



5 November 2015

English only

**Eighteenth meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**

Paris

5 November 2015

**Provisional report of the 18th 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 18th meeting of the Committee was held at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development headquarters in Paris on 5 November 2015. The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting at 1.30 p.m.

II. Organizational matters**a. Election of a chairperson**

4. Mr. Kaj Madsen, Senior Programme Officer, Chemicals and Waste Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) of UNEP, was elected by the Committee to chair the meeting.

b. Adoption of the agenda

* The report of the meeting is issued on a provisional basis and will be considered for adoption by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee at its 19th 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).

5. The members of the Committee 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 17th meeting of the Committee.
 4. Summary of outcomes of the tenth meeting of the QSP Executive Board and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
 5. Status of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and project portfolio.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Next meeting.
 8. Adoption of the report.
 9. Closure of the meeting.

c. Organization of work

6. The Committee agreed to meet from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 5 November 2015.

d. Attendance

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

III. Adoption of the report of the 17th meeting of the Committee

8. The Committee adopted document SAICM/TF.18/2, Provisional report of the 17th meeting of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee, held in Rome, on 26 November 2014.

IV. Summary of outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4)

9. The secretariat provided a brief update to the Committee on the main outcomes from the tenth meeting of the QSP Executive Board held on 20 August 2015 and ICCM4 held from 28 September to 2 October 2015.
10. With regard to the outcomes from the tenth meeting of the QSP Executive Board, the secretariat informed the Committee of the decision of the Executive Board that a reasonable deadline would be set by the secretariat for four projects from the 12th round of applications² experiencing delays in finalizing funding agreements, and communicated to project implementers. If satisfactory progress had not been made towards finalising project funding agreements by the deadline, the projects would be cancelled, pending approval of the Committee. The secretariat further informed the Committee that, in line with the above mentioned decision of the Executive Board, it had set a deadline of 15 September 2015 and communicated it to project

² Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/13, submitted by Ghana: “Framework for assessing core capacities needed to manage the public health impacts of chemicals associated with oil and gas sector activities”; Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/08, submitted by Vietnam: “An Assessment on the Cost of Inaction: Mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Vietnam”; Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/17, submitted by Nicaragua & Honduras: “Environmental sound management of e-wastes from electrical and electronic equipment in Central America (Honduras and Nicaragua)”; Project proposal QSPTF/12/12/GOV/02, submitted by Belarus: “Belarus, UNEP, UNDP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) Considerations into Development Plans and Processes”.

implementers through a formal letter. Responses had been received for the four projects. The secretariat was informed by UNDP, as project Executing Agency, that projects QSPTF/12/12/GOV/08 (Vietnam) and QSPTF/12/12/GOV/02 (Belarus) were to be cancelled. Discussions have been launched with WHO, as project Executing Agency, for project QSPTF/12/12/GOV/13 (Ghana) in view of finalizing the project implementation agreement. Regarding project QSPTF/12/12/GOV/17, initially submitted by Nicaragua and Honduras with UNDP Nicaragua as Executing Agency, the secretariat was informed that a revised project proposal would be submitted for project implementation in Honduras only, with UNDP Honduras as Executing Agency. The secretariat therefore sought guidance from the Committee on the process for revision and approval of the project. The Committee decided to set a deadline of 1 December 2015 for the project implementers of the project to submit a revised project proposal. The revised project proposal would then be submitted to the Committee via email so that the Committee could make a decision by 15 December 2015.

11. The secretariat further sought a decision from the Committee regarding five civil society projects that were approved in the 13th and 14th application rounds but not funded. The Committee had decided that these projects would remain eligible for consideration in future rounds if sufficient funds become available in the Trust Fund. However, the Executive Board decided that there will not be any future rounds, and therefore these projects have been set aside. The secretariat thus sought guidance from the Committee on these projects and communication to be transmitted to project implementers. The Committee agreed that the five project implementers would be informed that, based on the status of funds available and the timeframe for the closure of the Trust Fund as agreed at ICCM4, it was considered unlikely that the projects will be funded.

12. One participant questioned the role of the Committee in the future as there will not be any future application rounds and therefore no project appraisal to be undertaken by the Committee. Another participant sought confirmation that there will not be any future application rounds and proposed considering organizing future meetings of the Committee through teleconference or seeking Committee decisions by emails, as needed. Finally, one participant sought guidance from the Secretariat on how to make best use of the SAICM clearing-house and provide a centralized platform to access QSP project outputs.

13. The secretariat confirmed that there will not be any future application rounds based on the QSP Executive Board's decision and limited remaining funds available in the Trust Fund. The role of the Committee would therefore be focused on project implementation in the future, including approval of extensions and budget revisions and other administrative matters.

14. The Committee noted the main decisions from ICCM4 as set out in document SAICM/TF.18/3, including that the date for the full and final closure of the Trust Fund would be delegated to the Executive Board, acting on a recommendation from the secretariat; and that two national government nominations were received from each of the five regions for appointment to the new QSP Executive Board.

15. Regarding the SAICM clearing-house mechanism, the secretariat referred to the decision taken at ICCM4 that the secretariat would have increased capacity with one dedicated Clearing House and Knowledge Management Programme Officer so that the platform would be available in the near future, providing a QSP database with a harmonized terminology. In the meantime, Committee members were offered to provide website links to project outputs that could be provided on the SAICM website.

V. Status of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and project portfolio

16. The secretariat updated the Committee on the status of the Trust Fund and the QSP Trust Fund portfolio (SAICM/TF.18/4 and SAICM/TF.18/5). The secretariat advised that since its establishment, the QSP has mobilized more than \$49.1 million¹. This amount includes approximately \$39.4 million in cash contributions to the Trust Fund and more than \$9.7 million in cash and in-kind contributions at the project level from project implementers and executing agencies. In addition, \$74.1 million in non-Trust Fund contributions had been reported in the period 2006 to 2015. A total of 184 projects have been approved since the establishment of the QSP Trust Fund, across 108 countries including 54 least developed countries and small island developing States. Based on current funds remaining in the Trust fund in addition to final contributions to the Trust it was expected that sufficient remaining funds would be available for almost all remaining projects in the QSP project portfolio for which funding agreements were yet to be signed.

17. The members of the Committee took note of the updates provided by the secretariat and expressed satisfaction that almost all approved project proposals would be funded.

VI. Other matters

18. No other matters were discussed during the meeting.

VII. Next meeting

19. A decision was not taken on the venue and the date of the next QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee meeting. It will be decided based on the QSP Executive Board meeting dates, IOMC meeting dates and the potential upcoming needs.

VIII. Adoption of the report

20. The Committee agreed that the secretariat will circulate a draft report to the Committee members for their feedback. Taking account of any comments received, the secretariat will then issue the report on a provisional basis, pending adoption at the Committee's 19th meeting.

XI. Closure of the meeting

21. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 5 November 2015.
