



19 May 2011

English only

**Eleventh meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**
Geneva, Switzerland
13-14 April 2011

Provisional report of the eleventh meeting of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management*

Background

1. In resolution I/4 adopted at its first session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) decided to establish a Quick Start Programme (QSP) to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was requested to establish a voluntary, time-limited trust fund to provide seed money to support QSP objectives in accordance with resolution I/4.

2. Representatives of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)¹ and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were invited to form a Trust Fund Implementation Committee to review and appraise projects to be financed by the QSP trust fund.

3. The QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee held its eleventh meeting in Geneva from 13 to 14 April 2011 at the International Environmental House I (IEH).

I. Opening of the meeting

4. The eleventh meeting of the Committee was opened by the secretariat.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of a chairperson

* The report of the meeting is issued on a provisional basis and will be considered for adoption by the Implementation Committee at its twelfth meeting.

¹ The participating organizations of IOMC are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

5. Mr. Mark Davis, Senior Officer, Pesticide Management Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, was reconfirmed to chair the eleventh meeting. The Committee agreed that the election of a chairperson will be reconsidered at every meeting.

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. Participants adopted the agenda for the meeting with proposed changes on the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/TF.11/1 (see annex 1).

C. Organization of work

7. The Committee agreed to meet from 2.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on 13 April 2011 and from 8:30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on 14 April 2011.

D. Attendance

8. The following organizations were represented: ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO.

III. Adoption of the report of the ninth meeting of the Committee

9. Participants had before them the provisional report of the Committee's tenth meeting, which was previously circulated as a draft for comments. The provisional report was edited to incorporate feedback received from the Committee and was contained in document SAICM/TF.11/2. The Committee adopted the report without amendment.

IV. Further development of application procedures and project management arrangements for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

10. At its tenth meeting, the Committee requested the secretariat to include information on the performance of countries' previous and current projects when summarizing applications for new projects. The Secretariat took note and incorporated this information into the project summary form.

11. The Committee noted that, in many cases, applications did not provide a clear scenario of the overall chemicals management situation in the countries where the project was proposed for implementation. Further to this, the Committee agreed that this information is important for the understanding of the country requirements in terms of chemicals management and therefore suggested that all applications should provide a good analysis of the status of chemicals management in the justification of the project. The Secretariat will present before the QSP Executive Board a suggestion to include this additional guidance in revised application forms for its consideration.

12. The Committee also noted that in many proposals, certain budget allocations for travel and/or project staff were often unclear. In many instances, relatively large amounts of money were allocated to travel, without details on which category of personnel would be travelling and with what purpose. This ambiguity was often linked to the distribution of project personnel between management/coordination and technical functions. The Committee was also concerned that non-technical staff would be involved in travelling supported by QSP funds. The Committee reiterated the importance of providing sufficiently detailed information in the terms of reference for project personnel. In general, travel of IGO's staff supported by QSP funds should be restricted to those providing substantive technical support to the project.

V. Review and appraisal of project applications in the tenth round of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

13. The secretariat reported that in the tenth round of applications, which closed on 11 February 2011, it had received forty-two applications, including thirty-three from Governments and nine from civil society networks.² In addition, two³ applications out of three which had received a deferred approval in the

² The term "civil society networks" is understood to be equivalent to "non-governmental organizations" and includes the following major groups: farmers, women, educators, the scientific, technological and professional communities, children and youth, indigenous peoples and their communities, workers and trade unions, as well as local authorities.

ninth round were automatically resubmitted in the tenth round. The applications sought combined total funding of \$10,211,047. In compliance with resolution I/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and guidance by the QSP Executive Board, the secretariat had screened the applications for completeness and eligibility and presented the complete and eligible applications to the Committee for appraisal and possible approval. Subject to the endorsement by the Implementation Committee of the secretariat's initial screening, there were 41 complete and eligible applications and two deferred approved projects, requiring a total funding of \$9,975,247.

