



**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management**

Third meeting

Montevideo, 2–4 April 2019

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Progress towards the achievement of the 2020 overall
objective of the sound management of chemicals: overall
orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal**

**Interim report on progress in the implementation of the overall
orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound
management of chemicals**

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to present an interim report on progress in the implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of the Sound Management of Chemicals, as requested in the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) Resolution IV/1. The report is presented in the annex and has not been formally edited.
2. This interim report provides a general reflection on progress, based on reports submitted by stakeholders, and analysis of relevant data sets and other available information. It is not a comprehensive assessment.
3. The Working Group may wish to take note of the interim report on progress towards implementing the Overall Orientation and Guidance and to give guidance to the secretariat in preparing the report to be presented to the fifth session of the Conference in 2020.
4. Furthermore, stakeholders are invited to comment on this interim report, both in the context of celebrating the achievements of the Strategic Approach in 2020 and in setting out baseline information on chemicals and waste in the beyond 2020 context. Comments should be submitted to the secretariat by 31 May 2019.

* SAICM/OEWG.3/1.

Annex

Interim report on progress in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals

I. Introduction

1. At its fourth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), adopted resolution IV/1, in which the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals was endorsed as a voluntary tool that will assist in the prioritization of efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste as a contribution to the overall implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
2. The aim of the Overall Orientation and Guidance is to provide direction and identify approaches for all Strategic Approach stakeholders towards facilitating the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, including some concrete elements required at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management to support the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy.
3. A set of basic elements were recognized as critical at the national and regional levels to the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management in the overall orientation and guidance. Upon the request of the first meeting of the intersessional process, the secretariat undertook a further review of the basic elements for the second meeting of the intersessional process (SAICM/IP.2/8) in March 2018, via a stakeholder consultation process. Within that review, the basic elements were categorized as follows:

Key Area I: Legal and institutional frameworks, implementation and enforcement

- 1: Legal frameworks that address the life-cycle of chemicals and waste
- 2: Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders
- 3: Implementation of chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as health, labour and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms

Key Area 2: Stakeholder participation and sectoral engagement

- 4: Industry participation and defined responsibility across the life cycle
- 5: Strengthened capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to chemicals accidents, including institutional-strengthening for poison centres

Key Area 3: Knowledge and information, risk assessment/reduction and monitoring

- 6: Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach
- 7: Chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the use of best practices
- 8: Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment
- 9: Development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives

Key Area 4: Political leadership, outreach, education and promotion

- 10: Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, research, education and economic budgeting processes and development plans.

5. Furthermore, the six core activity areas identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance to implement the Strategic Approach objectives include:

- (a) Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement;
- (b) Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation;
- (c) Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes and budgets;
- (d) Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies;
- (e) Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society;
- (f) Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020.

6. The present report provides a review of the progress made towards each of the six core activity areas identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, including review of the basic elements to achieve the sound management of chemicals.

7. In 2016 the ICCM5 Bureau invited the regions and SAICM stakeholder groups to compile information from within their respective regions and sectors on initiatives related to the implementation of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance. The secretariat developed a reporting template to support stakeholders to gather necessary information on implementation of the action points set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance. The template^a was set up in three separate tables: Table I Implementation of actions identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance; Table II Support to implementation of the 11 basic elements identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance; and Table III Implementation of the SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

8. Information was received from the Africa Region, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Union (EU), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Monaco, Panama, Industry, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) and the Pesticides Action Network (PAN). The SAICM Secretariat reviewed the information received from stakeholders, drawing out relevant cross cutting information within this interim report. Given the limited reporting from stakeholders, the SAICM Secretariat also supplemented this interim report with additional available information and data sets. This report is not a comprehensive assessment of progress.

II. Progress in implementing the overall orientation and guidance

9. As noted above, this report reviews the progress in each of the six core activity areas identified in the overall orientation and guidance together with the basic elements. It reviews the overall guidance, provides reflections on progress and offers some considerations in looking ahead to 2020 and beyond per core activity area.

^a The tracking table template is available on the SAICM web-site at the following link:
<http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Towards2020/tabid/5499/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

A. Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement

1. Overall guidance^b

10. The involvement of all relevant stakeholders and sectors, at all levels, is key to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach and the basic elements, as are transparent, inclusive and open implementation processes as well as public participation in regulatory and other decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety.

11. Greater awareness and the involvement of various sectors – in particular health, agriculture, labour and industry – as well as public interest groups, in policy deliberation, development and implementation are critical in providing an informed basis for the sound management of chemicals at the national, regional and global levels.

12. There is a need for stronger engagement and an increased assumption of responsibility by downstream entities, in particular industries, to address the distribution and use of chemicals in the manufacture of products and throughout their life cycle, as well as for a more extensive approach to stewardship.

2. Reflections on progress^c

13. Since the fourth session of the Conference, 19 new stakeholder groups nominated official SAICM focal points, demonstrating on-going and increasing interest in the Strategic Approach. Three of the newly identified focal points were from international organizations and bodies / inter-governmental organizations, specifically: The Ozone Secretariat; Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and the World Bank. The remaining 16 new stakeholders were from non-governmental organizations, including: Academie de l'eau, Action Jeunesse pour le Developpement, Aerospace Industries Association, Association des Constructeurs Européens d'Automobiles, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), Forum CC, Health and Environment Alliance, International Chemical Trade Association AISBL, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations, International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association, International Panel on Chemical Pollution, International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre, Outreach Social Care Project, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa.

14. ICCM Resolution II/2 underlined the important role of regional meetings and coordination mechanisms in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to the implementation of SAICM and to develop regional positions on key issues. Five SAICM regional meetings took place in early 2018: Asia-Pacific from 23 to 25 January 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand; Latin American and the Caribbean from 29 to 31 January 2018 in Panama City, Panama; Africa from 6 to 8 February 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; EU-JUSCANZ on 9 February 2018 in Paris, France; and Central and Eastern Europe from 19 to 21 February 2018 in Lodz, Poland. A number of informal regional meetings were also held back-to-back with the preparatory meetings for the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

15. With respect to health sector engagement, the Seventieth World Health Assembly approved The Roadmap to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond in May 2017. The Roadmap was requested by the World Health Assembly in its Resolution WHA69.4 (2016) and builds on the World Health Organization's (WHO) existing relevant work as well as the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach adopted by the third session of the International Conference in September 2012. The WHO submitted a report to the Working Group on the WHO Chemicals Road Map and Global Chemicals and Health Network as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/10. One of the actions in The Roadmap mandates the WHO Secretariat to

^b The sections on 'overall guidance' are extracted from the Overall Orientation and Guidance and updated as relevant.

