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Latin America and the 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 Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Riga, 4-6 December, 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 Central and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM, held in Riga from 4 to 6 December 2006.
2. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the report of the first Central and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM, for the information of participants in the present Latin America and the Caribbean regional meeting on SAICM.

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**Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach
to International Chemicals Management**
Riga, 4-6 December 2006

Report of the Central and Eastern European regional 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).¹ The Conference also adopted a number of resolutions, including resolution I/1 on arrangements for the implementation of SAICM.² In the Overarching Policy Strategy 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 Riga, Republic of Latvia, from 4 to 6 December, 2006 and hosted by the Latvian Ministry of the Environment, was the first such meeting for the Central and Eastern European region. Its purpose, as envisaged in paragraph 26 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, was to review progress on implementation of SAICM in the region, to provide guidance on implementation to regional stakeholders and to provide a forum for technical and strategic discussions and the exchange of information.

I. I. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 4 December 2006. Mr. Rolands Bebris, Director, Department of Environmental Protection, Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia, welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers who were to make opening statements.

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Raimonds Vējonis, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and Mr. Matthew Gubb, Coordinator, SAICM Secretariat. Mr. Vējonis welcomed participants to the meeting on behalf of the three Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and said that it was a recognition of the intensive work undertaken in the chemicals sector in the last ten years by those countries and that the experience so gained might be useful to other countries in the region. He noted his pleasure that the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia could host the third in the series of regional meetings on SAICM.

4. He recalled that in the Dubai Declaration it was stated that globally, progress in chemicals management had not yet been sufficient and associated environmental and health problems still existed. The Global Plan of Action, he said, provided detailed and globally agreed steps to solve chemicals

¹ 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.

² Ibid, annex IV.

related problems that should be implemented at the national, regional and international levels. The regional component, he added, was especially crucial for the Central and Eastern European region as it was neither a classical region of donor countries or of recipient countries. He said that the current trend of merging efforts from various international and regional programmes was the key to moving forward but it was a challenging process. Noting that at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), held in Budapest from 25 to 29 September 2006, Latvia had been elected as the Central and Eastern European regional member of the Forum Standing Committee, he considered that SAICM would benefit from the experience and participatory mechanisms of IFCS.

5. He also noted the importance of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) as a vital tool to strengthen SAICM implementation. On behalf of the three Baltic States, based on their experience in the implementation of European Union legislation and multilateral environmental agreements as well as in the development of institutional capacity, he proposed assistance to other countries in the region in the form of bilateral technical assistance, expertise and training for panel groups of specialists.

6. Mr. Gubb noted the full agenda in front of the meeting and encouraged participants to consider how they could cooperate with each other to facilitate implementation of SAICM for Central and Eastern Europe. He said the meeting would, among other things, serve as a means to exchange information, to receive information from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to discuss financial issues related to the QSP and to determine the means of reporting to ICCM at its second session.

II. II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

7. Mr. Rolands Bebris (Latvia) and Ms. Irina Zastenskaya (Belarus) were elected to serve as Co-Chairs for the current meeting. Ms. Katerina Sebkova (Czech Republic) was elected to serve as rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda

8. The meeting participants adopted the following agenda as set out in SAICM/RM/CEE.1/1/Rev.1:

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. Updates on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
5. Implementation of SAICM in the Central and Eastern European region:
 - (a) Regional coordination mechanisms:
 - (i) Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point;
 - (ii) Role and responsibilities of regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
 - (iii) Synergies with and between other relevant processes including at the Baltic States and national levels.
 - (b) National implementation of SAICM:
 - (i) Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM;
 - (ii) Guidance materials for implementation of SAICM;
 - (iii) Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points.
 - (c) Regional implementation of SAICM and stakeholder partnership approaches:

- (i) Possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, including possible cooperation within the European Union framework between Central and Eastern European Member States of the Union and neighbouring countries;
 - (ii) Engagement of regional organizations in SAICM implementation.
6. SAICM Quick Start Programme:
 - (a) The Quick Start Programme trust fund;
 - (b) The broader Quick Start Programme.
7. Financial considerations.
8. 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 in preparation of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
9. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook.
10. Future Central and Eastern European regional meetings during the intersessional period.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

9. The participants agreed to meet in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

D. Attendance

10. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine.
11. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Regional Activity Center for Cleaner Production, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Bank and World Health Organization.
12. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Baltic Environmental Forum, Basel Convention Regional Centre (Bratislava), CropLife International, ECOTOX, Environmental Health Fund, International Council of Chemical Associations, International Council on Mining and Metals.
13. In addition, a number of individuals attended as observers.

III. Updates on activities of other regional groups

14. In the absence of regional focal points, the Co-Chair invited the secretariat to inform the meeting of on-going activities in the other 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/CEE.1/INF/2) and the report of the meeting of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ countries (Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand) countries on SAICM held in Barcelona, Spain, from 20 to 22 November 2006 (SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/16). The representative of the secretariat summarized the main outcomes of the African regional meeting. Those had included the development of terms of reference for the African regional focal point and the African regional representatives to the QSP Executive Board and the formal establishment of the Africa Core Group to work as a regional coordination mechanism in the intersessional period. He noted that the regional meeting had adopted an African Regional Action Plan, which identified certain elements of the Global Plan of Action of priority for the region. The meeting had elaborated a position on financial considerations, emphasizing a future role for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the future SAICM financial mechanism and had examined ways of generating income to finance chemicals management at the national level. Finally, 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.

