multisectoral commitment of the Government of Jamaica in addressing chemicals, to which the presence of representatives from different ministries testified, and acknowledged Jamaica's leadership in representing the region at international gatherings. In that respect he noted the dedicated and energetic involvement of Ms. Gillian Guthrie, the SAICM regional focal point for the Latin American and Caribbean region. He said the current meeting was being held at an appropriate time in a busy calendar for chemicals work. The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had completed its work and now was the time to reflect on SAICM implementation, sharing of national experience and looking ahead to the work to be accomplished. He encouraged countries to implement activities in pursuit of the objectives of SAICM and to report on them to the third session of the Conference. He said the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in May 2010 also afforded an opportunity for countries to shape discussions on chemicals management. He recognized that the different meetings planned for the current week constituted a heavy agenda but hoped, nevertheless, that such planning would result in useful discussions including a final opportunity to discuss regional views prior to the first intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury. In that regard he welcomed the presence of Mr. Fernando Lugris from Uruguay who was expected to chair those negotiations.

5. Ms. Osbourne, as SAICM national focal point for Jamaica, welcomed other national focal points and endorsed appreciation to those who had assisted in hosting the meeting. Sound management of chemicals as a prerequisite to sustainable development had been highlighted for many years, she said. Significant advances had been made but much there was still much to do to meet the 2020 target of sound management of chemicals as outlined in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Achieving that target was a common goal for all countries but the level of development would influence the means of getting there. Financial and technical support would be required from both external and internal sources; reinforced partnerships and a participatory role for all would be a crucial element. The region, she noted, was poised and committed to make strides by hosting several important international environmental meetings over the next two years. The current meeting, she added, provided an opportunity to focus strategically, engage in frank discussions and develop a unified approach to participate effectively at the Open-ended Working Group on SAICM and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. She stressed the importance of engaging all sectors, including non-governmental organizations and civil society, in the implementation of SAICM and welcomed the development of the health sector strategy. She noted the importance of the

discussions on emerging policy issues and highlighted the need to consider new policy issues. She drew attention to the current discussion at the Global Environment Facility that might broaden financial support to chemicals activities and urged that other opportunities for financing the life-cycle management of chemicals be explored and encouraged at the national, subregional and regional levels. Ms. Osbourne highlighted the importance of the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants located in Brazil, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay that would strengthen the region's capacities to deal with chemicals management. She called on regional economic integration organizations to ensure that sound management of chemicals was a primary area of focus in their programme of work. She encouraged south-south cooperation and sharing of information, expertise and technology transfer such that all countries moved together to reach the goals of safe chemicals management. She concluded by noting the intense international chemicals agenda for the forthcoming three years and opportunities to participate to benefit all countries and the health of their people.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

6. The meeting elected Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile) and Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) to serve as co-chairs of the meeting. Ms. Zuleica Nycz (Environment Protection Association, APROMAC, Brazil) agreed to serve as rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

7. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the draft agenda as set out in SAICM/RM/LAC.2/1.

C. Organization of work

8. The meeting agreed to meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday 8 March and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday 9 March.

D. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following countries: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cost Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

10. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations: Caribbean Community Secretariat, Central American Commission of Environment and Development, Organization of American States, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

11. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following non-governmental organizations: Centre for Analyses on Toxics and their Alternatives, Confederación General del Trabajo, Environment Protection Association APROMAC, International Council of Chemicals Associations, International POPs Elimination Network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Pesticide Action Network Uruguay,

Red de Desarrollo Gestión Ambiental (COLNODO), Sindicato Químicos ABC/ICEM, and Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

III. Updates by the secretariat

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

12. Introducing the sub-item, Mr. Gubb drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/1 containing the report of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management held in May 2009. He said the second session of the Conference had been significant in that it provided a first opportunity to review progress in SAICM since its adoption in Dubai in February 2006. The Conference session had been well attended and successfully concluded its business. He noted its role as the principal forum for discussion of international chemicals policy at a strategic level, complementing existing bodies such as the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements that addressed specific issues. He underscored the achievements in two main areas, those related to institutional matters and those relating to policy matters. Institutional matters included the adoption of rules of procedure and the establishment of a bureau on a permanent basis. In addition, an intersessional Open-ended Working Group had been established to prepare for the third session of the Conference. Modalities for reporting against a number of key indicators had been agreed providing one means for the Conference to evaluate progress towards its 2020 chemicals goal.

13. One of the most important functions of the Conference was to consider emerging issues. Four such issues had been considered in detail at the second session: nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and lead in paint. The Conference agreed on follow-up action for all four issues that were now being taken forward with the participating organizations of the IOMC playing a key role thereby ensuring coordination and avoiding duplication. Specific action included awareness raising workshops on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials for developing countries led by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UNITAR; agreement to work on chemicals in products initiated with a scoping meeting in December 2009 led by UNEP; a global partnership on lead in paint established under UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO); and plans for a workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products led by the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Perfluorinated chemicals were also considered by the Conference and cooperative action agreed including encouraging industry stewardship efforts towards the phase-out of perfluorinated chemicals. The Conference furthermore agreed on procedures for the nomination of emerging policy issues for consideration at future sessions of the Conference.

14. The Conference had adopted a significant number of resolutions to set the scene for the coming period and had acknowledged the important role of regional meetings and coordination of regional efforts in implementing SAICM. Resolution II/7 on the Commission on Sustainable Development recognized that chemicals would be included in the Commission's work cycle for 2010-2011; resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources for implementation stressed the importance of secure financing for the implementation of SAICM; resolution II/8 on the health aspects of the sound management of chemicals requested the SAICM secretariat to develop, in consultation with WHO, a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in SAICM implementation. He added that the Conference had agreed that the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme should undertake a mid-term evaluation of the Programme and make

recommendations. The Conference had also highlighted the need for increased use of the financial resources of the Global Environment Facility and had reiterated the need for greater involvement of the industry sector in SAICM.