^c The sections on reflection on progress are general in nature and developed by the secretariat based on stakeholder reports submitted, various data sets and other available information. It is not a comprehensive assessment.

establish a global chemicals and health network, with links to existing sub-regional, regional and international networks, to facilitate health sector implementation of The Roadmap. The network promotes collaboration on common policy challenges, perspectives and priorities of health ministries in managing chemicals and to facilitate continuity of contact among health ministries and with WHO.

16. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), through national Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) programmes in Member States, provides technical support to allow countries to strengthen their legal and regulatory frameworks. This includes promoting sound chemicals management at national level for the implementation of the ILO Chemicals Convention No. 170. All national OSH programmes include the sound management of chemicals at the workplace and are tripartite in nature where government, employer and worker organisations participate equally.

17. UN Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IPEN in December 2017 to work in partnership on gender and chemicals. These efforts focus on raising awareness, promoting women's engagement and leadership in the decision-making processes as well as contributing to activities related to the Strategic Approach emerging policy issues and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, IPEN will be working on mapping the impact of selected emerging policy issues on women and their relation to relevant SDGs. Furthermore, gender considerations have been increasingly incorporated into global multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

18. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and UN Environment hosted the Symposium on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and the Circular Economy from 11 to 13 September 2018 in Chengdu, China^d. The Symposium was aimed at coming to a common understanding of the concept of circular economy and how facilitating circularity is closely intertwined with sound management of chemicals and waste. The Symposium provided practical examples for governments and industry on how to facilitate and implement more circular approaches, while also identifying enabling policy conditions to scale up circular approaches.

3. Looking to 2020 and beyond

19. At the fifth meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau, the Regional SAICM Focal Points noted their challenges in engaging relevant national and stakeholder focal points from countries in implementing the sound management of chemicals. During this discussion, it was suggested that the regions could consider reactivating their coordination groups that were previously established within the regions to support priority setting and SAICM implementation. Furthermore, paragraph 44 of the Overall Orientation and Guidance highlights the need for increased regional collaboration. It states that this may be accomplished by further engaging centres with a range of competencies and within their respective mandates, such as the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, the regional offices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), regional bureaux of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and joint UNEP/UNIDO cleaner production centres.

20. Overall, active promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste within each relevant sector and the integration of programmes across all sectors will maximize future impact. Each sector has a role to play to ensure that the adverse impacts on human health and the environment are minimized.

21. Furthermore, inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development assistance plans and frameworks should ultimately ensure that it is a significant component of national policy frameworks, thus prioritizing the chemicals and waste agenda at the national level. This will ensure sustained focus and financing in moving forward.

^d The report of the workshop is available as document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/17.

B. Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation

1. Overall guidance

22. There is an urgent need to set and strengthen chemicals regulations and controls in a number of countries and to extend cooperation with a view to building the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes and promoting the adequate transfer of cleaner and safer technology to those countries. Some developed countries also face challenges in meeting the 2020 goal.

23. It is critical that the Overarching Policy Strategy be implemented and, including, all, or as many as possible, of the basic elements identified, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

24. The enforcement of existing legal frameworks and infrastructure, and compliance mechanisms, as well as the establishment of coordinating mechanisms between the various entities involved in the value chain, are key in setting up the necessary infrastructure to eradicate illegal activities.

2. Reflections on progress

25. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) internet-based “Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management” has been updated with a new user interface which is now available. The IOMC Toolbox is aimed at countries who wish to address specific national issues regarding chemicals management. It is a problem-solving tool that enables countries to identify the most appropriate and efficient national actions to address specific national problems related to chemicals management. Use of the website by stakeholders is being supported by a series of national and regional training workshops during 2019 and 2020, as well as a series of webinars on the Toolbox including related toolkits and tools^e.

26. The Quick Start Programme (QSP) project portfolio, which is scheduled to wrap up in 2019, comprises of 184 approved projects with an approximate value of \$37 million. The programme spans 108 different countries including 40 countries in Africa, 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific, 28 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and 10 countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Of these countries 54 were least developed countries and small island developing states. The QSP Impact Evaluation, as outlined in document SAICM/ICCC.4/INF/5, concluded that the QSP demonstrably met, and in many cases exceeded, its objective of establishing enabling environments for sound management of chemicals at the national level. All three of the Strategic Priorities have been addressed, with priorities A (national profiles) and B (strengthening institutions) being addressed by a majority of countries, while priority C (mainstreaming) was addressed by a smaller, but significant, number of projects.

27. The SAICM secretariat has recently developed a mapped database of all QSP projects that is available on the SAICM website^f.

28. The Special Programme was set up to support country driven institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and SAICM in the context of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes^g. It takes into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. The Special Programme is currently funding 42 projects, as outlined in figure 1. At its second meeting, the Executive Board of the Special Programme approved seven projects in Argentina, Benin, the Dominican Republic, Iraq,

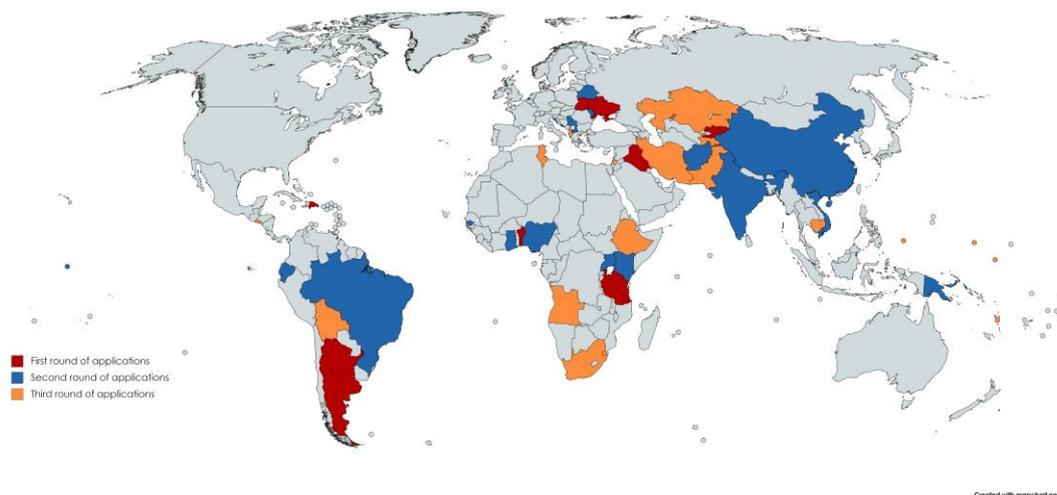
^e More information available at <https://iomctoolbox.oecd.org/>.