15. Turning to the outcomes of the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting, the representative of the secretariat said that that region had agreed it was not necessary for those countries to draft terms of reference for either the regional focal point or the representatives on the QSP Executive Board. The meeting had also judged that it was not necessary to prepare a regional action plan. EU-JUSSCANNZ countries in the EU-JUSSCANNZ region did not establish a formal regional coordination mechanism group but agreed to meet informally 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. Finally, the meeting had noted the proposal for a business plan for the QSP and a science conference.

16. Regarding future regional meetings, the representative of the secretariat said that the Asia-Pacific regional meeting had been tentatively scheduled to take place at the end of May 2007. The regional meeting for Latin America had initially been scheduled for March 2007 but would only be confirmed subject to the availability of funds. The secretariat informed the meeting that an Arab Core Group had been established in September 2006, and had met in Alexandria, Egypt on 29 October 2006. An Arab sub-regional meeting on SAICM was expected to be held on 1 and 2 April 2007 in Cairo. That group was considering the development of an action plan and terms of reference for that region.

17. The representative of the Czech Republic reported to the meeting the key findings of the Symposium on Illegal International Traffic in Hazardous Chemicals, organized jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Chemicals Branch and with the support of the Government of Germany, which took place in Prague-Pruhonic from 6 to 8 November 2006.

IV. Updates on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

18. The Co-Chair invited representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations present at the meeting to inform the meeting of their on-going or planned activities supporting the implementation of SAICM. The meeting had before it documents SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/11 and SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/1/Add.1 containing information submitted by those organizations.

19. The representatives of the Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Latvia speaking on behalf of IFCS, the secretariat speaking on behalf of UNEP's Chemicals Branch, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) briefed the meeting on their activities as set out in the relevant submissions.

20. The representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) informed the meeting of the relevance of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to implementation of SAICM and on the discussion on reporting on PRTR developments and capacity building activities held by the International PRTR Coordinating Group at its first meeting, 20 March, 2006, in Ghent, Belgium. He noted that that was a possible future contribution to reporting on SAICM.

21. The representative of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production presented the work of her organization on pollution prevention mechanisms for 21 countries of the Mediterranean Sea region that included development of technical studies, follow up reports, training and capacity building, and partnerships with the private sector as well as activities related to management of wastes from

industries, a database of cleaner technologies and studies on persistent organic pollutants at the national level.

22. The representative of the World Bank noted that the work of her organization with SAICM was, for the main part, indirect to date. She said that the World Bank was committed to integrating chemicals management into development assistance strategies, including poverty alleviation. Examples of other pertinent projects were phasing out of leaded gas, involvement in the Africa stockpiles programme, updating environmental health and safety guidelines and technical references for industrial pollution management.

23. The representative of the OzonAction Branch of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) described the activities related to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in the 20 years since its adoption. In particular he noted that the protocol adopted a science-based precautionary approach and encouraged networking and regional meetings that were thematic. Sustaining phase out of ozone depleting substances and education in that respect was very important as were streamlining activities with policies of Governments and identifying innovative financing mechanisms. He further highlighted on-going work in cooperation with countries with economies in transition and with various regional and international bodies such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices, the Environmental Investigation Agency and the International Institute of Refrigeration.

24. The representative of the Environmental Health Fund speaking on behalf of the International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) described a medium sized Global Environment Fund project which had focussed on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Within the region he said that work had been undertaken in 19 countries and included public awareness raising projects. He noted plans, funds permitting, for a SAICM outreach project to inform civil society of the harm chemicals cause and of the importance of SAICM.

25. The representative of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) noted that the focus of his organization was its Material Stewardship Policy which would enhance management of metals and minerals. He said they were also working with UNEP to develop ways of complete life-cycle management of chemicals and examining human health and environment risk to metals as well as the risk based approach to management of chemicals.

26. The representative of the European Environment Agency said they did not have an active role in SAICM but worked on synergies between chemicals management and environment policies. They were supporting the pollutant release and transfer registers, were a part of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the greenhouse emission inventory of the European Union, and the development of environment and health indicators with WHO. She said that her Agency could offer support to SAICM in the form of guidance on how to set up an inventory.

27. The representative of CropLife International recalled its work on ensuring the safety of chemicals used in agriculture and public health to combat weeds, crop diseases and pests and the importance of making regulatory decisions based on sound science, taking into account risk management options, to ensure that the benefits of pesticide use could be realized at an acceptable level of risk. He stressed the importance of work undertaken with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides and said that CropLife International was providing technical support to the FAO implementation process. He noted that the FAO Code of Conduct contained already agreed measures needed for the sound management of pesticides and hence that full implementation of the code would achieve SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy objectives.

