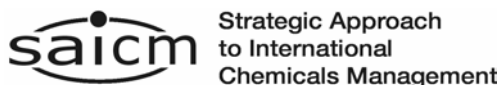




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**Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

Panama City, 14 -16 February 2008

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Information about SAICM implementation activities: Other regional groups**

**Report of the first EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Barcelona, 20-22 November, 2006**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. Following the adoption of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the SAICM secretariat organized a meeting of the EU-JUSSCANNZ countries on SAICM, held in Barcelona from 20 to 22 November 2006.
2. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the report of the first EU-JUSCANNZ meeting on SAICM, for the information of participants in the present Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting on SAICM.

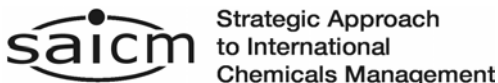
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\* SAICM/RM/LAC.1/1.

## Annex



SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/5

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30 November 2006

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**EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting on the Strategic Approach  
to International Chemicals Management**  
Barcelona, 20–22 November 2006

## **Report of the first EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

### **Introduction**

1. At its first session, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), comprising the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) and the Global Plan of Action (GPA).<sup>1</sup> The Conference also adopted a number of resolutions, including resolution I/1 on arrangements for the implementation of SAICM.<sup>2</sup> In the OPS and resolution I/1 it was recommended that work on implementation of SAICM between sessions of the Conference be undertaken through regional meetings. The current meeting, held in Barcelona, from 20 to 22 November 2006 was the first such meeting for the member States of the European Union (EU) and of the “JUSSCANNZ” group of countries (Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand). Its purpose, as envisaged in paragraph 26 of the OPS, was to review progress on implementation of SAICM, to provide guidance on implementation to stakeholders and to provide a forum for technical and strategic discussions and the exchange of information.

### **I. Opening of the meeting**

2. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on 20 November 2006, with statements made by Ms. Jane Stratford (United Kingdom), SAICM regional focal point for the Western European and other countries, and Mr. Jaime Alejandro Martinez, Director-General for Environmental Quality and Assessment of the Ministry of Environment of Spain.

3. In her address, Ms. Stratford expressed her appreciation to the Government of Spain for hosting the meeting and for its commitment to SAICM. She noted that as regional focal point for the Western European and other countries it had been her pleasure to help facilitate the organization of the meeting and thanked Spain, Canada and the Secretariat for their support. She underlined the work on implementation of SAICM already undertaken since ICCM, which highlighted the real commitment of governments and stakeholders to SAICM. Noting the national, regional and global levels of SAICM, its multi-stakeholders and multi-sectoral approach and the inclusive and transparent nature of the process, she observed that SAICM had unique features which should apply as a model to other global initiatives.

<sup>1</sup> Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I–III. The Conference adopted the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy and recommended the use and further development of the Global Plan of Action as a working tool and guidance document.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, annex IV.

Reminding the meeting of some of the issues to be discussed, she encouraged participants to actively work towards implementation of the goal agreed in 2002 in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.<sup>3</sup>

4. In his statement, Mr. Jaime Alejandro Martínez welcomed participants to Barcelona and expressed his gratitude to the SAICM Secretariat and others involved in the organization of the meeting for their efforts. He noted the relevance of the implementation and development of SAICM in view of its defence of the public and occupational health, as well as the environment through its whole life-cycle approach to the management of chemicals. He also stated that, in order to contribute to this process in its initial steps, Spain was keen to host this meeting. Additionally, Mr. Alejandro stressed the commitment of Spain with regard to chemicals in issues such as the European Union regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH), mercury, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as its support to the inclusion in the chemicals agenda of the substitution principle. He also recalled the important role that the developed countries can have with regard to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition by contributing adequate resources for the implementation of SAICM. For that reason, and in view of the commitment of Spain to the implementation of SAICM and in particular to the 2020 goal of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, he stressed the current and future support of his country to this process and closed his statement wishing the participants a fruitful and successful meeting.

## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Election of officers**

5. Mr. José Ignacio Elorrieta (Spain) and Mr. Donald Hannah (New Zealand) were elected to serve as Co-Chairs for the meeting. Ms. Stratford was elected to serve as rapporteur.

### **B. Adoption of the agenda**

6. The meeting participants adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the meeting.
  2. Organizational matters:
    - (a) Election of officers;
    - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
    - (c) Organization of work.
  3. Updates on activities of other regional groups.
  4. Implementation of SAICM in EU-JUSSCANNZ countries:
    - (a) National implementation of SAICM:
      - (i) Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM and identification of national priorities;
      - (ii) Guidance materials for implementation of SAICM;
      - (iii) Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points;
    - (b) Regional coordination mechanisms:
      - (i) Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point;

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.I. and corrigendum) chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

- (ii) Role and responsibilities of regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
  - (iii) Coordination with other relevant processes;
- (c) Regional implementation of SAICM:
  - (i) Activities and approaches to implement SAICM at the EU-JUSSCANNZ “regional” and “sub-regional” levels;
  - (ii) Engagement of regional organizations, including regional economic integration organizations and regional development banks;
  - (iii) Exploration of potential region-to-region exchange of information, experience and assistance.
- 5. Activities of intergovernmental organizations.
- 6. Activities of non-governmental organizations.
- 7. SAICM Quick Start Programme:
  - (a) Quick Start Programme trust fund;
  - (b) Broader Quick Start Programme;
  - (c) Possible regional and /or stakeholder projects.
- 8. Financial considerations.
- 9. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management:
  - (a) Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM;
  - (b) Further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action;
  - (c) Rules of procedure for the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
  - (d) Other intersessional work to prepare for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
- 10. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook.
- 11. Future EU-JUSSCANNZ meetings during the intersessional period.
- 12. Other business.
- 13. Adoption of the report.
- 14. Closure of the meeting.

### **C. Organization of work**

7. The participants agreed to meet in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

### **D. Attendance**

8. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico<sup>4</sup>, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea<sup>4</sup>, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

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<sup>4</sup> Although not members of the core JUSSCANNZ group, Mexico and the Republic of Korea are associated with the JUSSCANNZ group.

9. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Basel Convention Regional Centre in Bratislava, European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Organisation For Economic Cooperation and Development, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, United Nations Institute for Training and Research and World Health Organization.

10. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Alternativa Verda, Consorzio Interuniversitario "La Chimica per l'Ambiente", CropLife International, Environmental Health Fund, European Chemical Industry Council, International Chamber of Commerce, International Chemical Secretariat, International Council of Chemical Associations, International Council On Mining and Metals, International POPs Elimination Network, Mediterranean Green for Chemistry Network, University of South Australia and Women in Europe for a Common Future.

11. The meeting was also attended by SAICM regional focal points for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western European and other countries.