^f More information available at <http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/QuickStartProgramme/QSPVisualization/tabid/7956/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

^g More information available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme>

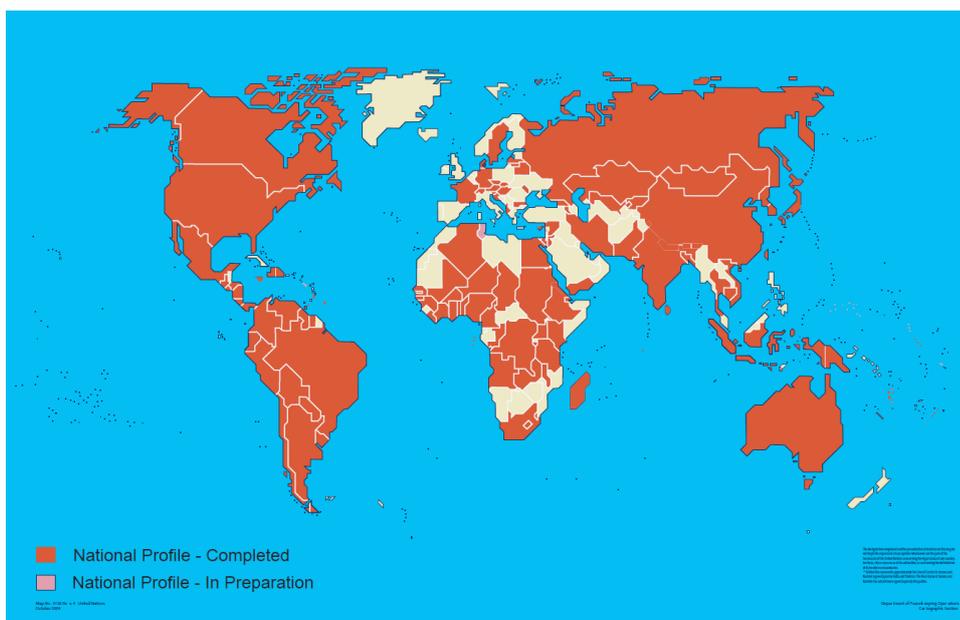
the Kyrgyz Republic, Tanzania, and Ukraine following the first and pilot round of applications for funding from the Special Programme. At its third meeting, the Executive Board approved seventeen projects in Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kiribati, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Uganda and Viet Nam. At its fourth meeting, the Executive Board approved 18 projects in Albania; Angola; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Cambodia; Ethiopia; El Salvador; Eswatini; Iran; Kazakhstan; Micronesia (Federated States of); Nauru; Pakistan; Palau; State of Palestine; South Africa; Tajikistan; Tunisia; and Vanuatu.

Figure 1: Map of countries that have received funding from the Special Programme.



29. National Profiles have served as a useful basis for identifying national chemicals management priorities and for initiating targeted and coordinated follow-up action. In countries with advanced national chemical management schemes, National Profiles have pulled together into one document a wide range of information about national activities and programmes in the area of national chemicals management and thus contribute to both the national and international exchange of information about these activities. Figure 2 represents the countries with national profiles for chemicals, based on information from UNITAR^h. Approximately 80 projects funded by the QSP directly supported the development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management, under QSP strategic priority A.

^h More information available at http://cwm.unitar.org/national-profiles/nphomepage/np3_region.aspx

Figure 2: Global Status of National Profiles (UNITAR)

30. With respect to Key Area 1 of the basic elements ‘Legal and institutional frameworks, implementation and enforcement’:

- a) In reporting to the SAICM secretariat, many countries noted the development of legal frameworks that address the life-cycle of chemicals and waste.
- b) With respect to institutional frameworks and coordination, many of the governments that reported on implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance to the secretariat indicated that they host regular meetings of inter-agency and multi-stakeholder chemicals management advisory groups. They also reported involving stakeholders in the development and implementation of legislation by various means.
- c) With respect to the ratification of the chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements: there are 187 parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; 161 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; and 182 Parties to the Stockholm Convention. There are currently 105 Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which entered into force in 2017.

31. The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, developed by FAO/WHO, provides standards of conduct as well as guidance for all public and private entities engaged in, or associated with, the management of pesticides. The Code of Conduct is especially useful for countries where inadequate, outdated or even no national legislation to regulate pesticides is available, as outlined in the Guidelines on Legislation. Figure 3 highlights all the countries which have pesticide legislation implemented on the basis of the Code of Conduct (FAO, February 2018). The green colour represents countries where there is effective legislation whereas countries depicted in red indicates that no legislation has been implemented yet. No information is available from countries represented by a grey colour.

