



**Twelfth meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**
Paris, 22-23 November 2011

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

Introduction

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.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The twelfth meeting of the Committee was held at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris from 22 to 23 November 2011. The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting at 2 p.m.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of a chairperson

4. Mr. Mark Davis, Senior Officer, Pesticide Management Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, was elected to chair the meeting.

B. Adoption of the agenda

* The report of the meeting is issued on a provisional basis and will be considered for adoption by the Implementation Committee at its thirteenth 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), 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. The representatives adopted the following agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/TF.10/1 with a request to include, under agenda item 8 on other matters, a discussion on timely availability of documents:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of a chairperson;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Adoption of the report of the eleventh meeting of the Committee.
4. Further development of application procedures and project management arrangements for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
5. Review and appraisal of project proposals in the eleventh round of applications to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
6. Status of projects approved in the first ten rounds of applications.
7. Update on the QSP Mid-term Review
8. Other matters.
9. Next meeting
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

6. The Committee agreed to meet from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 22 November 2011 and from 9:00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 November.

D. Attendance

7. The following organizations were represented: FAO, ILO, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and the World Bank. Following its recent confirmation as an IOMC participating organization, the World Bank was represented as a member of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee at the present meeting.

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

8. The Committee had before it the provisional report of the Committee's eleventh meeting held on 13 and 14 April 2011, contained in document SAICM/TF.12/2. The report was adopted with an amendment to include a footnote taking into account that subsequent to the meeting, the budget for three projects (QSPTF/11/10/GOV/22 submitted by Mali, QSPTF/11/10/GOV/27 submitted by Jamaica and QSPTF/11/10/GOV/12 submitted by Sri Lanka) was diminished and the total funds allocated for the eleventh round was therefore changed from \$ 5,415,187 to \$ 5,396,607.

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

9. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat of the changes endorsed by the Executive Board at its sixth meeting regarding application materials, including a request for more detailed information on project budget allocation for travel, and timelines for completion of projects initiated in 2012 made by the Committee at its eleventh meeting (SAICM/TF.12/4). Additionally, the

Executive Board added a condition for those applicants requesting additional projects, where the adequate completion of the corresponding progress and/or final reports would become a qualifying condition. Implementers with pending reports from previous projects would not qualify until such reports were duly submitted to the secretariat. The secretariat was requested to send a list of outstanding reports and respective applicants to the Committee, which is annexed to the present report.

10. The Committee agreed to amend the Rules of procedure of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee (SAICM/TF.12/INF/5) to reflect the new membership of the World Bank to the Committee following its membership to the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound management of Chemicals (IOMC).

11. The Committee agreed to defer discussion on a possible set of performance indicators to facilitate monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects in the future until the results of the mid-term review are made available.

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

12. The secretariat reported that in the eleventh round of applications, which closed on 26 August 2011, it had received 33 applications comprising 23 from Governments and 10 from civil society organizations. In addition, 3 applications that had received a deferred approval in the tenth round were automatically resubmitted in the eleventh round. The applications sought combined total funding of \$ 8,037,584. 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 20 complete and eligible applications, requiring funding of \$ 5,147,424, and 3 differed from the previous rounds requiring funding of \$ 649,062, for a total amount of \$5,796,486.

13. Recalling the provisions for the creation of the Quick Start Program set out in Decision I/4, whereby a Trust Fund would be set up and remain opened to receive contributions for 5 years, and disbursement of funds would continue for two years thereafter, the Committee held a general discussion on how these provisions may have an impact on the timelines of projects². The Committee concurred that given the current provisions, applications that do not have an IGO as an executing agency would have to ensure their timelines fit within the final date for disbursement, currently set at November 30, 2013. Applications with an executing agency did not face that concern as full disbursement was provided to the executing agency at the initiation of the project activities.