B. Other SAICM meetings, such as the ninth meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee

15. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the meetings of the various regional coordination mechanisms that had been convened, the main purposes of which had been to prepare for the full regional meetings and for possible input to the preparatory meetings for the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to be held in May 2010. The CSD preparatory meeting for the Latin American and Caribbean region had been held in Guatemala in November 2009 and input for the region had been submitted through the SAICM regional coordinating committee. He said that, in addition to the second meeting of the regional coordinating committee held in Santiago, in November 2009, there had been meetings of the African Core Group in Nairobi in August 2009 and the Central and Eastern European Coordinating Group in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2009 and Lodz, Poland, in December 2009. Full regional meetings had also been held of the African region in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in January 2010, the Asia-Pacific region in Beijing, in November 2009, and the Central and Eastern European region in Lodz in December 2009. At its regional meeting, the Asia-Pacific region had established a Regional Coordination Group. The full regional meetings had discussed, among others issues, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and preparation for the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development that had adopted a work programme to include consideration of chemicals in its 2010-2011 work cycle.

16. The bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had held two teleconferences and planned to meet during the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in May 2010. One topic of the bureau's discussions had been the scheduling of the third session of the Conference, tentatively planned to be held in Geneva, Switzerland at the end of May 2012 back to back with the 100th session of the International Labour Conference.

17. He noted recent and upcoming meetings relating to the Quick Start Programme, namely the eighth meeting of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee, held in Washington on 15 and 16 October 2009, the Committee's upcoming ninth meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 30 and 31 March 2010 and the meeting of the Executive Board, also scheduled to take place in Geneva, on 19 and 20 April 2010.

18. The representative of the secretariat provided additional information on the deliberations at the second session of the Conference in response to a request for clarification and noted that those issues would be taken up under subsequent agenda items. One representative drew attention to the issues of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products as well as nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials that had resulted in position papers at other regional meetings.

IV. Review of the terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committee

19. Ms. Gillian Guthrie, as the regional focal point for SAICM, drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/2 containing the report of the second meeting of the regional coordinating committee and the proposed revisions of the terms of reference of that committee. The revised terms of reference were also laid out in document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/16. She recalled that the terms of reference had initially been

endorsed at the first regional meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean region held in Panama in February 2008. The amendments proposed were to increase subregional representation on the committee from one to two members and to include the regional representative on the bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

20. She noted that currently, the subregional members on the committee were Cuba for Spanish-speaking Mesoamerica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, Ecuador for South America, and Guyana for the English-speaking Caribbean. She added that the membership also included Barbados and Venezuela, as regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board, Jamaica, as the regional focal point, Argentina, as the immediate past regional focal point and non-governmental organization members representing industry, labour, public interest and science, together with a representative of the IOMC, UNITAR, and the Organization of American States. The proposed increase in the subregional representation on the Committee was to ensure fuller representation, facilitate preparations for the development of the regional implementation plan and to compensate for absentees. She noted that given the technical nature of the issues to be discussed, the Committee, at its meeting in November, had agreed that technical advisors would be invited to participate in the Committee meetings in accordance with its Terms of Reference. Accordingly, the chemicals coordinator in UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean would henceforth be invited to attend the Committee meetings. She concluded by expressing her thanks to the Government of Chile that had hosted the meeting of the regional coordinating committee in Santiago in November 2009.

21. The meeting agreed that the current subregional representatives would hold consultations in each of their subregions to nominate the additional member from each of the three subregions to participate in the regional coordinating committee. The results of that consultation would be communicated to the regional focal point by the end of April 2010. The nominated representatives would be expected to participate in the work of the regional coordinating committee with immediate effect pending confirmation of their nomination at the next full Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting. The meeting also agreed that the newly nominated members would receive the same financial assistance for participation in face-to-face meetings as the current members. The meeting endorsed the proposed amendments to the terms of reference of the regional coordinating committee and the process for identifying additional members from the subregions.

V. Health issues, including SAICM health sector strategy

22. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/10 and INF/10/Add.1 on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in SAICM implementation and consideration of SAICM by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly. She recognized the representative of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in the meeting. She said the World Health Assembly had already considered SAICM in 2003, during the development of SAICM, and in 2006, after SAICM was adopted. She recalled that the convening of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had been scheduled back-to-back with the World Health Assembly to allow for focus on health issues and the health sector. Other pressing matters had precluded consideration of SAICM at the Assembly, however the issue had been taken up at the meeting of the WHO Executive Board in February 2010.

23. She noted that a meeting had taken place on 4 and 5 February 2010, in Ljubljana to define the 2020 vision for the health sector engagement in SAICM and to kick-start the development of the health sector strategy. The meeting had benefitted from a balance of participants from all regions and key parts of the health sector and included SAICM focal points, participants engaged in regional ministerial health and environment initiatives and peak medical and nursing bodies as well as representatives of other key non-governmental organizations already engaged in SAICM implementation and representatives of WHO. The

meeting had been co-chaired by Mr. Ivan Erzen (Slovenia) and Mr. Jules de Kom (Suriname). From the Latin American and Caribbean region, participants from the Government of Panama and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment had been present. In preparation for the meeting a questionnaire had been developed to seek information on how SAICM was viewed by the health sector and to garner ideas as to what might constitute means of effective engagement. Participants had discussed statistical data on the current engagement of the health sector, the results of the preparatory questionnaires and outcomes from the current round of regional meetings. Outcomes from the meeting included an annotated outline of the health sector strategy, which included sections related to the identification of guiding principles, the key parts of the health sector to be targeted and the strategic content and activities to be proposed. She said that a view was emerging that the strategy should be considered an integral part of the Overarching Policy Strategy setting out ways to enhance the engagement of the health sector in achieving the SAICM 2020 chemicals goal. She said the draft strategy would be made available for comment in August 2010 and afterwards prepared for consideration at the SAICM Open-ended Working Group for adoption by the International Conference on Chemical Safety at its third session. It was expected that, prior to the Conference session, some voluntary pilot activities could be undertaken to test some of the assumptions and proposals included in the health sector strategy.

24. The SAICM regional focal point invited the representatives of Panama and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, both of whom had participated in the Ljubljana meeting, if they wished to add comments. The representative of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment reported that she found the meeting a very useful initiative. She advocated the need to be mindful of the work of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, the fact that health ministries were already undertaking much work on chemicals and the need for closer collaboration with PAHO in the region. In the ensuing discussion, the SAICM regional focal point recollected the discussions at the second meeting of the regional coordinating committee when a number of specific follow-up actions had been agreed to set about identifying focal points for health issues within ministries of health who could work with the SAICM national focal point to integrate efforts on SAICM implementation. She noted that this appeared to be in line with some of the key elements emerging as part of the health strategy more generally. It was understood that PAHO would be helpful in this endeavour.