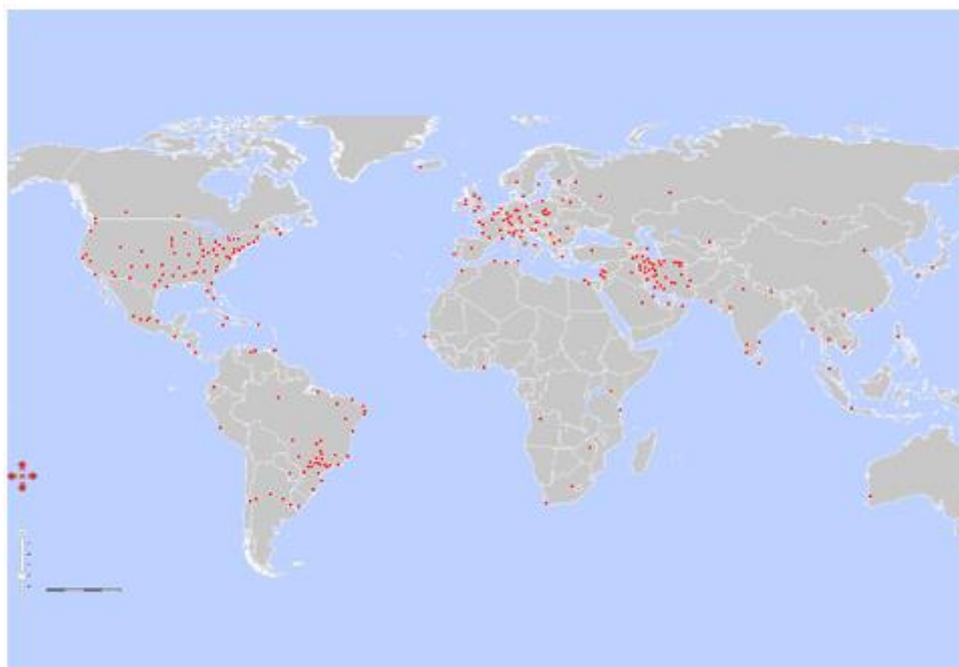
Figure 3: World Map of Pesticide Legislation

32. In addition, for pesticide legislation and related efforts, stakeholders reported:
- a) The Africa region noted the Economic Community of West African States Directive on Pesticides as an available and planned risk reduction and information sharing tool;
 - b) PAN UK highlighted that they are producing information on alternatives to specific highly hazardous pesticides in specific crops, aimed at national decision makers and non-governmental organisations;
 - c) CropLife indicated that they have developed a range of materials available for public download on the CropLife webpage that covers all critical aspects of the sound management of pesticides such as: Storage & transportation, responsible use, personal protective equipment, resistance management, contamination prevention, integrated pest management, etc. Two examples initiated in 2013 of key stewardship initiatives aimed to exemplify the scope, commitment and stakeholder engagement by the Crop Protection Industry were highlighted: (1) Honduras partnership project: CropLife Latin America partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to train Honduran farmers in good agricultural practices; and (2) Cocoa in West Africa partnership project: CropLife Africa Middle East entered into a two year partnership with the World Cocoa Foundation to train professional Spray Service Providers in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon.
33. The OECD Council Acts related to chemical safety form a comprehensive legal framework that addresses the life cycle of chemicals. Activities to ensure the continued relevance of these acts are ongoing. Development of a best practice guidance to stop illegal trade of pesticides is currently underway.
34. With respect to Key Area 2 of the basic elements ‘Stakeholder participation and sectoral engagement’:
- a) For industry participation and defined responsibility across the life cycle, industry reported the following information in their report to the secretariat:
 - i. The ICCA reported that the proper stewardship of chemical across their life cycle is an inherent element of the Responsible Care Global Charter and Global Product Strategy.
 - ii. CropLife International reported that their approach towards stewardship is to provide guidance documents, resistance management, and promote a commitment towards the Code of Conduct and Highly Hazardous Pesticides as part of shared responsibilities by

all CropLife International members. These responsibilities are incorporated into members' respective corporate policies and practices.

- iii. The American Petroleum Institute (API) established Environmental Principles that incorporate concepts of sound chemical management. Under API's Environmental Principles, API members, as a condition of their membership, pledge to manage their businesses using sound science to prioritize risks and to implement cost-effective management practices. In addition, API reported that many API members voluntarily engage in sustainability reporting based on the Oil and Gas Industry Guidance on Voluntary Sustainability Reporting.
 - iv. Colombia reported that the Ministries of Health, Labour, Trade and Industry, and Environment, have designed a program for the management of chemical substances for industrial use, which would complement the existing regulations and mechanisms for the control of other substances and products such as pesticides. This program was structured based on the guidelines of the IOMC Toolkit.
- b) Efforts have been made to strengthen capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to chemicals accidents, including institutional-strengthening for poison centres. According to the WHO, as of September 2017, only 46% of Member States had a poison centre, with the most notable gaps being in the African, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific regionsⁱ. Figure 4 provides a general overview of poison centre locations globally. Eight projects funded by the QSP supported efforts on poison control centres and / or on poisoning information.

Figure 4: WHO World directory of poison centers, as of September 2017



3. Looking to 2020 and beyond

35. The basic elements and measures to strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemicals and waste will remain relevant beyond 2020. There is a need to increase efforts to establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste.

36. Stakeholders may wish to reflect on relevant milestones for achieving progress in this area beyond 2020. Regions may also wish to reflect on regional progress and promote regional progress.

ⁱ Source: https://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/poisons_centres_text/en/

C. Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes and budgets

1. Overall guidance

37. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to reinforce links between development and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste into national development plans in developing countries and into international development assistance priorities will contribute to the reshaping of budgets, allowing for the possibility of national and international financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The benefits of action and the cost of inaction will justify greater investment in this area.

38. Actions taken to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste should be designed, financed and implemented with sustainability in mind, also bearing in mind that project funds are finite while ongoing enforcement, monitoring and capacity development are essential to effective mainstreaming.

2. Reflections on progress

39. Political leadership, outreach, education and promotion are important to advance progress for the sound management of chemicals. One of the basic elements identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance is the inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, research, education and economic budgeting processes and development plans. A number of countries reported progress in this area, for example:

- (a) Barbados noted that they incorporated the action plans produced through various QSP projects into the annual work programme of the Environmental Protection Department and developed a national chemicals management policy;
- (b) Brazil indicated that the chemicals management agenda was inserted into the federal government's budget planning and into the strategic plan of the ministry of the environment with targeted goals (for example amounts of obsolete pesticides and PCBs to be disposed and monitoring of environmental contamination with pesticides);
- (c) Canada reported that on behalf of the Auditor General of Canada, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development provides parliamentarians with objective, independent analysis and recommendations on the federal government's efforts to protect the environment and foster sustainable development. The Commissioner conducts performance audits of the federal government efforts and is responsible for assessing whether federal government departments are meeting their sustainable development objectives, and overseeing the environmental petitions process;
- (d) Costa Rica reported that one of the most important efforts of the Technical Secretariat of Coordination for the Management of Chemical Substances was the drafting of the Decree of the Chemical Safety Policy of Costa Rica, which is in the process of being signing. Costa Rica is also elaborating a National System for Integral Waste Management.
- (e) Côte d'Ivoire noted the development of a Budgeted Action Plan for their Chemicals Management Strategy.
- (f) The EU and its 28 member states noted that the sound management of chemicals is addressed to a certain degree in all relevant sectors, for example agriculture, health, labour, industry and water, amongst others. However, some gaps still need to be addressed in order to further improve chemicals management and thereby the level of protection. The seventh Environmental Action Programme for the European Union includes a number of actions on chemicals, including the development of a non-toxic environment strategy. Those actions address, amongst other things, the following aspects: (1) More targeted investments: Adequate

