
**Sixteenth meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**
Vienna
25-26 November 2013

Report of the 16th 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 the 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 16th meeting of the Committee was held at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) headquarters in Vienna on 25 and 26 November 2013. The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting on Monday 25 November 2013 at 10 a.m.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of a chairperson

4. Mr. Mark Davis, Senior Officer, Pesticide Management Plant Production and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, was elected by the Committee to chair the meeting.

* The report of the meeting is issued on a provisional basis and will be considered for adoption by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee at its 17th 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 members of the Committee decided to add item 4, Status of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/TF.16/1, and adopted the following agenda for the meeting:

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 15th meeting of the Committee.
4. Status of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
5. Review and appraisal of project proposals in the 13th round of applications to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
6. Update on implementation of decisions of the 15th meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee.
7. Status of projects funded under the Quick Start Programme.
8. Review of Terms of Reference of the impact evaluation of the QSP.
9. Other matters.
10. Next meeting.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

6. The Committee agreed to meet from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday 25 November 2013 and from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m on Tuesday 26 November 2013.

D. Attendance

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

III. Adoption of the report of the 15th meeting of the Committee

8. The Committee approved document SAICM/TF.16/2, Provisional report of the 15th meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 29 May 2013.

IV. Status of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

9. The secretariat updated the Committee on the situation of the Trust Fund, latest pledges and potential new funding. In addition, a discussion took place on the "Special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the future Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)" and its potential implications.

10. The members of the QSP TFIC expressed their concern about the situation of the QSP Trust Fund and the limited possibilities for its replenishment while highlighting the importance of the Quick Start Programme and its achievements.

V. Review and appraisal of project proposals in the 13th round of applications to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

11. The secretariat reported that in the 13th round of applications, which closed on 28 June 2013, it received 36 applications, including 19 from Governments and 17 from civil society. In addition, six applications that were approved but not funded in the 12th round were included, as well as one resubmission from the 11th round. The total overall funding sought by the combined applications is US\$9,107,736. One new project proposal from a civil society organization was withdrawn on 31 October 2013.

12. In compliance with resolution I/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and following guidance by the QSP Executive Board, the secretariat screened the applications for completeness and eligibility and presented the complete and eligible applications to the Committee for appraisal and possible approval. The SAICM secretariat proposed 35 complete and eligible applications to be considered by the Committee, including six previously approved but not funded applications, seeking a total funding of US\$7,678,623.

A. Completeness and eligibility

13. The secretariat reported that it considered that applications from two governments and five civil society networks had not met the requirements for completeness and/or eligibility. In addition, one civil society proposal was withdrawn. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the secretariat indicated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document SAICM/TF.16/INF/5, summarizing applications, and confirmed that the following applications would therefore not be appraised by the Committee:

a. Government applications

1) The application for a project in Sierra Leone (QSPTF/13/13/GOV/A), entitled “Development of an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Supporting GHS Capacity in the Republic of Sierra Leone” was found to be incomplete and ineligible. The applicant did not complete the new, updated forms and did not supply relevant signatures.

2) The application for a project in Antigua and Barbuda (QSPTF/13/13/GOV/B), entitled “Antigua and Barbuda/UNEP Partnership for the strengthening of National capacity for sound chemicals management and the establishment of an institutional framework for its integration into national development plans and processes” was found to be incomplete and ineligible. Form I (including relevant signatures) and Form II were missing, and Form III was an old version of the application form.

b. Civil society networks applications

1) The application of the Abantu for Development Uganda (AFOD) (QSPTF/13/13/NGO/A) for a project in Uganda entitled “Empowering Civil Society Organizations to promote sound management of chemicals in the oil, gas and mining Sector in Uganda” was found to be ineligible because three forms were not complete and the relevant signatures were not present.

2) The application of the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/B) for a project entitled “E-waste policy intervention and mainstreaming of best available technique WEEE chemicals management in Bangladesh” was found to be ineligible as signatures of the SAICM National Focal Point and the NGO focal point were missing.

3) The application of the Forum Burundais de la Société Civile du Bassin du Nil (FCBN) (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/C) for a project entitled “Enhancing community sensitization and Promotion of Civil Society Engagement for Effective Implementation of the International Convention of Stockholm on POPs in Burundi” was found to be ineligible because the endorsement of the SAICM National Focal Point was missing.

4) The application of Cleanliness, Environment and Health (PES) (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/D) for a project entitled “Elimination of Lead Paints in Burundi” was found to be ineligible as form I had not been submitted and the endorsement of the focal points were therefore missing.

5) The application of Eco Ethics International Kenya Chapter (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/E) for a project entitled “Promoting environmentally sound management of mercury containing waste in the urban areas of coastal Kenya” was found to be ineligible because the application was submitted after the deadline and the Focal Point signature was missing.