25. A number of representatives addressed the need to integrate health sector efforts as part of the multisectoral contribution to SAICM implementation and the need to be actively engaging at a national level to promote and achieve this. A clear message to relevant intergovernmental bodies needed to be conveyed by countries of the region. One representative cautioned that without such integration, actions that were already taking place would be dispersed rather than integrated losing any opportunity to achieve synergies.

26. The representative of PAHO made a brief presentation on activities of the organization, which had been established for more than 100 years. He spoke of the relationship between PAHO, the Regional Office for the Americas and the Headquarters of WHO based in Geneva, Switzerland. He noted that PAHO had representation in 29 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean and was present in all Latin American countries. He identified a number of specialized centres, which were part of PAHO operations that were working on environmental health issues including the Pan American Centre for Sanitary Engineering (CEPIS) and the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC). He also identified some of the relevant subregional offices such as that of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Centre and the Office of Caribbean Programme Coordination and spoke of the technical cooperation among countries and of country cooperation strategies as key actions coordinated by PAHO. Some areas of focus included community and family health, prevention and control of diseases, health care, environmental health and sustainable development and disaster preparedness programmes.

27. All participants who took the floor stressed the importance of linking the health sector with SAICM implementation activities. Several participants noted that the meeting of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 14 and 15 June 2005, had developed a priority list that included sound management of chemicals and children's environmental health. Some participants said their national activities on SAICM implementation already included a strong health component.

28. Several participants expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the development of the health sector strategy and reiterated clear and concrete messages to be sent for better integration of activities at national, regional and international levels. The identification of a focal point for the health sector would help promote this integration and strengthen SAICM implementation. Some participants highlighted the difficulty of engaging the health sector stating that sometimes, the national health sector was not aware of SAICM and its activities. A few participants noted their efforts to attract the health sector to undertake joint activities on SAICM implementation. While some related activities had taken place, they had been carried out in a dispersed manner and efforts to integrate those activities into a structured framework was needed. One way to achieve that would be to provide a clear mandate to PAHO to ensure that SAICM objectives were included in its work programmes allowing for integration of the health and environment sectors as well as other sectors such as agriculture, labour and industry.

29. One participant observed that, in some countries, the ministries of health were stronger than those of environment and monitoring of health issues for certain chemicals, such as lead and persistent organic pollutants, was more developed than that of environment issues. Attention needed to be drawn to the value of monitoring other substances and political will needed to be stimulated to obtain sustained interest in chemicals management at the national level.

30. The meeting agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Mario Abo Balanza (Cuba) and Ms. Rocio Espinoza (Peru) to prepare a draft decision on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in implementation of SAICM that would encourage countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to promote linkages between SAICM implementation and the health sector.

31. The meeting adopted the resulting decision, which is attached to the current report as Annex A.

32. The representative of the secretariat reported on the outcomes of the 126th meeting of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization noting that Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru were Executive Board members from this region. In addition to a report on SAICM prepared by the WHO secretariat, which included the outcomes of the second session of the Conference, two draft resolutions had been proposed by members of the Executive Board, one initiated by countries of the European Union and others on obsolete pesticides and obsolete chemicals and one from Indonesia on the environmentally sound management of wastes. She reported that many interventions were made in support of engagement in SAICM implementation and the two resolutions were reproduced in SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/10/Add.1 and were recommended to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly for consideration. She noted that the World Health Assembly has 193 members including all of the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region. She noted her understanding that WHO was preparing some technical briefing on chemicals issues for delegates during the session on chemicals of high public concern.

33. Expressing concern with the wording in the WHO Executive Board resolution on obsolete pesticides (EB126.R13), some participants suggested that recovery, re-use, and recycling of obsolete pesticides should not be mentioned as it contravened the obligations

under the Stockholm Convention to prohibit the recycling and use of certain obsolete pesticides and might encourage indiscriminate use of old pesticides. It was also suggested that the resolution might make reference to the historical reasons for the accumulation of obsolete pesticides and include wording to reflect problems associated with use of severely toxic pesticides to promote integrated pest management practices.

34. Mr. Álvarez-Pérez, who represented Chile on the WHO Executive Board at its last session, was requested to apprise representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean group at the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in order for those concerns to be raised during discussions during the World Health Assembly as appropriate.

VI. Reporting guidelines

35. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/11 providing an update on the development of arrangements for reporting on progress in SAICM implementation. She noted that reporting consisted of the development of an electronic tool, accompanying guidance on its use and explanatory notes and definitions relating to the twenty indicators agreed at the second session of the Conference, a baseline report for the period 2006-2008 and a first progress report for 2009-2011. All three components would be considered by the SAICM Open-ended Working Group in August 2011. It was expected that the working group might make adjustments as appropriate at that time in preparation for consideration of the results by the second session of the Conference.

36. Some delays had occurred in placing the reporting tool on the SAICM website. However, the data collection tool and accompanying guidance had been prepared and would be released for comments by the end of March. Comments should be submitted to the secretariat by mid-May. She indicated that in order to test the actual tool, it would be helpful if a few countries could volunteer to enter data to ensure it was operational and indicated that the secretariat would contact the pilot testers who had been engaged ahead of the second session of the Conference when the reporting indicators were being developed. Other volunteers were welcome also to identify themselves to the secretariat.

37. For the baseline report, in the absence of the electronic tool, information was being extracted from existing reports and questionnaires used ahead of regional meetings together with other sources. That report, which would be available at the end of March 2010, could also serve to identify gaps in reported data for future completion.

38. It was expected that comments on the electronic tool and guidance would be addressed by mid-June 2010 with revised guidance as necessary. At that time a call would be made to fill identified data gaps using the electronic tool and also to contribute data for the first progress report. Data would be requested for the 2009-2011 report by mid-September 2010.

39. Countries of the region were encouraged to test the electronic tool and provide feedback to the secretariat on their experience.

VII. Emerging issues

A. Past issues

40. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/12 containing an update on action on emerging policy issues addressed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Resolution II/4 of the Conference provided for concerted action on emerging policy issues

and resolution II/5 on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. He said that the second session had been the first opportunity for the Conference to perform its important function of addressing emerging policy issues and to agree upon a procedure for future nominations. For each of the four identified emerging issues the Conference requested follow-up action by intergovernmental organization. The SAICM secretariat, while not directly involved in the work on each issue, was following progress and providing updates on that progress.

