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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

***Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on SAICM
Panama City, 14-16 February 2008***

UNITAR side-event “Supporting SAICM implementation: Pilot projects, new guidance materials, and related activities”

Thursday, 14 February 2008

13.45 – 15.00

Location: Plenary Hall (*to be confirmed*)

Resolution 4 adopted at the ICCM concerning the Quick Start Programme includes a number of strategic priorities to support enabling and implementation activities at the national level. They include, for example, development or updating of national chemicals management profiles and refer to the development and strengthening of institutions, plans and programmes. Many of these priorities are specific areas of capacity building for which UNITAR has, over the past years, developed and tested guidance materials in collaboration with a diverse range of countries, IOMC Participating Organisations and other partners. UNITAR is in the process of strengthening its support, upon request from countries, and is further developing existing methodologies towards meeting the needs for national SAICM implementation.

UNITAR is currently supporting a number of SAICM-related projects including: through funding provided by the Government of Switzerland, three developing countries and one country in economic transition to develop an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to support national SAICM implementation; and with support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, UNITAR is assisting 37 countries with a range of enabling activities, such as updating National Profiles, developing National SAICM Capacity Self-assessments, and holding National SAICM Priority-Setting Workshops.

During this side event, UNITAR and the presenters – from a current pilot country (Panama) and a regional organization, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) – will present current methodologies, experiences, expectations, and lessons learned from related work.¹ This side-event, covering a broad range of SAICM implementation issues, will complement a side-event hosted by U.S. EPA with UNITAR and participants that will focus on mercury as a priority area for SAICM implementation, taking place in the evening.

Presenters include:

- Introduction by General Administrator of Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM), Panama, Dr. Ligia Castro de Doens (*to be confirmed*)
- Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR, will give an overview presentation on UNITAR activities and methodologies related to SAICM implementation
- Maria Inés Esquivel, Ministry of Health/University of Panama, will give a country presentation on SAICM implementation in Panama
- Marcos Serrano, CONAMA, Chile, will introduce lessons learned on the design and implementation of a PRTR as a tool for SAICM implementation.
- Leyla Zelaya Alegría, Pollution Control Officer (CCAD) will discuss Central American activities to achieve regional SAICM implementation.

For more information please see: www.unitar.org/cwm/saicm.

¹ It is planned to provide simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and English.