A. Completeness and eligibility

14. The secretariat reported that one application by a civil society network had not met the requirements for completeness and/or eligibility. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the secretariat indicated in paragraph 3 and 4 of document SAICM/TF.11/3/Rev.1, and confirmed that the following application would therefore not be appraised by the Committee:

(a) The application of the Environmental Applications and Technology Centre (ENAPT) (QSPTF/11/10/NGO/11) for a project in Ghana, entitled "Awareness Creation on Application of Agro Chemicals in some selected Districts in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana" was found to be incomplete because the forms II and III of the application were not provided.

B. Appraisal and decisions

15. The Committee had before it document SAICM/TF.11/INF/1/Rev.1 on the status of financial contributions to the trust fund, document SAICM/TF.11/3/Rev.1, summarizing criteria for consideration of and information on the various applications as well as copies of the full project proposal for each application.

16. The Committee reviewed and discussed the forty-one complete and eligible applications and decided to approve six projects and conditionally approve seventeen projects, with a combined value of \$5,396,607⁴. The approved or conditionally approved projects include twenty Governments and three civil society applications, involving activities in twenty-four countries of which six were from least developed countries, three from small island developing states and one least developed country also considered as a small island developing state. Three civil society projects, with a combined value of \$649,062, received deferred approval. The geographical breakdown of the twenty-four countries concerned was six from the African region, six from the Asia-Pacific region, two from the Central and Eastern European region and ten from the Latin American and Caribbean region. Out of twenty-three approved or conditionally approved projects nineteen were multi-sectoral in scope and one related to environment and health, two to agriculture, environment and health and one to agriculture and environment. The decision of the Committee on the individual project proposals are summarized as follows:

(a) Six projects with a combined total value of \$1,361,731 were approved:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/09, submitted by **Bhutan** for \$247,140: "Strengthening National Capacities for Sound Management of Priority Carcinogenic Chemicals in Bhutan" was approved following the Committee's assessment of the project given that the recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth meeting for resubmission of the application were fully addressed.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/18 submitted by **Jamaica** for \$250,000: "Strengthening the National Capacity under the framework of the Integrated National Programme for the sound management of chemicals in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach in Jamaica" was approved after the applicant fulfilled the conditions, set out by the Committee in its tenth meeting. An additional recommendation was made to the applicant to use the UNEP toolkit while undertaking the mercury inventory.

(iii) Proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/29 submitted by **Benin** for \$250,000: "Development of an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Supporting GHS

³ The third proposal from Sustainlabour, which received *deferred approval in the ninth application round*, was resubmitted for consideration of the Committee at the present round (tenth), following the addition of a third country and a revised budget from the original proposal approved in the 9th round.

⁴ Out of twenty-three approved and conditionally approved projects in the tenth application round, twenty are Government projects amounting to \$4,817,377 and three belong to Civil Society Organizations with a total value of \$579,230.

Capacity Building in the Republic of Benin” was approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project given that the recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth meeting were fully addressed. However, in light of the concerns raised in similar projects regarding the allocation of travel funds to support non-technical staff travel, the Committee suggested that the applicant provide further clarification on the role of project personnel, in particular the staff undertaking the travel, to maintain consistency amongst projects.

(iv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/31 submitted by **Zambia** for \$234,621: “Feasibility Study for a Sub-Regional Poison Centre in the East Africa Sub-Region” was approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project, taking into account the sub-regional focus of the project. Linking with previous similar initiatives to ensure proper coordination was recommended. More specifically the Committee emphasized that efforts are made in contacting members of the multisectoral steering group set up for a QSP funded project entitled “Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in Zambia” with UNITAR as the executing agency.

Civil Society Organizations

(v) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/03, submitted by the **Republican Union of Agricultural Producers’ Associations “UniAgroProtect” (UAP)** for \$162,600: “Civil Society Capacity building in support of SAICM implementation in Moldova” was approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The Committee noted that the support letter provided by FAO demonstrated a significant partnership.

