



**Ninth meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Trust Fund Implementation Committee**
Geneva, Switzerland
30-31 March 2010

Report of the ninth meeting of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

1. In resolution I/4 adopted at its first session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) decided to establish a Quick Start Programme (QSP) to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was requested to establish a voluntary, time-limited trust fund to provide seed money to support QSP objectives in accordance with resolution I/4.

2. Representatives of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)¹ and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were invited to form a Trust Fund Implementation Committee to review and appraise projects to be financed by the QSP trust fund.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The ninth meeting of the Committee was held at International Environment House in Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 March 2010. The meeting was opened by the secretariat.

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

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of a chairperson

4. Mr. Robert Visser, Acting 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.9/1:

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 eight 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 eighth round of applications to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
6. Status of projects approved in the first seven rounds of applications.
7. Evaluation of the Quick Start Programme.
8. Senior experts scheme.
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 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p. m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on 30 March 2010 and from 9:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. on 31 March 2010.

D. Attendance

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

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

8. The Committee had before it the draft report of the Committee's eighth meeting, contained in document SAICM/TF.9/2. 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.9/4, related to the status of signature of legal instruments for QSP Trust Fund projects, progress in project implementation, including delays in completing the projects within 24 months and associated requests for project extensions.

10. The Committee noted the improvement in the speed of completion of the legal arrangements with project proponents for the approved projects.

11. As a follow-up on the guidance for the project extension provided by the Committee at its eighth meeting, the Committee clarified that projects of duration less than 24 months may request extension of more than 12 months (as allowed for 24-month projects) up to an overall duration of 36 months.

12. The Committee decided that for applications which include sub-contracts for the value of 10 per cent or more of the project budget, terms of reference are required when an application is submitted.

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

13. The secretariat reported that in the eighth round of applications which closed on 14 February 2010, it had received 20 applications comprising 10 from Governments and 10 from civil society organizations. The applications sought combined total funding of \$3,978,088. 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.

A. Completeness and eligibility

14. The secretariat reported that it considered that applications by two Governments and two civil society networks 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.9/3, summarizing applications, and confirmed that following applications would therefore not be appraised by the Committee:

- (a) The application by the Government of Tajikistan (QSPTF/10/8/GOV/09) entitled "Formation of the concept of safe management of the rural population with pesticides and other harmful health and environmental chemicals" was found to be incomplete because it did not include the form III Project Description.
- (b) The application by the Government of Egypt (QSPTF/10/8/GOV/10) entitled "Strengthening Capabilities on SAICM related Activities in the Arab Region" was found to be ineligible because Egypt is already involved in one national and one civil society project and thus ineligible for a second national project.
- (c) The application of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) (QSPTF/10/8/NGO/09) for a project in India entitled "Global SAICM Life Cycle Workshop on Training and Empowerment on LCM of Chemicals" was found to be ineligible because of the late endorsement of the application by an individual who was not the SAICM national focal point of India.

- (d) The application of the Republican Union of Agricultural Producers' Associations UniAgroProtect (QSPTF/10/8/NGO/10) for a project in the Republic of Moldova entitled "Civil Society Capacity building in support of SAICM implementation in Moldova" was found to be ineligible because of the late endorsement of the application by the SAICM national and NGO focal points.

B. Appraisal and decisions

15. The Committee had before it document SAICM/TF.9/INF/3 on the status of financial contributions to the trust fund, document SAICM/TF.9/3 summarizing criteria for consideration of and information on applications, as well as copies of the full project proposals for each application.

16. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 16 complete and eligible applications and decided to approve three projects and conditionally approve six projects, with a combined value of \$1,768,600². The approved or conditionally approved projects related to seven Government and two civil society applications, involving activities in 12 countries and including four least developed countries and one small island developing state. Two civil society projects, with a combined value of \$480,150 received deferred approval. The geographical breakdown of the 12 countries concerned was five African, five Asian-Pacific, one Central and Eastern European and one Latin American and Caribbean. Seven approved or conditionally approved projects were multi-sectoral in scope and two related to environment, two related to health sector, and another one to agriculture. The decisions of the Committee on the individual project proposals are summarized as follows:

(a) Three projects with a combined total value of \$465,000² were approved:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/01, submitted by **Cambodia** for \$250,000: "Cambodia/UNEP partnership on development of a coherent legal and institutional framework in Cambodia for the sound management of chemicals" was approved given that the recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth meeting for resubmission of the application were fully addressed. An additional recommendation was made that terms of reference for a sub-contractor should be provided to the secretariat.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/05, submitted by **Eritrea** for \$70,150: "Developing a national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Eritrea" was re-approved given that the commitment of the applicant was sufficiently demonstrated.