14. Given the considerations above, the Committee agreed to the following: applications considered at the current meeting without an IGO³ as executing agency would have to be restricted to an 18 month timeline to allow for final disbursement of funds prior November 30, 2013. Accordingly, those applications would have to be revised if the proposed timelines extend beyond November 2013, and the corresponding activities and budget be adjusted as appropriate. For applications that will be considered at the next meeting of the Implementation Committee without an IGO as executing agency would have to be restricted to a 12 month timeline to allow for final disbursement of funds prior November 30, 2013. Accordingly, any deferred applications would have to be revised if the proposed timelines extend beyond November 2013, and the corresponding activities and budget be adjusted as appropriate. The Committee also suggested an alternative option, whereby the implementer could decide to postpone submitting their proposal until after the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to be held in September 2012, at which time the Conference is expected to adopt a decision to extend disbursement of funds from the QSP trust fund until all project activities have been completed. The secretariat was requested to include that information on the application material for the next rounds.

² The Quick Start Programme was officially established in December 2006, and therefore, the Trust Fund would remain opened until the end of 2011. However, under decision II/3, the Conference extended the time limit to receive contributions until the next session of the Conference, now scheduled for September 17-21, 2012, but the period for disbursement of funds was not amended, thereby remaining at November 2013. The Open-ended Working Group meeting held in Serbia on November 15-18, 2011 made a recommendation to the Conference to adopt a resolution that would allow for the continued disbursement of funds until all project activities have been completed. While it is expected that the decision will be adopted, projects considered at the current round that do not have an IGO as Executing Agency cannot last more than 18 months, and 12 months for projects considered at the 12th round of applications.

³ IGO refers here to the international governmental organizations recognized by the UNEP Trustee to be eligible for one up-front payment, namely FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO.

A. Completeness and eligibility

15. The secretariat reported that it considered that applications by eight Government and five civil society networks had not met the requirements for completeness and/or eligibility. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the secretariat indicated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document SAICM/TF.12/3, summarizing applications, and confirmed that the following applications would therefore not be appraised by the Committee:

A. Government applications

- a. The application for a project in **Sierra Leone** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/16), entitled “Development and Strengthening of National Chemicals Management Institutions, Plans, Programmes and Activities to Implement SAICM and International Chemicals-related agreements in Sierra Leone” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because it is the same application (with some changes introduced) that was recommended for resubmission in the ninth meeting and declined in the tenth meeting.
- b. The application for a project in **Syria** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/17), entitled “Raising national awareness on electrical and electronic waste and proposing Integrated National Programme (INP) for the sound management of electrical and electronic waste to implement SAICM priorities in Syria” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because Budget (Form II) was not received before the deadline and the signatures of the applicant and the SAICM national focal point were missing.
- c. The application for a project in **Central Africa** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/18), entitled “Strengthening national capacity to implement the chemicals MEAs in Central African Republic and development of a SAICM implementation plan” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the signature of the SAICM national focal point was not updated within the application deadline.
- d. The application for a project in **Guinea-Bissau** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/19), entitled “Strengthening national capacity to implement the chemicals MEAs in Guinea-Bissau and development of a SAICM implementation plan” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the signature of the applicant and the SAICM national focal point endorsement were missing.
- e. The application for a project in **Uganda** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/20), entitled “Strengthening the Sound Management of Chemicals within Industry, Trade and Transportation Sectors for Effective SAICM Implementation in Uganda” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the application did not meet the deadline. The Budget Form II was incomplete and the endorsement of the SAICM national focal point as well as the signature of the applicant was missing.
- f. The application for a project in **Lesotho** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/21), entitled “Strengthening the capacity of small holder farmers, extension staff and pesticide dealers on judicious use of herbicides” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the signature of the applicant was missing and the applicant failed to submit the signed form I, before the deadline.
- g. The application for a project in **Ghana** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/22), entitled “Framework for assessing core capacities needed to manage the public health impacts of chemicals associated with oil and gas sector activities” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the endorsement of the SAICM national focal point was missing⁴.
- h. The application for a project in the **Cook Islands** (QSPTF/12/11/GOV/23), entitled “Institutional Strengthening and National Capacity Building for the sound management of Chemicals Management in the Cook Islands” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the application did not meet the deadline and Budget form II was incomplete.

