



**Thirteenth meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**
Geneva, Switzerland
9 May 2012

Provisional report of the thirteenth 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 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 thirteenth meeting of the Committee was held at the International Environment House I (MIE I) in Geneva on 9 May 2012. The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting at 09:30 a.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 re-elected to chair the meeting.

* The report of the meeting is issued on a provisional basis and will be considered for adoption by the Implementation Committee at its fourteenth 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 Development Programme (UNDP), 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).

B. Adoption of the agenda

5. The representatives adopted the following agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/TF.13/1:

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 twelfth meeting of the Committee.
4. Update on the outcome of the QSP Executive Board Meeting.
5. Further development of application procedures and project management arrangements for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
6. Review and appraisal of project proposals in the twelfth round of applications to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
7. Status of projects funded under the Quick Start Programme
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 9.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 May 2012.

D. Attendance

7. The following organizations were represented: FAO, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO. The Committee noted the absence of the World Bank and ILO.

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

8. The Committee had before it the provisional report of the Committee's twelfth meeting held on 22 and 23 November 2011, contained in document SAICM/TF.13/2. The Committee was informed that the conditionally approved projects from the 12th meeting which were requested to revise timelines and budgets had effected changes. The changes made were:

- Budget for project QSPTF/12/11/GOV/11, submitted by **Côte D'Ivoire**, changed from \$208,900 to \$206,600 by adjusting the admin fee in accordance with other costs.

9. In view of the above, the total funds allocated for the twelfth round changed from \$1,464,095 to \$1,461,795.

10. The Committee approved the meeting report of its twelfth meeting.

IV. Update on the outcome of the QSP Executive Board Meeting

11. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat regarding the final outcome of the Mid-Term Review and the recommendations of the Executive Board to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) for consideration and possible adoption. The Board discussed the future of the Quick Start Programme and considered that on the basis of the evidence contained in the revised *Report of the Mid-term Review of the Quick Start Programme*, the Board considered that it had sufficient information to carry out the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme and report on the effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation. The Board therefore recommended the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to consider, inter alia, a time-limited extension to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to support additional initial enabling activities for strategic approach objectives; that lessons learned from the mid-term review of the Quick Start Programme be considered in the wider discussions on financing options for chemicals and wastes; considers ways to promote mainstreaming of sound chemicals management throughout their life-cycle into all relevant sectors; and further encourage wider participation and leadership from all sectors to strengthen sustainability of project outcomes.

12. Some reservations were expressed on the limited data upon which the report was based; however the conclusions contained in the report regarding the success of the programme were considered a good point on which to base recommendations. The representative of the secretariat commented that the outcome of the review was positive; however it was also mentioned that the recommendations from the Executive Board were only a first step for the continuation of the Programme. The replenishment of the funds available in the Trust Fund through the contributions of donors was also recognized as important.

13. The Committee noted that terms of reference should be developed for the final evaluation of the Quick Start Programme and that it should include a different set of progress indicators to monitor performance. The Trust Fund Implementation Committee offered its assistance in preparing draft terms of reference for a final evaluation.

14. The secretariat recommended that it may be necessary to have one round of applications per year instead of two as this would ease the burden of having a round of applications every six months and may allow for applicants to develop better proposals. The Committee commented on the fact that it may be worth removing the deadline altogether so that the programme could function in the same way as the GEF programme. Proposals could be processed and appraised as they are received by the secretariat. The selected proposals could then be presented to the Committee in its subsequent meeting. The Chair of the Committee noted that this may increase the number of proposals in each application round; however the secretariat remarked that this would allow for more time to manage the workload efficiently and to prepare documents in a timely manner.

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

15. The secretariat introduced documents SAICM/TF.13/INF/4 (Rules of Procedure of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee) and SAICM/TF.13/4 (Issues for possible consideration in further development of operational guidance for the Quick Start Programme). The secretariat informed the Committee that the Rules of Procedure had been amended to reflect the new membership by the World Bank, following its membership to the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The Committee took note of this information.

16. The Committee held a brief discussion over the development of a set of performance indicators to facilitate monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects in the future, following the conclusions of the revised Report of the Quick Start Programme Mid-term Review.