V. Implementation of SAICM in the Central and Eastern European region

A. Regional coordination mechanisms

1. Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point

28. The Co-Chair recalled that ICCM, in its resolution I/1 on implementation arrangements, had recommended that each region designate a SAICM focal point. Those regional focal points had been designated following a consultation process, which took place in March-April 2006, coordinated by representatives of the former bureau members of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of

SAICM and of ICCM. For the Central and Eastern European region, the coordinators were Croatia and Romania. Ms. Rodica-Ella Morohoi of Romania was designated as regional focal point.

29. The meeting noted the terms of reference for the African regional focal point, which were contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/2, the report of the African regional meeting on SAICM and of the fact that at the regional meeting of the EU-JUSSCANNZ countries it had been concluded that it was not necessary to develop terms of reference for their regional focal point (SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/16).

30. In the ensuing discussion, while some representatives considered that specific terms of reference should be developed, others suggested that they were not necessary. One representative proposed, and others agreed, that a generic and informal framework for the terms of reference could be developed to which national specifications might be adapted where necessary. Another representative, referring to the need for the regional representative to raise awareness on the need for co-financing, reiterated the special situation of countries in the Central and Eastern European region, some being European Union member States and others, countries with economies in transition requiring such financing, and hence the need for specific terms of reference. One representative noted that developing specific terms of reference might provide the regional focal point with a framework within which to facilitate her work. Responding to a concern raised over the development of different terms of reference for different regions, the representative of the secretariat said that the issue of harmonization of such terms of reference could be brought to the attention of ICCM at its second session.

31. The meeting agreed to set up a contact group chaired by Ms. Zastenskaya to develop draft terms of reference for the regional focal point using the terms of reference drafted by the African regional group as a basis for discussion.

32. The terms of reference for the regional focal point as adopted are set out in annex I to the present report.

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

33. The Co-Chair recalled that, in its resolution I/4, ICCM decided to establish the 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 also decided that the two government representatives of each United Nations region would be appointed at each ICCM session for the ensuing intersessional period. However, because of lack of time at the first ICCM session, most regions were 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 Croatia and Romania, Ms. Irina Zastenskaya of Belarus and Mr. Givi Kalandadze of Georgia were nominated to represent the Central and Eastern European region on the Executive Board, which had its first meeting on 26 and 27 April 2006. The meeting noted the terms of reference for the African regional representative on the Executive Board, which were contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/2, the report of the African regional meeting on SAICM and the fact that, at the regional meeting of the EU-JUSSCANNZ countries, it had been concluded that it was not necessary to develop terms of reference for their regional representative on the Executive Board (SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/16)

34. Following an initial expression of views, the meeting agreed that the contact group established to discuss terms of reference for the regional focal point would also develop terms of reference for the regional representatives on the Executive Board using the terms of reference drafted by the African regional group as a basis for discussion.

35. The terms of reference for the regional representatives serving on the QSP Executive Board as adopted are set out in annex II to the present report.

3. Synergies with and between other relevant processes including at the Baltic States and national levels

36. The meeting took note of processes and developments at the international level relevant to SAICM which were likely to engage the region. The representative of the secretariat briefly introduced the following activities:

- the on-going discussions on synergies between the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes 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;

- the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 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” and the scheduled consideration of chemicals issues by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010-2011;
- the “environment and health” process, for which the next European Ministerial Conference would take place in Italy in 2009.

37. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of IFCS, the representative of Latvia, the Central and Eastern European member of the Forum Standing Committee, outlined on-going discussions on the future of IFCS following its recent fifth session, and suggestions as to possible integration with SAICM in the future. He noted that Forum V had established a working group to continue discussions on the future IFCS and that SAICM regional focal points had been invited to participate in the discussions of that group. The first teleconference of that working group was scheduled for 2 March, 2007. Discussion had also commenced within the Forum Standing Committee on prioritizing topics to be taken up at Forum VI.

38. The representative of the Environmental Health Fund said that synergies with the International Labour Organization should be noted and recalled decision RC-3/5 of the Rotterdam Convention which recommended the use of and contribution to the QSP and the decision to take advantage to mainstream chemicals management into development strategies and poverty alleviation.

39. The representative of the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch informed the meeting of the potential for synergies between the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, SAICM and other chemical agreements. Other results of synergy action could be the Green Customs initiatives, education and public awareness-raising activities.

40. The Co-Chair outlined some activities and programmes undertaken at the sub-regional level, for example under the framework of the Nordic Council, the Baltic Environmental Forum and the Helsinki (Baltic Sea Marine Environment Protection) Commission.

41. The president of the Baltic Environmental Forum gave a detailed presentation on the history of the Forum and its projects on training, information and experience-sharing and awareness-raising on sound chemicals management in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and in certain instances in the Russian Federation. She noted that consideration might be given in the future to expanding some of those projects beyond the main three countries participating in the Baltic Environmental Forum.

42. 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 and indicated that Baltic Governments were considering promoting chemicals management as a priority issue for the meeting.

43. Following the presentations, a few participants thanked the Baltic Environmental Forum for their excellent work especially in the fields of information exchange and awareness-raising on chemicals management. The meeting took note of the various presentations made under the sub-item on synergies.

B. National implementation of SAICM

1. Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM

44. The Co-Chair recalled that paragraphs 22 and 23 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy 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/CEE.1/INF/10 containing information submitted by Central and Eastern European Governments on their initial national implementation activities in response to a questionnaire which had been circulated by the secretariat.