B. Civil society networks applications

- a. The application of the **Ecological Restoration** (QSPTF/12/11/NGO/09) for a project in Ghana, entitled “Building the Capacities of the Civil Society Organizations Integrated Approach to the Control and Management of Hazardous Chemicals in Ghana” was found to be incomplete because endorsement of the SAICM national focal point was missing.

⁴ To date the Ghanaian authorities have not nominated a replacement for the SAICM national focal point.

- b. The application of the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme (**GEF/SGP**) UNDP **Sri Lanka**, in partnership with the Centre for Environmental justice (QSPTF/12/11/NGO/10) for a project in Sri Lanka, entitled “Networking and Public Participation for sound chemicals management in Sri Lanka” was found to be incomplete because the endorsement of the SAICM NGO focal point was missing.
- c. The application of the Pesticide Action Nexus association of Ethiopia (**PAN-Ethiopia**) (QSPTF/12/11/NGO/11) for a project in Ethiopia, entitled “Environmentally Sound management of Electrical and Electronic waste in eight cities of Ethiopia” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because endorsement of the SAICM national focal point was missing and the application did not meet the deadline.
- d. The application of the **Balifokus Foundation** (QSPTF/12/11/NGO/12) for a project in Indonesia, entitled “An assessment on the Cost of Inaction: Mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Indonesia” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because it did not meet the deadline.
- e. The application of the **Burundi Nile Discourse Forum** (FCBN) QSPTF/12/11/NGO/13 for a project in Burundi, entitled “Stakeholders sensitization on the international code of conduct for the distribution and the use of pesticides” was found to be incomplete and ineligible because endorsement of the SAICM NGO focal point was missing.

B. Appraisal and decisions

16. The Committee had before it document SAICM/TF.12/INF/1 on the status of financial contributions to the trust fund, document SAICM/TF.12/3 summarizing criteria for consideration of and information on applications and copies of the full project proposal for each application. The Committee took note that there was \$ 1,520,988 available for disbursement at the current round.

17. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 23 complete and eligible applications and decided to approve three projects and conditionally approve four projects, with a combined value of \$1,464,095. The remaining \$ 56,893 would be held in the Trust Fund to allocate at future application rounds. The approved or conditionally approved projects included six Government and one civil society applications, involving activities in 10 countries and including one least developed country, one small island developing state and three least developed countries which are also small island developing states. Two Government and three civil society projects, with a combined value of \$1,084,813, received deferred approval (see sub-paragraphs 17. D and E below). The geographical breakdown of the 10 countries for approved or conditionally approved projects was two African, six Asian-Pacific, one Central and Eastern European and one Latin American and Caribbean. Seven approved or conditionally approved projects were multi-sectoral in scope, including two relating to environment and health and one to environment, health, labour and mining. The decisions of the Committee on the individual project proposals are summarized as follows:

A. Three projects with a combined total value of **\$ 630,287** were approved:

a. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/06, submitted by **Maldives** for \$233,744: “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation in Maldives”. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of Maldives in SAICM implementation by developing a national SAICM Implementation plan along with actions plans for addressing priorities. It would also serve to develop a national governance framework by strengthening the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism. The Committee approved the project however, given the large budget involved and the small size of the country and the expected outputs, suggested that in its implementation the project expands its scope to include a survey of hazardous substances in a way that some of the actions proposed in the project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/03 “Strengthening National Capacities for Sound Management of Priority Carcinogenic Chemicals in Maldives” that was declined at the current meeting (see paragraph 17 F b below) could be addressed by this project. Additionally the Committee requested to demonstrate appropriate linkages with the existing FAO project on pesticide management and legislation in the Maldives.

b. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/09, recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee, submitted by **Kazakhstan** for \$246,543: “Kazakhstan/UNEP/UNDP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) considerations into Development Plans and Processes”. The project aims at strengthening the national capacity of the Government of Kazakhstan to integrate the sound

management of chemicals into economic planning and decision-making as well as strengthening the national sound management of chemicals regime. The Committee approved the project on the basis that the recommendations of the Committee had been addressed satisfactorily in the resubmission.

c. Ninth and tenth round deferred conditionally approved Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/06, submitted by **Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)** for \$150,000⁵: “Chemicals Substitution and Management in the Health Care Sector: A Four-Hospital, Multi-Country Project in the Philippines and Argentina”. The project aims at assisting Argentina and the Philippines to support chemical substitution and management of hazardous chemicals commonly used in health care in the Philippines and Argentina, in alignment with SAICM and other international agreements. The Committee approved the project on the basis that the conditions for final approval had been addressed satisfactorily in the resubmission.