17. The secretariat informed the Committee that the lack of consistent indicators makes the assessment of progress for individual projects difficult. QSP Project guidelines do not require the use of performance indicators for each project and therefore indicators are not always used. The Committee agreed that it would be willing to develop new procedures and improve the existing

template for projects, following the secretariat's recommendation that the current reporting system renders the task of assessing progress difficult.

18. It was agreed that the secretariat would prepare a proposal for the improvement of current project guidance documents in consultation with the Committee's members for consideration at the next meeting of the QSP TF Implementation Committee for consideration and possible adoption.

19. A discussion also took place regarding the timelines for completion of projects funded under the QSP trust fund. Recalling the provisions for the creation of the Quick Start Programme set out in Decision I/4, whereby a Trust Fund would be set up and remain open 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.

20. The secretariat recalled the discussions held at the 12th meeting for the Committee held in Paris on November 22-23 November 2011 on project timelines³. The secretariat also noted that further to that discussion, UNEP's administration had indicated that UNEP did not have authority to sign QSP related agreements for which project activities extend beyond 30 November 2013. This information was shared both with the Bureau and with the Implementation Committee in an email sent on in December 2011. The implications of this measure have been explained in document SAICM/TF.13/4.

21. The Committee expressed concerns on how this measure would affect projects that had been approved for 24 months, but for which agreements had not yet been signed due to administrative delays. The Committee further expressed their concern with regard to the delays in the agreement signature process. The secretariat took note of these comments. The Committee decided that a letter should be sent by the Chair on behalf of the Committee to the Head of the Chemicals Branch, Mr. Tim Kasten, to express the concern of the Committee for the delays in the signature of implementation agreements which was affecting project implementers. The representative of the secretariat also urged Committee members to consider other potential factors causing delays to the administrative process such as the sign-off required by executing agencies and what steps could be taken to improve on the current situation. The UNEP Trust Fund Implementation Committee member noted that the letter would be drafted without his participation.

22. Following the comments of the Committee, Mr. Tim Kasten provided clarifications on the issues raised during the morning session of the meeting. He indicated that, after further examination of the information pertaining to the establishment and operation of the QSP Trust Fund, he felt confident that those projects with IGOs serving as executing agencies could be implemented for 24 months from the day they are signed and that they did not need to be concluded by the 30 November 2013 end date, however, provided that all QSP TF disbursements are made upon signature of the agreement and before 30 November 2013. The Chair of the Committee requested assurance that the 24 month projects would retain the number of months in which they would be executed by IGOs, which the Head of the Chemicals Branch provided.

23. The Committee remarked that projects from the 11th round would need timelines to be reduced and budgets adjusted. The representative of the secretariat indicated that only two projects would be affected as all the remaining projects had an executing agency, and that these would be prioritized so that activities could be completed on time, as disbursement would not be possible beyond the 30 November 2013 date. The Chair expressed appreciation for the support shown by the secretariat.

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 It was understood that given the current provisions under resolution I/4, projects that had an IGO as an executing agency would not be subject to adjusting the completion time to 30 November, 2013 given that disbursement of funds is done in one instalment upon signature of the Agreement by UNEP and the executing agency.

VI. Review and appraisal of project applications in the twelfth round of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

24. The secretariat reported that in the twelfth round of applications, which closed on 29 February 2012, it had received 27 applications comprising 17 from Governments and 10 from civil society organizations⁴. In addition, 5 applications that had received a deferred approval in the eleventh round were automatically resubmitted in the twelfth round. The applications sought combined total funding of \$5,781,243. 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 28 complete and eligible applications, requiring funding of \$4,557,233, and 5 deferred from the previous rounds requiring funding of \$812,413, for a total amount of \$5,369,646.

A. Completeness and eligibility

25. The secretariat reported that it considered applications by one Government and three 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.13/3/Rev.1, 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 **Iraq** (QSPTF/12/12/GOV/19), entitled "Developing and integrating national program for sound management of chemicals and SAICM implementation in Iraq" was found to be incomplete and ineligible because the applicant failed to address the Secretariat's comments and did not provide a complete application form including the endorsement of the SAICM National Focal Point before the deadline.