investments and innovation in products, services and public policies from public and private sources; (2) More effective integration of environmental concerns into other policy areas, such as regional policy, agriculture, fisheries, energy and transport will ensure better decision-making and coherent policy approaches that deliver multiple benefits. The EU and its 28 member states cooperate very closely with all relevant international bodies and provide important support to their work by, amongst other things, making available financial resources, for example for the technical assistance programmes of the respective instruments and for development of the IOMC Toolbox and the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening;

- (g) Mexico reported that at the beginning of each federal governmental administration, a national development plan, which defines the guidelines under which the government's work is done, is established. The current administration has included in its development plan aspects aimed at combating poverty, ensuring water quality, health and food security and has indicators to assess their performance.

40. Over 60 projects funded through the QSP addressed the Programme's strategic priority C – to undertake analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities to enable the implementation of the strategic approach by “mainstreaming” the sound management of chemicals into national strategies.

41. UNDP country-level activities utilize the national implementation modality, thereby enhancing country ownership. In addition, project management arrangements always ensure the involvement of relevant actors from various sectors. UNDP-supported activities utilize integrated financing by drawing on global, bilateral, national, and private sector funding. In order to ensure the sustainability of project activities, the project objectives address strengthening institutional arrangements and capacity for chemicals and waste management in countries^j.

42. The Executive Director of UNEP undertook an evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/11. The overarching purpose of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the integrated approach with the aim of assessing how the integrated approach has contributed to the implementation of the chemicals and waste activities and to inform future refinements and adjustments to the integrated approach. With respect to mainstreaming, the evaluation highlighted that to the best of the interviewed stakeholders' knowledge, there was no ongoing, scaled monitoring of the financial and in-kind contributions being triggered by the various mainstreaming initiatives. The evaluation also noted that information on mainstreaming contributions were obtained through the SAICM progress reporting process.

3. Looking to 2020 and beyond

43. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste underpins progress towards each of the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and is one of the three elements in the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste. It is an important aspect in ensuring the sustainability and progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste.

44. The evaluation of the integrated approach, noted above, may provide useful guidance to stakeholders in looking beyond 2020. In particular, the report indicates the need to strengthen the chemicals and waste agenda in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, beyond the current focus on SDG12. In developing future policy approaches, in particular with respect to mainstreaming and national action, real and effective linkages need to be made to integrating mechanisms like the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

^j Related guidelines are available at:
www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Programme%20and%20Operations%20Policies%20and%20Procedures/NIM_for_Government_english.pdf .

D. Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies

1. Overall guidance

45. Emerging policy issues have been identified by ICCM, which provide a unique global framework for identifying, promoting and advancing chemical safety objectives. The emerging policy issue process demonstrates the broad scope and potential effects of activities that can be undertaken under the Strategic Approach since, thanks to its non-binding nature, it offers a forum in which the risks of emerging policy issues and measures to deal with them can be considered. This leads to increased awareness and national, regional and global responses.

46. The emerging policy issues identified by ICCM to date are lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. In addition, managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, and highly hazardous pesticides have been identified as issues of concern.

47. The emerging policy issues under the Strategic Approach offer the prospect of addressing large groups of chemicals at the same time, marking a shift from a chemical-by-chemical approach to a more general one that identifies and manages the risks of groups of chemicals, such an approach is conducive to significant progress towards the 2020 goal and beyond. Accordingly, in addressing emerging policy issues, Strategic Approach stakeholders should first consider the extent to which those issues would already be addressed through the implementation of components of the existing Global Plan of Action. Any gaps identified following such a consideration should be documented and specific actions developed.

2. Reflections on progress

48. The secretariat prepared the report 'Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern' as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6 for the Working Group. A number of related information documents are also available to participants, including: Emerging policy issues - IOMC response to requests from the fourth session of the International Conference (document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/9); and a Submission of UN Environment and the World Health Organization: The promotion of lead paint laws and enhanced actions towards 2020 (document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/20).

49. In its resolution IV/2, the Conference invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF), within its mandate, to support the implementation of the Conference resolutions on all emerging policy issues and to continue that support in its seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund. The GEF has approved an 8.19 million USD project on the theme "Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management". Furthermore, an additional 21 million USD in project co-financing were leveraged from multiple bilateral donors and non-governmental sources. The aim of this global project is to accelerate progress and measure the adoption of national activities on emerging policy issues to achieve the Strategic Approach goal by 2020 and to support planning for chemicals management in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will be implemented in over 40 countries over a 4-year period with the aim of presenting early project results at the fifth session of the Conference, in 2020. The GEF unit in UNEP is the implementing agency and the Strategic Approach secretariat is the executing agency. The project focuses on three work components: lead in paint, chemicals in products, and strategic planning and knowledge management. The project was approved for implementation by GEF on 7 August 2018, and the project was launched at its inception meeting which was held from 15 to 16 January 2019.

50. In addition, a proposal for a medium-sized project was submitted to GEF on 11 October 2018 for review and approval of its Chief Executive Officer. With a budget of \$2 million, the project is to be implemented in 11 countries over a 4-year period. It will focus on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides. The GEF unit of UNEP is the proposed implementing agency and the Strategic Approach secretariat is the proposed executing agency. Key project partners include FAO, WHO and UNEP.

51. With respect to Lead in Paint, 71 countries confirmed that they have legally binding controls on lead in paint, as of September 2018, as outlined in figure 5.

Figure 5: Countries with Confirmed Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region as of September 2018 (from SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/20).