12. In addition, a number of individuals attended as observers.

### **III. Updates on activities of other regional groups**

13. The Co-Chair invited those regional focal points from other regions who were present to inform the meeting of ongoing activities in their regions. In considering the item, the meeting participants had before them the report of the African regional meeting on SAICM held in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 14 September 2006 (SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/2). The African regional focal point, Ms. Abiola Olanipekun (Nigeria) summarized the major outcomes of the African regional meeting. These had included the adoption of an African Regional Action Plan, which was seen as a key document for national and regional implementation of SAICM, and the identification of priority topics for regional projects for possible support under the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP). The meeting had also elaborated regional coordination mechanisms by developing terms of reference for the African regional focal point, the African representatives serving on the QSP Executive Board and the Africa Core Group, and had called for synergies between key bodies and organizations. With regard to financial considerations, the African regional meeting had urged donors to mobilize existing and new sources of financial support to provide additional resources for SAICM implementation in the region and to contribute to the QSP, called for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to establish a new focal area for sound chemicals management and recommended that African countries explore access to other potential global sources of funding. The African meeting had taken a regional position on the dumping of hazardous waste in Côte d'Ivoire and stressed the need to prevent such tragedies in the future. Finally, the regional focal point noted that the African region had expressed a wish to have additional regional or sub-regional meetings in preparation for the second session of the ICCM.

14. The Asia-Pacific regional focal point, Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan) informed the meeting that the Asia-Pacific region had planned to hold a meeting in December 2006 in Bangkok. However, due to insufficient funding, the meeting had been tentatively rescheduled to take place in early 2007. He also informed the meeting of the establishment of a coordinating committee for the region, which included representatives of the Governments of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand.

15. On behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean region, Mr. Gonzalo Entenza (Argentina), the regional focal point informed the meeting that Bolivia had offered to host a regional meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 2007 and subject to the availability of funds. He also indicated that the process of nominating national focal points was ongoing, noting that because of translation inconsistencies some Governments had understood that the nomination of a national point could be for more than one individual, for example representing technical and political responsibilities. He called for flexibility in that regard. The regional focal point highlighted the issue of financing for SAICM and in particular the need for long-term funding mechanisms to support SAICM implementation.

16. In the absence of the regional focal point for the Central and Eastern Europe region, the representative of Latvia reminded the meeting that its Government would host the Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting in Riga from 4 to 6 December 2006 and advised that arrangements for the meeting were well underway in coordination with the SAICM secretariat.

17. The representative of the Czech Republic reported to the meeting the key findings of a symposium on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals, organized jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Chemicals Branch with the support of the Government of Germany, which took place in Prague-Pruhonice from 6 to 8 November 2006.

18. The secretariat informed the meeting of the initiative of Arab countries of the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions to establish a cross-regional mechanism. Under the auspices of the Arab League, an Arab Core Group had been established in September 2006 and met in Alexandria, Egypt on 29 October 2006 under the chairmanship of the Government of Kuwait. The Group hoped to organize a meeting on SAICM for Arab countries in early 2007.

## **IV. Implementation of SAICM in EU-JUSSCANNZ countries**

### **A. National implementation of SAICM**

#### **1. Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM**

19. The Co-Chair recalled that paragraphs 22 and 23 of the SAICM OPS had envisaged that countries could begin SAICM implementation by developing national plans, nominating a national focal point and setting up inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms. He noted that the meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/10 and SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/10/Add.1, containing information submitted by Governments on their initial national implementation activities in response to a questionnaire which had been circulated by the secretariat.

20. The representatives of Australia, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States briefed the meeting on their initial national activities as set out in their submissions. Australia and Norway also referred to their efforts to support SAICM implementation at the regional and international levels.

21. The representative of Canada informed the meeting of his Government's chemicals categorization exercise which will form the focus of their chemicals work for the next 15 years. The approach aims to tackle approximately 4,300 substances over the next 15 years through a staged series of priorities. The approach will be focused on outcomes, and will utilize innovative risk based assessment and will integrate decision-making across legislation.

22. In addition, the representative of Switzerland informed the meeting of his Government's initial work on SAICM and in particular a current analysis of SAICM in order to develop and finalize a national implementation plan by spring 2007. At the international level, Switzerland would provide financial support to the SAICM secretariat, based on the United Nations scale of assessments, as well as to regional meetings and SAICM implementation in developing countries, including through the QSP. Switzerland also promoted an integrated approach to chemicals and waste policies, including through coordination and synergies and increased coordination among SAICM and the chemicals and hazardous waste conventions.

#### **2. Guidance materials for national implementation of SAICM**

23. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/3 concerning the guidance materials currently available from participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provided an overview of the document noting that it was the draft third edition and had been prepared on the basis of information received from participating organizations and observers. The document would continue to be developed as additional input was received and was expected to become available to countries at the end of 2006. One participant took note of the guidance and thanked the IOMC for its work. The representative of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemicals Safety (IFCS) noted that the portal of the Information Exchange Network on Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP) could provide information on complementary guidance materials prepared by Governments and non-governmental organizations.

#### **3. Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points**

24. The Co-Chair introduced the item by referring to paragraph 23 of the SAICM OPS and resolution I/1 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) on implementation arrangements, which recommended the designation of SAICM national focal points. A list of national focal points designated, so far, by EU-JUSSCANNZ countries was contained in document

SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/4. The meeting noted the need for the designation of national focal points by Governments that had not yet done so. It was not considered necessary to elaborate any further guidance as to the role and responsibilities of the national focal point.

## B. Regional coordination mechanisms

25. The meeting considered possible needs and options for regional coordination. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/3, a “thought-starter” prepared by the regional focal point for the Western European and other countries to assist discussion. The regional focal point introduced the document, which suggested options for coordination among EU-JUSSCANNZ countries, mechanisms for communicating with non-governmental organizations and other United Nations regions and the provision of guidance to the SAICM secretariat in the preparation of an agenda for the second session of ICCM. She noted that, in the absence of a decision at the first session of ICCM on establishing a bureau or any other formal mechanism that could serve as an intersessional coordination arrangement between regions, regional focal points were, in effect, serving as an informal bureau until the second session of ICCM. She indicated that the document drew upon work undertaken by the Africa region. In addition, the meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/4, in which the Government of Spain offered some reflections on follow-up to the SAICM regional meetings, including issues such as identification of regional priorities and gaps, reviewing progress on SAICM implementation in EU-JUSSCANNZ countries and disseminating the outcomes of regional meetings.

