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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 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management: Reporting to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM

Modalities for reporting on progress in SAICM implementation

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the briefing note prepared by the international consulting firm, Resource Futures International (RFI), on progress under the initiative to develop possible modalities for reporting on SAICM implementation. Participants in the present Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting may wish to consider the briefing note with a view to commenting on the draft indicators being developed.

* SAICM/RM/LAC.1/1

Annex

RFI Briefing on Progress under the SAICM Reporting Initiative, January 30, 2008

Reporting provision for SAICM

Reporting on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) will be a key tool in assessing progress towards the achievement of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation's goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020. It will also help assess progress on the individual objectives set out in the SAICM's Dubai Declaration and Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS).

Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) will undertake periodic reviews of SAICM, with its first review scheduled for May 2009 at ICCM-2. In doing so, ICCM will receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in SAICM implementation. The ICCM will evaluate the implementation of SAICM with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary. The functions of the SAICM secretariat, which are set down in paragraph 28 of the Strategy, include reporting to the ICCM on implementation of SAICM by all participants.

Draft indicators project

To assist with the development of appropriate reporting modalities, the Government of Canada has initiated a project to develop draft indicators and associated guidance for the secretariat. In April of 2007, Environment Canada engaged an international consulting firm, Resource Futures International (RFI), to draft proposals in this regard and also to propose a reporting mechanism.

The assumption was made that the SAICM secretariat would be responsible for requesting governments to provide information and for making an overall report on SAICM implementation to the ICCM. The format of the questionnaires would lend themselves to web-based reporting, recognizing that globally, use of such technology has advanced sufficiently to permit this approach, and that web-based reporting has also been utilized via other fora (e.g., with respect to chemicals by the of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants). Additional options, such as reporting via a CD and email file output, and a hardcopy option, could also be used.

Design of draft indicators

The draft indicators and related questions are developed to measure progress to achieve provisions as set out in the SAICM Dubai Declaration and Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS). They are designed to enable aggregation of data globally and regionally by countries and are initially to be contrasted against the 2006 “baseline” year of SAICM’s adoption.

The proposed indicators and associated questions are results-based rather than process oriented, although opportunity is provided with each question posed for respondents to provide narrative follow-up to further clarify or qualify their response.

Four separate questionnaires have been developed for four stakeholder groups: (1) Government (for country level responses), (2) International Governmental Organizations, (3) Industry (based on responses from global industry associations); and (4) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This approach permits tailoring of responses to the respective groups as keyed to the nature of their contributions and impacts of chemicals management upon them. This approach was considered more informative than would be a single questionnaire distributed to all stakeholders alike.

International Project Steering Committee (IPSC)

In consultation with the SAICM secretariat, the Government of Canada in July 2007 invited SAICM regional focal points, NGO focal points, representatives from industry associations, the Quick Start Programme Executive Board and Trust Fund Implementation Committee, as well as sponsors of the project, to nominate a representative(s), to serve on an **International Project Steering Committee (IPSC)** created by Canada with support from the SAICM, to inform the consultant efforts. Members of the IPSC, who serve in a personal capacity, provide advice on the basis of their expertise of chemical management regimes and concerns within the respective UNEP regions and sectors in which they work. Since formation of the IPSC, four teleconferences have been held to discuss and comment on the draft indicators being developed. These teleconferences were held as follows:

- 12 July 2007: Review of initial draft indicators and Work Plan leading to the second session of the ICCM.
- 27 September 2007: Review of proposed mechanism and first round of indicator revisions
- 6 November 2007: Review of third round of revisions
- 11 December 2007: Review of fourth round of revisions

In addition to these teleconferences, opportunities have been taken for discussion of the project and the proposed indicators at relevant face-to-face meetings e.g. an EU-SAICM coordination meeting, the regional group meetings of Latin America and the Caribbean and EU-JUSSCANNZ countries.

To make the work of on development of indicators transparent, all comments received are made publicly available on the SAICM web site (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/Reporting/reporting.htm>)

A final IPSC teleconference is scheduled for 4 March 2008, at which the consultant will present their final revisions to the draft indicators.

Indicator questionnaires: path forward

The final outcome of this work is anticipated to be draft indicators that can be used to inform deliberations and decision-making at the second session of the ICCM scheduled for 2009 and other relevant international forums, such as the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), where toxic chemicals are scheduled to be considered in the 2010-2011 biennium.

With respect to ICCM, the proposed indicators will be considered by ICCM-2 (May 2009). Ideally, it would be useful to have final approved indicators emerge from ICCM 2, as the next opportunity for reporting back to all participants on SAICM will be ICCM-3 in 2012 or six years after SAICM's adoption.

Baseline estimates report

In addition to commissioning preparation of draft indicators, the Government of Canada requested the consultant to prepare a baseline estimates report. While future reports would be drawn from responses to indicator questions circulated by ICCM, this report will be compiled from secondary sources as available and applicable to 2006. The report will provide a very general overview of the status of SAICM implementation on the year of its adoption. A draft baseline estimates report will be presented in March 2008 for comment by the IPSC at its final teleconference and a proposed baseline report prepared for submission to the Government of Canada by 31 March 2008 for onward transmittal to the SAICM secretariat.