6) The application of the Centre for Environment and Community Development (CECoD), with the Blacksmith Institute as executing agency (QSPTF/12/12/NGO/9), for a project entitled “Migration of Health Risks Posed by Legacy Heavy Metal Contamination in Craft Villages” was withdrawn late in the process, 31 October 2013, as the project received funding from another source.

B. Appraisal and decisions

14. The Committee had before it the document on the status of the QSP Trust Fund, document SAICM/TF.16/3, summarizing the financial contributions and situation of the QSP Trust Fund together with information on the outstanding project agreements, and document SAICM/TF.16/INF/5, summary of applications, which outlines the finances in relation to availability for the 13th round of applications.

15. The Committee took note of the US\$392,229 available to be awarded at the 13th round. These funds had been provided by the Government of France to support projects on non-chemical alternatives. A further pledge had been given by the Government of France and the total available in the 13th round for non-chemical alternatives projects is approximately US\$783,572².

16. The secretariat indicated that, pending final deposit of received pledges, sufficient funding will be available to fund the eight approved projects prioritized for funding in the 12th round in addition to the non-chemical alternatives in the 13th round (information below). The secretariat informed the Committee that the Government of Norway made a new pledge during the meeting. These funds, approximately US\$300,000, could support up to two new projects of the 13th round.

17. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 35 complete and eligible applications and granted approval to four projects with a combined value of US\$651,823, including US\$396,866 for the two non-chemical alternatives projects. The Committee further decided that the estimated US\$386,706 remaining for non-chemical alternatives would be allocated to any approved project that may be considered to qualify for the earmarked funds as contained in document SAICM/TF.16/INF/2. The Committee requested the SAICM secretariat to forward the list of approved but not funded projects to the Government of France in order to assess and reconsider if these projects could meet their requirements and, consequently, be funded.

18. Given the large number of proposals received during the 13th round, the limited funds available and the ICCM3 decision to extend the QSP Trust Fund until 2015, the Committee established a procedure whereby projects would receive funding as contributions are deposited into the Trust Fund.

19. The approved or conditionally approved 13 projects submitted by Governments involve activities in 14 countries, including two least developed countries and one small island developing state. The geographical breakdown of the 14 countries for approved or deferred approved projects were two from African region, four from Asia and the Pacific region, five from Central and Eastern European region, and three from Latin America and the Caribbean region. Three approved or deferred approved projects are multi-country, and all are multi-sectoral in scope, relating to agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour.

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

a. **Four projects** with a combined value of **US\$651,823** were **approved and funded**:

1) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/01**, had been approved, but not funded in the twelfth round, submitted by **Lesotho** for US\$184,637: “Strengthening the capacity of small holder farmers, extension staff and pesticide dealers on judicious use of herbicides.” The project aims to develop 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 objective of the project is to a) develop training manuals in herbicide technology for extension workers, farmers and the agro-chemical retailers; b) train stakeholders such as farmers, extension staff and retailers on herbicide handling, choice of herbicides, calibration of application equipment, application techniques

² All the amounts are subject to final deposit, exchange rate and the Programme Support Cost.

and storage of herbicides and c) develop a herbicides profile that can be used in different parts of the country. Additionally, literature on herbicide handling, safety and application (classification, calibration, techniques) will be reviewed and a manual produced and translated into local language.

2) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/10**, submitted by **Yemen** for US\$63,320: “Chemical Risk Assessment Training and Updating the National Chemical Profile to include Mercury.” The project seeks to update the National chemicals Profile and Preliminary Inventory of Mercury Release in Yemen and adding Mercury to the National Chemical Management Profile as well as holding a Chemicals Risk Assessment (CRA) Training. For the chemicals profile, tasks will include selecting a technical team to update and develop the chemicals profile including mercury, and evaluate the current situation of chemicals management, highlighting problems in chemicals import, use, and institutional cooperation, among others.

3) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/01**, had been approved, but not funded in the twelfth round, submitted by **Ekomjedisi Duress** in Albania for US\$180,710: “Raising Awareness and Building Capacities on Pesticide Management in frame of Strengthening SAICM Implementation in Albania.” Project proposal was approved but not funded in the twelfth round. The project aims to raise awareness and building capacities among key stakeholders on Pesticide Management in frame of strengthening SAICM implementation in Albania. This will help to integrate an environmental dimension into national development priorities in rural areas. The project has a strong focus on pesticide-related problems.

4) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/13**, submitted by the **Regional Institute for Research on Toxic Substances (IRET)** in Costa Rica for US\$216,156: “Highly Hazardous Pesticides phase out and alternatives in Costa Rica”. This multi-stakeholder project will directly address the serious problems caused by Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP) use, risky practices and pesticide-related harm to human health, biodiversity and natural resources in Costa Rica. It will be implemented as a civil society project by the Regional Institute for Research on Toxic Substances (IRET), collaborating with the National University and the National SAICM Focal Point in the Ministry of Environment (MINA). The project will address inadequate management of pesticides throughout their lifecycle from import, regulation, to distribution, use and disposal of waste and empty containers.

b. **Thirteen projects from governments**, with a combined value of **US\$3,094,648** received **approval or conditional approval without funding**. These projects would receive priority funding in the order listed below as the funds become available in the QSP Trust Fund, providing the conditions for approval have been met as appropriate. The projects are the following:

1) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/08**, submitted by **Ukraine** for US\$246,500: “Strengthening Capacities for the Sound Management of Biocides and other Hazardous Chemicals to Reduce Population Exposure in the Ukraine” with WHO as executing agency. The project seeks to strengthen the Ukrainian national capacity to ensure the safe use and production of a selected group of hazardous chemical substances (biocides) through their life-cycle. The Committee conditionally approved the proposal without funding on the basis that the scope of the project is too wide. The Committee requested the applicant to narrow down the project to find achievable objectives within the project, to move the subcontract to project personnel and to adjust the budget accordingly. In addition, the applicant needs to submit a letter of support from relevant ministries – particularly the Ministry of Economy which is the coordinating body - to demonstrate the level of support the project has in the country. Terms of reference need to be provided.

2) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/02**, submitted by **Republic of Guinea** for US\$249,461: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in the Republic of Guinea” with UNITAR as executing agency was approved without funding. The project seeks to analyse the status of chemical hazard classification, and communication and initiating GHS implementation at the national level. The overall objective of the project is to enable the Republic of Guinea to initiate coordinated implementation of the GHS, involving all relevant stakeholders, contribute to the implementation of SAICM, and the protection of human health and the environment from dangerous chemicals. The project also aims to make a contribution to the implementation of international chemicals management agreements in general, such as the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and ILO 170 Conventions, and Montreal Protocol, by focusing on labelling of chemicals as an important building block for sound chemicals management and trade in chemicals. The project will focus on providing more in-depth training on the GHS in order to further enable SAICM implementation in the Republic of Guinea.

- 3) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/09**, submitted by **Uzbekistan** for US\$245,592: “Supporting SAICM and GHS Implementation in Uzbekistan” with UNITAR as executing agency was approved without funding. The project seeks to analyse the status of hazardous chemicals classification, communication, and initiating GHS implementation at a national level. The overall objective of the project is to enable Uzbekistan to initiate coordinated implementation of the GHS, involving all relevant stakeholders, and thus contribute to the implementation of SAICM, and the protection of human health and the environment from dangerous chemicals.
- 4) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/14**, submitted by **Djibouti** for US\$250,000: “Strengthening the capacity of Djibouti to monitor and control the transboundary movements of chemicals and hazardous wastes and ensure their environmentally sound management at national level” with UNEP as executing agency. This project will strengthen Djibouti’s capacity to fulfil its obligations under multi-lateral environmental agreements addressing chemicals and hazardous waste. The project was conditionally approved without funding. The Committee considered that the involvement of the Ministry of Labour is necessary for the implementation of the project and asked for a support letter to be submitted. A clear indication of the responsible actors for each activity and the removal of the financial audit line in the budget since the project would be implemented by an executing agency, as well as the terms of reference for the consultants, were also requested.
- 5) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/17**, submitted by **Mongolia** for US \$248,145: “Building capacity for the public health management of chemical incidents associated with mining activities in Mongolia” with WHO as executing agency. The project seeks to develop a framework for assessing core capacities needed to prevent and mitigate public health impacts associated with chemicals used or generated in the context of mining activities (formal and informal). The project was conditionally approved without funding. The QSP TFIC indicated the need for a reduction of the plan and the budget for Monitoring and Evaluation line in the budget, which should not exceed US\$10,000. The Committee agreed that it would be cost-effective to consider hiring a local evaluator. The terms of reference for the consultants are to be submitted.
- 6) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/11**, submitted by **Sri Lanka** for US\$249,804: “Strengthening national capacity in Sri Lanka for applying SMART chemicals management (Sustainable management, Monetary benefits, Additional health and safety, Resource efficiency, and Technology transfer and innovation) in the industrial sector of rubber, tourism and textiles and apparels” with UNIDO as executing agency. This project aims to assist Sri Lanka in strengthening national capacity for applying SMART chemicals management in the industrial sector in particular to the selected sectors rubber, tourism, textiles and apparels. The Committee approved the project proposal without funding, but suggest that the project proponents respond to the issues raised in the letter from the Ministry of Health.
- 7) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/12**, submitted by **Honduras and Nicaragua** for US\$249,280: “Strengthening of the Central American Network of Centers of Support and Information in Toxicology” with PAHO as executing agency. This proposal will promote the functions of the Central American Network of Centers for Information and Support in Toxicology (REDCIATOX) through synergies, to strengthen their services and scopes, increase capacity and enhance cooperation on issues related to health in chemical safety. Strengthening of REDCIATOX will benefit from previous experiences supported by the Pan American Health Organization and the German Cooperation Agency GTZ and PLAGSALUD (Danish cooperation) during the early 2000s. The project received conditional approval without funding. A revised version of the budget is required that is aligned with the description of the activities. When describing the activities, further clarification on who is responsible – ministries staff, consultants, etc. - for carrying out each activity and the terms of reference are to be provided.
- 8) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/03**, submitted by **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova** for US\$250,000: “Strengthening capacities for the development of the national Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) and supporting SAICM implementation in two countries with economies in transition: the Republic of Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.” The project aims to assist the Governments of both states (as countries with economies in transition), to strengthen their capacities for the development of the national pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR) to implement synergistically the relevant environmental agreements related to chemicals and wastes management. Being in the process of signing the EU pre-accession agreement for the Republic of Moldova this will promote the environmental performance requirements in context of international trade. PRTR will establish the capacity to collect and analyse social and economic data. The Committee conditionally approved