26. During the ensuing discussion, many participants expressed a preference for relatively informal coordination arrangements. The meeting supported the establishment a small co-ordination committee to operate until the second session of ICCM. Some participants noted that the informal preparatory consultations prior to the present meeting had been useful and that there was no need to formalize a regional coordination mechanism before the second session of ICCM. The need to involve all stakeholders was recognized and it was agreed to provide for the participation of non-governmental organizations in preparation for meetings. With regard to communication with other regions, participants acknowledged the usefulness of posting meeting reports on the SAICM web site, encouraging contacts through regional focal points, organization by the secretariat of regular teleconferences among the regional focal points, taking advantage of established relationships across regions (for example through bilateral agreements) and encouraging informal contacts on chemicals issues in order to share information with counterparts. It was suggested that informal regional consultations among EU-JUSSCANNZ countries could be held in the margins of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Joint Meetings of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology.

27. In relation to the follow-up actions proposed by the Government of Spain, several participants felt that, among other items to be discussed in further regional consultations, there was a need to revisit the former “table C” of the GPA<sup>5</sup> in preparation for the second session of ICCM. One participant felt that this was an identified gap and that EU-JUSSCANNZ countries had a special responsibility in its further development. Some participants did not feel this need and noted that countries were free to undertake activities listed under table C, without a need for further discussion. One participant recommended that EU-JUSSCANNZ discussions should focus on the implementation of the OPS rather than further development of the GPA. The same participant also noted that the OECD Joint Meetings provided a forum for discussing emerging policy issues. One participant reminded the meeting of the importance of considering non-chemical alternatives, to which SAICM refers several times, as an appropriate means to reduce the risks from chemicals. Another participant noted the importance of measurement, monitoring and reporting in preparation for the second session of ICCM

28. In order to obtain a collective perspective on regional coordination mechanisms, the Co-Chair established a drafting group chaired by Mr. John Roberts (United Kingdom). The mandate of the group was to elaborate appropriate regional coordination arrangements, taking into account the need to engage non-members of OECD and other stakeholders, the participation of regional focal points in the group on the future of IFCS, and preparations for the open-ended legal and technical working group and the next session of ICCM.

29. Reporting on the work of the contact group, the representative of the United Kingdom said that the group had produced text, which the meeting had before it in a conference room paper. Following a

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<sup>5</sup> “Table C” was a section of the draft Global Plan of Action containing activities for which there was no consensus on their inclusion in the Plan at the first session of ICCM. Table C can be found in document SAICM/ICCM.1/4 on the SAICM web site [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm)

discussion of the text and additional comments made in plenary, the Co-Chair invited the chair of the group to undertake further consultations. A revised version of the text was discussed and amended in plenary. The final version is contained in the annex to the present report.

### **1. Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point**

30. The Co-Chair observed that ICCM, in its resolution I/1 on implementation arrangements, recommended the designation of SAICM regional focal points. Those regional focal points had been designated following a consultation process in March-April 2006, under the coordination of representatives of the former bureau members of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM and of ICCM. For the Western European and other countries, the coordinators were Sweden and the United States. Ms. Jane Stratford of the United Kingdom was designated as regional focal point. The meeting took note of the terms of reference for the African regional focal point, contained in document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/2, the report of the African regional meeting on SAICM but did not feel the need to develop terms of reference for the regional focal point of the Western European and other countries.

### **2. Role and responsibilities of regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board**

31. The Co-Chair recalled that in its resolution I/4, ICCM had decided to establish QSP Executive Board, consisting of two government representatives of each of the United Nations regions and all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the Programme. ICCM had also decided that two government representatives of each United Nations region would be appointed at each ICCM session for the ensuing intersessional period. However, due to lack of time at the first ICCM session, most regions had been unable to nominate their regional representatives for the Executive Board. The regional representatives were therefore nominated after the session through a consultative process coordinated by representatives of the former bureau members of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM and of ICCM. Following coordination by Sweden and the United States, Mr. Jozef Buys of Belgium and Mr. Charles Auer of the United States were nominated to represent the Western European and other countries on the Executive Board, which had its first meeting on 26 and 27 April 2006. EU-JUSSCANNZ countries at the present meeting took note of the terms of reference for the African regional focal point, contained in document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/2. They considered that informal coordination mechanisms were satisfactory and that there was no need to develop similar terms of reference for its regional representatives on the Executive Board

### **3. Coordination with other relevant processes**

32. The Co-Chair introduced the issue of coordination between SAICM and other relevant processes and invited presentations.

33. The representative of the secretariat of the Basel Convention informed participants of the current discussions on synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. He reminded the present meeting that an ad hoc joint working group of the three conventions would be established if the Conference of Parties of the Basel Convention, which would meet in Nairobi from 27 November to 1 December 2006, was to follow the position of the Conferences of Parties of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions on this matter.

34. Bearing in mind the call in UNEP Governing Council decision 22/4 for SAICM to be “regularly reviewed to assess progress on chemical safety, in the light of the targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant processes” the SAICM secretariat recalled that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) would consider chemicals issues in 2010 and 2011. He noted that in due course, it may be appropriate to coordinate the two processes, for example by ICCM at its second session, acknowledging the upcoming CSD discussions in its. Similarly, CSD might also find it appropriate to recognize SAICM and invite ICCM to provide inputs to the work of CSD on chemicals.

35. The representative of IFCS informed the meeting of the outcomes of the recent fifth session of IFCS, Forum V, held in Budapest from 25 to 29 September 2006, including the establishment of a working group to continue discussions on the future of IFCS. She noted the invitation made to SAICM

regional focal points to take part in the discussions of the group. Discussion had commenced within the Forum Standing Committee on prioritizing topics to be taken up at Forum VI.

36. The representative of Spain noted that international maritime forums, conventions and activities were seldom mentioned but could contribute significantly to international work to advance the sound management of chemicals. He stressed that SAICM implementation should not overlook the work of the International Maritime Organisation, through its conventions and committees relating to chemicals as well as relevant regional seas conventions and agreements, such as the Arctic Council, the Barcelona Convention<sup>6</sup>, the Cartagena Convention<sup>7</sup>, the Helsinki Convention<sup>8</sup>, the Oslo and Paris Convention<sup>9</sup>, and the Bucharest Convention<sup>10</sup>. He invited the SAICM secretariat to provide information on ways to coordinate action for SAICM implementation.

37. The Co-Chair invited participants to take note of the Environment for Europe process and of the related Ministerial meeting to be held in Belgrade from 10 to 12 October 2007.

38. In the ensuing discussion, some participants noted that the Conferences of the Parties of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions made reference to SAICM in their decisions RC-3/8 AND SC-2/15 on coordination and synergies. One participant noted that an assessment of the relevance to SAICM of the Conventions' examination of synergies would be premature before the ad-hoc joint working group had been established. Participants noted the inclusion of chemicals on the agenda of the CSD for 2010-2011. One participant welcomed the contacts and information sharing between the secretariat and the CSD. Regional Health and Environment Ministers Forum, as well as collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and regional sea or maritime conventions were mentioned as offering opportunities for intersectoral coordination and pursuit of synergies. With regard to financial considerations, one participant noted that the different forums, conventions and processes divided resources. Noting that SAICM regional focal points have been invited to participate in discussions on the future of IFCS several participants observed that the Western European and other countries SAICM regional focal point would need to convey the varied views on the future of IFCS held by EU-JUSSCANNZ countries.

