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**Seventh meeting of the Quick Start Programme  
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**  
Geneva  
16-17 April 2009

## **Provisional report of the seventh 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)<sup>1</sup> and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were invited to form a Trust Fund Implementation Committee to review and appraise projects to be financed by the QSP trust fund.

### **I. Opening of the meeting**

3. The seventh meeting of the Committee was held at the headquarters of ILO in Geneva, Switzerland, on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April 2009. The meeting was opened by the secretariat.

### **II. Organizational matters**

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\* The report of the meeting is issued on a provisional basis and will be considered for adoption by the Implementation Committee at its eighth meeting, which will be held in Washington D.C., United States of America, on 15 and 16 October 2009.

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

**A. Election of a chairperson**

4. Mr. Robert Visser, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate of OECD, was elected to chair the meeting.

**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.7/1:

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 sixth meeting of the Committee.
4. Further development of application procedures and project management arrangements for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
5. Review and appraisal of project proposals in the sixth round of applications to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
6. Status of projects approved in the first five rounds of applications.
7. Other matters.
8. Next meeting.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the meeting.

**C. Organization of work**

6. The Committee agreed to meet from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on 16 October and from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 17 April 2009.

**D. Attendance**

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

**III. Adoption of the report of the fifth meeting of the Committee**

8. The Committee had before it the draft report of the Committee's sixth meeting, contained in document SAICM/TF.7/2. The report was adopted without amendment.

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

9. The secretariat reported to the Committee on issues contained in document SAICM/TF.7/4, related to progress of new legal instruments for QSP Trust Fund project agreements, delays in project implementation and possibility of granting authority to the secretariat to approve minor modifications to project arrangements.

10. Given that a bilateral agreement template had been developed and a confirmation had been provided by UNEP's Quality Assurance Section to one executing agency that the template could be used to develop agreements for its pending projects, the Implementation Committee requested the secretariat to circulate the template to other executing agencies for further consideration and possible adoption for projects that were pending as well as those approved in the future. One executing agency also conveyed the reservations of its management on further engaging in the support of QSP Trust Fund projects, due to the considerable delays faced in the finalization of the legal agreements and their impact on relationships with the assisted Governments.

11. The Committee decided, subject to the terms of individual project agreements, to delegate authority to the secretariat to approve requests for minor adjustments to project arrangements, including the extension of projects for a period of up to 25 per cent of the initial duration, in which cases a final project independent monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report should be submitted upon the extended project termination date; the nomination of a new M&E entity, provided there was sufficient evidence to demonstrate the technical and legal capacities of the proposed alternative; the revision of budgets not exceeding 10 per cent on any individual budget item and under the condition that the overall budget amount would not be exceeded. In addition, the Committee agreed that in cases where one participant in a multi-country project was granted an extension, the other participants could be considered to have completed the project and thus potentially be considered for other projects (if eligible). Other more significant requests for adjustments to project arrangement would need to be referred to the Committee. Decisions of the Committee taken by correspondence in between meetings would be on a "no objections" basis.

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

12. The secretariat reported that in the sixth round of applications which closed on 27 February 2009, it had received 19 applications, 13 from Governments and six from civil society organizations, to which two applications which had received a deferred approval in the fifth round were added. The applications sought a combined total of \$4,958,273. In compliance with ICCM resolution I/4 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.

##### **A. Completeness and eligibility**

13. The secretariat reported that it considered that applications by two Governments and one civil society network had not met the requirements for completeness and/or eligibility. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the secretariat indicated in paragraph 3 and 4 of document SAICM/TF.7/3, summarizing applications, and confirmed that applications from the Governments of Laos PDR and Thailand (QSPTF/09/6/GOV/10) and Thailand (QSPTF/09/6/GOV/11), and from Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (QSPTF/09/6/NGO/03) would therefore not be appraised by the Committee.

##### **B. Appraisal and decisions**

14. The Committee had before it document SAICM/TF.7/INF/2 on the status of financial contributions to the trust fund, document SAICM/TF.7/3 summarizing criteria for consideration

of and information on applications, as well as copies of the full project proposals for each application.

15. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 18 complete and eligible applications and decided to approve four projects and conditionally approve another four projects, with a combined value of \$1,999,734. The approved or conditionally approved projects related to seven Government applications and one civil society application, involving activities in 10 countries and including four least developed countries. The geographical breakdown of the 10 countries concerned was six African, two Asian-Pacific, one Central and Eastern European and one Latin American and Caribbean. Eight approved or conditionally approved projects were multi-sectoral in scope and one related to environment and health sectors. The decisions of the Committee on the individual project proposals are summarized as follows:

- (a) Four projects with a combined total value of \$1,000,000 were approved:
  - (i) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/03, submitted by Albania for \$250,000: “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania.”
  - (ii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/07, submitted by Kyrgyz Republic for \$250,000: “Kyrgyzstan, UNDP and UNEP partnership initiative for the integration of sound management of chemicals considerations into development plans and processes.” The Committee recommended that the submission of the Kyrgyz Republic’s Stockholm Convention national implementation plan as soon as possible be encouraged.
  - (iii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/12, submitted by The Gambia for \$250,000: “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation and supporting Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) capacity building in The Gambia.”
  - (iv) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/14, submitted by Costa Rica for \$250,000: “Design and implementation of a national information system for the integrated management of chemical substances in Costa Rica.”
- (b) Four projects with a combined total value of \$999,734 were conditionally approved:
  - (i) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/01, submitted jointly by Mali & Senegal for \$250,000: “Chemical accident prevention programme for West Africa (CAPP-WA)” was approved on the condition that confirmation be provided by UNEP that an additional administration fee for being a subcontractor for the project would not be charged. [The Committee also expressed the view that as a general rule, no administration fee should be charged by subcontractors.]
  - (ii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/02, submitted jointly by Gabon and Kenya for \$248,400: “Country support for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa: development of guidelines and capacity building for situation analysis and needs assessment in view of developing country plans for joint action” was approved on the conditions that information be provided on how the project would be related to and benefit from other QSP trust fund projects in the countries, project objectives be refined to be less ambitious, and that clarification be provided on the project budget, particularly in relation to project personnel as in-kind contributions.
  - (iii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/09, submitted by Djibouti for \$249,930: “Strengthening the capacity of Djibouti to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention, the International Health Regulations (WHO, 2005) and other relevant MEAs as per necessary, and ensure their environmentally sound

management” was approved on the conditions that clarification on project objectives and targets be provided, the involvement of the health sector be expanded, a participatory approach be further reflected, involvement of the green customs initiative in the project be demonstrated and the proportion of the budget allocated to the country itself be reassessed.

(iv) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/NGO/02, submitted by the Chulabhorn Research Institute for \$249,804: “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” was approved on the conditions that terms of references of project personnel as in-kind contributions be submitted, the sustainability of the distance learning tools be demonstrated, and information be provided on possible linkages with the regional project proposal of the Government of Thailand (GOV/05) in the current round, which was recommended for resubmission.

(c) Noting that in the present round insufficient resources were available in the trust fund to support all suitable projects, the Committee decided to approve but not to fund two applications, based on prioritization within the category of lower and upper middle income countries and existing coverage in other projects, including multi-country ones. Subject to the availability of funding and meeting conditions outlined below, the following two projects will be treated as “approved” in the upcoming seventh application round:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/06, submitted jointly by Armenia, Chile and Ghana for \$250,000: “Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level at a global context” was approved with a recommendation that possible linkage to the civil society proposal (NGO/02) submitted by the Chulabhorn Research Institute and conditionally approved in the present round be considered.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/15, submitted by Gabon for \$250,000: “Strengthening capacities for national SAICM implementation in Gabon.”

(d) Seven projects were recommended for amendment and resubmission:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/04, submitted by Indonesia for \$250,000: “National Action Plan Development for Sound Chemicals Management (NAP-SoCM)” was recommended for resubmission following provision of a letter of support from the Ministry of Industry, clarification of the project’s relationship to Global Environment Facility funding and work on Indonesia’s Stockholm Convention national implementation plan, as well as clarification of the relationship with the existing inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism for GHS.