B. Civil society networks applications

- b. The application of the **Sri Lanka Nature Forum** (SNLF) (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/11) for a project in Sri Lanka entitled "Networking and Public Participation for Sound Chemicals Management in Sri Lanka" was found to be ineligible because the endorsement of SAICM NGO focal point was missing.
- c. The application of the **Abacus For Communities** (AFC) (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/12) for a project in Jamaica entitled "Strengthening the Civil Society 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 found to be ineligible as the application was very similar to the one submitted in the 11th round of application which was declined by the Committee.
- d. The application of the **Lead Education and Abatement Design** (LEAD) Group (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/13) for a project in Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq and Myanmar was found to be ineligible because the endorsements of the SAICM national focal point from participating countries were missing.

B. Appraisal and decisions

26. The Committee had before it document SAICM/TF.13/INF/1 on the status of financial contributions to the trust fund, document SAICM/TF.13/3 summarizing criteria for consideration of and information on applications as well as copies of the full project proposals for each application. The Committee took note of the \$658,781 available to be awarded at the current round. This amount includes the earmarked funds from the French Government to support projects on non-chemical alternatives (\$253,968). In addition, the sum of approximately \$33,669 remains from the earmarked contribution for projects relating to the implementation of the multilateral

⁴ One Civil Society application that was declined in the 11th round was also submitted but it was not deemed eligible because it was the same application that was declined in the 11th round.

environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the terms of a funding agreement with the European Commission.

27. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 28 complete and eligible applications and granted approval to four projects with a combined value of \$655,894. The remaining \$2,887 would be held in the Trust Fund to allocate to the projects selected for funding as additional contributions are received in the Trust Fund.

28. Given the number of proposals received during the twelfth round and the limited funds available, the Committee aligned its decision with that of the Executive Board taken at its seventh meeting in Geneva. The Committee therefore deferred the thirteenth round of applications until after the Conference and established a procedure whereby projects would be approved as funds are deposited into the Trust Fund.

29. The approved or deferred approved projects included twelve Governments, involving activities in 13 countries, including one least developed country and one small island developing state (SIDS). The geographical breakdown of the 13 countries for approved or deferred approved projects was three African, two Asian-Pacific, three Central and Eastern European and five Latin American and Caribbean. Six approved or deferred approved projects are multi-sectoral in scope, four relate to agriculture, environment, health and labour, one to health, labour, oil and gas and one to environment and health.

30. The decisions of the Committee on the individual project proposals are summarized as follows:

A. Four projects with a combined total value of **\$655,894** were approved:

i. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/01, re-submitted by **Uruguay** for \$82,374: “Sound management of mobile phones containing lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB (polybrominated byphenyls), PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers)”. The proposed project aims at contributing to the sound management of the hazardous substances contained in mobile phones in Uruguay. The Committee approved the project on the basis that the recommendations had been satisfactorily addressed in the resubmission. However, the Committee noted that the activities had been scaled-down due to the reduction in budget and duration.

ii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/06, submitted by the **Republic of Tunisia** for \$179,982: “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Republic of Tunisia”. The project aims to facilitate Tunisia in its implementation of SAICM by developing and endorsing a National SAICM implementation plan and a national policy for SAICM implementation, building capacities on the GHS through undertaking a national GHS situation/gap analysis and holding a national GHS workshop, establishing a national inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for SAICM implementation, and undertaking supporting activities for awareness raising on the safe management of chemicals. The Committee noted that the Republic of Tunisia had not benefited from a QSP project previously.

iii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/09, submitted by **the Bahamas** for \$148,833: “Strengthening national capacity for Chemicals Management in the Bahamas through a National Coordination Mechanism, Comprehensive Situation Analysis and development of National Integrated Plan for Chemical Safety”. The project aims at developing a comprehensive integrated framework for sound management of hazardous chemicals through multi-stakeholder involvement in Bahamas which will provide direction to decision-makers. The Committee noted that UNITAR guidance should be used while preparing the National Integrated Plan on Chemical Safety.

iv. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/14, submitted by **Paraguay** for \$244,705: “Reducing Risks of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Paraguay”. The project aims at supporting Paraguay in developing and implementing Highly Hazardous Pesticide Risk Reduction Action Plan. This project would be funded with the earmarked funds provided by the French Government for non-chemical alternatives.