## C. Regional implementation of SAICM

### 1. Activities and approaches to implement SAICM at the EU-JUSSCANNZ "regional" and "sub-regional" levels

39. The Co-Chair noted the African regional action plan on SAICM implementation contained in the report of the recent African regional meeting, document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/2 and asked whether EU-JUSSCANNZ countries felt that a similar document was needed. In the following discussion, one representative noted that common work under the OECD Joint Meeting and bilateral or multilateral actions provided a sufficient framework for planning by EU-JUSSCANNZ countries. Another representative shared this view and concluded that EU-JUSSCANNZ countries did not need to develop a regional action plan.

40. At the invitation of the Co-Chair, the European Commission representative presented a summary of the new European legislation, known as REACH. She explained that REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals and its development was to address efficiency of chemicals regulatory systems. REACH aimed to focus on priority chemicals, which were substances produced in high volumes and of greatest concern. Placing the burden of proof on the industry, REACH would require that data is provided before chemicals access the market. REACH should enter into force as of 2007, would be operated by a new agency based in Helsinki and would contribute to the fulfilment of SAICM.

41. The representative of Canada informed participants of the tripartite programme of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) initiative under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its relevance to SAICM regional implementation. The SMOC initiative aimed to reduce

<sup>6</sup> The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (1976)

<sup>7</sup> The Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (1983)

<sup>8</sup> The Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1992)

<sup>9</sup> The Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (1992)

<sup>10</sup> The Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (1992)

the risks of toxic substances to human health and the environment in the three countries. She considered SMOC and SAICM to be mutually supportive policy initiatives. SMOC provided a model for multilateral action, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building that could be relevant for other countries as they implement SAICM.

**2. Engagement of regional organizations, including regional economic integration organizations and regional development banks**

42. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/4, a draft directory of intergovernmental and other organizations at the global and regional levels of relevance to the implementation of SAICM in EU-JUSSCANNZ countries. The representative of the secretariat explained that a corresponding document had been prepared for the African region and invited the meeting to assess the completeness and potential usefulness of the present draft directory.

43. One participant considered that regional organizations such as those for regional seas programmes and cleaner production centres could contribute to SAICM implementation. He proposed that increased engagement by such stakeholders should be sought and invited the SAICM secretariat to further publicize SAICM and the reports of meetings.

**3. Exploration of potential region-to-region exchange of information, experience and assistance**

44. The Co-Chair invited participants to take into account the potential and modalities for EU-JUSSCANNZ countries to exchange information and share experiences with, and offer assistance to other regions on chemicals management issues. Several participants suggested that a possible vehicle for such interaction could be the OECD Outreach Strategy. Some participants considered it desirable that OECD acknowledge SAICM at the highest levels. The African SAICM regional focal point noted that OECD had been frequently referenced as a relevant actor in the African regional action plan. One participant observed that strategies for region-to-region relations needed to be based on the particular situation and needs of each country. He urged that the provision of assistance should not be governed by trade considerations. Health and environment should be taken into account in relations with emerging large exporters or small importers.

**V. Activities of intergovernmental organizations**

45. The meeting had before it documents SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11, SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Add.1 and SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Add.2, compiling the information submitted by intergovernmental organizations on their current and planned activities in support of SAICM implementation.

46. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative noted that her organization was an implementing agency of GEF and the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Its partnership initiative with UNEP included involvement in two projects to be financed by the QSP trust fund. She advised that a toolkit document on mainstreaming of chemicals management issues in development planning was under preparation.

47. The representative of UNITAR informed of the endorsement of SAICM by its Board of Trustees in April 2006. He also mentioned that his organization's work in support of enabling activities especially the development of national co-ordination platforms, the production of guidance and training material and the provision of assistance in the production on updating of national implementation programmes. He also informed the meeting of the pilot projects undertaken under the QSP framework in four developing countries with the support of the Government of Switzerland. He indicated that three projects had been granted funding through the QSP trust fund and would cover SAICM enabling activities in 15 countries. Finally, he reported on the holding of a workshop on governance, civil society participation and strengthening partnerships for chemicals and waste management and SAICM implementation was held in Geneva in June 2006.

48. The OECD representative referred to his organization's collaborative work with other intergovernmental organizations on capacity building, including with the International Labour Organization and UNITAR on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The translation and dissemination of guidance materials and the internet -based Global Portal for chemicals data were seen as potential OECD contributions to assist developing countries in implementing SAICM. He advised that the Joint Meeting was aiming to issue a statement on SAICM and that options for securing higher-level acknowledgement of SAICM by OECD were being considered.

49. The UNEP representative informed the meeting that, in compliance with the mandate given by its Governing Council, an interdivisional group was preparing for initial SAICM implementation activities in 2006-2007, as well as a comprehensive plan for the period 2008 to 2020. The recent symposium in the Czech Republic on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals had been the first of UNEP's initial implementation activities, which also included support for projects approved by the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee. In the long-term comprehensive plan, UNEP would seek to work on, amongst other things, mainstreaming of chemicals management in development planning, strengthening of chemicals management infrastructures in developing countries, the prevention of industrial accidents, and the monitoring of progress on sound chemicals management.

50. The representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) provided examples of its SAICM related activities, including work on human health risk assessment, drinking water norms, and emergency preparedness and response and highlighted WHO's efforts to facilitate the work of the health sector in SAICM implementation as requested by the World Health Assembly. Finally, she informed the meeting that subject to the availability of donor support, WHO was preparing to take its place in the SAICM secretariat.

51. The secretariat of the Basel Convention informed the meeting of its activities for the elimination of persistent organic pollutant and polychlorinated biphenyl wastes and its collaboration with UNITAR and UNEP, including on lead and cadmium and illegal international traffic. He mentioned the support provided to applicants in the first round of QSP trust fund applications. Finally, he noted the upcoming session of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which would take place in Nairobi the following week and which should determine future activities on mercury and asbestos, as well as on electronic waste management.

52. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) advised that the FAO Council was about to consider SAICM. He informed the meeting of ongoing technical assistance for developing countries, including tools available to strengthen regulatory frameworks and capacities for sound agriculture and chemicals management. He noted that the representation of the agriculture sector in SAICM was not sufficient and encouraged partners to give it an increased consideration, especially at the national level. He also informed the meeting of the ongoing multi-stakeholder initiative of the Africa Stockpiles Programme on the elimination of obsolete pesticides.

53. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) mentioned that the organization's governing body was due to consider SAICM in early 2007. She mentioned that the current focus was to assist governments and industry in implementing activities, in particular for cleaner production and chemical leasing. She presented to the meeting a short film on the organization's chemical leasing initiative.

54. In the ensuing discussion participants invited organizations to ensure close cooperation between IOMC participating organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and that countries remained informed of their activities.

## **VI. Activities of non governmental organizations**

55. The meeting had before it documents SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11, SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Add.1 and SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Add.2, compiling the information submitted by non-governmental organizations on their current and planned activities in support of SAICM implementation.

56. The Co-Chair introduced the item by referring participants to document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11, SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Corr.1, SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Add.1 and SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/11/Add.2, which the meeting had before it. Non-governmental organizations present at the meeting informed the meeting of their ongoing and planned activities supporting the implementation of SAICM.

57. The representatives of the International Council of Chemicals Association (ICCA) and the International Chamber of Commerce briefed the meeting on their initial SAICM implementation activities as set out in their submissions. ICCA also referred to its coordination work with intergovernmental organizations, including with UNEP on capacity building.

58. The representative of the Mediterranean Green Chemistry Network informed the meeting of activities to foster scientific relations between Mediterranean countries of Europe and of North Africa, and its focus on green chemistry, laboratories, and centres of excellence.

59. The representative of the International Council for Metals and Mining (ICMM) informed the meeting of the launch of its Material Stewardship Policy and the development of guidance for implementation.

60. The representative of Women in Europe for a Common Future informed the meeting of its organization's work on persistent organic pollutants, chemical safety and chemicals of high concern. She announced the publication of a brochure on women and toxic substances aimed at risk reduction.

61. The representative of the International Chemical Secretariat reported that it was compiling a table of known substances of very high concern. She noted that the Government of Sweden had provided support to the work of civil society in SAICM implementation, meeting an important need.

62. A representative of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) informed the meeting about the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP), a global non-governmental project contributing to the Stockholm Convention, which had been funded by GEF and undertaken in collaboration with UNEP and UNIDO. He mentioned that 290 activities had been undertaken under this project in 65 countries, offering examples of such activities. Another representative of IPEN, informed the meeting that IPEN had decided to enlarge its scope to chemicals in general and that a plan for SAICM implementation had been developed during a meeting in Budapest in September 2006. He mentioned that IPEN was seeking funding for a global project in 80 countries which aimed to foster non-governmental outreach activities and building capacities and understanding of SAICM to support its implementation.

## **VII. SAICM Quick Start Programme**

### **A. Quick Start Programme trust fund**

63. The secretariat representative introduced documents SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/5 (report of the first meeting of the QSP Executive Board), SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/6 (report of the first meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/7 (report of the second meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/8 (application materials for the QSP trust fund), SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/9 (guidelines for applications to the QSP trust fund) and SAICM/RM.EUJ.1/INF/14 (report of the secretariat on the status of the QSP trust fund), as well as a conference room paper prepared by the secretariat on the possibility of developing a business plan for the QSP.

64. He noted that the secretariat had accorded high priority to establishing the trust fund and outlined the steps taken. In April 2006, shortly after the first session of ICCM, meetings of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee and the QSP Executive Board had been convened in Geneva to provide operational guidance, paving the way for the opening of the first round of applications, on a trial basis, in May 2006, with a deadline of 18 August 2006. The secretariat had received 44 applications, out of which 31 were considered complete and eligible and were brought to the attention of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee at its second meeting on 18 October 2006. The Committee decided to approve or conditionally approve eight projects with a combined total value of just under \$2 million, related to seven Government applications and one civil society application. These projects will involve activities in 20 countries, including eight least developed countries. Four applications were declined by the Committee and 19 projects were recommended for resubmission at a later round, either following further development or the completion and assessment of other projects. The Committee also provided guidance on issues that had arisen in the first round and referred some issues to the Executive Board for consideration, such as the oversight of projects in which there was no intergovernmental organization involved as an executing agency.

65. Regarding the trust fund itself, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the fund was expected to be established on 1 December 2006 and it was hoped that the disbursement of the first funds could commence by early January 2007. On the issue of programme support costs to be levied on trust fund projects, the Executive Director of UNEP was about to consider a proposal to reduce the UNEP trustee fee from 13 to 5 percent, in order to cover only treasury functions. He also reported that most participating organizations of IOMC had indicated that they could act as project executing agencies on the basis of a project support cost reduced from 13 to 8 percent.

66. The secretariat representative thanked the donors for their contributions to the trust fund for which approximately \$5.1 million had been pledged by the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, India, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. He invited the meeting to note that one donor, Sweden, had committed nearly 60

percent of the funds pledged so far and that four donors, India, Nigeria, Slovenia and South Africa, were outside the usual group of donors and as such signalled a strong interest in SAICM implementation on the part of the international community.

67. In introducing the conference room paper on a possible business plan for the QSP, the secretariat representative explained that the idea had emerged in recognition of the high expectations of the QSP trust fund and that demand was likely to outstrip currently available resources. The possible business plan or resource mobilization strategy would aim to help ensure the sustainability of the trust fund, through its replenishment on a steady and equitable basis by as broad a donor group as possible. Features of the plan might include projections as to the likely volume and timing of demands for assistance in the light of the first two applications rounds, a strategy for resource mobilization and burden sharing and performance indicators, building on criteria set out in ICCM resolution I/4, as well as addressing implementation progress and administrative services. With regard to the process for developing a business plan, he suggested that a draft could be prepared in early 2007 in collaboration with a steering group, and that it could be put before the Executive Board at its April 2007 meeting, with a possible follow-up donors' meeting, for example in June 2007 alongside the OECD Joint Meeting.

68. During the ensuing discussion, a representative of Western European and other countries on the QSP Executive Board commended the progress made in initiating the QSP trust fund. The Chair of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee, Mr. Rob Visser of OECD, reported that, through their work on the committee, IOMC participating organizations and UNDP had brought added value to the applications, taking special care to review and assess the applications on the basis of members' multi-sectoral perspectives. Participants were pleased with the establishment and functioning of the trust fund applications process. Representatives of Governments contributing to the trust fund welcomed the intended reduction of programme support costs. Several participants welcomed that the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee was ensuring a focus on enabling activities. Several participants looked forward to contributions by additional donors and to an increased number of applications from the health sector and from small island developing States. One representative was of the view that possibilities for applications should not be limited to solely to enabling activities, especially if those had already been undertaken. Others preferred to restrict the QSP to supporting enabling activities. Several participants noted that the distinction between enabling and implementing activities was not clearly defined. Another participant felt that the application procedures were unduly complex and that overly high expectations had been raised by the trust fund relative to the resources available. An observer suggested that, compared to other funding mechanisms, the QSP trust fund application procedure was not overly complex. The Co-Chair suggested that the regional representatives of the Western European and other countries on the Executive Board encourage the Board to offer guidance on the distinction between enabling and implementation activities, on activities to be supported in relation to the QSP strategic priorities, and on means of simplifying the applications process.