the project without funding and requested information on financial auditing, and monitoring and evaluation details. The QSP TFIC highlighted the importance of the engagement of the ministries of industry and health. Understanding that these ministries are the key players in the implementation of the project, the applicants need to submit support letters from them.

- 9) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/04**, submitted by **Belarus and Ukraine** for US\$250,000: “Development of sub-regional public health institutional cooperation to strength capacities and information exchange to address hazardous chemicals health effects in the Ukraine and Belarus, and the Russian Federation (not funded directly by the QSP Trust Fund)” with WHO as executing agency. This project is intended to be an enabling activity. By establishing a sub-regional cooperation of public health institutions and other stakeholders to build capacities and strengthen information exchange to address hazardous chemicals impact in Ukraine, Republic of Belarus and in the Russian Federation, this project will help Governments of selected Newly Independent States to achieve sound chemicals management not only through preparedness for chemical accidents, assessment of its impact to health and improving response capabilities, but also by raising stakeholders awareness in regards to the harm that endocrine disrupting chemicals, chemical mutagens and reproductive toxicants can bring to the community. As decided by the QSP TFIC, the project is conditionally approved without funding as the applicant needs to move the budget line on the subcontract to project personnel and remove the budget allocated to financial audit. The latter is not required as the project would be implemented by an executing agency. The Committee noted that the terms of reference for project personnel are to be provided, and the need for interpreters justified.
- 10) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/18**, submitted by **Mongolia** for US\$210,000: “Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in Support of SAICM Implementation in Mongolia” with UNITAR as executing agency. The proposed project involves PRTR design activities led by the government in cooperation with public interest groups, industry, and academia, as well as capacity-building activities by civil society. The project addresses the importance of developing PRTRs, which is outlined as a SAICM work area in the Global Plan of Action (GPA). The project in particular focuses on enabling activities for the implementation of a national PRTR. The QSP TFIC approved this project without funding.
- 11) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/19**, submitted by **Serbia** for US\$247,796: “Strengthening Serbian national capacities and inter-sectorial synergies for safe management of contaminated sites and related hazardous substances to prevent negative impact on human health and the environment” with WHO as executing agency. The project seeks to eliminate/minimize and prevent risks for human health and environment through the development of a national framework for sound management of contaminated sites. The development will be based on a multisectoral and multi stakeholder approach in order to improve the health of the population. With a pilot project in the Zajaca settlement the prevention of negative impacts of contaminated sites and related hazardous substances on health will be addressed. The Committee conditionally approved this proposal without funding. The QSP TFIC encourages the applicant to use the existing tools and methods and to reflect this accordingly in the proposal. In addition, the QSP TFIC agreed that the applicant would revise the proposal and mention that the project will provide input to the national strategy; clarify whether Personal Protective Equipment are required and how they will be covered; describe travels - how many are expected, by whom; and add the monitoring and evaluation report to the budget. The revised proposal should be submitted together with the terms of reference of project personnel.
- 12) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/07**, submitted by **Barbados** for US\$148,070 is a resubmission from the 11th round: “Building Capacities for Strengthening the Management of Heavy Metals in Barbados”. This project seeks to develop a national strategy for the management of mercury, cadmium and lead (CLM) and the products that contain them. The project will utilize a three-pronged approach: (1) Identification of the pathways by which CLM are introduced into the environment using the procedures in the mercury toolkit; (2) Determination of the extent to which CLM is extant in the environment through the collection and analyses of samples of water, soil and air; and (3) Using the above information to buttress consultation with stakeholders in order to develop a realistic strategy along with specific action plans to manage CLM in Barbados including provisions for sound storage and disposal of products containing CLM. This project has been approved without funding.
- 13) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/06**, submitted by **Vietnam** for US\$250,000: “Strengthening health sector’s role in sound chemicals management through enhancement of chemical emergencies and poisonings response and chemicals safe use in healthcare facilities, stage of 2013-2014”. This project will improve capability of healthcare sector in emergencies and poisonings response focusing on lead, mercury and public health pesticides poisoning response via