B. Four projects with a combined total value of \$833,808 were conditionally approved. The Committee requested the secretariat to take responsibility for confirming that additional requirements had been fulfilled for those proposals that the Committee had conditionally approved. The conditionally approved projects include the following:

a. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/07, submitted by **Cook Islands, Kiribati and Samoa**, for \$249,900: “Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of Pacific Islands’ Management and Disposal of E-Waste”. The project aims at developing the national capacity in the Cook Islands, Kiribati and Samoa to implement integrated and holistic management of imported Electric and Electronic Equipment (EEE) to ensure the sustainable management of their associated waste streams. The Committee approved the project on condition that it was amended to diminish the timelines to 18 months and to decrease the budget by 25 per cent to US\$ 187,425, for the reason outlined in paragraph 14. The Committee also requested that reference be made to a financial audit and confirmation be received that the staff costs were to pay staff recruited for the project and not for incumbent civil service staff.

b. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/08, submitted by **Tanzania** for \$249,983 and recommended for resubmission at the ninth meeting of the Implementation Committee: “Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme for Tanzania (CAPP Programme-TZ)”. The project aims at improving the capacities of the Government of Tanzania for chemical accident prevention and industrial safety and developing national Chemical Accident Prevention Programmes (CAPP) based on the UNEP methodology. The Committee approved the project on the basis that the recommendations of the Committee had been satisfactorily addressed upon resubmission. In addition, the Committee conditioned the approval of this project upon submission of all pending progress and M&E reports to the secretariat from another project approved for Tanzania (QSPTF/08/4/GOV/09, entitled “Capacity Enhancement for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the United Republic of Tanzania”). This decision is in line with a decision by the Executive Board to condition project approvals for those countries/implementers that already benefited from funding from the QSP trust fund to the timely reception of progress and/or final and Monitoring & Evaluation reports.

c. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/11, submitted by **Côte d'Ivoire** for \$237,600, recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee: “Reducing Mercury Risks from Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Côte d'Ivoire”. The project aims at enhancing Côte d'Ivoire’s capacities for sound management of mercury. The Committee approved the project on the basis that the recommendations of the Committee had been addressed upon resubmission. However, the Committee noted that there was duplication of proposed project staff by including both a UNIDO project manager and an international coordinator. The Committee therefore conditioned the approval to having the activities of the international coordinator and the UNIDO project manager merged under one position, with a concurrent decrease in budget resulting in funding for a total of US\$ 208,900.

d. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/12, submitted by **Malaysia** for \$250,000, recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee: “Preparation of a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in Malaysia”. The project aims at strengthening the chemical management system in Malaysia by developing a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. The Committee approved the

⁵ The original application was sent for a total amount of \$250,000. However, the applicant subsequently submitted a letter proposing a revised amount of \$150,000 and a reduced timeline from 24 to 18 months.

project on the basis that the recommendations of the Committee had been addressed satisfactorily for resubmission and on condition that it was amended to diminish the timelines to 18 months and concurrently to decrease the budget by 25 per cent to US\$ 187,500.