(iii) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/07, submitted by **Niger** for \$215,000: "Enabling Activities for the Development of a SAICM Implementation Plan within an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in the Republic of Niger" was approved given that the application was viewed as comprehensive and supported by a wide range of stakeholders.

(b) Six projects with a combined total value of \$1,303,600 were conditionally approved. 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. Additional requirements for the project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/08 submitted by Gabon will be presented to the Committee for approval through the secretariat. The conditionally approved projects include the following:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/03, submitted jointly by **Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka** for \$248,900: "Capacity Strengthening and Information Exchange on PCBs Management in Selected Asia Countries" was approved on the condition that the letters demonstrating support for and participation in the project from the Ministries of Health be provided. The Committee recognized

² The amount of \$70,150 for the project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/05, submitted by Eritrea is excluded from the total value provided for the approved projects as this amount was already allocated in the second application round when the project was initially approved.

the high technical capacities of the executing agency to facilitate the achievement of project objectives in all five participating countries taking into consideration their different capacities and availability of national PCBs data.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/04, submitted by **the Republic of Congo** for \$250,000: “Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting Capacity Building for the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in the Republic of Congo” was approved on the condition that a letter demonstrating support for and participation in the project from the government institution dealing with occupational safety, labour and industrial workplace issues be provided. The application was considered comprehensive and supported by multi-stakeholders.

(iii) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/06, submitted by **the Dominican Republic** for \$215,000: “Enabling Activities for the Development of a SAICM Implementation Plan within an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in the Dominican Republic” was approved on the condition that additional support letters, including from the Ministry of Health and Agriculture be provided. The Committee recognized that the proposed project will provide a comprehensive baseline on chemicals management in the Dominican Republic and will serve as a basis for further activities in the future.

(iv) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/08 submitted by **Gabon** for \$250,000: “Strengthening Capacities for National SAICM Implementation in Gabon” was approved on the condition that a letter of support for the project from the Ministry of Health explaining the relationship between the present project and the project approved in the sixth application round for Gabon and Kenya be provided to the Committee through the secretariat. The Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the applicant to avoid overlaps with the activities between two projects. However, it requested that the support letter further clarify how Gabon’s national priorities relating to chemicals management as set out in the sixth round project will be taken into account and how the project would avoid duplicating efforts. The Committee recognized the added value of the proposed activities under the present project related to the SAICM implementation plan and chemicals management database development.

(v) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/NGO/01, submitted by the **Research and Education Centre for Development (CREPD) (Cameroon)** for \$166,990: “Evaluation of lead concentrations in domestic and imported paints, and the development and distribution of educational materials on lead hazards for SAICM implementation in Cameroon” was approved on the condition that more support letters be provided, in particular from the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Trade and Industry as well as the non-governmental organization OK International. The Committee noted that the project is well-designed and comprehensive in its scope.

(vi) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/NGO/02, submitted by **Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)** for \$172,710: “Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries: potential of implementing safer chemicals including non-chemical alternatives - tools for Georgia and the EECCA region” was approved on the condition that a curriculum vitae for each of the consultants for the independent monitoring and evaluation and the financial auditing be provided. The Committee acknowledged that the project has potential for replication in other countries.

(c) One project with a combined total value of \$230,000 was recommended for amendment and resubmission:

(i) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/GOV/02, submitted by **Sierra Leone** for \$230,000: “Development and Strengthening of National Chemicals Management institutions, Plans, Programmes and activities to Implement SAICM and International Chemicals-related agreements in Sierra Leone” was recommended for resubmission following the further development of the proposal in consultation with UNEP Chemicals Branch, including confirmation of the role of UNDP in the project, reference to the guidance documents and methodologies to be used for

project activities, provision of further details on the project outcomes and terms of references for the project personnel, demonstration of a multi-sector and multi-stakeholder scope of the project and the revision of the budget to reconsider excessively high costs for training and meetings. It was also noted that the role of UNEP as executing agency needs to be confirmed.