(a) Chemicals in products

41. The UNEP Chemicals Branch had taken the lead on this activity and Sweden, with support from other Governments, had previously convened a workshop on chemicals in products in February 2009. A meeting to define the scope of the project called for in resolution II/4 of the Conference was held in Geneva on 17 and 18 December 2009. A steering group for the project had been established and a survey on priorities distributed to SAICM focal points to collect views from SAICM stakeholders on product groups and information categories to be considered for prioritization in the assessment of stakeholder needs for information on chemicals in products. The scoping meeting in December had analysed the results of the survey and recommended several product sectors for priority consideration.

42. The regional representative on the UNEP Chemicals in Products Project Steering Group (St Vincent and the Grenadines) informed the meeting of progress made on the issue during a side event held on Monday, 8 March.

(b) Lead in paint

43. With regard to lead in paint the Conference endorsed the establishment of a global partnership to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints. UNEP and WHO had initiated arrangements to serve as the joint secretariat for the partnership. Some planning and fund-raising activities were currently underway. An initial working meeting to adopt a framework and terms of reference for a “global alliance” was scheduled for May 2010 in Geneva.

44. The chemicals coordinator in UNEP’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean informed the meeting of progress in the initiative and encouraged countries to participate in the global alliance. She drew the attention of the meeting to the UNEP and WHO information form on becoming a partner of the global alliance to eliminate lead in paints.

45. The representative of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) hub in the Latin American and Caribbean region made a presentation on the IPEN study on Lead in New Decorative Paints that included data from Brazil and Mexico.

(c) Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

46. With regard to nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, follow-up action was primarily based on awareness raising. Much work was currently under way under the auspices of OECD. OECD and UNITAR were assisting with awareness raising for developing countries. A series of workshops on nanotechnology had been planned in conjunction with SAICM regional meetings, including the workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on Friday 12 March, which would follow the current meeting. The workshop would be a first step in raising awareness and an opportunity to hear presentations and engage in preliminary discussions on the issue. A second round of regional awareness raising workshops on the subject was planned to provide a further opportunity for regions to

develop ideas in the lead up to the meeting of SAICM Open-ended Working Group in August 2011.

47. Representatives of the IPEN hub in the Latin American and Caribbean region and the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM) in the region tabled a draft decision on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. A small drafting group was established to revise the draft recommendation chaired by Mr. Leopoldo Sahores (Argentina).

48. The meeting adopted the decision, as amended, which is attached to the current report as Annex B.

(d) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

49. UNIDO and the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions were preparing a workshop to consider issues in relation to hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. Other members of the IOMC would also be following the issue. While originally intended to be held in conjunction with a meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention in May 2010, the workshop was now expected to be held at a later date, still to be determined.

50. The meeting had before it a draft decision submitted by the Government of Peru, which proposed that the workshop should consider developing certain recommendations on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. It was noted that the issue had first been brought to the attention of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in a paper tabled by the Government of Peru and the African region.

51. Several participants suggested amendments and modifications to the proposed decision to bring it line with regional concerns. The drafting group on nanotechnology chaired by Mr. Sahores was requested to revise the draft decision.

52. The meeting adopted the decision, as amended, which is attached to the current report as Annex C.

(e) Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

53. OECD, in association with other IOMC participating organizations, was leading follow-up work on perfluorinated chemicals to develop, facilitate and promote national and international product stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches. Those were principally voluntary programmes encouraging industry to phase out the use of such chemicals.

B. Future issues i.e. nominations

54. Future modalities for identifying and prioritizing emerging policy issues had been agreed at the second session of the Conference and were set out in resolution II/4 of the Conference. A copy of the nomination form for new issues was already on the website along with a diagram describing the steps and timeframe for the process. In order to be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session nominations could be made at any time up to a deadline of 30 November 2010. The attention of the meeting was drawn to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/13 that contained the questionnaire for nominating new proposals. Nominations could be made by individual countries or as a region.

55. One participant said that countries' resources were already being stretched to address the four emerging issues that had been identified and that meeting the necessary requirements if new emerging issues were added would be a heavy burden on country and regional capacities and hinder constructive and useful participation in relevant discussions.

VIII. Preparations for the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

56. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to relevant documents for the agenda item: SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/2, INF/3 and INF/4. He reiterated that the Commission on Sustainable Development had adopted a programme of work under which it would consider chemicals in the work-cycle to be taken up at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions in 2010 and 2011 respectively. In 2010 the issue would be reviewed and in 2011 some policy decisions and recommendations would be made. The International Conference on Chemicals Management had, at its second session, recognized the future work on chemicals to be undertaken by the Commission and had adopted resolution II/7 encouraging SAICM stakeholder participation in the work of the Commission on chemicals, including through the regional preparatory process. He said the main preparatory work for the Commission's 2010 session was taking place at the regional level through the United Nations regional economic commissions and noted that the Regional Implementation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean had taken place in November 2009 in Guatemala. The SAICM regional coordinating committee had prepared some priority issues that were highlighted at the meeting in Guatemala and were laid out in SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/4, the draft report of the third Regional Implementation Meeting. Some of the issues raised were the need for coordination between national focal points for SAICM and for the Commission on Sustainable Development, involving subregional agencies in SAICM implementation and increasing funding at the regional level. He concluded by noting that a strong SAICM presence at the Commission's 18th session might be supported through the convening of a meeting of the bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and its observer participants in order to convey regional views.

57. The SAICM regional focal point reported on the relevant outcomes of the SAICM regional coordinating committee meeting in November 2009. She said the SAICM focal points should be interacting with the focal points of the Commission on Sustainable Development given that the Commission would be dealing with chemicals and wastes during 2010 and 2011. Further, the meeting had encouraged increasing the capacity of countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and discussed the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Fund.

58. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the United Nations Development Programme reported on thematic workshops being organized by the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, one of which covered chemicals issues. Increased appreciation was being expressed for SAICM work on sound management of chemicals and that of the participating organizations of the IOMC. One participant suggestion that one of the priorities to be addressed in regional discussions was the identification of alternatives to replace severely hazardous pesticides. Such discussions would address in tandem work being undertaken within WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on progressive elimination of severely hazardous pesticides.