Africa	Asia and the Pacific	West Asia	Europe			Latin America and the Caribbean	North America
Algeria	Australia	Jordan	Armenia	Kazakhstan*	Slovenia	Argentina	Canada
Cameroon*	China	Iraq*	Austria	Kyrgyzstan	Spain	Brazil	United States
Ethiopia**	India	Oman	Belarus	Latvia	Sweden	Chile	
Kenya	Nepal		Belgium	Liechtenstein	Switzerland	Costa Rica	
South Africa	New Zealand		Bulgaria	Lithuania	The Former	Cuba	
United Republic of Tanzania	Philippines		Croatia	Luxembourg	Yugoslav	Dominica	
	Sri Lanka		Cyprus	Malta	Republic of	Guyana	
	Thailand		Czech Republic	Monaco	Macedonia	Mexico	
			Denmark	Montenegro	United Kingdom	Panama	
			Estonia	Netherlands		Trinidad and Tobago	
			Finland	Norway		Uruguay	
			France	Poland			
			Germany	Portugal			
			Greece	Romania			
			Hungary	Russian Federation			
			Iceland	Serbia			
			Ireland	Slovakia			
			Italy				

*New since 1 October, 2017
 **The law has been passed, but it has not been put into force
 +Status change in WHO database

52. The Chemicals in Products Programme is discussed under Section E of the current document.

53. With respect to hazardous substances in the lifecycle of electronics, UNIDO has highlighted in their submission to the secretariat in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6, that important gaps remain in achieving the 2020 goal, including: (a) the current focus of the workplan being on the upstream level, which requires streamlining discussions with electrical and electronic equipment manufacturers to provide them with information regarding the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, which in turn is essential for requesting them to enhance the environmentally friendly design of such equipment; (b) the lack of funding from Strategic Approach stakeholders to tackle the activities stated in the workplan for the period 2016–2020.

54. The mandates of four of the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern are linked to science, knowledge, information and awareness raising, specifically: nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials (2009), endocrine-disrupting chemicals (2012); environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (2015); managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (2009). Figure 6 below provides an overview the four emerging issues, the leading organizations and summarizes the ICCM mandates assigned for each issue. In reviewing the ICCM mandates assigned, common requests have emerged for each of these issues, including increased awareness and understanding, generating knowledge and facilitating knowledge sharing.

Figure 6: Emerging science related emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

55. Overall, with regards to emerging policy issues, OECD reported that they continuously identify emerging policy issues and set up cooperative programmes for countries to address these issues. Current and future activities include: (i) development of Test Guidelines and guidance for identifying endocrine disruptors. The detailed action plan is outlined in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/20; (ii) development of Test Guidelines and guidance for assessing the risks of manufactured nanomaterials for human health and the environment. The detailed action plan is outlined in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/19; (iii) information exchange on alternatives to perfluorinated chemicals, The detailed action plan is outlined in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/21; (iv) promotion of integrated pest management as a means for risk reduction; (v) development of best practices in the fight against illegal trade of pesticides; (vi) piloting of the feasibility of establishing a global list of classifications according to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of chemicals (GHS); (vii) development of methodologies to assess the risks of chemicals to children; (viii) development of methodologies to assess the risks from the combined exposure to multiple chemicals; (ix) development of guidance to prevent chemical accidents due to ageing as well as changes in ownership of high-hazard installations.

56. With respect to highly hazardous pesticides (HHP), some information received in the submissions to the secretariat includes:

- (a) FAO leads the work on pesticide risk reduction through the enhancement of regulatory control and the promotion of Integrated Pest Management. Highly Hazardous Pesticides are now a new focus area. Guidelines on HHPs have been published and a Pesticide Registration Toolkit was launched to enable authorities to register HPPs with the view to improving hazard and risk assessment. Furthermore, special initiatives addressing HHPs are being launched at national and regional levels.
- (b) PAN International highlighted that they are publishing and making available to all sectors in all regions a review of the independent science on adverse impacts of glyphosate. IRET at the Costa Rican National University is producing a briefing in Spanish on the HHP approach to risk and use reduction to explain the concept to stakeholders in government agencies and the agriculture sector in Costa Rica. PAN UK is raising awareness of the FAO/WHO HHP approach with private food standards, manufacturers and retail companies to encourage them to make use of the recently published HHP guidelines in their pesticide policies.
- (c) CropLife International and its members have reported that they have developed and promoted strategies for training stakeholders, including farmers and trainers, for more than 40 years. The CropLife network works locally with over 300 partners around the world. In doing so, they

have reported upon a number of initiatives. CropLife International has developed a number of guidelines, training manuals, posters and leaflets for use in stewardship programs^k.

3. Looking to 2020 and beyond

57. With eight emerging policy issues and issues of concern raised since 2009, there are many lessons learned to reflect upon in moving forward. Areas to scale-up efforts and streamline, as relevant, to address emerging policy issues should be determined with a view to increase risk reduction and information sharing.

E. Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society

1. Overall guidance

58. The Strategic Approach fosters a strengthened science-policy interface and promotes transparent cooperative actions on global priorities, including voluntary industry initiatives, product stewardship, green chemistry and information exchange. International and regional cooperation, including sharing data between countries, provides an effective and cost-efficient means for strengthening chemicals and waste management.

59. One prerequisite for a well-functioning chemicals control is the availability of data and knowledge on the impact of substances on the environment and health. Based on the right information on the hazards and distribution of chemicals, both industry and governmental authorities can fulfil their respective responsibilities to contribute to sustainable development. In this context, implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is among the most important measures a country can undertake, as it provides information on the hazards along the supply chain for chemical products. Chemical hazard and risk reduction information for manufactured products is not covered by the Globally Harmonized System: this information could be made available through the chemicals in products programme. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances (eChemPortal)^l is accessible globally and provides another source of chemical hazard data.

60. The absence of an information clearing house has had major implications for and impacts on mainstreaming, implementation and capacity-building efforts. The full use of a more developed and sustained system for sharing relevant health and safety information, while ensuring that proprietary information is appropriately protected, is required in order to encourage all stakeholders to increase their contributions and exchange information. A Strategic Approach clearing house for sharing efforts related to the 11 basic elements is of particular importance.

2. Reflections on progress

61. This section of the report focuses on reporting on Key Area 3 of the basic elements 'Knowledge and information, risk assessment/reduction and monitoring'. The basic elements linked to Key Area 3 include: collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach; chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the use of best practices; monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment; and development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives.

62. In terms of GHS implementation, 50 countries (26% of UN member States) have fully implemented GHS in their national legislation, 15 countries (8%) have partially implemented, and 128 countries (66%) had not yet implemented GHS as of April 2017, as shown in Figure 7.