B. Eight projects with a combined total value of \$1,642,114 received deferred or conditionally deferred approval. These projects would receive priority funding in the order listed below as the funds become available in the Trust Fund, providing the conditions for approval have been met as appropriate. The projects are the following:

i. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/11, submitted by **the Republic of Burundi** for \$183,600: “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Republic of Burundi”. The project aims at assisting the Republic of Burundi in preparing a National SAICM Implementation plan, developing a national policy on chemical safety, and building capacities on the GHS through, inter alia, developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy.

ii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/12, submitted by **the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)** for \$183,112: “Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in DPR Korea”. The project aims at assisting DPR Korea to lay the groundwork for coordinated implementation of the GHS, involving all relevant stakeholders and thus contribute to the implementation of SAICM.

iii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/13, submitted by **Ghana** for \$165,600: “Framework for assessing core capacities needed to manage the public health impacts of chemicals associated with oil and gas sector activities”. The project aims at developing a model framework for assessing core capacities needed for preparedness and response to the environmental and occupational health impacts of chemicals generated by or used in the oil and gas sector, in the context of chemical incident emergency.

iv. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/08, submitted by **Vietnam** for \$230,000: “An Assessment on the Cost of Inaction: Mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Vietnam”. The project aims at assisting the Government of Vietnam to recognize the cost of socio-economic, environmental and health impacts of mercury use in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM). The Committee granted conditionally deferred approval on the conditions that the following issues are addressed: provide clarifications on the in-kind support of the Executing Agency (UNDP), clarify why no administrative fee had been charged, provided terms of reference for project personnel, reduce the budget for monitoring and evaluation⁵ as there is no need for an audit fee, and provide justification of the travel component.

v. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/17, submitted by **Nicaragua & Honduras** for \$240,344: “Environmental sound management of e-wastes from electrical and electronic equipment in Central America (Honduras and Nicaragua)”. The project aims at supporting Honduras and Nicaragua in developing a baseline on the generation and management of e-wastes for the formulation of a national strategy for the sound management of e-waste.

vi. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/15, submitted by **Serbia** for \$230,938: “Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia”. The project aims at building the capacity and strengthening cooperation between various stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, and other civil society sectors) on implementing policies and legislation for chemical safety with a particular focus on harmful chemicals in products. The Committee recommended that the applicant provide a clarification on the budget requested for the UNDP Project Assistant and remove the travel component for the International Conference on Chemicals Management. In addition, the Committee recommended that the applicant provide a support letter from the Cleaner Production Centre in Serbia as well as letters confirming in-kind support from UNDP. Finally, the Committee noted that the budget for the audit was not required as the project would be implemented by an executing agency.

vii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/03, submitted by **Armenia** for \$171,200: “Armenia/UNEP Partnership on Development of Chemicals Legislation and Industry Involvement in Armenia” was deferred in the eleventh round. The proposed project aims at developing and strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks of Armenia for the efficient management of chemicals.

⁵ As a general rule, the budget for Monitoring and Evaluation should not be more than \$10,000 for a 24 month project.

viii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/02, submitted by **Belarus** for \$237,320: “Belarus, UNEP, UNDP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) Considerations into Development Plans and Processes” was deferred in the eleventh round. The project aims at strengthening Belarus’ national sound management of chemicals regime in line with QSP strategic priorities b and c. The Committee requested that the applicant demonstrate linkages with an ongoing NGO project from the 4th round during its implementation.