capacity building for medical personnel in preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases by poisonings and using existing knowledge to better understand and deal with the impacts of exposure to chemicals. It will also enhance awareness of safe use & management of chemicals in healthcare facilities for medical personnel in Vietnam, particularly chemicals products in endocrine disruptors and cancer treatment. The Committee approved the project without funding while suggested that the applicants could send support letters to show a proper governmental stakeholders engagement.

c. **Four projects from civil society organizations**, with a combined value of **US\$641,139**, which had been approved in previous rounds, were not funded. The Committee did not establish order priority for these projects. The four projects are as follows:

1) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/02**, submitted by **Pesticide Action Network - Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)** for US\$181,700: “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 11th application round and the applicant was recommended to amend the timeline and the budget. Project proposal was approved but not funded in the 12th round. 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.

2) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/03**, submitted by **Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)** for US\$103,889: “Enhancing the role of civil society organizations in reducing mercury pollution in Armenia” which was deferred on the 11th application round and the applicant was recommended to amend the timeline and the budget. Project proposal was approved but not funded in the 12th round. 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. First, an implementation pilot assessment of identified regions would be conducted. Mercury pollution sources would be identified and polluted areas in Yerevan would be mapped. Mercury sampling would be undertaken and results of analyses would become available to the public. They would be used for discussions with decision-makers and for the development of measures needed to reduce mercury contamination in Armenia. In the second phase, capacity building in identification of priority mercury issues will take place followed by awareness raising among general population and civil society networks.

3) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/04**, submitted by the **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for US\$230,150: “Scientific Capacity Building in Support of SAICM in Latin America and the Caribbean” which was deferred in the 11th application round and the applicant was recommended to amend the timeline and the budget. Project proposal was approved but not funded in the 12th round. 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. The project would seek to prepare recommendations for a broader SAICM capacity building programme through 2020 and similar activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

4) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/05**, submitted by **BALIFOKUS Foundation, Indonesia** for US\$125,400: “An Assessment on the Cost of Inaction: Mercury in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Indonesia”. Project proposal was approved but not funded in the 12th round. 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 project will assist the Government of Indonesia to: recognize the cost of socio-economic, environmental and health impact of mercury use in ASGM; account for this cost in weighing the costs and benefits of allowing mercury use to continue in this practice at current level; identify necessary measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of mercury contamination to humans and the environment in accordance with SAICM provisions; monitor and evaluate the existing ASGM practices and develop necessary actions to stop destructive practices; improve national, local and ASGM sectoral policy, as well as regulatory enforcement on mercury pollution control. Four key sites (Central Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, Aceh Province and West Nusa Tenggara Province) will be selected for study with a focus on four sectors, namely: agriculture, fisheries, forestry and public health.

d. **Eight projects** for the total amount of **US\$1,933,266** were recommended for **resubmission**³ by the Committee:

- 1) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/05**, submitted by **Pakistan** for US\$243,648: “Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme for Pakistan (CAPP Programme – Pakistan)” executed by UNEP. The project targets risk reduction and seeks to develop a Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme in Pakistan. It aims to improve the ability of the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) and other stakeholders in Pakistan to manage chemical accident prevention and preparedness (CAPP) and to improve industrial safety and the safety of local communities living in or near potential industrial risks zones. The Committee recommended the project for resubmission to include information on how the project links to the existing chemicals related conventions implemented in the country to avoid overlap and duplication of activities. The QSP TFIC also noted that a comprehensive description of the travel would be needed.
- 2) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/15**, submitted by **Egypt** for US\$250,000: “Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness Programme for Egypt (CAPP-Egypt)” with UNEP as executing agency. The project is based on the fact that currently there is a lack of concrete framework for chemicals accident prevention and preparedness, especially for SMEs, in Egypt. In this context, the present project will contribute to assist the Egyptian government to cope with the international agreements related to chemicals management (e.g. SAICM, Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm conventions) and to implement the Egyptian national strategy on chemicals management. Furthermore, the objective of this project will be attained through reviewing and improving programmes and policies related to prevention of, and preparedness for, industrial accidents involving hazardous substances in Egypt. The Committee found that the project lacked in-kind contribution. In addition, links to the International Health Regulations focal point was also highlighted as a requirement to be included in the resubmission.
- 3) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/16**, submitted by the **Windward Islands (Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines)** for US\$250,000: “Strengthening Sub-Regional (Windward Islands) Capacity and Capabilities for Chemical Incident Management” with PAHO as executing agency. The main objective of the project is to develop and enhance chemical incident management capacities and capabilities in the Windward Islands of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) sub-region. The QSP TFIC recommended the proposal be resubmitted clarifying what is included as medical equipment and how this and electronics are going to be used. The Committee also found that the project lacked clear information on the responsibilities of project personnel, with a large number of consultants; and the terms of reference should be provided. Finally, the Committee pointed out that the monitoring and evaluation should be independent.
- 4) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/10**, submitted by **Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (UNETMAC)**, Health and Environment NGO in Uganda for US\$238,879: “Strengthening the capacity of sound management of lead in lead-based paint through research and capacity building in Uganda”. The project would assess the status of lead paint in Uganda through the testing and analysing of paint samples on the Ugandan market, promote the development of a legal framework to address the management of lead paint, produce awareness materials on the dangers of lead exposure, conduct awareness and training sessions on sound management of lead in lead paint and mount an extensive media campaign to raise awareness and encourage the phase out of lead paints in Uganda. The Committee invited the applicant to resubmit the proposal taking into account the availability of the materials already developed, with a consequent significant reduction of the proposed budget.
- 5) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/11**, submitted by **Ecole de Commerce et de Gestion (ECG) – Association d'utilité publique Cote d'Ivoire** for US\$241,860: “Strengthening the capacity of Agricultural Workers Organization in the implementation of SAICM in Ivory Coast”. The overall aim of this project is to ensure that the SAICM 2020 goal is achieved. As such, the participation of agricultural workers is necessary because they play a crucial role in the handling of chemicals in production and also the use of empty containers. The first victims of chemicals exposure are the agricultural workers, so involving them in SAICM implementation is necessary, building specifically the capacity of agricultural workers organizations. The project will identify 200 organizations, and select 100 to be involved directly with the implementation of the project. Their leaders will be trained about the strategy (SAICM), the conventions and POPs. The QSP TFIC recommended that the

³ These projects could be resubmitted should the Quick Start Programme Executive Board call for another application round in 2014.

applicant use existing guidelines such as the ones developed by FAO and WHO. In the resubmission, the Committee requested that the Ministry of Agriculture be consulted and involved in the project. In addition, the proposal would need to focus further on the alternatives, risk reduction and provide solutions to what will be done with empty containers. Lastly, the cost of vehicle hire was considered excessive; therefore, the Committee suggested the budget to be revisited.

6) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/14**, submitted by **International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)** for US\$250,000: “Raising stakeholders’ awareness and capacity to address endocrine disrupting chemicals in food and consumer products in Armenia, Belarus and Kazakhstan”. The project aims to analyse the presence of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in food and consumer products, raise public awareness on potential health and environmental hazards, and raise stakeholder awareness and understanding of EDCs hazards and risks to the environment and humans, particularly to vulnerable population, infants and children all at the national level in Armenia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. In order to promote project sustainability, the Committee requested more support letters, especially from the ministries of environment, health and agriculture. The Committee found that the project should be more focused and suggested the applicant specify the list of chemicals in which they are interested in. Furthermore, the strategy for testing would need to be developed and included in the proposal. Finally, the Committee noted that the SAICM National Focal Point of the Russian Federation endorsed the project and is included in the first steps of implementation; however, more information on the involvement of the Russian Federation in further stages of implementation are required too.

7) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/15**, submitted by **Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)**, Islamabad, Pakistan for US\$238,879: “Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Obsolete Pesticides in Pakistan”. The project seeks to promote the sound disposal and management of obsolete pesticides in Pakistan by improving the capacity of the Government of Pakistan to address environmental and health impacts of obsolete pesticides, and fulfil its obligations under the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions. The project will achieve this by assisting the Government of Pakistan to develop a comprehensive action plan for addressing obsolete pesticides at the national level, and through the implementation of a pilot project, it will build local and national capacity to address the pesticides problem in a manner that is community driven and environmentally sound. It will eliminate the hazardous environmental and health impacts at the pilot site by demonstrating that pesticides can be disposed of successfully, safely, and cost-effectively using local cement kilns. The Committee noted that the project was too ambitious in terms of goals and budget, and thus recommended that the project had a more cost-effective and politically-feasible approach. The QSP TFIC suggested that the project could focus on the review of technical and policy options and cover the evaluation of facilities, making recommendations. Additionally, the Committee indicated that the Government needs to be involved from the beginning and have the capacity. Finally, the Committee proposed the applicant to contact the Global Environment Facility (the GEF) and UNDP to coordinate activities through the Government.

8) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/16**, submitted by **Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS)** Iran for US\$220,000: “World Library of Toxicology (WLT), Chemical Safety, and Environmental Health”. The World Library of Toxicology, Chemical Safety, and Environmental Health (WLT) is a free global online portal of organizational and other information resources related to the broad area of subjects within the umbrella of its name. Developed by the US National Library of Medicine and subsequently imported to the INND/Toxipedia group, the WLT was created by Country Correspondents from numerous nations via Wiki technology. The project seeks to give the WLT a jump start with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The Committee noted that the budget submitted needs to be revised to be more detailed, particularly the role of the Director. In addition, the Committee requested detailed information about the financial management, in particular how the project will be implemented on a practical basis, in the transfer of funds from headquarters in the United States to Tehran given the financial regulations. Personnel’s terms of reference should be provided. Lastly, the QSP TFIC strongly encouraged the applicant to liaise with the Stockholm Regional Centre based in Iran.

e. **Six Government and civil society projects** with a combined value of **US\$1,351,013** were **declined**:

1) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/GOV/13**, submitted by **Solomon Islands** for US\$203,850: “Development of a National Policy for sound management of Chemicals and hazardous waste in the Solomon Islands.”. The proposed project is to be implemented by the Environment and conservation Division under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology as an executing agency. The project aims to develop a National Policy for sound

chemicals management and proper chemical safety, building upon work conducted to implement SAICM and comply with the Stockholm Convention, Waigani Convention and other related multilateral environment and international agreements. The policy will also make provisions for ratification of relevant international or regional conventions. The Committee declined the proposal because other similar projects are being carried out in the country, the budget is too high and the applicant had submitted few support letters, which is crucial considering that the project aims to develop a national policy. In addition, the terms of reference were not provided.

2) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/06**, submitted by **International Trade Union Confederation Office for Africa (ITUC Africa)** for US\$250,000: “Advancing sound chemicals management in Africa through the post 2015 development framework (Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania & Togo)”. The project seeks to build the capacity of trade union federations and confederations in Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo, to allow them to effectively engage with their respective governments in the development of national goals, targets and indicators with special focus on sound management of chemicals (SMC). The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that an NGO did not seem the correct entity for dealing with post-2015 and sound chemicals management agenda. The Committee noted that the budget includes travel to meetings that are out of the scope of the project and some that are already over. No endorsement of the United Nations agencies mentioned in the project has been submitted. In addition, the QSP TFIC pointed out that the monitoring and evaluation proposed in the project is not independent, and the terms of reference for SAICM National Focal Point, consultants and other personnel are missing. The Committee remarked that no project salaries can be covered without specifying roles and responsibilities.

3) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/07**, submitted by **ECOLOGICAL RESTORATIONS, Ghana** for US\$199,613: “Building Civil Society Organizations’ Capacities in an Integrated Approach to the Control and Sound Management of Hazardous Chemicals in Ghana”. The project seeks to introduce safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives targeted at current users of hazardous chemicals to mitigate the risks associated with the use of chemicals in Ghana. The project seeks to build the capacities of civil society organizations across the country in an integrated sound management of toxic chemicals in major food crop, cocoa, and vegetable producing areas, as well as artisanal mining areas. The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that an NGO did not seem the correct entity for performing the activities proposed. The Committee noted that the applicants had not submitted support letters from the Ministry of Agriculture or other policy makers. In the budget, the amount allocated to car rental was considered excessive by the QSP TFIC. Lastly, the terms of reference for various consultants and personnel have not been provided.

4) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/08**, submitted by **Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) Sri Lanka** for US\$250,000: “Networking and Public Participation for Sound Chemicals Management in Sri Lanka”. The project has networking and public participation as a main objective, therefore awareness raising of stakeholders on handling chemicals safely will be a main activity with the expected result of obtaining more involved participation of target communities in chemicals management. A resource centre will be established in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment for which the Centre for Environmental Justice will have the main responsibility. The Committee noted that the proponents had not provided support letters from the Government besides the SAICM National Focal Point. This is considered a critical aspect since many activities relate to Government, e.g. support to the Ministry of Environment. The Committee project does not fulfil a unique need and the overall budget, and in particular the travel budget, was too high. No terms of reference have been submitted in the proposal.

5) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/12**, submitted by **Youth of the 21st Century, Tajikistan** for US\$200,000: “Development of a National Strategy for Chemicals Management for the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period 2014-2020”. The proposed project aims to create a National Strategy for Chemicals Management for the Republic of Tajikistan to improve the regulation and oversight of Chemical use, transportation and storage in the Country. The project also proposes a pilot remediation program to demonstrate how the Republic of Tajikistan can address sites where existing chemical waste pose a threat to human health, the environment, and to build capacity to design and implement future remediation projects. The project will have two components: the development of a National Strategy for Chemicals Management, and the development and implementation of a pilot chemical waste remediation project. The Committee declined the proposal on the basis that the activities of the project are more appropriate for governmental stakeholders. In addition, the GEF and UNIDO are currently executing a National Implementation Plan project in Tajikistan. The terms of reference for project personnel have not been provided.