(vi) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/07, submitted by **Sustainlabour** for \$217,370, entitled, “Promoting sound chemical management through strengthening workers capacities” was approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project.

(b) Seventeen projects with a combined total value of \$4,034,876 were conditionally approved. The Committee requested the secretariat to take responsibility for confirming that additional requirements had been fulfilled within three months by proponents of proposals which the Committee had conditionally approved. The conditionally approved projects include the following:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/03, submitted by **Kyrgyz Republic** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in Kyrgyz Republic” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions are as follows:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.
- Provision of a letter demonstrating support from the Ministry of Health.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/04, submitted by **Tajikistan** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in the Republic of Tajikistan” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions are as follows:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.
- Provision of a letter demonstrating support for the project from the Ministry of Agriculture.

In addition, given the similarities between this project and the conditionally approved project in Kyrgyz Republic, the Committee encouraged the executing agency UNITAR to explore synergies between the projects and facilitate information sharing, exchanging experiences and best practices.

Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/06, submitted by **Bolivia** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in Bolivia” received conditional approval. The Committee noticed some inconsistencies in the figures provided in the proposal regarding national consumption of pesticides. This could be problematic as agriculture is an important economic sector in Bolivia. Therefore, the following conditions were established:

- Revision of data on national consumption of pesticides to better reflect the national picture, providing reference to the national chemicals profile.
- Liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure its active involvement in the implementation of the project in addition to providing letters of support.
- Demonstration of synergies with the FAO technical cooperation project called “Post-Registration and Pesticide Management in the CAN region”.
- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.

(iii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/08, submitted by **Guatemala** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in Guatemala” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established are as follows:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project..

(iv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/11 submitted by **Colombia** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in Colombia” was approved on the condition that the applicant revises the budget by reducing the costs for national project coordination and management by 30 percent without reallocating these funds in other budget lines. The revised amount is \$227,650.

(v) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/12 submitted by **Sri Lanka** for \$233,582: “Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme for Sri Lanka (CAPP Programme-SL)” was conditionally approved. The Committee was concerned about the high number of staff working on management and coordination; therefore, the Committee established the following conditions:

- To review the cost-effectiveness of the project by reducing the project management cost by 30 percent (from \$27,000 to \$18,900), without reallocating these funds in other budget lines, for a total value of the project at \$224,834.
- Provide letters demonstrating support from non-governmental organizations.

(vi) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/21 submitted by **Mexico** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in Mexico” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established are as follows:

- The Committee felt that the project justification does not include sufficient country specific details; therefore the applicant is required to include a more detailed analysis of the current chemicals management activities and policies, including relevant legislation and status of implementation of chemicals management International Agreements. In addition, the applicant was required to reflect this national context in the project’s output.
- Provision of a letter of demonstrating support for the project from the Ministry of Health.

(vii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/22 submitted by **Mali** for \$245,896: “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Republic of Mali” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established were as follows:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.
- Provide letters demonstrating support from key ministries, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

(viii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/23 submitted by **Azerbaijan** for \$210,000: “Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of a National Pollutant and Release Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Azerbaijan” was approved on the condition that further clarification and justification be provided on the country’s requirement of PRTRs including details on point sources. The Committee requested that the project justification provide a clearer picture of the state of chemicals management in Azerbaijan.

(ix) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/24 submitted by **Democratic Republic of the Congo** for \$250,000: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established are as follows:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.

(x) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/25 submitted by **Belize** for \$249,718: “Belize/UNEP partnership on development of a coherent legal and institutional framework in Belize for the sound management of chemicals” was approved on the following conditions:

- The Committee felt that the project focused mainly on the multilateral environmental agreements, therefore the Committee established as a condition that the current scope of the project is extended beyond multilateral environmental agreements to include occupational health and safety, and that synergies be explored between this project and the Occupational Health and Safety Bill currently being discussed in parliament.
- Provide a letter demonstrating support from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Provide confirmation of the availability of in-kind contribution for the project from UNEP.
- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.