69. On the proposal for a business plan, the meeting took note of the concern of the secretariat to ensure appropriate replenishment of the trust fund. Some countries were supportive of the proposed business plan. Others indicated that they would need to consult before taking a position or to have additional information from the secretariat. One participant cautioned that such a plan should not lead to perpetuation of the QSP in the long term, as the QSP was intended only to support initial enabling activities and not to serve as a long-term financial mechanism for SAICM. Participants noted that this issue was linked to the broader discussion on financial considerations. The Co-Chair concluded that the discussion had shown that there was sufficient interest, in principle, in the possible business plan to warrant the secretariat developing the idea further and consulting other regions, taking into account that some EU-JUSSCANNZ countries needed to reflect on the proposal. Participants were invited to undertake any necessary consultations and to inform the secretariat of their views by 1 January 2007.

## **B. Broader Quick Start Programme**

70. The Co-Chair introduced the sub-item, by highlighting its links with some issues previously mentioned in the discussion on the QSP trust fund. He noted that participants had before them information provided by UNIDO and Switzerland on their contributions to the QSP, as contained, respectively, in documents SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/15 and SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/15/Add.1.

71. Echoing discussions on the QSP trust fund, some participants expressed the view that only enabling activities should be supported under the QSP. One participant saw focusing on enabling activities as unduly restrictive and noted that some activities were enabling and implementing at the

same time. The meeting concluded that there was a need for clarification of the distinction between “enabling” and “implementing” and this should be brought to the attention of the QSP Executive Board.

72. On the issue of reporting on contributions, several participants were concerned that ongoing activities would be declared as QSP contributions, without bringing new resources. A representative of the Western European and other countries on the QSP Executive Board noted that declarations of contributions to the QSP would determine participation in the QSP Executive Board and that the issue would be considered by the Board in the lead-up to its next meeting.

73. Several participants indicated that their Governments were considering supporting the QSP through bilateral or multilateral contributions. It was suggested that information on such projects be shared to avoid overlaps. The future information clearing-house mechanism of the SAICM secretariat, including the adaptation of INFOCAP, was seen as a potential way for making such information available.

74. The meeting recommended that the representatives of the Western European and other countries on the QSP Executive Board should exchange views with national focal points in preparation of the next meeting of the Executive Board.

### **C. Possible regional and/or stakeholder projects**

75. In introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair noted that the meeting had partially discussed the issue when discussing agenda item 4 (b) on regional coordination mechanisms.

76. The representative of IPEN reiterated his network’s interest in a global project on awareness-raising and capacity building for non-governmental organizations in 80 countries.

## **VIII. Financial Considerations**

77. In his introduction to the item, the Co-Chair highlighted the importance that other regions attached to the issue of financial support for SAICM implementation. He noted the decision RC-3/5 on Financial Mechanisms of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention, held in Geneva from 9 to 13 October 2006, which encouraged Parties to seek support from, among other things, the SAICM QSP for projects to implement the Rotterdam Convention.

78. Before opening the discussions, the Co-Chair invited a representative of the European Commission to provide an introductory presentation on persuading aid donors that sound chemicals management is part of poverty eradication, which was previously presented during the recent fifth session of IFCS, Forum V, held in Budapest from 25 to 29 September 2006. The representative stressed the need to demonstrate clear linkages between sound chemicals management and poverty reduction, in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000. One means for this was an assessment of costs of non-action in order to show two-way linkages. She mentioned the importance of a “country-owned” approach in which aid recipients identify priorities, objectives and strategy and the donors provide support. She stressed that even if the donor understands the importance of sound chemicals management, they will not force its inclusion in a bilateral development partnership if not identified as a priority by the country concerned. To let sound chemicals management bloom, there were needs for seed money, outside of pre-allocated country support programmes. Such an approach was needed to build a credible case that could be understood by policy makers. She reminded participants that this facilitating role was the rationale for the QSP and that it would not replace support for country-led work on chemicals but would pave the way for it.

79. In the ensuing discussion, several participants stressed the importance of the recent decision of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention on financial mechanisms which referred to SAICM and invited Parties to consider of the need for GEF to broaden its programming activities, including the possibility of a chemicals-related focus area. The meeting noted discussions during the Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer, which took place from 30 October to 3 November in New Delhi.

80. Some participants were of the view that a new window for sound chemicals management should be established in the GEF to support, amongst other things, SAICM implementation, and that this proposal should be part of discussion of GEF’s fifth replenishment. Some participants considered that existing GEF windows provided opportunities for support for chemicals work but others argued that access to such opportunities remained difficult. One participant recommended that the SAICM secretariat approached the GEF secretariat to develop guidelines on access to existing windows of possible relevance to chemicals work.

81. Development and aid programmes were also seen as relevant means for the channeling of funding to support sound chemicals management. Participants appreciated in this regard the usefulness and information of the presentation provided. The representative of the African regional group informed the meeting of the reference made in the African position on financial mechanisms on the development of national economic instruments and requested EU-JUSSCANNZ countries to share experiences with her region on this. One representative indicated that as potential donor, they had not yet taken position on the best means of channeling funding and were still exploring possibilities which included, free trade agreements, or programmes on heavy metals.

82. Other participants noted that better coordination and synergies could help make more effective use of existing means and avoid duplication. One participant noted that it would be useful to have information on the financial contribution of industry, through its own internal initiatives to ensure compliance with environment and health standards, in addition to its Responsible Care and Global Stewardship programmes. One industry representative was interested in the idea, in principle, but indicated that it would require further internal reflection.

## **IX. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

83. The secretariat briefed the meeting on initial planning with regard to the scheduling of the second session of ICCM and the preceding open-ended legal and technical working group. It was currently proposed that the second session of ICCM should take place in Geneva in May 2009 in conjunction with the 62<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly, bearing in mind the recommendation in ICCM resolution I/1 that sessions of the ICCM should be held back-to-back with the governing body meetings of relevant intergovernmental organizations. In accordance with resolution I/4, IOMC participating organizations had been consulted on this proposal and had indicated that they were comfortable with it. A meeting of the open-ended legal and technical working group had been scheduled for early November 2008, six months in advance of the second session of ICCM, as this was considered an appropriate lead-time and coincided with the availability of meeting rooms in the Geneva conference centre.