6) Project proposal **QSPTF/13/13/NGO/17**, submitted by **OXO – Association for education, communication and consulting, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** for US\$247,550:

“Establishing, Operating, and Promoting a National Hazardous Waste Mobile Incinerating System (NHWMS)”. The project aims to establish, operate and promote a National Hazardous Waste Incineration System (NHWMS) in order to provide a safe and lawful solution for the hazardous waste of various types in the FYRM. The main focus of the project will be pesticide packaging that is littering the countryside (since there is no existing solution). In line with the SAICM-QSP goals, the project also aims to inform, raise the awareness and educate the stakeholders: farmers and growers, agricultural and industrial companies, medical facilities, as well as small businesses and individuals producing or owning hazardous waste about the dangers of improper and illegal dumping and mixing this type of waste with regular communal waste. The project has been considered technically unfeasible by the Committee. A significant proportion of the budget is dedicated to equipment.

VI. Update on implementation of decisions of the 15th meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee

21. This item was not addressed during the meeting due to the limited time available. The QSP TFIC decided to rely in the updates the secretariat regularly sends to the Committee on the situation, changes and challenges encountered.

VII. Status of projects funded under the Quick Start Programme

22. The secretariat introduced the projects facing serious issues, as outlined in document SAICM/TF.16/4. The Committee reviewed and took decisions on these projects as follows:

- 1) 4th round – “Establishing an international framework and strengthening national capacity for sound chemicals management and implementation of the Strategic Approach in the Republic of Palau”. The Committee decided to send a letter to the implementer asking for final reports by 31 January 2014. Otherwise, the project would be suspended and the unspent funds returned to the QSP Trust Fund.
- 2) 4th round- “Capacity building for POPs analysis to support the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs for effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention for Bahamas, Barbados and Haiti”, with UNEP as executing agency. The Committee decided to send a letter to UNEP requesting that reports need to be provided by 31 January 2014. Otherwise, the project would be suspended and the unspent funds returned to the QSP Trust Fund.
- 3) 7th round- “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation and supporting GHS capacity building in Barbados”, with UNITAR as executing agency. The Committee decided to accept the new activities to be within the project and its goals.
- 4) 7th round- “Strengthening pesticide management in the Sahel Institute of the Permanent Interstate Committee for the Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) member States” in Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Mauritania and Niger. The Committee decided to suspend the project and requested the secretariat to send a letter informing the implementer that the project has been suspended and that unspent funds need to be returned as appropriate.
- 5) 9th round (2 projects) - “Strengthening the capacity of Mozambique to monitor and control the transboundary movements of chemicals and hazardous wastes and ensure their environmentally sound management” in Ethiopia and in Mozambique, with BCRC as executing agency. The Committee decided to allow these projects to continue with their implementation until the deadline established by the donor, 31 January 2014.
- 6) 10th round- “Suriname /UNEP /UNDP partnership for the integration of sound management of chemicals into development planning and processes”, with UNDP as executing agency. The QSP TFIC decided to send a letter to UNDP to ask the implementers to report by 31 January 2014. Otherwise, the project would be suspended and the unspent funds returned to the QSP Trust Fund.

23. In addition, the SAICM secretariat informed the Committee that the agreement of the project “Preparation of National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of Rotterdam Convention in Malaysia” had been drafted and an adjusted budget reflecting the new situation (UNDP is the Executing Agency) was received. It was agreed that the secretariat would send all the information for the decision of the QSP TFIC.

VIII. Review of Terms of Reference of the impact evaluation of the QSP

24. The Committee reviewed the draft Terms of Reference on the impact evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, document SAICM/TF.16/5, and gave input. Particularly, on the level of ambition as, in the view of the Committee, it would be challenging for the evaluation to provide recommendations that would facilitate evidence-based policymaking.

25. The QSP TFIC had a positive response to the document, which will be presented to the QSP Executive Board for its approval.

IX. Other matters

26. The secretariat informed the Committee that the next Quick Start Programme Executive Board meeting will take place on 8 May 2014.

IX. Next meeting

27. A decision was not taken about the venue and the date of the next Trust Fund Implementation Committee meeting. The Committee briefly commented the possibility of changing the arrangements of the meetings. Some ideas that were mentioned include organising the meetings in Geneva, where most of the members are located, and meeting via teleconference.

X. Adoption of the report

28. The secretariat will circulate a draft report to the Committee after the meeting. Taking account of any comments received, the secretariat will then issue the report on a provisional basis, pending adoption at the Committee's 17th meeting.

XI. Closure of the meeting

29. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26 November 2013.