59. In response to a request for clarification, the representative of the secretariat noted that while SAICM implementation was aimed at reaching the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, the Commission was addressing chemicals for only two years. He said that afforded an opportunity to highlight chemicals management issues in another

high-level international forum and scope for coordination at the national level between national focal points of SAICM and the Commission, in particular to raise the profile of SAICM and its achievements to date. At the same time the Commission might address the issue of resources and underline the need for sustainable financing for chemicals work as well as to identify possible new emerging policy issues for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He said that it was important, however, to avoid duplication of efforts and activities.

60. The SAICM regional focal point said that the chair of the 18th session of the Commission was held by the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala and that might provide an opportunity to signal to the Chair that sound management of chemicals was a priority for the Latin American and Caribbean region. She noted, however, that few countries had responded to the invitation to prepare thematic reports on issues to be addressed by the Commission and encouraged countries to undertake those reports outlining issues of concern based on multistakeholder consultation.

61. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the overview of regional priorities as contained in section V of Annex II of SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/4. Additional suggestions were made for inclusion in the list of priorities.

62. The meeting took note of the report of the third Regional Implementation Meeting and endorsed the list of priorities contained in the annex to the report.

IX. Financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach

63. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to page 33 of document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/1 giving resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources. Operative paragraph 10 of the resolution invited relevant financial institutions to, inter alia, strengthen their support for activities contributing to the achievement of the SAICM objectives. The resolution also called for involvement of the private sector and drew attention to the GEF replenishment process and increasing access to funds beyond the current window for persistent organic pollutants. The resolution also extended the period of contributions to the Quick Start Programme by one year and called for its evaluation.

64. He also drew attention to SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/9 on the consultative process for financing options for work on the sound management of chemicals and wastes initiated by the Executive Director of UNEP. Two meetings had been held on the issues, one in Nairobi, in July 2009 and one in Bangkok, in October 2009 to set out options for financing. The consultative process would link financing of multilateral environmental agreement and SAICM and would fall in with discussions on financing of SAICM expected at the third session of the Conference.

65. The SAICM regional focal point said financing had been discussed at the meetings of the regional coordinating committee. The committee had requested the regional focal point to communicate with various regional financing bodies and intergovernmental bodies to determine whether they had any scope to finance chemicals management issues or a chemicals focal point and if so, how to process such funds. Responses received would be communicated to the region. With regard to the GEF replenishment discussions, the SAICM national focal points were requested to liaise with GEF national focal points and GEF Council members to promote the broadening of the GEF window to finance all chemicals issues.

66. In the ensuing discussion, some participants suggested that a regional paper on financial consideration should be developed. One participant noted the lack of coordination of regional financial organisms and awareness of the importance of chemicals management.

Those bodies did not usually consider chemicals management a priority. Another participant informed the meeting that the outcome of the financial consultations meeting in Bangkok did not fully reflect the variety of options presented at the meeting and also informed the meeting of the outcome of the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 February 2010, which aimed at remedying that omission¹.

67. The meeting agreed to develop a decision on financial considerations that would acknowledge the importance of improved financing for chemicals management. The meeting also agreed to request the regional coordinating committee to prepare a position paper on financial considerations, taking into account the UNEP consultative process on financing the chemicals agenda and the outcomes of the 5th GEF replenishment for consideration at the third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting.

68. The meeting adopted the decision on financial considerations, which is attached to the current report as Annex D.

X. SAICM implementation

A. Sharing experience, including on use of guidance documents

69. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to documents SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/14 on information provided by the Latin American and Caribbean Governments on progress in national SAICM implementation and SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/15 on information provided by organizations on progress in national SAICM implementation. Governments and organizations had been invited to submit information in order to assess progress in national SAICM implementation. Few responses had been received however additional submissions were encouraged that would be included in revisions to the information documents.

70. The meeting took note of the information provided in the documents.

71. Two representatives from Mexico made presentations on experience gained during development of a national inventory on chemical substances in Mexico and the process for categorization of chemical substances.

72. The representative of UNITAR introduced document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/6 containing the pilot edition to assist in the preparation of SAICM implementation plans that had been developed by UNITAR and the SAICM secretariat in collaboration with IOMC participating organizations. The draft document had been presented to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session at which time there had been a call for further development of the document in consultation with stakeholders. The 2009 edition was available for use to develop SAICM implementation plans on a voluntary basis. Additional comments on ways to improve the guidance would be welcome.

73. Some participants informed the meeting of their national and regional implementation plans. The guidance was broadly commended and recommended for use by the region in developing national implementation plans.

¹ Governing Council's decision SS.XI/7 on a consultative process for financing options for chemicals and wastes.

B. Possible development of a regional implementation plan, including review of regional priorities

74. The SAICM regional focal point drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/XX and said that the issue of developing a regional implementation plan setting out regional and subregional priorities had been raised at several meetings of the regional coordinating committee. She said there had been consistent calls to develop a regional implementation plan and suggested that, at the outset, a modest plan could be envisaged that could include relevant existing national and subregional implementation plans, and refer to relevant regional declarations such as the Mar del Plata declaration of the Health and Environment Ministers of Americas meeting of August 2005. She added that the regional implementation plan should be multistakeholder driven and multisectoral, developed in time for submission to the SAICM Open-ended Working Group in August 2011 and allow for continual updating. She concluded by noting that assistance might be sought from participating organizations of the IOMC to develop the regional implementation plan.

75. Several participants supported the development of a regional implementation plan and many noted that it would also serve to attract funding from donors and interested parties to finance activities related to SAICM implementation.

76. The representative of the Organization of American States made a presentation on current activities in the field of chemicals management in the region, in particular the Caribbean subregion, noting that the Health and Environment Ministers of Americas meeting has given the Organization of American States the mandate to undertake chemicals related activities and drawing attention to relevant documents prepared by his organization. He said that work fell within the purview of PAHO, however it was hoped that the Organization could receive a broader mandate to deal with chemicals and sustainable development. He voiced his support for the preparation of a regional implementation plan that would encompass a multiplicity of subregional plans and urged that duplication of efforts be avoided and specific activities allocated to competent bodies in the given domain. He concluded by suggesting that countries of the region might give the Organization a mandate to assist in the development of the regional implementation plan.

77. The meeting agreed to review the document introduced by the Organization of American States to determine the extent to which it could be included in the regional implementation plan and to request that Organization to inform the next meeting of the Ministers of Health and the Environment of the Americas on SAICM activities, including the development of a regional implementation plan for SAICM.