### **A. Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM**

84. Introducing the sub-item, the co-chair observed that reporting to ICCM on progress in implementation of SAICM would be an important tool in measuring the success of SAICM. He noted that ICCM had not provided any detailed guidance as to the modalities for such reporting and invited the representative of Canada to present his Government's proposal for the development of such guidance, as contained in document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/2.

85. The representative of Canada outlined the proposal on reporting, which aimed to prepare, for the second session of ICCM, a key deliverable that would serve to measure the performance of SAICM over the long term, provide guidance to the secretariat and inform discussion on chemicals at CSD in 2010 and 2011. He said that within his own Government there was a growing expectation of being able to quantify the benefits of SAICM. Reporting on a common base of elements would assist the secretariat in providing an overview of progress achieved and identifying areas requiring increased attention in order to meet the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal of sound chemicals management by 2020. The Canadian proposal envisaged a consultant working with the secretariat and a stakeholders' steering group to develop guidance on preparing reports on the current state of chemicals management and to formulate indicators for subsequent progress reports.

86. Participants acknowledged the importance of reporting and received the Canadian proposal with interest. One participant called for flexible reporting arrangements, recommended that the proposed consultant should review extensive work that had already been done on the development of indicators and favoured the use of e-mail and teleconferences for consultation. Another participant called for comprehensive reporting on SAICM implementation, while recognizing the considerable methodological challenge involved. Several participants emphasized the desirability of minimizing the burden of reporting obligations and advocated incorporation of existing reporting from other relevant processes such as the chemicals conventions. One participant suggested that requesting a consolidated report from the civil society sector would help increase efficiency and reduce the burden on the secretariat. Others pointed out that reporting in the context of conventions related to the specific and detailed requirements of the conventions concerned. One participant proposed that risk reduction and

substitution of hazardous chemicals as well as non-chemical alternatives be included among indicators of progress. Several participants supported the use of a simple questionnaire as a reporting tool. The secretariat welcomed the proposal to develop guidance on reporting modalities and suggested that it might be advisable to have the option of undertaking a relatively simple baseline reporting exercise for 2006-2009 while detailed guidance on reporting arrangements was being developed for consideration by the second session of ICCM.

87. In response to reservations expressed concerning the costs associated with the proposal, the representative of Canada said his Government could support an initial phase to develop the proposal further but would be looking to other interested donors to share remaining costs. He envisaged that following the preliminary desk work and further development of the proposal, it could be discussed again by EU-JUSSCANNZ countries at their informal meeting in the margins of the OECD Joint Meeting in June 2007.

88. The Co-Chair concluded that there was a recognized need for effective and relevant reporting arrangements, which all stakeholders would find easy to use. Consultation with other regions and some further reflection by EU-JUSSCANNZ countries would be needed but there was general support for elaborating further the proposal to develop guidance on reporting modalities, including indicators, for consideration by the second session of ICCM, and for a relatively simple initial reporting exercise to be undertaken, in parallel, for the period 2006-2009.

## **B. Further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action**

89. The Co-Chair recalled that ICCM had recommended the use and further development of the GPA as a working tool, that certain elements had not been fully agreed and that some proposed activities, contained in the former "table C", had been omitted from the document due to lack of consensus. He invited the meeting to express its views as to a possible process for review of the GPA and on the extent to which a review of the plan was warranted in the lead-up to the second session of ICCM.

90. Several participants favoured keeping the GPA under review and some advocated addressing the former table C as part of the plan's further development. Other participants preferred to wait to assess experience of using the plan in its current form before embarking on its further development. One participant suggested that the process of reporting on progress in the implementation of SAICM would be instructive in that regard, while another noted that the incorporation of GPA activities in SAICM national implementation plans would provide a body of experience that could inform future revision of the GPA. One participant argued that the more pressing requirement was to meet the objectives set out in the SAICM OPS and that the work being undertaken in the OECD context would contribute to the realization of those objectives. Some participants felt that it was unnecessary to debate in detail the merits of revisiting the former table C and that the real requirement was to consider how best to respond to emerging issues and the priorities expressed by other regions.

91. Another participant believed that there was currently no adequate process for reviewing the GPA as inter-sessional regional meetings would focus on SAICM implementation issues and the open-ended legal and technical working group would address legal issues. He suggested that IFCS could provide a forum for considering elements of the SAICM GPA that had not been fully resolved and linked the possible development of a new chemicals focal area in the GEF to further work on the plan. He called for the reconstitution of drafting advances concerning the former table C that had been achieved during the first session of ICCM but were not reflected in the version of the table available on the SAICM web site, as the latter was the official text as it stood at the beginning of the session. Some participants recalled that the GPA had been drawn up largely in response to needs for guidance expressed by developing countries and suggested that it was incumbent upon EU-JUSSCANNZ countries to consider such needs.

92. The Co-Chair noted proposals that the GPA should not be a source of division and detailed debate but rather approached from a positive perspective. The plan could be a mechanism for responding to priority needs expressed by developing countries and could be reviewed in light of experience. He acknowledged the views of participants who favoured keeping the plan under review, those who did not believe further review was required and those who believed the focus should be on the OPS. He suggested that the issue of the GPA would need to be considered carefully as the regional focal point for the Western European and other countries consulted stakeholders in preparing an agenda for the EU-JUSSCANNZ informal meeting in June 2007.

### **C. Rules of procedure for the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

93. The Co-Chair recalled that ICCM had not adopted rules of procedure at its first session and that this task was to be taken up at the second session following preparatory work by an open-ended legal and technical working group. He invited participants to express their general views on the rules of procedure. Several participants considered the rules of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM to be broadly compatible with those used by other relevant bodies, such as the Conferences of the Parties of chemicals conventions, and that the rules of the Preparatory Committee could be readily adapted for use by ICCM. Some indicated that the open-ended legal and technical working group would need to consider, amongst other things, ICCM officers and a bureau, possible subsidiary bodies and the status of certain regional organizations.

### **D. Other intersessional work in preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

94. The Co-Chair asked the meeting whether it considered there were other items beyond the rules of procedure that might usefully be taken up by the open-ended legal and technical working group. Several participants indicated that they would prefer to address this question of the possible broadening of the mandate of the open-ended legal and technical working group when EU-JUSSCANNZ countries held their informal consultation in June 2007.

95. The meeting agreed that it would be appropriate to draw to the attention of UNEP Governing Council the outcomes of the SAICM regional meetings.