45. The representative of Latvia gave a presentation on initial planning for national implementation of SAICM in his country. He noted that Latvia had not yet submitted its questionnaire due to priority work on the European Union regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) and the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling (GHS), as well as due to some difficulty in responding to some of the questions. He provided a detailed

explanation of the chemicals management structure of Latvia, including on the institutional and legislative frameworks, as well as on relevant national activities.

46. The representative of Belarus noted that during a recent national meeting, it had been suggested that implementation of SAICM at the national and international levels should be strongly linked to implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions as a way of optimizing financial resources. National inter-ministerial and intersectoral coordination would result in implementation of SAICM within a national sustainable development group in which the national focal point would be included. She noted that it would be useful to find complementarities within national implementation of SAICM.

47. The representative of Lithuania said that her country had no formal national plan for implementation of SAICM but rather targeted working group and coordination work including decisions on several multilateral environmental agreements that include SAICM elements and contribute to the implementation thereof. She said chemicals was not a priority issue as yet and, owing to lack of funds, issues such as wastes and water attracted more attention. She noted that implementation of the European Union REACH might help to contribute to chemicals management as a whole.

48. The representative of Hungary noted that his country, too, was working on the elaboration of the European Union REACH and GHS but resources were still available for SAICM implementation and in terms of the national profile and action plan being developed under the Stockholm Convention. He said that meetings of stakeholders had been held but that an expert group was yet to be established. He added that it was new for Hungary to be in the position of a donor, not necessarily providing funds but in-kind assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

49. The representative of Armenia outlined her country's status of implementation of SAICM and international agreements. She hoped that after the national action plan was endorsed by the Armenian Cabinet, it would be possible to enter it into the 2008 programme to allow for implementation of the SAICM process. She also highlighted the national prerequisites for co-financing.

50. The representative of Moldova said that a national working group had been established with support from ministries and other sectors. She noted that she had faced difficulties in filling out the form to apply to the QSP trust fund and requested additional guidance in that respect. She highlighted the importance of not only regional cooperation but also sub-regional cooperation.

51. The representative of Slovenia said that the plan for implementation of SAICM would soon proceed through the process for governmental adoption. She added that the national programme for chemicals safety, national profile and national implementation plan for persistent organic pollutants as well as an action plan for children and chemical safety were in their final phase. She noted that some of the goals of the Global Plan of Action were already attained or would be through implementation of the European Union REACH and GHS.

52. The meeting took note of the interventions on the initial planning for national implementation of SAICM.

2. Guidance materials for implementation of SAICM

53. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/CEE.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 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. He concluded that every effort would be made to translate the source guide into the six languages of the United Nations.

54. The meeting heard presentations from the Division of GEF of UNEP and the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch on additional guidance that might be of interest.

55. The representative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) informed the meeting that ICCA was currently developing guidelines for product stewardship for small and medium size enterprises. He added that risk characterization and risk management guidelines which were currently under development could be used by chemicals producers and downstream users..

56. The participants took note of the guidance document.

3. Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points

57. The Co-Chair introduced the item by referring to paragraph 23 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 of ICCM on implementation arrangements, which recommended the designation of SAICM national focal points. A list of national focal points designated, so far, by countries in the Central and Eastern European region was contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/4. 13 national focal points have been nominated out of a possible 22. The Co-Chair noted the need for the designation of national focal points by Governments that had not yet done so.

58. The meeting agreed that it was not necessary to elaborate any further guidance as to the role and responsibilities of the national focal point.

C. Regional implementation of SAICM and stakeholder partnership approaches

1. Possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, including possible cooperation within the European Union framework between Central and Eastern European Member States of the Union and neighbouring countries

59. The Co-Chair recalled paragraph 22 of the Overarching Policy Strategy in which it was noted that SAICM regional implementation plans might be developed, as appropriate, in a similar fashion to national implementation plans. The meeting had before it the African regional action plan on SAICM implementation contained in the report of the African regional meeting, document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/2. As indicated in the meeting report of the EU-JUSSCANNZ countries contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/16, those countries had concluded that it was not necessary to develop a regional action plan.

60. In the ensuing discussion, while some participants agreed that it would be useful to have a regional action plan, others highlighted that it was premature given that some national action plans had not been developed and noted, additionally, a lack of capacity to undertake the task at the present time. One participant said that it would be difficult to develop a regional action plan given the economic and developmental differences between the countries in the region but encouraged the participants to consider the development of sub-regional action plans. Others suggested that experience should be gained in implementing the national action plans before regional or sub-regional plans were envisaged. Some participants noted that, as European Union member States, they were fully engaged in harmonization of national legislation to European Union legislation and therefore suggested that any regional action plans be prepared at a later date.

61. In response to a request for clarification, the representative of the secretariat said that the Overarching Policy Strategy did not require the development of a regional action plan nor did it specify how it should be done if requested by a region. He said such a plan could be detailed, such as the one prepared by the African region which was based on the Global Plan of Action, or could constitute selected priorities to be addressed from the present until the second session of ICCM.