C. Three projects with a combined total value of US\$ 504,650 were recommended for further development and resubmission:

a. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/02, submitted by **Uruguay** for \$213,160: “Sound Management of Computers, peripherals and mobile phones containing lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB (polybrominated biphenyls), and PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers)”. The proposed project aims at contributing to the sound management of the hazardous substances contained in Electric and Electronic Equipment -EEE- (computers, peripherals and mobile phones) in Uruguay. The Committee suggested that the proposal be resubmitted with an amendment to diminish the timelines to 12 months, and to decrease the budget accordingly by 50 percent, avoiding excessive staff costs.

b. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/04, submitted by **Barbados** for \$148,070: “Building Capacities for Strengthening the Management of Heavy Metals in Barbados”. The project proposal aims at identifying and quantifying the pathways by which heavy metals such as cadmium, lead and mercury (CLM) are present in the environment in Barbados and developing strategies to reduce and manage their release. The Committee suggested that the proposal be resubmitted with an amendment to include more action to mitigate the problem of heavy metals, rather than monitoring in the environment, including actions to improve storage facilities. Additionally the timelines must be diminished to 12 months to bring it in line with the trust fund time limit for disbursement of funds. Finally it was recommended that more stakeholder involvement be sought.

c. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/03, submitted by the **EKOMJEDISI DURRES**, Environmental NGO as a part of NGO networks in Albania Ecomovement for \$250,000: “Raising Awareness and Building Capacities on Pesticide Management in the frame of Strengthening SAICM Implementation in Albania (RABA).” The project aims at enabling Albania to SAICM implementation. The Committee suggested that the proposal be resubmitted with an amendment to include additional endorsement from the ministries of agriculture and education as well as from farmers’ associations; an explanation on how the project will link with the government efforts to improve pesticide management; additional information on links to chemicals database development approved under round 6 of the QSP; a clarification on UNDP role, if any, in the project; and a clarification on the excessive costs associated with supply of books and documents and local staff for which no terms of reference have been included.

D. Due to the funds available in the present round, the Committee decided to conditionally approve but not to fund one Government application from Belarus, and to approve but not to fund one Government application from Armenia, based on prioritization among government applications. The two projects, with a combined total value of \$ 487,279 were:

a. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/14, submitted by **Belarus** for \$238,119 (was suspended and recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee): “Belarus/ UNEP / UNDP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) Considerations into Development Plans and Processes”. The project aims at strengthening Belarus’ national sound management of chemicals regime in line with QSP strategic priorities b and c. The Committee's deferred approval of the project is additionally on the condition that the project incorporates elements to encourage ratification of the Rotterdam Convention, by for example, conducting a cost-benefit analysis of ratifying the Rotterdam Convention; in addition, applicants should clearly demonstrate linkages with the work on other UN agencies are doing in Belarus related to chemicals management, notably FAO, UNITAR, WHO, and WB.

b. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/15, submitted by **Armenia** for \$249,160, was recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee: “Armenia/UNEP Partnership on Development of Chemicals Legislation and Industry Involvement in Armenia”. The proposed project aims at developing and strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks of Armenia for efficient management of chemicals. The Committee agreed that the project complied with the recommendations of the Committee upon resubmission of the proposal, but deferred its approval given that there were not enough funds available in this round to fund this project.

E. 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 three applications, based on prioritization within the category of civil society applications. These projects will be considered in the next round along with other applications approved in that round. The three projects, with a combined total value of \$597,534 were:

a. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/02, submitted by **Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN)** for \$240,700: “Strengthening the Implementation of the FAO code of conduct and the SAICM policy framework through enhancing the capacities of farmers, agricultural workers and indigenous peoples in Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines.” The proposed project in partnership with organizations in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines aims at enhancing the capacity building of farmers, agricultural workers and indigenous peoples in those countries to assess and report compliance to the FAO Code of Conduct and SAICM policy framework including the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The Committee granted a deferred approval. However, consideration at the next round of applications will imply that the proposal would have to be revised to 12 months, with a corresponding decrease in the budget.

c. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/07, submitted by the **Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)** for \$168,912, received deferred approval at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation committee: “Enhancing the role of civil society organizations in reducing mercury pollution in Armenia”. The project aims at improving the existing mercury-related information by obtaining data on mercury pollution in Armenia and holding formal and non-formal stakeholder discussions on mercury sources, levels of mercury contamination and ways to decrease them. The Committee granted a deferred approval to the project. However, consideration at the next round of applications will imply that the proposal would have to be revised to 12 months, with a corresponding decrease in the budget.

b. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/08, submitted by the **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for \$230,150, received deferred approval at the ninth, tenth and eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee: “Scientific Capacity Building in Support of SAICM in Latin America”. The project aims at increasing relevant scientific knowledge and capacity for the sound management of chemicals and SAICM implementation in Latin America through training and networking of scientists, with a particular focus on civil society. The Committee granted deferred approval. However, consideration at the next round of applications will imply that the proposal would have to be revised to 12 months, with a corresponding decrease in the budget.