(xi) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/27 submitted by **Jamaica** for \$177,800: “Evaluating and Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Implementing the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and Supporting SAICM Implementation in the Caribbean” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established were as follows:

- Revision of the budget allocation for the GHS workshop.
- Provision of additional justification on the time line of the project, which seemed long for the types of activities proposed.

(xii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/28 submitted by **Comoros** for \$250,000: “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation in the Union of the Comoros” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established were as follows:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.

(xiii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/30 submitted by **Suriname** for \$249,718: “Suriname/UNDP/UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning and Processes” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established were as follows:

- Provide letters demonstrating endorsement and support by key ministries, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture;
- Identify an entity for the independent monitoring and evaluation of the project. In the case the entity cannot be identified, the recruitment process to be followed needs to be described;
- Provide the terms of reference of the project personnel and consultants.
- Reduce the budget line on reporting since the budget allocated in the current proposal (\$20,000) was deemed too high.

(xiv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/32 submitted by **Burkina Faso** for \$250,000: “Strengthening Capacities in Burkina Faso for National SAICM Implementation and Promotion of Synergies among the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions” was approved on the condition that the applicant provide further clarification on the travel line of the budget, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel.

(xv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/33 submitted by **Vietnam** for \$250,000: “Project for improvement of state management of public health and household insecticide and disinfectants, in stage of 2011-2012” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established were as follows:

- The Committee noted that the monitoring and evaluation entity identified in the current proposal is from the same Ministry as the applicant, therefore the applicant is required to identify an independent entity.
- Provide clarification and revision of the budget related to cost of equipment; rental operation, maintenance of equipment and meeting room cost as these costs are high. The applicant is requested to consider moving funds from meeting costs to resource persons.

Civil Society Organization

(xvi) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/05, submitted by the Society for **Legal and Environmental Analysis and Development Research (LEADERS)** for \$199,260: “Documentation of Lead concentration in domestic and imported paints, determination of Lead exposure in paint industries and at homes and recommendation of comprehensive policy to manage Lead in paint in Nepal” was conditionally approved following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The conditions established were as follows:

- The Committee was concerned about the sustainability of eco-labelling; therefore, the applicant is required to demonstrate the sustainability of eco-labelling in the context of the project.

(c) Nine projects with a combined total value of \$ 2,206,380 were recommended for further development and resubmission:

(xvii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/01, submitted by **Bhutan** for \$250,000: “Field and institutional capacity development for sound pesticides management in Bhutan to prevent health hazards and environment pollution” was recommended for resubmission following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project as presented requires substantial further

development and reformulation, particularly on the budget and the activities. The following points were raised:

- Budget requires more details on the lines related to the infrastructure and equipment. In general, QSP funds should not support infrastructure development unless this specifically and clearly contributes to the main objectives of the QSP. The Committee therefore suggested that the applicant review and revise the budget entirely to better support QSP priorities.
- The purpose and operation of the demonstration hubs needs to be further clarified. Also, training topics require better description. In this regards, the Committee noted that FAO has produced training materials on these topics which should be used in this project if feasible.
- The Study visits to relevant R&D institutions and pesticides companies in India and Thailand need to be further clarified including related budget.
- Sustainability of the project is unclear and requires further clarification. In particular, clarify what would be the final outcome once training has been completed.
- The proposal does not effectively address strategic priority C, therefore the Committee requested that this be further clarified.

(xviii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/02, submitted by **Vanuatu** for \$250,000: “Establishing an Institutional Framework and strengthening National Capacity within an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and implementation of the Strategic Approach in Vanuatu” was recommended for resubmission following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project as presented requires reformulation, particularly on the cost efficiency and the timeline. The following issues were raised:

- The Committee noted that given the size and level of industrial development of Vanuatu, the country was unlikely to present high scope of chemicals. Therefore, the proposal should be streamlined to better reflect the national situation. In doing so, costs of project management and personnel should be revised accordingly.
- The Committee noted that there were ongoing activities related to pesticide management in Vanuatu. Therefore, in this regard the applicant was asked to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure proper coordination.