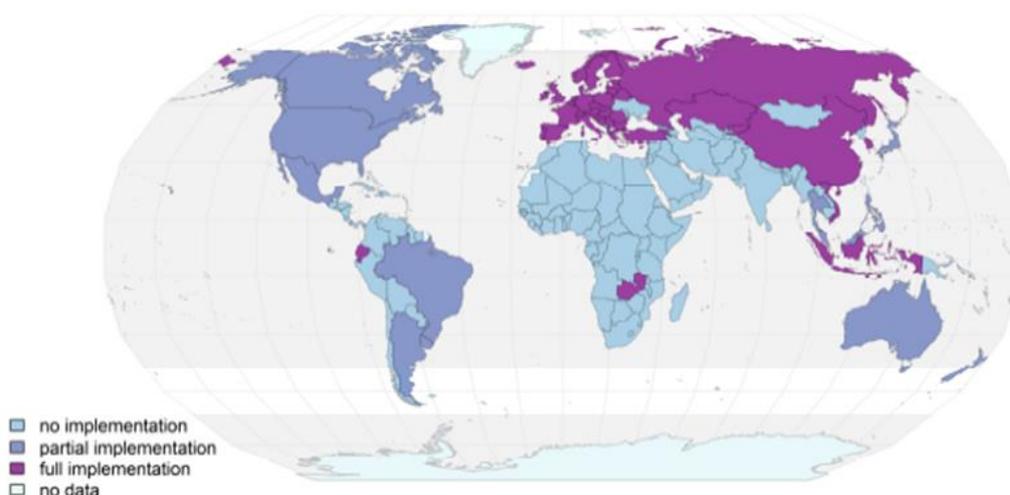
63. The QSP directly supported 24 projects on the labelling of chemicals according to internationally harmonized standards and on the assessment and strengthening of national and regional

^k Available at <http://croplife.org/crop-protection/stewardship/stewardship-training-materials/> and can be translated and adapted to local conditions.

^l Available from: www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/echempportalglobalportaltoinformationonchemicalsubstances.htm.

capacity for implementing the Globally Harmonized System. Recipient countries include: Bahrain, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, DPR Korea, Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Tunisia, Tajikistan, The Republic of Congo, Togo, Uzbekistan and Zambia

Figure 7: World map of current GHS implementation^m



64. The Chemicals in Products programme was welcomed by ICCM5 as a voluntary framework for all Strategic Approach stakeholders. The aim was to facilitate cooperation with existing information system initiatives and standards with a view to learning, sharing best practices and avoiding duplication of effort. It points to the advantages for stakeholders that information systems and related initiatives on information exchange on chemicals in products throughout their life cycles have for supply chain actors, workers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders.

65. IPEN reported producing a number of publications linked to chemicals in products, in particular toxics in toys, including “Toxic toy or toxic waste: Recycling POPs into new products”ⁿ.

66. Colombia reported on the process of accession to the OECD, which includes the adoption of measures to implement the legally binding decisions of that organization in the matter of chemical products.

67. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe reported on the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters provides for the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities; the right to participate in environmental decision-making; and the right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general.

68. The SAICM secretariat has developed a Knowledge Management Strategy that outlines an approach to create, identify, document, strengthen, and disseminate knowledge-intensive activities for chemicals of concern to 2020 and beyond as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/31. The Strategy contributes to the implementation of the SAICM GEF project - Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach (9771). Four objectives have been identified for SAICM Knowledge Management: (i) Sharing knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals and emerging policy issues; (ii) Tracking progress of SAICM implementation, in particular on emerging policy issues; (iii) Fostering an enabling environment to share and disseminate knowledge; and (vi) Involving strategic partners and joint approaches at the global and local level. Funds have been secured to build collaboration and engagement with the SDG and scientific communities to promote emerging policy issues and to establish a knowledge

^m Persson et al, 2017, Sustainability 2017, 9, 2176; doi:10.3390/su9122176

ⁿ Available at <http://www.ipen.org/documents/toxic-toy-or-toxic-waste-recycling-pops-new-products>.

management platform that provides a repository of information and forum for exchange of scientific and policy information.

69. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions promote access to information as follows: (i) Monitoring data collected under the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants are accessible via the electronic data warehouse; (ii) Guidance, factsheets and assessment reports on the chemicals and alternatives to the chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention developed on the basis of the information collected from Parties and other stakeholders; (iii) Decision guidance documents on chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention and the prior informed consent circulars, published every six months containing information on national decisions related to imports on those chemicals; (iv) National reporting information submitted by Parties on the national measures undertaken to implement the Conventions, the amount of POPs produced, used, traded, released; the amount of wastes generated and subject to transboundary movements; (v) National legal frameworks to implement the Basel Convention and national definitions of hazardous wastes and other wastes; (vi) Further relevant information is shared via Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions web pages and the Conventions' clearing-house mechanism.

70. As part of the implementation of the Libreville Declaration and the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals into development policies, the GEF Council approved a 5 year, 10.5 million USD project proposal from the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch for the development of an integrated health and environment Observatory (ChemObs) for sound management of chemicals in nine countries in Africa (Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), working closely with the WHO. The Africa ChemsObs project aims at developing an integrated guidance to build capacity necessary to set up an integrated health and environment observatory surveillance and information management system that will enable African countries to establish evidence-based policies and make sustainable decisions on sound management of chemicals and related disease burdens. This project supports the development of national observatories, capacity building of staff, support to identify causal pathways, risk ranking and priority settings, and activities to break links in causal pathways, thereby improving health and environment outcomes. At national level, national country team are working on the institutional arrangements of the ChemObs, while progress is made on the overall development of the Decision-Making Tools package. Consultation is ongoing among countries, international experts and UNEP MapX team in designing a data collection and management system that will connect information and knowledge of the various government agencies and entities that deal in a direct or indirect way to the sound management, to follow and reflect the chemicals full life cycle management. A first draft architecture of the Decision-Making Tools platform with its constitutive elements will be provided for review and discussion to the 2nd Scientific and Technical committee meeting that will be held in November 2019.