C. 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 and to conditionally approve, but not to fund four applications. The three approved projects, with a combined total value of \$514,329 were:

- i. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/03, submitted by **Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)** for \$103,889: “Enhancing the role of civil society organizations in reducing mercury pollution in Armenia” which was deferred on the last application round and the applicant was recommended to amend the timeline and the budget. 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.
- ii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/04, submitted by **the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for \$230,150 which was deferred in the eleventh application round and the applicant was recommended to amend the timeline and the budget. The project aims to increase 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.
- iii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/02, submitted by **Pesticide Action Network - Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)** for \$180,290: “Strengthening the implementation of the FAO code of conduct and the SAICM policy framework through enhancing the capacities of the farmers, agricultural workers and indigenous people in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines” which was deferred on the last application round and the applicant was recommended to amend the timeline and the budget. 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.

D. The secretariat noted that one of the conditionally approved civil society applications showed a potential compatibility with the funding criteria set by the French Government on non-chemical alternatives. The four conditionally approved projects, with a combined total value of \$737,106 were:

- i. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/04, submitted by **Lesotho** for \$184,637: “Strengthening the capacity of small holder farmers, extension staff and pesticide dealers on judicious use of herbicides”. The project aims at developing a capacity building strategy that will enhance knowledge on general use of pesticides especially herbicides amongst the extension staff, farmers and agro-chemical retailers. The Committee conditionally approved the project with the recommendation that the applicant seek guidance on the FAO Code of Conduct regarding pesticides, that information should be provided regarding linkages with past projects and that a revision in the timeline and budget would be required. The applicant would be given one month to address the comments from the time that the letter informing them of the decision of the Committee had been sent.
- ii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/01, re-submitted by **Ekomjedisi Duress** for \$215,710: “Raising Awareness and Building Capacities on Pesticide Management in

frame of Strengthening SAICM Implementation in Albania.” The project aims at enabling Albania in SAICM implementation by carrying out a national awareness campaign on the safe use and management of pesticides according to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and other available guidelines on pesticide management; by building capacity through training of trainers courses, promoting the Integrated Pest Management skills and experience in organizing practical and participatory farmers’ training using the Farmer Field School (FFS) models; developing a National Pesticide Management Database in local language, and through the preparation and distribution of raising awareness materials (posters, brochures, DVD’s, CD’s and TV shows). The Committee approved the project on the condition that the timeline of the project be reduced to 12 months.

- iii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/07, submitted by **the BALIFOKUS Foundation**, Indonesia for \$199,613: “An Assessment on the Cost of Inaction: Mercury in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Indonesia”. The proposed project is a partnership initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and BALIFOKUS Foundation to conduct a study on the cost of inaction due to Mercury in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in Indonesia. The Committee approved the project on the condition that the timeline be reduced to 12 months with an associated decrease in budget.
 - iv. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/09, submitted by **the Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association**, Lao PDR for \$137,146: “Promotion of the Regulation on Pesticide Control and Management Development Project”. The project aims at promoting organic agriculture and building public awareness among farming communities on pesticide risks. The Committee approved the project on the condition that the applicant should provide a link with ongoing activities on pesticides management. The Committee approved the project and noted that timelines should be reduced to complete activities by November 30, 2013. The secretariat noted that this particular project appeared compatible with the criteria set by the French Government.
- E. One project for the total amount of \$243,090 was recommended for resubmission by the Committee:
- i. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/18, submitted by **Tanzania** for \$243,090: “Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region Project Proposal aimed at Strengthening Chemical Management Decisions at the local level”. This regional project aims at assisting the SADC countries in conducting their national assessments and making management decisions regarding chemical risks to minimize any impact of pesticides on health and the environment. The Committee recommended the project for resubmission with support letters from SADC countries endorsing the trainings and that FAO guidance could be sought. Additional clarifications on the in-kind contributions to the budget and synergies with an SADC initiative called the South African Pesticide Registrars Forum (SAPReF) would need to be included. The Committee also found that the project lacked clear information on the roles and responsibilities of project personnel, and that terms of reference should be provided. It was also noted that the role of UNEP GRID was unclear and should be clarified. Lastly, more details need to be provided on the independent monitoring and evaluation of the project.
- H. Eight Government and NGO projects with a combined total value of US\$1,577,113 were declined:
- i. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/05, submitted by **Tajikistan** for \$250,000: “The National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on chemicals management for 2012-2017”. The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that the project seemed too ambitious for the amount of time requested for implementation. The Committee noted that the project failed to demonstrate linkages with other QSP projects and that no TORs were provided although there was a significant number of staff involved in the project. Some inconsistencies between the work-plan and activities were noted and that the project in general needed to be more focused. Lastly the Committee noted that the project lacked significant in-kind contributions.
 - ii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/07, submitted by **Cambodia** for \$236,528: “Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme for Cambodia – Phase 2