F. Eight projects with a combined total value of US\$1,837,423 were declined:

a. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/01, submitted by **India** for \$250,000: “Building national capacity for analysis of POPs (persistent organic pollutants) in ambient air and generating data for the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP)”. The proposed project aims at strengthening and developing the capacities of India’s National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in sampling and analysis of POPs in ambient air. The Committee declined the project as it considered that it does not adequately address sound management of chemicals issues related to POPs. In addition, no terms of reference were provided for project staff, there was no in-kind contribution from UNEP and the Monitoring and Evaluation is not independent from project implementers.

b. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/03, submitted by **Maldives** for \$249,845: “Strengthening National Capacities for Sound Management of Priority Carcinogenic Chemicals in Maldives”. The Committee declined the project on the basis that given the country chemicals situation, there is no justification for a project of this size specifically addressing carcinogens at this time. A more appropriate approach would be to develop an inventory to increase knowledge on what chemicals of concern exist in the country. The Committee had approved the project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/06 on “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation in Maldives” on this round, suggesting that such inventory is included in the project activities (see paragraph 17 A a. above) on the basis that some elements related to carcinogens would be included during its implementation.

c. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/05, submitted by **Nigeria, Liberia and Tanzania** for \$250,000: “Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Regional Project in Africa”. The project aims at enabling Nigeria, Tanzania and Liberia to develop inclusive national strategies for pollution

prevention, risk reduction and risk elimination from mercury for artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM). The Committee declined the project on the basis that the impact of the project would be small given the limited scope of the project. The Committee noted that there were continuing projects in Nigeria and Tanzania addressing similar issues that were not referred to in the proposal. Additionally reporting from previous QSP projects were pending and staff costs for the executing agency had no matching in-kind contribution.

d. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/10, submitted by **Vanuatu** for \$178,000, was recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee: “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”. The proposed project aims at assisting Vanuatu in strengthening its institutional framework for implementation of the Strategic Approach based on work done through the various international and regional chemicals-related agreements and initiatives. The Committee declined the project on the basis that the resubmission did not address the recommendations of the Committee, notably there were no clear linkages between activities and outcomes.

e. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/GOV/13, recommended for resubmission at the eleventh meeting of the Implementation Committee, submitted by **Papua New Guinea** for \$248,400: “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 Papua New Guinea”. The project aims at strengthening the national capacities of Papua New Guinea for sound chemicals management. The Committee declined the project on the basis that the resubmission did not meet the recommendations of the Committee upon resubmission, including reduction of the budget, which was reduced from travel expenses but reallocated to other areas.

f. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/01, submitted by **Abacus for Communities (AfC)** for \$208,610: “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.” The proposed project aims at building the capacity of the country to manage chemicals and hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The Committee declined the project on the basis that there was lack of clarity on the objectives of the project.

g. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/04, submitted by the **Regional Environmental Centre (Albania)** for \$205,000: “National Awareness Campaign for Improving Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals in Albania.” The proposed project aims at enhancing Albania’s capacity to SAICM implementation. The Committee declined the project on the basis that there was no clear focus in the project.

h. Project proposal QSPTF/12/11/NGO/05, submitted by the **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for \$247,568: “Scientific Capacity Building in Support of SAICM in the Asia Pacific Region.” The project aims to increase relevant scientific knowledge and capacity for the sound management of chemicals and SAICM implementation in Asia Pacific Region through training and networking of scientists, with a particular focus on civil society. The Committee declined the project on the basis that there was little justification for the project, in particular given existing capacity building activities in the region developed by specialized institutes.