(xix) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/05, submitted by **Kazakhstan** for \$250,000: “Kazakhstan/ UNEP/UNDP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) Considerations into Development Plans and Processes” was recommended for resubmission following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project as presented requires reformulation, in relation to the in-kind support and counter part commitment. The following points were raised:

- The Committee was concerned about the lack of counterpart commitment which could impact the likelihood of success of the project. Therefore, the Committee requested that the in-kind contribution to the project be increased, thereby reducing the total amount to be funded. Other observations include charging office rental to the project, which should be covered by the overhead costs and not by the budget under QSP funding. A letter of support relating to the in-kind contribution of UNEP is also needed.

(xx) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/07, submitted by **Moldova** for \$219,620: “Enabling Activities on development of WEEE/E-waste management in the Republic of Moldova in line with the National SMC Programme” was recommended for resubmission following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The following issues were raised:

- Project design should not be contingent on external funding. The Committee recommended that external funding is obtained or alternatively, provide letters of support indicating that additional funds will be made available in the future.

- Budget seems excessive vis-à-vis the level of outputs proposed. In this regard, the Committee suggested that the budget is either reduced or the scope of the project is expanded.
- The Committee also recommended changing the order of activities as results obtained after doing the inventory should feed into the regulatory framework.
- The Committee suggested providing further clarification on the travel line of the budget, in particular the high cost of petrol, as travel for this project should be mainly local.
- The Committee also noted the high administrative staff costs involved, hence the applicant was requested to review and consider streamlining of the staff costs and travel allocation as per above to make the proposal more cost-effective.

(xxi) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/10 submitted by **Cote d'Ivoire** for \$237,600: "Reducing mercury risks from artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) in Cote d'Ivoire" was recommended for resubmission following the Committee's assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project as presented required resubmission given that the current political developments in Cote D'Ivoire may impact on the likelihood of success of the project. The following issues were raised:

- Should there be changes in the main political actors in the Government; new endorsement letters would be required.
- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel is required. Travel to attend international meetings is not an appropriate inclusion in the budget.

(xxii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/13 submitted by **Papua New Guinea** for \$250,000: "Establishing an Institutional Framework and Strengthening National Capacity within an integrated national programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Implementation of the Strategic Approach in Papua New Guinea" was recommended for resubmission following the Committee's assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project as presented required reformulation. The following issues were raised:

- The Committee felt that the national context was missing in the proposal, therefore the applicant was requested to further develop the proposal to better reflect the national situation.
- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel. In addition, applicants should consider streamlining the travel allocation whenever possible to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project.
- Reduce the budget for monitoring and evaluation, and include arrangements for independent monitoring and evaluation.

(xxiii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/14 submitted by **Malaysia** for \$250,000: "Preparation of National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of Rotterdam Convention in Malaysia" was recommended for resubmission following the Committee's assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project as presented required reformulation. The following issues were raised:

- Provision of detailed terms of reference of the project personnel.
- Extension of the scope of the project or provision of more substantial project activities for the amount requested. Alternatively the applicant may lower the budget for the activities described.

(xxiv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/15 submitted by **Armenia** for \$249,160: "Armenia/UNEP Partnership on Development of Chemicals Legislation and Industry Involvement in Armenia" was recommended for resubmission following the Committee's assessment of the project.

The Committee felt that the project in its current form requires reformulation, particularly on the cost efficiency. The following issues were raised:

- Further clarify the budget allocation in the travel line, indicating the persons/staff travelling, destination and purpose of travel.
- The Committee also requested provision of UNEP in-kind support letter.
- The Committee also requested providing the terms of reference for all project personnel budgeted as required for QSP trust fund requests.