## **X. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook.**

96. The representative of the secretariat introduced its report contained in document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/INF/12. He thanked the Governments whose financial contributions had enabled the secretariat to establish itself and commence the performance of its mandated functions. He suggested that although the secretariat still lacked a significant part of the staff and budget resources envisaged in ICCM resolution I/4, this was not surprising only 10 months after the first session of ICCM. He hoped there were grounds for optimism in meeting the secretariat's resource requirements in its second year of operation. In the meantime, the secretariat had given priority to two particular functions, the organization of regional meetings and the establishment of the QSP. Noting that the indicative core secretariat budget agreed by ICCM at its first session had not made provision for mandated secretariat activities, he highlighted the need for funding in 2007 of Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regional meetings. He also drew attention to the desirability of forward planning to meet the substantial longer-term funding requirements of the second session of ICCM in early 2009 and the preceding meeting of the open-ended legal and technical working group in late 2008. He advised that the African region had already expressed a desire to hold a further regional meeting in 2008 in order to prepare for the second session of ICCM and that other regions would likely be similarly interested in this possibility, if funding could be found.

97. Several participants inquired as to the prospects for WHO to provide a staff member for the SAICM secretariat, as envisaged in ICCM resolution I/1. WHO responded that this would depend on raising additional extra-budgetary funds. Some participants expressed concern at the narrow donor base of the secretariat and were concerned that at current contribution rates the secretariat's future financial position would not be sustainable. UNEP advised that it hoped to be able to cover the cost of an additional professional staff member to work with the secretariat on a half-time basis. Two existing donor Governments indicated that although they were not in a position to formalize a multi-year commitment, it was their intention to match their 2006 contributions with similar pledges in subsequent years.

98. The secretariat also briefed the meeting on a proposal contained in a secretariat non-paper for a possible SAICM scientific conference. The intention behind such a conference would be to contribute to fulfilment of the secretariat's function of promoting the exchange of scientific information and to preparations for the second session of ICCM, whose functions included consideration of emerging policy issues. It was suggested that such a conference would produce a neutral and authoritative report on current scientific thinking on key emerging issues, such as those identified in the SAICM OPS for possible prioritisation for assessment and study.

99. Some participants felt that the role envisaged for the possible conference was already being performed by other forums such as IFCS, that other secretariat activities were a higher priority for use of scarce resources or that such a conference risked being manipulated, depending on which disciplines and scientists were invited to participate. Other participants believed that the possible conference was potentially worthwhile, would respond to the many references in the SAICM texts to the importance of a science-based approach and warranted further consideration if a solid agenda could be developed. One participant suggested that it would be preferable for the conference to be orientated towards regulatory and applied science and envisaged that the scientific conference could initiate a series of further conferences during the SAICM implementation period with progressively more focussed agendas. One university participant involved in “green chemistry” expressed interest in the proposed conference and offered assistance in organizing it.

100. The Co-Chair concluded that although there was no consensus as to the desirability of a SAICM scientific conference, there appeared to be sufficient interest to warrant keeping the proposal on the table and allowing other regions an opportunity to comment. If the conference did not proceed there might be some elements of the concept that could be carried forward in other forums.

## **XI. Future EU-JUSSCANNZ meetings during the intersessional period**

101. The Co-Chair noted that agreement had already been reached under the agenda item on regional coordination that EU-JUSSCANNZ countries should meet informally in the margins of OECD Joint Meetings, which were expected to take place in June 2007, February 2008 and November 2008. The representative of OECD indicated that as the next Joint Meeting is scheduled to take place in Paris from 13 to 15 June 2007, the informal EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting on SAICM could take place on 12 June 2007. The regional focal point for the Western European and other countries invited stakeholders to participate in planning for a one-day EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting on SAICM in the margins of that meeting using the process as outlined in the output of the discussions on regional co-ordination.

## **XII. Other business**

102. Meeting participants did not raise any items of other business.

## **XIII. Adoption of the report**

103. The meeting participants adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in document SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/L.1 and entrusted the rapporteur, working together with the Co-Chairs and the secretariat, with finalizing it.

## **IV. Closure of the meeting**

104. In closing remarks, several participants welcomed the important steps that had already been taken to initiate SAICM implementation, including the holding of regional meetings and launch of the QSP. To move forward, there was a need for increased funding, cooperation with other relevant processes and a continuation of EU-JUSSCANNZ countries’ preparation for the second session of ICCM on an informal and interactive basis.

105. Warm thanks were extended to the Spanish and Catalonian authorities for their hosting of the meeting. The Co-Chairs reflected on the importance of SAICM succeeding in advancing the sound management of chemicals in fulfillment of the 2020 goal of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

106. The meeting was closed at 4 p.m. on Wednesday 22 November 2006

## Annex

### Arrangements for coordination among EU-JUSSCANNZ countries

1. Participants in the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting were in favour of informal and flexible arrangements for coordination in the period up to the next session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in 2009.
2. Participants in the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting considered that it was too early to decide now whether a second formal meeting would be needed to exchange views between EU-JUSSCANNZ countries before the next session of ICCM, or to prepare jointly for the meeting of the open-ended legal and technical working group on terms of reference (particularly as it was not yet clear how wide the scope of that meeting would be). The need for such a meeting, and its timing, should therefore be kept under review.
3. Participants in the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting agreed that the aim should be to hold an informal open-ended meeting in the margins of each of the next sessions of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology to be held in Paris in June 2007 and in February and November 2008. These meetings would be open to countries outside the region and to intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.
4. These informal open-ended meetings would provide the opportunity to prepare the region's contribution to the next session of ICCM and to discuss substantive issues, for example the further development and implementation of SAICM, including the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, and the long-term financial requirements. While several countries expressed a desire to discuss the former "table C", available in document SAICM/ICCM.1/4 at [www.chem.unep.ch/saicm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm), others expressed the view that the former table C did not warrant further discussion. The meetings would also provide the opportunity to hear reports on and to respond to issues raised in the meetings of the other regional groups – particularly from those regions which had not yet held their first meeting – and to consider whether a second formal EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting should be held.
5. The regional focal point should prepare the agendas for these informal open-ended meetings, working in particular with the regional representatives of the Western European and other countries on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board, the coordinators of the EU and JUSSCANNZ groups, the OECD and three representatives of non-governmental organizations (public interest, labour and industry), using e-mail and teleconferences. The aim should be to keep to a minimum the burden on the SAICM secretariat. Beyond this, no formal terms of reference were necessary for the regional focal point.
6. Participants in the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting noted the proposals from the Government of Spain (set out in SAICM/RM/EUJ.1/4), but could not reach a final conclusion at this stage on whether and how the specific items in that paper should be taken forward.
7. Participants in the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting noted that many aspects of the work undertaken in the OECD Joint Meetings, in which many EU-JUSSCANNZ countries are involved, would contribute to the achievement of SAICM, and that the OECD outreach programme was also relevant. There was also extensive relevant work at the sub-regional level. The region would be able to draw on both resources to prepare for the next session of ICCM. The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety could also provide an opportunity for discussion at the global level.
8. Parties wishing to be involved in the preparations for the informal meetings were invited to register their interest with the regional focal point by 31 December 2006.