62. The meeting agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. Arnis Ludborzs (Latvia) to examine the possibility of developing a common platform or coordination arrangement similar to but less formal than the African Core Group.

63. Reporting back to plenary, Mr. Ludborzs noted that the contact group had agreed on a need to consolidate the views of the region to present at international forums. However, the contact group could not agree on a structure to be used for that consolidation, although networking appeared to be the preference. One participant said that it was premature to create a formal regional structure but that the issue could be carried forward to be further considered intersessionally. Voicing concern that the contact group had not concluded on a specific structure, one representative suggested that representatives be nominated to act as a bridge for information exchange between the regional focal point and members of the region. Members of that “bridging” group would be the regional focal point (Romania), the regional representatives on the QSP Executive Board (Belarus, Georgia) as well as Hungary, Latvia, Macedonia and Moldova.

64. The meeting agreed to the establishment of such a “bridging” group.

2. Engagement of regional organizations in SAICM implementation

65. The Co-Chair recalled that paragraph two of the Overarching Policy Strategy noted that the involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders, including at the regional level, was seen as key to achieving the objectives of SAICM. In particular, she mentioned organizations potentially relevant to implementation of SAICM, including organizations with region-wide responsibilities such as UNECE, centres associated with international agreements such as the Basel Convention, financial institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and networks of national entities such as the cleaner production centres.

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

67. In response to an inquiry on how to promote SAICM engagement in the governing bodies of organizations listed in the directory, the representative of the secretariat suggested, and the meeting agreed, that the report of the current meeting be sent to those organizations.

68. Following a discussion in which participants suggested minor amendments and additions to the draft directory, the meeting agreed that the draft directory was a useful document that should be continuously updated and placed on the SAICM website.

III. VI. SAICM Quick Start Programme

A. The Quick Start Programme trust fund

69. The representative of the secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the establishment of the trust fund and its resources. The meeting had before it documents SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/5 (report of the first meeting of the QSP Executive Board), SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/6 (report of the first meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/7 (report of the second meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/8 (application materials for the QSP trust fund), SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/9 (guidelines for applications to the QSP trust fund), SAICM/RM.CEE.1/INF/14 (report of the secretariat on the status of the QSP trust fund) and SAICM/RM.CEE.1/INF/19 (proposal for the development of the a business plan for the QSP). The secretariat further outlined the process which had lead to the first round of applications. In this round, 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 US\$ 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.

70. Regarding the trust fund itself, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the fund was established on 1 December 2006 and it was hoped that the disbursement of the first funds could commence by early January 2007. Some details remained to be finalized such as the fees and the manner in which the project agreement would be developed. He said that US\$ 5 million had been pledged by 14 donor countries including non-traditional donors. He noted the contribution of Slovenia, both to the trust fund and specifically to the secretariat.

71. In introducing the issue of 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. The business plan would attempt to predict demand on the trust fund, and encourage an increased donor base as well as setting out performance indicators.

72. In the ensuing discussion, it was reiterated that the trust fund, by its design, was limited to receive contributions for five years and to disburse funds for seven years. One participant highlighted the need to consider longer term financial arrangements to support SAICM implementation beyond the life of the QSP. He observed that while the speed with which the QSP trust fund had been launched was

commendable, contributions to the trust fund were inadequate relative to demand, particularly in view of the fact that the fund had depended on a single donor for 60 per cent of its initial resources. Another participant noted the importance of multisectoral participation, including for project proposals. Regarding the applications to the trust fund, it was noted that additional assistance was required on filling in the application forms and it was suggested that guidance might be developed on prioritizing applications.

73. The meeting agreed to the development of the proposed business plan.

B. The broader Quick Start Programme

74. The Co-Chair recalled that in its resolution I/4, ICCM had also urged governments in a position to do so, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to contribute to the QSP. At its first meeting, the QSP Executive Board had agreed that the secretariat should develop, in consultation with the co-chairs, a draft format for reporting on QSP contributions. The draft would be circulated to the Board and considered at its next meeting.

75. Two participants suggested that attention be given to the possibility of in-kind contributions in the form of transfer of experience with laboratories or training of laboratory staff and the hosting of regional training workshops. Other participants agreed that in-kind contributions were very welcome and further noted the benefits of bilateral or multilateral assistance within the QSP. The representative of the secretariat said that they would be pleased to collaborate in developing opportunities for training in the region. One participant noted that not all countries would require similar forms of funding or assistance and requested additional clarification on what types of enabling activities were valid under the QSP. He also queried whether demonstration projects were considered enabling activities and therefore eligible for funding.

76. The representative of the secretariat said that the draft format for reporting on QSP contributions had been made available in July 2006 for use on a trial basis, pending consideration by the Board. As of 23 November 2006, two reporting forms had been submitted. The forms completed by Switzerland and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) were reproduced in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/17. Given that paucity, the EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting had suggested there might be lack of clarity on the definition of an enabling activity and had requested that the QSP Executive Board consider that issue. One participant indicated that it and a number of other potential contributors to the QSP were delaying submission of their reporting forms until nearer the time of the next Executive Board meeting, so that information was as up to date as possible.