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

18. The secretariat representative introduced document SAICM/TF.12/5, the report of the secretariat on the status of projects approved in the first ten rounds of applications, document SAICM/TF.12/INF/6, a compilation of progress reports, and SAICM/TF.12/INF/7, a compilation of independent monitoring and evaluation reports. Committee members whose organizations were serving as executing agencies for projects were reminded of the importance of final monitoring and evaluation reports, a significant number of which were overdue.

19. The Committee members acknowledged the difficulties associated with obtaining reports and considered options to encourage improved submission of interim and final reports. Some of the issues raised included the difficulty and cost implications to countries to undertake independent evaluations and the complexity entailed with providing annual reporting and separate QSP reporting for country offices of executing agencies. The Committee suggested that reports should be received by a certain date, and failure to do so may involve withholding further disbursements or suspending projects and recalling remaining funds. Additionally, no new projects would be considered from an applicant defaulting on reporting. Requests for extensions should also be accompanied by a report.

VII. Update on the Mid-term review of the Quick Start Programme

20. The secretariat informed the Committee of the steps undertaken to complete the Mid-term review of the Quick Start Programme as mandated by the Executive Board, as well as the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Executive Board held in Geneva on 13 and 14 September 2011. The report of the current midterm review of the Quick Start Programme (SAICM/EB.6/7/Rev.1) can be found on the Strategic Approach website at www.saicm.org.

21. By its resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources for implementation, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Programme, report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation and make recommendations in the light of its findings for the consideration of the Conference at its third session. The resulting report was presented to the Quick Start Programme Executive Board for its consideration. After careful examination, the Board indicated that the overall analysis and recommendations presented in the review had important shortcomings, mainly as a result of a lack of input from stakeholders. As result, the Board deemed that there was insufficient information to draw firm conclusions from the review and decided that it needed more information before developing recommendations for the consideration of the Conference at its third session. The board agreed upon a procedure by which the review would be revised to fill existing gaps, add stakeholder input and tackle issues of governance more fully.

22. According to that procedure, the secretariat has engaged a new consultant to revise the report produced previously, taking advantage of the first meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group to gather information from project implementers and other Strategic Approach stakeholders. The consultant will also try to undertake some site visits to collect additional information on the impact of projects. A steering group will assist the secretariat to review the draft material and guide the consultant. Following the sixth meeting of the Executive Board, IOMC organizations participating in the Executive Board agreed to nominate a representative of UNITAR to be a member of the steering group.

23. The revised review report is to be ready for consideration by the Executive Board at its seventh meeting, in April 2012, and provide conclusions to facilitate the development of recommendations by the Executive Board for consideration by the Conference at its third session, in 2012.

VIII. Other matters

24. Under this agenda item, the representative of ILO raised the issue of late availability of meeting documents. The secretariat apologized for the lateness in making documents available noting some of those delays had been due to lack of a full complement of staff at the secretariat and excessive workload involved in organizing the first meeting of the Open-ended Working group immediately prior to this meeting. She said all efforts would be made to ensure that documentation was available at least two weeks in advance prior to future meetings and that eventually consideration should be given to avoid scheduling meetings in conflict with other meetings serviced by the secretariat to ensure full preparation of all documents.

25. Concern was also expressed on the time taken for agreements to be signed by UNEP, which appeared to be getting longer. One representative noted the example of two approved projects that were still awaiting signature after 13 months. The Committee requested the secretariat to undertake an analysis of timelines and agreements and payments that were still pending.

IX. Next meeting

26. It was decided that the thirteenth meeting of the Committee would be convened during the week beginning 23 April 2012 to be held back-to-back with the 7th meeting of the QSP Executive Board and the next meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of IOMC, pending confirmation of the dates of the QSP Executive Board meeting.

X. Adoption of the report

27. It was agreed that the secretariat would circulate a draft report to the Committee after the meeting. Taking account of any comments received, the secretariat would then issue the report on a provisional basis, pending adoption at the Committee's thirteenth meeting.

XI. Closure of the meeting

28. The chairperson declared the meeting closed at 3.45 p.m. on Wednesday 23 November 2011.