78. All participants who took the floor supported the development of a regional implementation plan. It was stressed that the development of the regional action plan should include multistakeholder participation and take into account on-going activities at the national level. The plan must identify regional priorities taking into account financing needs. The development of the plan must ensure collaboration between countries of the region and result in coordinated regional action on SAICM implementation and related activities. Participants urged that sufficient funding be identified to ensure the development of a sound plan that could be shared by and be of benefit to all stakeholders in the region.

79. The meeting agreed to develop a regional implementation plan taking into account existing initiatives at the national and subregional levels, and to seek technical and financial support from subregional, regional and international sources for that purpose. In that regard, the SAICM secretariat, as well as the participating organizations of the IOMC, in particular UNITAR, were requested to assist the region in the development of its regional implementation plan. The draft regional implementation plan would be endorsed at the national level and at the regional level at a subsequent meeting of the Latin American and

Caribbean region. Countries that had not done so were urged to develop national implementation plans.

XI. Quick Start Programme

A. Status of approved projects and applications in the regions

80. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/INF/5, report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund. He said contributions to the Trust Fund totalled almost 24 million United States dollars. While that amount was almost half way to the target of 50 million United States dollars, the level of contributions had decreased in 2009 and it would be useful for contributions to increase to 6 million United States dollars for 2010 to maintain a solid financial foundation. He also noted that the donor base was largely limited to a few countries and urged expansion of that donor base. The document also provided a breakdown of approved projects for the Latin American and Caribbean region. He said 21 Governments from the region were undertaking Quick Start Programme projects the first of which were reaching completion and would be presented to the Executive Board at its meeting in April 2010. That reporting at that meeting would also meet the requirements of donors who were requesting demonstration of completed projects that might persuade them to continue and maintain their level of financing. He added, however, that funding was keeping pace with the demand given that strict eligibility rules allowed for only one national project. He said it might be an appropriate time for countries to consider instructing members of the Executive Board to examine the eligibility criteria and relax those criteria such that repeat projects could be submitted.

81. Concerning projects from non-governmental organizations, the representative of the secretariat said that there were guidelines for the approval of those projects and that approximately one in ten projects approved would be from a non-governmental organization. However non-governmental organizations could submit projects on their own or working closely with Governments even, in some instances, acting as the executing agency, and that provided a higher chance of acceptance of the project. In response to a request for clarification on the low number of non-governmental projects approved, he said that in accordance with the terms of reference for Quick Start Programme Trust Fund civil society projects were eligible only on an exceptional basis. Typically only one or two projects were approved at each round and were required to demonstrate execution by civil society such as awareness raising at grass-roots level.

82. The SAICM regional focal point said that as many countries in the region had undertaken one country project they were no longer eligible for a second such project. It was recalled that countries were eligible for one Governmental, one civil society and one multi-country project. Countries that had undertaken initial projects values at less than 100,000 United States dollars had, exceptionally, been allowed to apply for a second project. She suggested that the region recommend that regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board suggest broadening the criteria to allow for more than one government project.

83. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that civil society should have the opportunity to submit applications that might have a higher index of approval.

84. Several participants described their experience with implementing projects under the Quick Start Programme and concerns related to projects that had not been approved.

85. In response to a question, the representative of the SAICM secretariat said the secretariat stood ready to assist countries in preparing their applications to ensure they met

the necessary requirements. Member organizations of the IOMC were also able to work with countries that wished to implement projects through an executing agency.

86. The meeting agreed that regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board should, at their next meeting in April, suggest that the Executive Board reconsider the criteria of eligibility in terms of relaxing the rules for repeat applications. The Executive Board should also ensure sustainability of funding for the Programme Trust Fund in accordance with the commitments outlined in the approved business plan. Other issues such as the possible raising of the funding ceiling for projects could be addressed during the upcoming evaluation of the Programme.

B. Preparation for the Quick Start Programme evaluation

87. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources had included a request to the Executive Board to undertake an evaluation of the Quick Start Programme. He observed that the Quick Start Programme had been initiated to fill a niche to enable smaller projects to be endorsed and financed quickly and a review would analyze its successes and shortcomings. Further, the review would determine if and whether there was a need to continue with or replace the Quick Start Programme once its mandate was concluded in 2013. A proposed outline for the draft terms of reference for the evaluation was contained in document SAIM/RM/LAC.2/INF/5, as well as on the SAICM website and would be discussed in detail at the Executive Board's fifth meeting on 19 and 20 April 2010. Participants could continue to provide comments on that document.

88. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that it might be timely and appropriate to have discussion on the search for a medium and long-term solution for the replacement of the Quick Start Programme slated to end in 2013. One participant suggested the establishment of a long-term fund such as the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Another participant said that funds should in any case be made available for completion of on-going projects. It was noted with concern that the disbursement of funds under the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund was ending at time when positive results in SAICM implementation were being obtained.

89. It was also noted that the current criteria was aimed at funding initial enabling activities such as inventory development, national implementation plans and infrastructure strengthening. In the past the Executive Board had not defined the limits of initial enabling activities.

90. The meeting agreed that regional representatives on the Executive Board carry a message to the Board at its meeting in April 2010 that funding should also be available for activities other than initial enabling activities and broadened to include implementation activities.

XII. Information clearing house

91. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that one of the official functions it had been assigned was the establishment of an information clearing house. Lack of resources had prevented the task from being undertaken prior to the second session of the Conference. However financial support provided by the Government of Germany had now enabled progress to be made on its development and the secretariat was expecting to launch the information clearing in the forthcoming weeks as soon as a dedicated staff member to maintain the information clearing house joined the SAICM secretariat. He reminded the meeting that the information clearing house was intended to supplement the SAICM website and offer an entry point to chemicals related information from a broad range of sources. He said it would provide links to existing information and

not duplicate documentation that was available on other websites. It was also intended to include a section for country pages where countries could, on a voluntary basis, share information on relevant activities being undertaken at the national level. Countries would be offered the opportunity to provide web links to relevant sites or key documents such as national implementation plans and policy and legislative documentation. Pages would also be developed for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

92. Country pages had no language restrictions and information would be welcome in any language. However, submitters would be encouraged to provide summaries of such documentation in English. Comments on the information clearing house website would be welcome as soon as the site was launched. Finally he demonstrated the pilot version of the information clearing house and its current contents to the meeting.