77. The meeting took note of the opportunity for reporting on contributions to the QSP.

IV. VII. Financial considerations

78. The Co-Chair recalled that the provisions of SAICM relating to financial considerations were set out, principally, in section V of the Overarching Policy Strategy. References to the matter were also found in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management and in resolutions I/1 and I/4 of ICCM. The meeting had before it, for information, the African regional position on financial considerations contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/2, as well as the views of EU-JUSSCANNZ countries contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/16. She also noted that the African region had suggested that the GEF might be utilized as a financial mechanism to support SAICM implementation in the longer term. Since the QSP would be funded for just five years, up to 2011, there was a need to identify financial resources to carry it through to the year 2020.

79. The representative of the ICCA noted that his association could not provide financial resources to a trust fund but could offer support on concrete projects. In that regard ICCA was currently developing a roster of retired experts who could work jointly with intergovernmental organizations to provide human resources in developing countries and contacts had already been established in the African region and the Asia-Pacific region on that issue.

80. The representative of the Division of GEF of UNEP provided the meeting with some information on current GEF developments including a proposal for the GEF Council to recognize chemicals management as a cross-cutting issue to be addressed under several existing focal areas. The representative of the World Bank said that integrating sound management of chemicals into development priorities including such issues as governance, poverty alleviation, water resources and child health would assist countries requesting funding from multilateral or bilateral donor agencies.

81. The meeting expressed support for the African regional view on future utilization of GEF to support SAICM implementation and for the objective of mainstreaming chemicals management in development planning. One participant stressed the importance of the recent decision RC-3/5 of the third Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention on financial mechanisms which referred to SAICM and invited participants to consider the need for GEF to broaden its programming activities, including the possibility of a chemicals-related focus area. The meeting agreed to establish a working group, chaired by Mr. Bebris, to examine the African regional position on financial considerations in more detail and, based on that position, to prepare a draft text on financial considerations for the Central and Eastern European region.

82. The decision as adopted by the meeting is attached as annex III to the current report.

V. VIII. 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

83. The representative of the secretariat noted that reporting to the second session of ICCM was a key yet complex and challenging task. No guidance had been received on how this should be undertaken. The meeting had before it a proposal from the Government of Canada for a project to develop, in consultation with stakeholders, guidance for the secretariat on reporting on SAICM implementation. It was proposed that the guidance would address the preparation of an initial report on the current state of chemicals management, indicators for subsequent progress reports and arrangements for gathering information from stakeholders, which would be considered by the Conference at its second session. Canada had expressed a willingness to undertake initial work on developing the guidance on reporting and had invited volunteers from the different regions to participate in developing the guidance on reporting. The Canadian proposal was contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/2.

84. In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized that indicators should be simple and generic. One participant suggested that requesting a consolidated report from the civil society sector would help increase efficiency and reduce the burden on the secretariat. He also proposed that risk reduction and substitution of hazardous chemicals as well as non-chemical alternatives be included among indicators of progress. The participants agreed to provide any comments to the Canadian proposal to the secretariat by 15 December 2006. The meeting also agreed that Ms. Valentina Radjenovic (Serbia) would be the contact point for the region on the Canadian proposal.

B. Further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action

85. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair recalled that the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management contained a recommendation for the use and further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action as a working tool and guidance document for meeting international commitments to chemicals management. He further recalled that the executive summary of the Global Plan of Action indicated that, in the document's principal table, the columns dealing with suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects had not been fully discussed and that sufficient time had not been available to achieve agreement during the SAICM development process. The text of the Global Plan of Action, together with the other SAICM texts and the resolutions of ICCM at its first session, was reproduced in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/1. The executive summary also indicated that participants in that process had been unable to conclude their discussions on a number of activities. Those activities were reflected in table C of the draft Global Plan of Action contained in document SAICM/ICCM.1/4 but ultimately not included in the Global Plan of Action as recommended in the Dubai Declaration for use and further development.

86. During the ensuing discussion, a few participants considered that some work was necessary to revise the Global Plan of Action in particular to clarify some discrepancies, to remove duplication and to attempt to compress the document. Other participants suggested that it might be more useful to examine the Global Plan of Action and to initiate a process of selection and prioritization of issues of most concern to countries in the region rather than to attempt to revise it before it had actually been used which would, in addition, be a time-consuming project requiring endorsement of amendments by ICCM at its second session.

87. Turning to the activities reflected in table C that had not been included in the Global Plan of Action some participants suggested that countries could identify activities of concern requiring action from that table if they considered them of national of priority. To assist with the use of table C, several participants suggested that the secretariat make table c available to the region. One participant said that table C should be re-submitted for consideration by ICCM at its second session.

88. The meeting agreed that there was no need to undertake any revision on the Global Plan of Action and that it would continue to be used as a road map for prioritization and as guidance for activities on sound management of chemicals.

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

89. 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 by ICCM at its second session, following preparatory work by an open-ended legal and technical working group that might be convened in late 2008. The meeting had before it, for information, document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/13, containing the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM. The Co-Chair invited participants to express their general views on the rules of procedure.