(CAPP Programme – Cambodia Phase 2)”. The Committee declined the project on the basis that it was not an enabling activity, and that it was unclear why the International Project Coordinator was included in the budget. The Committee noted that the project failed to demonstrate linkages with the Cleaner Production Centre. The project failed to demonstrate in-kind support from UNEP, the budget featured excessive management components and that it was not clear who would be conducting the M&E. Finally, the project application mentioned that it would aim for the fulfilment of health regulations, but this was not reflected in the project activities and no involvement with a Health Ministry was mentioned.

- iii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/10, submitted by **the Philippines** for \$243,644: “Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme for Philippines Phase 2 (CAPP Programme- Philippines Phase 2)”. The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that it did not seem an enabling activity as it is a second phase project and that there seemed to be an excess of management staff in the budget request with no in-kind contributions from UNEP.
- iv. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/16, submitted by **the Solomon Islands** for \$221,500: “Development of a National 3R Policy for Sound Management of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous wastes and Pollution Control in the Solomon Islands”. The Committee declined the project on the basis that it did not seem to fit into SAICM Strategic Priorities and that despite the 3R being an interesting concept, it did not deal with hazardous wastes specifically. In addition, the use of funds did not seem appropriate on some components, such as the use of the car. The Committee also expressed concern on whether the project was an enabling activity and that a clear strategy was lacking.
- v. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/05, submitted by **the Agri-Inputs Suppliers Association of Malawi (AISAM)** for \$137,500, “Safe and Cost Effective Disposal and Recycling of Pesticide Containers in Malawi”: The project aims at establishing a safe and effective disposal and re-cycling of empty pesticides containers in Malawi. The Committee declined the proposal because the project did not include links to previous SAICM projects related to pesticides management in Malawi. The charges for project personnel also seemed too high.
- vi. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/06, submitted by **Informer, Sensibiliser, Eduquer sur les Polluants Organiques Persistants en COTE D’IVOIRE (ISE POP CI)** for \$219,327: “Building the capacities of the civil society organizations in the SAICM implementation in COTE D’IVOIRE”. The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that the activities outlined in the proposal were not clear.
- vii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/08, submitted by **the Regional Environment Centre (REC) Country Office Albania** for \$79,000: “Enforcement of Customs System on Capacity Building for Chemicals Management and Import – Export Procedures”. The Committee declined the proposal because the component on training of customs officers did not appear to be an activity which should be conducted by an NGO and that the project does not fit with SAICM objectives. In addition, the Committee declined the proposal because it failed to demonstrate clear links to relevant government authorities and that a support letter from the Minister of Taxation should have been provided.
- viii. Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/NGO/10, submitted by **the Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria)** for \$191,525: “Strengthening SAICM Implementation at Grassroots level: Legal Reform and Multi-Stakeholder Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management in Nigeria”. The project aims at improving SAICM implementation in Nigeria through law reform, civil society monitoring and enforcement, and multi-stakeholder capacity building for sound chemicals management. The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that an NGO did not seem the correct entity for performing improvements on legal arrangements and that the project duplicated activities outlined in a previous agreement between UNEP and the Nigerian Government.

VII. Status of projects funded under the Quick Start Programme

31. Due to the limited time available for the Trust Fund Implementation Committee to review 12th round projects and that document SAICM/TF.13/5 on the projects funded under the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund had been discussed in the 7th Executive Board meeting, this agenda item was not discussed.

