

Action by the Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at its hundred and thirty-first session, held in Rome, Italy, from 20 to 25 November 2006.

Extract of the Council report, with underlined verbs indicating decisions, directives and recommendations.

New International Developments on Pesticide Management

82. The Council agreed on the importance of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in assisting countries to meet the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In line with the International Conference on Chemicals Management, it recognized the importance of Agencies such as FAO incorporating SAICM into their programmes, consistent with their mandate. It was also noted that the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides was to be considered as an important element of the SAICM process.

83. The Council recognized that the successful implementation of SAICM depended on the smooth interdisciplinary cooperation at national, regional and UN level, and stressed the need for the agricultural sector to be fully involved in the SAICM process.

84. The Council endorsed SAICM and recognized FAO's role in the implementation of SAICM to the extent possible within existing resources. Some Members recommended that the Organization make full use of extra-budgetary resources that would be mobilized for that purpose.

85. The Council also noted the importance of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) to facilitate implementation of SAICM by increasing awareness on the links between poverty eradication and sound chemicals management.

86. In view of the broad range of activities envisaged within SAICM, the Council suggested that the activities of FAO could include risk reduction, including the progressive ban on highly hazardous pesticides, promoting good agricultural practices, ensuring environmentally-sound disposal of stock-piles of obsolete pesticides and capacity-building in establishing national and regional laboratories.