90. Several participants urged that rules of procedure for ICCM be based on those of the Preparatory Committee in order to ensure that SAICM continue to be an open, transparent and multisectoral process providing for full participation of all stakeholders. The designation of a bureau would be one issue to be considered when developing ICCM rules of procedure. Regarding the convening of an open-ended legal and technical working group several question still remained as to its organization, in particular with regard to the process for preparing for the meeting of that group and its participation structure.

91. The meeting noted that the rules of procedure would be considered by an open-ended legal and technical working group.

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

92. 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.

93. Several representatives requested clarification on the structure and participatory process in the open-ended legal and technical working group. It was emphasized that geographic and sectoral balance be taken into account when selecting participants. Several participants, noting that a smaller group could work more efficiently, suggested that the working group be structured in a similar way to the expanded bureau that had worked intersessionally until the first session of ICCM. That would entail two participants from each region as well as one each from the intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Some participants suggested that the working group also take on the role of preparing for the second session of ICCM.

94. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting of the suggestion it had raised at the EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting that a scientific conference be convened in preparation for the next session of the ICCM. He said that the idea had stemmed from a question on how the secretariat should handle the function of promoting exchange of scientific information and prepare for consideration of emerging issues by ICCM. The aim of the conference would be to produce an authoritative and neutral summary of the state of scientific knowledge on key current and emerging chemical safety issues. The EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting had not reached a unanimous position, some saying for example that it would duplicate the work of the IFCS, others supporting the holding of a series of conferences to strengthen the scientific dimension of SAICM.

95. In the ensuing discussion some participants agreed that a scientific conference might duplicate the work of IFCS while others asserted that IFCS was not a suitable forum for a scientific discussion and supported the holding of a SAICM science conference. Some participants underlined the need to base policy making on scientific information. Other participants said that to convene such a conference would entail much demand on limited funds that could be better used for other SAICM implementation activities. Several participants acknowledged the value of promoting the exchange of scientific information but suggested that it might be undertaken through internet information exchange platforms or other less costly means rather than through a conference. Some other participants suggested that such

information exchange could be undertaken in the context of other international meetings as a side event. Several participants considered that a broad review of the state of scientific knowledge on current and emerging chemical safety issues would be too challenging for a single conference.

96. The meeting agreed that there was need for a sound scientific base but some participants considered that that could be achieved through a website containing scientific information or through side-events at specific conferences. It acknowledged that some participants were in favour of a scientific conference but that others had expressed doubts as to how issues to be discussed would be selected, what would be the outcome, who would participate, and on the funding issue.

97. The meeting agreed to take note of the proposal and that there was no consensus as to whether or how to proceed.

VI. IX. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook

98. The representative of the secretariat introduced meeting document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/INF/12, providing information on progress in establishing the secretariat, its services and budget outlook. He noted in particular that WHO was providing a staff member to the SAICM secretariat and that UNEP would be providing an additional staff member in 2007. He reiterated that the QSP and the regional actions had been the priority since the first session of ICCM in early 2006. He acknowledged the funding and support received for the SAICM secretariat and its activities, including that from Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. He noted that the financial support from Slovenia was unusual in that it had been made in the form of a multi-year commitment. He observed that, if the format of the second session of ICCM was similar to that of the first, up to US\$ 1.5 million might be required in 2009. Resources would also have to be found to convene the open-ended legal and technical working group as well as the two regional meetings in the Asia-Pacific region and the Latin American region.

99. One participant noted that currently the SAICM secretariat was funded by a very narrow donor base and this was unsustainable. Another participant recalled that SAICM was not a legally binding instrument and as such did not have donor funding calculated on the basis of the UN Scale of Assessment. He said that was a new approach and hoped that, on the way to 2020, new donor countries might be identified and that all countries with economies in transition would have finished their transition and that some might become donors.

100. The meeting took note of the report of the secretariat on the establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook.

VII. X. Possible future regional or sub-regional meetings during the intersessional period

101. Introducing the item, the Co-Chair invited the participants to discuss their preferences with regard to the timing and format of any further regional or sub-regional meetings to be held during the remainder of the period before the second session of ICCM, to be held in 2009.

102. The meeting agreed to convene, funds permitting, a second Central and Eastern European regional meeting in the second half of 2008. The representative of the secretariat encouraged countries who might wish to host that meeting to contact the secretariat during 2007.

VIII. XI. Other business

103. No other items of business were raised.

IX. XII. Adoption of the report

104. The meeting participants adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.1/L.1 and entrusted the Rapporteur, working together with the secretariat, with finalizing it.

X. XIII. Closure of the meeting

105. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 4.55 p.m. on 6 December, 2006.