VIII. Other matters

32. The secretariat introduced document SAICM/TF.13/INF/5 on the Projects requiring decision from the Trust Fund Implementation Committee. This report summarized projects that did not meet the basic criteria for the secretariat to decide on extensions or suspension of projects based on their performance. In addition, the projects which were previously summarized for the decision of the Committee in correspondence from the secretariat but that required further discussion have been included. These projects and the Committee's decisions are summarized in the order they appear in the report as follows:

- **QSPTF/08/4/GOV/09** – Tanzania – “Capacity Enhancement for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the United Republic of Tanzania”. The Committee concluded that the evidence provided did not show significant progress and therefore decided to **suspend** the project.
- **QSPTF/08/5/GOV/09** – Mauritania (UNDP/UNEP) – “Mauritania, UNDP and UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals Considerations into Development Plans and Processes”. The Committee noted that a workshop was being held in May and that both action and commitment had been demonstrated. The decision was taken to **extend** the project until December 2012.
- **QSPTF/09/7/GOV/05** – Mauritius (UNDP) – “Mauritius, UNDP and UNEP partnership initiative for SAICM implementation”. Following assessment by the Committee, the decision was taken to **extend** the project until February 2013.
- **QSPTF/07/3/GOV/01** – Sudan (UNIDO) – “Development of a Sustainable Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals”. The Committee decided to **extend** the project based on the information provided which indicated that the project manager was now able to continue with project implementation.
- **QSPTF/07/3/GOV/03** – El Salvador (UNIDO) – “Life cycle Analysis of Chemical Substances”. Following the introduction by the secretariat, the Committee decided to **extend** the project.
- **QSPTF/08/5/GOV/10** – Sri Lanka (UNDP) – “Strengthening National Capacities for Sound Management of Priority Industrial Carcinogens and Updating National Chemicals Profile in Sri Lanka”. After an overview provided by the secretariat, the Committee decided to **extend** the project.
- **QSPTF/08/5/GOV/25** – Bolivia and Peru (UNEP) – “Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Regional Project in South America”. The Committee decided to **suspend** the project following the summary provided by the secretariat.
- **QSPTF/09/6/GOV/06** – Kyrgyz Republic (UNDP) - “Kyrgyzstan, UNDP and UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Plans and Processes”. The Committee decided to **extend** the project following the summary provided by the secretariat.
- **QSPTF/09/6/GOV/07** – Mali and Senegal – “Chemical Accident Prevention Programme for West Africa (CAPP-WA)”. The multi-country project in Mali and Senegal was approved for **extension** by the Committee, with the recommendation that the secretariat attempt to re-establish contacts with the project implementers in Mali, despite the social turmoil.

- **QSPTF/09/6/GOV/09** – Djibouti (Basel Convention Regional Centre Senegal) – “Strengthening the capacity of Djibouti to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the context of the Basel Convention, the International Health Regulations (WHO, 2005) and other relevant MEAs as necessary, and ensure their environmentally sound management”. The Committee decided to **suspend** the project on the basis that very little progress had been made.
- **QSPTF/09/6/NGO/02** – Chulabhorn Research Institute – “Development of course materials and a distance learning tool for the assessment of risk from the use of chemicals to support SAICM’s capacity-building efforts in developing countries”. The secretariat provided the Committee with information on the status of the project after which the Committee decided to **extend** the project.
- **QSPTF/09/7/GOV/11** – WHO – “Poison information network for the Pacific”. After a summary on the status of the project provided by the secretariat, the Committee decided to **extend** the project.
- **QSPTF/09/7/GOV/19** – Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) – “Establishing an institutional framework and strengthening national capacity within an integrated process for the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of strategic approach in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines”. The Committee approved the **extension** of the project following the information provided by the secretariat.
- **QSPTF/09/7/GOV/24** – International Panel on Chemicals Pollution (IPCP) – “Training on risk assessment on chemicals at national level at a global context”. Following the secretariat’s assessment of the project, the Committee approved the **extension** until 30 November 2013.

IX. Next meeting

33. The next Trust Fund Implementation Committee meeting, if needed, will be held in New York after the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at a date yet to be decided upon. The meeting will be hosted by UNDP.

X. Adoption of the report

34. 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 fourteenth meeting.

XI. Closure of the meeting

35. The chairperson declared the meeting closed at 18:50 p.m. on Wednesday 9 May 2012.