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/05, submitted by Thailand for \$250,000: “Capacity building for integrated and sustainable chemicals and hazardous waste management” was recommended for resubmission following completion and in the light of the outcomes and experience of the civil society project (NGO/02) submitted by the Chulabhorn Research Institute and conditionally approved in present round; provision of details on in-kind contributions; endorsement by the SAICM regional focal point; separation of costs for independent monitoring and evaluation and audit; clarification of UNITAR’s role; provision of information on links to the outcomes of the 2007 health and environment Ministerial meeting held in Thailand and clarification of objectives and where the project would lead to.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/08 submitted by Ethiopia for \$249,930: “Strengthening the capacity of Ethiopia to monitor and control the

transboundary movements of chemicals and hazardous wastes and ensure their environmentally sound management” was recommended for resubmission following completion and in the light of the outcomes and experience of the similar project in Djibouti, clarification of project objectives and targets, submission of more letters of support, expansion of the health sector’s involvement, further reflection of a participatory approach, involvement of the green customs initiative and a reassessment of the proportion of the budget allocated to the country itself. The Committee also invited the applicant to consider submitting the proposal as a regional project.

(iii) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/GOV/13 submitted by Ghana for \$249,930: “Strengthening the capacity of Ghana to monitor and control the transboundary movements of chemicals and hazardous wastes and ensure their environmentally sound management” was recommended for resubmission following completion and in the light of the outcomes and experience of the similar project in Djibouti, clarification of project objectives and targets, submission of more letters of support, expansion of health sector’s involvement, further reflection of a participatory approach, involvement of the green customs initiative and reassessment of the proportion of the budget allocated to the country itself. The Committee also invited the applicant to consider submitting the proposal as a regional project.

(iv) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/NGO/01, submitted by the Informer, Sensibiliser, Eduquer les Populations Cibles (Cote d’Ivoire) for \$249,999: “Inform, educate, and train agricultural peasants, workers in chemical and agrochemical, and other people on the use of POPs and other pesticides in Cote d’Ivoire” was recommended for resubmission following provision of further details of project activities, revision of the budget in relation to inappropriate equipment items using the QSP trust fund application budget template as the format, submission of a letter confirming in-kind contributions, establishment of links to the work of International POPs Elimination Network and the Pesticides Action Network in the country and demonstration of experience in the project field and sustainability of the project.

(v) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/NGO/04, submitted by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) for \$247,620: “Scientific capacity building in support of SAICM in Latin America” was recommended for resubmission following receipt of a satisfactory independent monitoring and evaluation report on the similar African project, budget reductions for the development of training materials which should have been done in the African project, demonstration of how the present proposal would benefit from experiences and lessons learned in the African project and provision of information on the sustainability of the network that would be built in Peru.

(vi) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/NGO/05, submitted by Associated Labour Unions –Trade Unions Congress of the Philippines for \$156,060: “Trainers’ training workshop for trade unions on chemicals and waste management and strengthening of partnerships for SAICM implementation” was recommended for resubmission following fulfilment of the following requirements: submission of further details on project objectives, activities, outputs and audit arrangements, provision of a detailed budget with clarification of the total amount requested and the cost of independent monitoring and evaluation, as well as submission of more letters of support.

(e) One project was declined:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/09/6/NGO/06, submitted by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment for \$250,000: “South-South cooperation: building children’s chemical safety and health effects capacity among health care professionals and decision makers in Nigeria and Zambia” was declined given

that the value and benefits of the project were not clear and budget cost for the proposed south-south application activities seemed excessive.

16. The Committee requested the secretariat to take responsibility for confirming that additional requirements had been fulfilled within three months by proponents of proposals which the Committee had conditionally approved.

#### **VI. Status of projects approved in the first five rounds of applications**

17. The secretariat representative introduced document SAICM/TF.7/5, the report of the secretariat on the status of projects approved in the first five rounds of applications, as well as for reference document SAICM/TF.7/INF/7, a compilation of progress reports and SAICM/TF.7/INF/8, a compilation of independent monitoring and evaluation reports. The Implementation Committee took note of the report.

#### **VII. Other matters**

18. To assist the Implementation Committee in preparing for the fourth meeting of the QSP Executive Board to be held in Geneva, on 23 and 24 April 2009, the secretariat provided a brief summary of main agenda items.

#### **VIII. Next meeting**

19. It was confirmed that the eighth meeting of the Committee would be held at the headquarters of the World Bank, in Washington D.C., on 15 and 16 October 2009.

#### **IX. Adoption of the report**

20. The Committee invited the secretariat to prepare a draft provisional report of the meeting and to circulate it to members of the Committee before 20 April 2009. It was agreed that comments could be sent to the secretariat before Tuesday 21 April 2009, after which the report would be provisionally issued and considered for adoption by the Committee at its seventh meeting.

#### **X. Closure of the meeting**

21. The chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.00 p.m. on Friday 17 April 2009.

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