Annex I

Terms of reference for the regional focal point for the Central and Eastern European region

1. The roles and responsibilities of the Central and Eastern European regional focal point for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) are:
 - (a) To facilitate SAICM implementation efforts in the region through the SAICM national focal points;
 - (b) To facilitate sharing of experience in SAICM implementation with other regions;
 - (c) To facilitate regional meetings on SAICM in consultation with the SAICM secretariat;
 - (d) To solicit and summarize input from SAICM national focal points, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other SAICM participants in the region on issues and matters being addressed by SAICM, including the identification of regional and sub-regional priorities;
 - (e) To identify regional and sub-regional projects, if any, and assist in identifying potential sources of funds for the implementation of such projects in cooperation with SAICM national focal points and the SAICM secretariat;
 - (f) To prepare regional progress reports for submission to regional meetings and to facilitate reporting by Central and Eastern European stakeholders to the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as appropriate;
 - (g) To present regional views to the SAICM secretariat, the International Conference on Chemicals Management and other relevant forums, as appropriate;
 - (h) To liaise with regional and sub-regional bodies on SAICM implementation;
 - (i) To facilitate, in consultation with national focal points, the nomination and designation of regional representatives for SAICM ad hoc working groups and committees, if necessary, for the purpose of ensuring equitable geographical representation for the region;
 - (j) To maintain close contact with the SAICM secretariat and to assist in the dissemination of information to SAICM national focal points.
2. The current Central and Eastern European SAICM regional focal point will serve until the close of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, to be held in 2009.

Annex II

Terms of reference for the Central and Eastern European Government representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board

1. The roles and responsibilities of the Central and Eastern European Government representatives on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme Executive Board are:

- (a) To collect and consolidate regional concerns and convey them to the Executive Board;
- (b) To produce reports on the proceedings of the Executive Board and submit them to the Central and Eastern European SAICM regional focal point and Central and Eastern European regional meetings, including information on project proposals that were accepted and declined, reasons why projects were declined and relevant recommendations;
- (c) To facilitate the submission of regional or sub-regional projects for funding under the Quick Start Programme in line with regional or sub-regional priorities, in coordination with relevant United Nations Organizations;
- (d) To monitor the efficiency of the Quick Start Programme in relation to access to and utilization of funds and accounting by beneficiaries in order to ensure a focus on SAICM implementation;
- (e) To assess barriers to implementation through the Quick Start Programme and report on them to the regional group;
- (f) To identify possible sources of funds and inform SAICM national focal points for follow up;
- (g) To analyse meeting documents and discuss them with Central and Eastern European stakeholders prior to meetings of the Executive Board;
- (h) To reflect and promote the Central and Eastern European region's vision for equitable financing of SAICM implementation, taking into account regional priorities;
- (i) To facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of experience with other regions' representatives and with donor participants in the Executive Board.

Annex III

Decision on financial support and technical cooperation to facilitate SAICM implementation

Central and Eastern European countries meeting in Riga, Latvia, from 4 to 6 December 2006,

Recalling that in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, Minister, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector declared that “the sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development”,

Noting that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) addresses financial considerations in chapter V of the Overarching Policy Strategy, where it is recognized that SAICM “should call upon existing and new sources of financial support to provide additional resources and should build upon, among other things, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building”, and that, furthermore, the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that SAICM should also include the mobilization of additional national and international financial resources and other measures set out in paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy to accelerate the strengthening of capabilities and capacities for the implementation of SAICM objectives,

Recognizing the diversity of the region and taking into account the different stages of economic development and varying needs for financial and technical assistance required to strengthen capacity for the sound management of chemicals,

1. *Recommends* the utilization of national mechanisms to support the implementation of SAICM, including, as appropriate,:

- (a) the integration and prioritization of sound chemicals management in national development planning, including in relation to such issues as governance, poverty alleviation, water resources and child health;
- (b) the mobilization of national financial and other resources through all relevant departments and ministries including, but not limited to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labour and science, in order to facilitate implementation of SAICM in all relevant sectors;
- (c) the possible adoption of national economic instruments that can help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management including, as appropriate, economic instruments to internalize the external costs of chemicals and:
 - (i) the encouragement of carefully designed pilot efforts in a few countries;
 - (ii) the dissemination of information on economic instruments already in use;
 - (iii) the encouragement the exchange of information on relevant experiences and studies on the design and implementation of economic instruments from both new and existing economic instruments;
- (d) the involvement of industry in partnerships, including for financial, technical and in-kind support for concrete projects, to strengthen voluntary initiatives and to develop new initiatives with other stakeholders for SAICM implementation;
- (e) the involvement of non-governmental and other civil society organizations in order to contribute to SAICM implementation actions through:
 - (i) the encouragement of non-governmental organizations and foundations to provide additional funds for civil society to facilitate SAICM implementation;
 - (ii) the encouragement of civil society to establish foundations;

2. *Calls for* increased international support for the implementation of SAICM, including through:

- (a) the establishment at the next meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of a new focal area for sound chemicals management in GEF, based on new and additional resources, and for GEF Council members representing Central and Eastern European

country constituencies to present effectively to the GEF Council the proposal for a new chemicals management focal area;

(b) adequate financial and in-kind contributions to the Quick Start Programme (QSP) relative to needs;

(c) strengthening chemicals management capacity through bilateral and multilateral technical, financial and development assistance cooperation;

3. *Encourages* efforts at the regional level to support SAICM implementation through:

(a) the engagement of relevant regional entities in a position to provide appropriate financial and technical assistance, including regional organizations, development banks and technical assistance centres, and the regional offices of intergovernmental organizations;

b) the provision, by Central and Eastern European Governments in a position to do so, of technical cooperation and financial contributions through regional mechanisms, such as TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States), TAIEX (Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument) and the European INTERREG (Interregional Cooperation) initiative.