93. In response to requests for clarification he said that, initially, the secretariat would screen information before posting it on the website. However, it was foreseen that at a later stage it might be possible for countries and organizations to upload materials directly.

94. The meeting welcomed the progress made in developing the information clearing house and urged all stakeholders to populate the website and provide feedback on possible areas for modification and improvement.

XIII. Other matters

95. The meeting called for the convening of a third regional meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean region prior to the SAICM Open-ended Working Group scheduled for August 2011. The venue for that meeting would be determined at a later date and offers to host that meeting would be welcome. In addition, the SAICM regional coordinating committee for the Latin American and Caribbean region would meet before the end of November 2010. The SAICM secretariat would provide details on both meetings as they became available.

96. The representative of Cuba made a statement on his concerns regarding full representation at international and regional meetings on chemicals issues. He noted that the joint scheduling of meetings, as had occurred in the present case, with funding for only one delegate per country, precluded the participation of the different experts for each of the topics concerned. A number of other representatives expressed similar concerns.

97. The SAICM regional focal point requested that the region's concern regarding adequate participation in regional meetings be noted and expressed appreciation to the Governments of Spain and Switzerland for their support in hosting the regional meeting.

XIV. Adoption of the report

98. The meeting adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in document SAICM/RM/LAC.2/L.1.

XV. Closure of the meeting

99. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for the excellent services provided to the meeting and, in particular, to Ms. Gillian Guthrie for her tireless efforts in SAICM related work.

100. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 10 March. It was reconvened on the evening of Thursday 12 March at 5.30 p.m. for purposes of considering the draft

decision on finance and adopting the meeting report. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 6.40 p.m.

Annex A

Strengthening the engagement of the health sector in implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Participants in the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Kingston on 8, 9 and 12 March 2010,

Welcoming the progress made to address the request in resolution II/8 of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to develop in consultation with the World Health Organization a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of SAICM for consideration at the third session of the Conference,

Recalling that World Health Assembly Resolution 59.15 (2006) urges Member States to take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in national implementation of SAICM and requests the Director-General of the World Health Organization to facilitate health sector implementation focusing on human health-related elements,

Recalling further that World Health Assembly Resolution 59.15 (2006) urges Member States to nominate a Strategic Approach focal point from the health sector,

Convinced that health-sector contact points are a vital missing element of the multisectoral implementation of SAICM to ensure that by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that lead to a minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

Encouraged by the outcomes of the Special Summit of the Americas held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 12 and 13 January 2004, which instructed the Health and the Environment Ministers of the Americas to develop a cooperative agenda to prevent and minimize negative impacts on the environment and health and by the subsequent Declaration of Mar del Plata (2005) which identified the sound management of chemicals and children's environmental health as two of three priority issues for enhanced regional cooperation,

Aware that the World Health Assembly will consider an update on progress in the implementation of SAICM at its sixty-third session in May 2010,

- 1. Request* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region to make efforts to integrate the health sector in the development of actions with a view to implement SAICM;
- 2. Call* upon the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to request the Pan American Health Organization/ Regional Office of the Americas of the World Health Organization to intensify its efforts to address the chemicals-related root causes of environmental threats to health¹ and to identify in the context of its workplan for 2012-2013 those elements that contribute to assisting countries to implement SAICM;

¹ Strategic objective 8 of the World Health Organization's Medium Term Strategic Plan is "To promote a healthier environment, intensify primary prevention and influence public policies in all sectors so as to address the root causes of environmental threats to health".

3. *Invite* the Director of the Pan American Health Organization/Regional Director for the Americas of the World Health Organization to make available a list of health-sector contact points, in coordination with World Health Organization country offices and ministries of health, for facilitating the strengthened engagement of ministries of health in the implementation of SAICM and to cooperate and coordinate with SAICM national focal points;
4. *Invite* the Director of the Pan American Health Organization/Regional Director for the Americas of the World Health Organization to nominate a focal point for matters relating to SAICM and for that contact point to participate as a technical advisor in the regional coordinating committee for the Latin American and Caribbean region to coordinate and actively support the implementation of regional activities;
5. *Call* upon the Pan American Health Organization to mobilize human and financial resources for the region in support of SAICM implementation;
6. *Call* upon the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to promote this decision at the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Directing Council and the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization;
7. *Request* the SAICM regional focal point to report on progress made in in the implementation of this decision to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to be held in 2012.

Annex B

Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

Participants in the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Kingston on 8, 9 and 12 March 2010,

Mindful of the overarching goal articulated in Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

Recognizing the potential benefits, new opportunities, as well as hazards, risks, and ethical and social issues posed by nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

Considering the special needs that Latin American and Caribbean countries and other developing countries and countries with economies in transition may have in coping with manufactured nanomaterials and wastes containing such materials;

Taking note of the Dakar Statement on Manufactured Nanomaterials adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its sixth session, held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008;

Further recalling resolution II/4 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management at its second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009,

1. *Recommend that the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials referred to in resolution II/4 E of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, shall include developments and recommendations on:*
 - (a) *The critical role of the precautionary approach in addressing the issue of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle;*
 - (b) *The need for the producers to provide appropriate information about the presence of manufactured nanomaterials and their potential risks prior to market introduction in order to inform consumers especially in developing countries about potential risks through product labelling and, as appropriate, websites and databases;*
 - (c) *The ethical and social risks and benefits of manufactured nanomaterials, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;*
 - (d) *Elements of a regulatory framework needed to achieve safe management of manufactured nanomaterials, including interim measures such as national codes of conduct leading to global codes of conduct;*
 - (e) *The consultation of workers and their representatives when developing occupational health and safety programs and measures in relation to manufactured nanomaterials;*
 - (f) *Mechanisms and best practices to ensure national capacity building in countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region for the disposal of nanomaterials and handling of waste containing manufactured nanomaterials in the context of current knowledge;*

- (g) The involvement of the health and labour sectors in decisions and policy-making on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
2. *Recommends* that wastes containing nanomaterials are not transferred to countries that lack the capacity to manage them adequately;
 3. *Invites* countries and organizations to establish partnerships with a view to providing financial support to assist countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to build consumer awareness and scientific, technical, legal and regulatory policy expertise related to the risks of manufactured nanomaterials;
 4. *Also recommend* that the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session includes both differing and consensual points of view;
 5. *Encourage* the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to develop the report to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.
 6. *Call* on the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization/Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to organize a workshop to assess the current status of nanotechnology in the region including in terms of research, manufacturing and use, as well as to exchange information on the current state of the science in relation to health and environment risks, taking into consideration and in coordination with related activities.