(xxv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/20 submitted by **Laos PDR** for \$250,000: “UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative, Environment and Social Impact Assessment Project (SAICM Component)” was recommended for resubmission following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project in its current form requires reformulation, particularly on the cost efficiency. The following issues were raised:

- More clarification on the budget is required; in particular, on the travel and the study tour. The Committee felt that in general, study tours do not represent a very cost efficient learning method. In this regard the Committee requested better justification of the study tour, or alternatively, consider other means of achieving the same goal, where the number of people benefiting would be increased.
- With regard to the testing of substances, the Committee felt that there is lack of clarity on the process for testing of chemicals. The Committee was concerned that there may not be facilities to do the testing; therefore further clarification may be provided on what will be tested and where the analysis will be conducted.
- The Committee also noted that the terms of reference were not linked to the budget; therefore, the applicant was requested to make the proposal more coherent.
- The applicant is requested to ensure independent monitoring and evaluation of the project.

(xxvi) Noting that in the present round insufficient resources were available in the trust fund to support all suitable projects submitted by civil society networks in accordance with guidance adopted by the QSP Executive Board in the QSP business plan, the Committee decided to approve but not to fund two applications, based on prioritization within the category of civil society applications. These projects will be considered in the next round along with other projects approved in that round. The three projects, with a combined total value of \$649'062, were:

- (i) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/10, submitted by the **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for \$230,150: “Scientific Capacity Building in Support of SAICM in Latin America” was given a deferred approval following the Committee’s assessment of the project.
- (ii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/06, submitted by the **Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)** for \$168,912: “Enhancing the role of civil society organizations in reducing mercury pollution in Armenia” was given a deferred approval following the Committee’s assessment of the project. However, the following issue was raised:
- The Committee requested that the applicant provide a comprehensive sampling analysis plan indicating how sampling relates to identification of risks in the proposal and also clarify/confirm how access to the sites will be acquired.

(iii) In addition, the Committee decided to review out of session the required conditions submitted by **Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)** for the project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/04 “Chemicals Substitution and Management in the Health Care Sector: A Four-Hospital, Multi-Country Project in the Philippines and Argentina” for \$250,000 which received conditional and deferred approval during the 10th meeting of the QSP TF IC. If the conditions are met, the approval for the project will be confirmed; however, since there are insufficient funds available for this round the project will receive a deferred approval for the second time.

- (d) Eight projects with a combined total value of \$1,674,168 were declined:
- (i) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/16 submitted by **Mali** for \$250,000: “Environmentally sound management of scrap tyres to minimize unintentional releases of POPs in Mali” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project due to insufficient demonstration of the significance of the project to chemicals risk reduction in the country. The Committee noted that taking into consideration the total dioxin releases in the country, the emission through open burning was not as significant as to justify this project.
 - (ii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/17 submitted by **Togo** for \$180,000: “Strengthening Capacities for the Implementation of a National Pollutant and Release Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in the Togolese Republic” was declined given that there is no strong justification for the development of PRTR in Togo given its current state of industrial development. Furthermore, the Committee noted that the feasibility study quoted in the proposal indicated that source points are rare in the country, thereby supporting the view of the Committee.
 - (iii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/19 submitted by **Chad** for \$210,000: “Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of a National Pollutant and Release Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in the Republic of Chad” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project, due to the insufficient justification of the need for development of a PRTR. The Committee recognised the development of the oil sector in the country, however, the proposal does not add a major contribution to the chemicals risk reduction in the country.
 - (iv) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/GOV/26 submitted by **the Republic of Macedonia** for \$225,400: “Development of a National Plan and Scheme for synergistic implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project as clear outputs and activities were missing. The Committee also noted the duplication of activities of the QSP project funded in the first round.