71. Looking at some examples of the development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives, as outlined in basic element 9, the stakeholders included within their submissions the following:

- (a) The European Union noted the ECHA project "Improving the Analysis of Alternatives and practical ways of promoting innovation and substitution in the EU"^o.
- (b) Iran (Islamic Republic of) reported that finding alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products is crucial. Green chemistry and safe alternatives should be encouraged and supported through technology transfer to developing countries and countries with economic in transition.
- (c) PAN reported new guidance material available on Using the Food Spray Method to Enhance Biological Control in Cotton: A Trainers Guide'. Method is suitable for organic, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Bt cotton to reduce reliance on insecticides for cotton pest control. They also highlighted that PAN UK with PAN Ethiopia are developing an IPM Toolkit for cotton, including videos, to build capacity among public sector extension agents to deliver effective IPM training for reduced pesticide use (to be ready in 2018). Furthermore, they noted that IRET at the Costa Rican National University is trialling biological and other non-chemical alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides nematicides in pineapple and to HHP fungicides in coffee, results available in 2017.

^o The conclusions and recommendations from University of Massachusetts Lowell are available at ECHA's website: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13630/substitution_capacity_lcsp_en.pdf/2b7489e1-6d96-4f65-8467-72974b032d7b

- (d) For industry: ICCA reported that they cannot comment on this basic element due to competition laws. The American Petroleum Institute noted that many member companies are investing in active research and development of products with potential environmental benefits, e.g., biofuels, alternate sources of fuels, environmentally preferable solvents and other products, and environmentally preferable chemicals for use in petroleum operations such as hydraulic fracturing. CropLife International highlighted that they are very active in the promotion and trainings on IPM principles. CropLife International has established a specific Project team that deals with Biologicals, their registration requirements, safe use and stewardship as well the development of specifications. Biologicals are an integral part of developing solutions for crop protection in concert with established tools.

3. Looking to 2020 and beyond

72. Actions in the activity area promote the application of preventative measures such as pollution prevention; aim to make available science-based standards, risk-management procedures and information-sharing; and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels for the exchange of relevant information aimed at the prevention and control of the illegal international traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes.

73. Stakeholders may wish to provide feedback to the SAICM secretariat on the Knowledge Management Strategy set out in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/31 with the view to giving guidance on information sharing and dissemination moving forward. Stakeholders are also invited to develop, identify and share relevant information and databases with the SAICM Secretariat to contribute actively to the knowledge management activities of SAICM.

74. Stakeholders may wish to reflect on relevant milestones for achieving progress in this area beyond 2020.

F. Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020

1. Overall guidance

75. In order to secure the necessary level of political support and financing to achieve the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, it is essential to demonstrate credible and continuous progress at the national, regional and international levels.

76. The Strategic Approach secretariat has developed periodic reviews on the implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders for consideration by ICCM using the 20 indicators of progress agreed upon by the ICCM at its second session. A number of Strategic Approach stakeholders have made helpful contributions towards evaluating progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach.

2. Reflections on progress

77. In line with ICCM Resolution IV/1, the secretariat has developed a report on progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for 2014–2016, as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/4, and a summary of the report on progress, as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/5. The summary report is available in all six official United Nations languages. The report provides a comparison of the results of the SAICM online questionnaire tool with the two previous reports; 2009-2010 progress report (PR1) and 2011-2013 progress report (PR2). It also makes a general comparison with the baseline report (2006-2008), under the relevant indicators to draw a more comprehensive picture of the progress. The global reporting rate of 28% represents a significant decline as compared to previous reporting periods. At the regional level a decrease between 6 to 70% in reporting rates was observed as compared to PR2 therefore making it difficult to draw a reliable global picture of progress.

78. In addition, PR2 included data collected by the IOMC on the eight indicators of progress in the implementation of Strategic Approach for the first time. Including this data in the report proved to be of value (a) to complement or cross-reference the data collected through the SAICM questionnaire;

and (b) to give a better picture of the global progress toward the sound management of chemicals under some of the SAICM key indicators of progress. The IOMC is also in the process of developing a new indicator on the number of countries that have legislation in place to manage industrial and consumer chemicals in an initiative led by the OECD, as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/18. This indicator would be helpful to address industrial and consumer chemicals.

79. The 20 SAICM indicators of progress were agreed to in 2009 at ICCM2 as a means of reviewing the performance of countries progress towards each of the five Overarching Policy Strategy objectives. The indicators have proven to be user-friendly, simple and straightforward as equally noted in the draft report of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 to 2015. At the same time, the indicators of progress at their current status do not fully capture the new or emerging policy issues. In their current state they are not likely the most effective means of assessing the progress toward the sound management of chemicals and waste towards and beyond 2020.

80. The World Health Organization has submitted a report on the progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2014-2016, as outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/26. The report focuses on the progress made in implementing the Strategy on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of SAICM adopted in 2012 at the third session of the Conference.

81. The OECD reported to the secretariat that through its Environmental Performance Reports it offers countries an opportunity to have their chemicals management system evaluated. Recent evaluations have been done in Austria (2013) and Colombia (2014). OECD plans to initiate work on the exchange of information on methodologies for evaluating the performance of chemicals management schemes. Costa Rica reported that the country is in the process of joining OECD and therefore they are at the stage of identifying achievements and gaps in the implementation of actions in the field of chemicals.

82. Furthermore, the SDGs, as a more recent development, are contributing to the increased understanding of the global situation with regards to the sound management of chemicals and waste as outlined in SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production. The SDGs also allow for broader considerations of human health, environment, agriculture, labour and gender.

3. Looking to 2020 and beyond

83. The Working Group, under agenda item 4(a), will consider the need for and arrangements for the development of a SAICM progress report for the period 2017–2019.

84. Enhancing capacity to assess progress in the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 will support strategic decision-making, programming and prioritizing in moving forward. In moving beyond 2020, stakeholders may wish to consider an evaluation framework to track progress on multiple levels with multiple stakeholders, complementing existing efforts. The use of different data sources and methods may help to ensure a more comprehensive review of global progress in the future.

III. Next steps

85. The secretariat will develop a report on progress towards the implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of the sound management of chemicals for the consideration of the fifth session of the Conference in 2020 as requested in ICCM Resolution IV/1.

86. Stakeholders are invited to comment on this interim report and advise on further developing it for the consideration of the fifth ICCM session, both in the context of celebrating the achievements of SAICM in 2020 and in setting out baseline information on chemicals and waste in the beyond 2020 context.