(d) 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 two applications, based on prioritization within the category of civil society applications. These projects will be considered in the next round along with other projects approved in that round. The two projects, with a combined total value of \$480,150, were:

(i) Project proposal_QSPTF/10/8/NGO/06, submitted by **the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)** for \$230,150: “Scientific Capacity Building in Support of SAICM in Latin America” was approved given that the recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth meeting for resubmission of the application were addressed.

(ii) Project proposal QSPTF/10/8/NGO/08, submitted by **Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU)** for \$250,000: “Chemical Safety for Children at Work in Agriculture” was conditionally approved on the conditions that support letters from the National Steering Committee on child labour confirming its oversight role for the project as well as from the UNDP country office in Uganda confirming its role as the executing agency for the project be provided. Should the project be implemented without an executing agency, the budget would be revised; in particular the administration fee would be re-allocated to the project activities.

(e) Four projects with a combined total value of \$787,000 were declined:

(i) The project proposal_QSPTF/10/8/NGO/03, submitted by the **OXO Association** for \$94,160: “Awareness Raising Campaign against Open Air Waste Combustion and Agricultural Fields Burning “ was declined due to the lack of evidence on the links of the project with the SAICM framework and the lack of details on project activities, in particular the proposed regional workshops.

(ii) The project proposal_QSPTF/10/8/NGO/03, submitted by the **Associated Labour Union - Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP)** for \$215,160: “Trainers' training workshop for trade unions on chemicals and waste management and strengthening partnerships for SAICM implementation“ was declined due to the failure to fully address the recommendations made by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee when it invited resubmission of the application. In addition, the Committee considered that the proposed budget expenditures for the project were unrealistic and inappropriate.

(iii) Project proposal_QSPTF/10/8/NGO/05, submitted by **Oceania University of Medicine** for \$249,550: “Evaluation of the reproductive health effects of persistent toxic substances in Samoa” declined due to the lack of evidence that the project (1) falls within the QSP framework, (2) belongs to the enabling activities for SAICM implementation giving its research nature, and (3) the proposed project activities are a national priority for Samoa.

(iv) Project proposal_QSPTF/10/8/NGO/07, submitted by **Fundacion Natura** for \$228,130: “Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs in Galapagos Islands” was declined given that insufficient evidence was provided on risks raised by PCBs in Galapagos Islands. It was suggested that the proposed activities would be undertaken in the framework of the proposed UNIDO GEF project “Environmentally sound management of PCBs in Ecuador”.

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

17. The secretariat representative introduced document SAICM/TF.9/5, the report of the secretariat on the status of projects approved in the first seven rounds of applications, document SAICM/TF.9/INF/8, a

compilation of progress reports, and SAICM/TF.9/INF/9, a compilation of independent monitoring and evaluation reports. The Committee noted the lack of progress reports and monitoring and evaluation reports submitted to the secretariat and urged the IOMC organizations to facilitate, to the extent possible, that reports are duly provided.

18. Due to the lack of progress on the implementation of the project by the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union project (I.08.C.TPAWU), the Committee decided not to grant the extension for the project.

19. In regard to the project submitted by the Government of Thailand (V.14.G.THA), the Committee decided that the consultations within the Government of Thailand on the small scale funding agreement should be finalized by 1 June 2010. If this deadline is not met, the project will be suspended with the possibility of resubmission in a subsequent application round.

20. The Committee agreed to extend the period within which the applicant can address additional requirements for the conditional approval of the project in Laos with UNDP as the executing agency until 1 June 2010. If this deadline is not met, the project will be suspended with the possibility of resubmission in a subsequent application round.

VII. Evaluation of the Quick Start Programme.

21. The secretariat representative introduced document SAICM/TF.9/INF/2, draft terms of reference for the QSP evaluation. The Committee provided its feedback on the document which will be taken into account before the document is issued and circulated to the Executive Board for adoption at its fifth meeting.

VIII. Senior experts scheme

22. The secretariat representative provided information to the Committee on the senior experts scheme.

IX. Other matters

23. No other matters were raised under this agenda item.

X. Next meeting

24. It was decided that the date for the tenth meeting of the Committee will be agreed upon when the dates of the meeting of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of IOMC is set so the two meetings can be held back to back.

XI. Adoption of the report

25. The Committee provisionally issued the meeting report which will be considered for adoption by the Committee at its tenth meeting.

XII. Closure of the meeting

26. The chairperson declared the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday 31 March 2010.