Annex C

Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

Participants in the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Kingston on 8, 9 and 12 March 2010,

Mindful that preventing harm to human health and the environment from inputs, products, or wastes containing harmful substances, or that lead to the formation of harmful substances, is an important element of achieving the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM),¹

Reaffirming resolution II/4 D of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its Second Meeting in May 2009,

Reaffirming, with the African region, electronic waste as an emerging policy issue and that the fate and sound management of chemicals during the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and products constitute important elements of SAICM,

Taking note of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Policy Agreement on the Environmental Management of Universally Generated Special Residues and Post-Consumption Responsibility, agreed by the Ministers of Environment of Argentina, Brazil Paraguay and Uruguay on 29 March 2006, on the establishment of national measures for post-consumption responsibility of producers and importer and that its implementation will be guided by the principles of Prevention, Cooperation, Public Access and Participation, and the Precautionary Principle,²

Recognizing the project on electronic waste undertaken by the Regional Centre for South America of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,

Recalling, the Nairobi Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, which called, inter alia for the promotion of clean technology and green design for electrical and electronic products, including the phase-out of hazardous substances used in production and included in components and the promotion of product stewardship and extended producers responsibilities in the life-cycle management of electrical and electronic products,

Noting the ongoing Secretariat of Basel Convention electronic waste project in Africa funded by the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, Norway and the Dutch Foundation for the Disposal of Metal and Electrical Products,

¹ SAICM/RM/AP.1/3 Annex V

² Acuerdo sobre Política MERCOSUR de Gestión Ambiental de Residuos Especiales de Generación Universal y Responsabilidad Post Consumo del MERCOSUR, Anexo IV de la I Reunión Extraordinaria de Ministros de Medio Ambiente, 29 de marzo de 2006, Curitiba, Brasil. (MERCOSUR/REMMAM/ACTA No 01/06)

<http://aplicaciones.medioambiente.gov.ar/archivos/web/MERCOSUR/File/Acta%20RE.pdf>

<http://www.medioambiente.gov.ar/archivos/web/MERCOSUR/File/ANEXO%204%20POST%20CONSUMO.pdf>

Noting with appreciation the resolution II/4 D of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management which called for a workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

Welcoming the agreed objectives for the workshop including identifying and assessing where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,³

1. *Call* upon the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to continue arrangements to hold the workshop in accordance with resolution II/4 D of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as E-waste continues to be an important environmental problem in the region; and the Workshop should cover among other issues the design, and manufacture of electrical and electronic products; and the repair, refurbishment, and disposal of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and take into account the following issues:

- (a) green design and the eventual phase-out of, harmful substances contained in electrical and electronic products;
- (b) legislated and voluntary extended producer responsibility and free take-back programmes in countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region including provisions for employment generation and poverty alleviation in the informal sector;
- (c) transparency with respect to information on hazardous substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment and products in the workplace and communities around disposal sites; and the tracking through final disposal of wastes and second-hand products by recyclers and manufacturers;
- (d) use of internationally recognized accreditation and certification standards for recycling that ensure compliance with the Basel Convention as well as provide measures for full protection of the environment and human health;
- (e) protection of workers and community health all throughout the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products from manufacture to recycling and disposal;
- (f) development and application of harmonized tariff codes, model legislation, and international recycling guidelines and standards to better identify and control near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and wastes; and to improve cooperation and strengthen organizations working to better enforce the Basel Convention and other rules regarding the control of transboundary movement of such waste and products in cooperation with customs officials and others;
- (g) development of effective policy and regulatory framework to address contaminated sites; and to prevent open dumping and burning of electrical and electronic wastes;
- (h) an effective ban on the transboundary movement of and measures to address illegal traffic in electronic waste from developed countries to countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region;

³ SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

- (i) further capacity building in countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region for the environmentally sound management including recycling of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and wastes;
 - (j) capacity building to promote the safety of workers in relevant sectors through training workshops in repair, refurbishment, dismantling/disassembling, and recycling of electrical and electronic products including the identification of hazardous and toxic components in electrical and electronic equipment, including components that are recyclable;
 - (k) establishment of appropriate and relevant demonstration and pilot projects that advance the objectives of the workshop;
 - (l) intense awareness-raising activities and projects for all major stakeholder sectors including the general public, informal sector, politicians, civil society, industry and government;
 - (m) financial resource options, to provide assistance to countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to implement targeted activities including clean-up of sites contaminated by electronic waste;
2. *Request* the workshop to engage in multi-stakeholder consultations with representation from all United Nations regions to prepare recommendations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the preceding meeting of its Open-ended Working Group;
 3. *Encourage* synergy with the project on the SAICM emerging issue of chemicals in products especially in respect of information on chemicals and toxics within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products;
 4. *Invite* Governments, public and private organizations as well as donors to provide financial and in-kind resources for the successful organization of the workshop, including financial support especially for the participation of stakeholders from countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region;
 5. *Request* the IOMC organizations and secretariats the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM secretariat to assist with fundraising efforts for the workshop.
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Annex D

Financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Participants in the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Kingston on 8, 9 and 12 March 2010,

Recalling the acknowledgement in the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management that the extent to which developing countries, particularly small-island developing States, can make progress towards reaching the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 depends, in part, on the availability of financial resources provided by the private sector and bilateral, multilateral and global agencies or donors;

Further recalling resolution II/3 adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, in which the Conference recognized the need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible funding for activities in support of the sound management of chemicals and the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Strategic Approach;

Noting decision SS.XI/7 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, which requested the continuation of the process and called for its outcomes to be brought to the attention of relevant bodies including the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

1. *Reaffirm* the importance attached by the Latin American and Caribbean region to the provision of the financial and technical assistance needed to enable countries of the region to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and achieve the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020;
2. *Request* the regional coordinating committee for the Strategic Approach to develop a draft regional position on finance for consideration by the region at its next meeting with a view to presenting such a position at the meeting in 2011 of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and subsequently the third session of the Conference in 2012;
3. *Further request* the regional coordinating committee, in developing the draft position, to take into account the outcomes of the fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 24 to 28 May 2010, the ongoing consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with decision SS.XI/7 of its Governing Council, and the potential for the engagement of regional financial institutions in support of Strategic Approach implementation.