Civil Society Organizations

- (v) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/01, submitted by **Reso Collect (Cameroon)** for \$169,690: “Evaluation, analysis and recommendation for Improvement of Plastics Waste Management in Cameroon” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project. The Committee felt that the project did not effectively address the QSP strategic priority B, mainly the development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement SAICM, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives.
- (vi) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/08, submitted by the **Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECE)** for \$139,078: “Chemicals in Products – Hazardous toys in Macedonia” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project given that the project failed to demonstrate significant risk reduction, specifically because there are no toy factories in the country and definition on the problem was missing. The Committee recommended the possibility of implementing the project at a sub-regional level for more cost-efficiency. The Committee noted that travel to attend international meetings is not an appropriate inclusion in the budget.
- (vii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/09, submitted by the **Participating Governments/Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for \$250,000: “Global SAICM Life Cycle Workshop on Training and Empowerment on Life Cycle Management of Chemicals” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project because the aim of the project was considered to go beyond the scope of SAICM. The Committee noted that the approach (one workshop) proposed would not be effective since, life cycle is a process which requires a longer period of time. The Committee also felt that the grouping of countries was not considered to be cost-effective. The Committee also noted that the context of the toolbox was unclear.
- (viii) Project proposal QSPTF/11/10/NGO/02, submitted by the **Day Hospital Institute for Development and Rehabilitation (DHIDR) and the Association of the Mediterranean Network for Sustainable Development (AREMEDD)** for \$250,000: “National Awareness Campaign for all Stakeholders to Eliminate Harmful Chemicals in Compounds in Toys in Egypt and Tunis” was declined following the Committee’s assessment of the project given an inadequate project design. More specifically, the number of samples to be tested is not sufficient to demonstrate significant

exposure. In addition the Committee was further concerned about the lack of co-financing and high personnel costs involved.

VI. Status of projects approved in the first eight rounds of applications

17. The secretariat introduced document SAICM/TF.11/5, Report by the secretariat on the status of projects approved in the first nine rounds of applications, SAICM/TF.11/5/Add.1, Report by the secretariat on the status of completed projects approved in the first nine rounds, SAICM/TF.11/INF/6, Compilation of progress reports, and SAICM/TF.11/INF/7, Compilation of independent monitoring and evaluation reports.

18. The secretariat indicated that a number of progress reports and monitoring and evaluation reports have not been submitted to the secretariat and urged the IOMC organizations, where applicable, to facilitate that the reports are duly provided on time. The Committee noted the information added that the failure to provide timely reports may be due to the timing issues related to the signature of the internal agreements between the Executing Agency and the Country.

19. The secretariat presented the situation of projects with pending agreements or cases where agreement has expired before project activities began. The following cases were discussed for which the Committee made the following decisions:

i). For the project V.05.G.HND in **Honduras** entitled “Honduras, UNDP, and UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals Considerations into Development Plans and Processes” for which UNDP is the executing agency, three months were granted to finalize the agreement between UNEP and UNDP. Thus, activities of the project can be officially initiated.

ii). For the project I.04.GU in **Ecuador** entitled “Ecuador, UNEP and UNDP Partnership initiative for the implementation of SAICM” with UNDP as the executing agency and for which the agreement between UNEP and UNDP expired on 6 June 2009, final progress and expenditure reports for the conclusion of the project needs to be sent to the secretariat, and the project will be concluded as a "partly implemented project". It is also requested that justification on why project activities could not be completed on the time frame specified on the agreement be provided.

iii). The project III.02.G.BLR in **Belarus** “Belarus, UNDP and UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals Considerations into Development Plans and Processes” was approved on 30 October 2007 and the agreement between the executing agency, UNDP, and the country was not finalized within one year of approval, therefore the project was suspended and recommended for resubmission in the following application rounds.

VII. Other matters

20. The secretariat noted that at the last African Regional meeting held in April 2011 the issue of diminishing timelines for project completion starting 2012 was raised, given the imminent ending of the QSP programme in 2013. The Committee decided to defer this question for the Executive Board.

VIII. Next meeting

21. It was decided that the twelfth meeting of the Committee would be held in Paris, France, on 22 and 23 November 2011.

IX. Adoption of the report

22. The secretariat offered to prepare a draft provisional report of the meeting and circulate it to members of the Committee for their feedback after which the Secretariat would issue a provisional report for publication under the understanding that the adoption of the report would be considered by the Committee at the next meeting.

X. Closure of the meeting

23. The secretariat declared the meeting closed at 18.30 p.m. on Thursday 14 April 2011.
