

## **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management  
for its second and third sessions

2<sup>nd</sup> teleconference, Tuesday 10 November 2009

### SECRETARIAT SUMMARY NOTES<sup>1</sup>

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1. The Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its second and third sessions held its second teleconference on Tuesday 10 November 2009.

2. The teleconference was attended by the following participants:

#### Members

Mr. Ivan Eržen (Slovenia – Central and Eastern Europe) (President)

Mr. Ndiaye Sylla (Senegal – Africa)

Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu (Japan – Asia-Pacific)

Mr. Osvaldo Alvarez<sup>2</sup> (Chile – Latin America and the Caribbean)

#### Representatives of IOMC and non-governmental organizations and IOMC<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Craig Boljkovac (United Nations Institute for Training and Research – IOMC)

Ms. Birgit Engelhardt (International Council of Chemical Associations/ICCA – industry)

Mr. Joe DiGangi (Environmental Health Fund – public interest)

3. The following bureau member and participating non-governmental organizations were not present for the teleconference:

Mr. Victor Escobar (Spain – Western European and Others Group)

Ms. Lilian Corra (International Society of Doctors for the Environment – health)

Ms. Judith Carreras (International Trade Union Confederation – trade unions)

4. At its first teleconference the Bureau had agreed that SAICM regional focal points should be invited to participate in future teleconferences. Regrettably they were not included in the present teleconference due to a communications failure.

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<sup>1</sup> Informal report prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the President.

<sup>2</sup> Representing Mr. Carlos Portales in accordance with rule 14.6 of the Conference rules of procedure.

<sup>3</sup> In addition to the governmental members of the Bureau, representatives of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and non-governmental organizations participate in discussions during meetings of the Bureau for the purpose of advising and responding to the Bureau.

5. The Bureau proceeded with its teleconference on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat as follows:

- 1) Intersessional activities, 2009-2012.
  - (a) Programme of work;
  - (b) Regional meetings and other activities;
  - (c) Commission on Sustainable Development;
  - (d) Sectoral dialogues.
- 2) ICCM3: venue and timing.
- 3) Budget and fundraising.

### **Intersessional activities, 2009-2012**

#### *Programme of work*

6. The President introduced his paper which had been circulated to participants. He emphasized the need to enhance the engagement of all relevant sectors in the implementation of SAICM at the national level. He urged Bureau members to lend their support to this objective, for example at regional meetings. Several participants referred to other upcoming opportunities to underline the need for multisectoral engagement, such as the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in February 2010 and the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2010. Mention was also made of mechanisms such as Quick Start Programme projects and the new SAICM reporting arrangements as tools for monitoring and promoting multisectoral engagement. One Bureau member saw a need to reinforce links between Bureau members and the respective regional coordination arrangements. It was agreed that a letter on this matter would be sent by the President to regional focal points on behalf of the Bureau. Members of the Bureau would raise the issues contained in the President's paper at regional meetings.

7. With regard to the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of the three Conventions, it was suggested by a Bureau member that a SAICM side event be organized and an information brochure on SAICM linkages be prepared. The secretariat undertook to explore and report back on the feasibility of a side event and to prepare the information brochure.

#### *Regional meetings and other activities*

8. The secretariat provided an update on forthcoming SAICM meetings, including regional meetings for Asia-Pacific (Beijing, 23-24 November 2009), Central and Eastern Europe (Lodz, Poland, 9-10 December 2009), Africa (Abidjan, 28-29 January 2010), and Latin America and the Caribbean (8-9 March 2009), a meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean regional coordinating committee (Santiago, 15-16 November 2009) and a health sector consultation (Ljubljana, 4-5 February 2010).

### *Commission on Sustainable Development*

9. The secretariat summarized the efforts it had made to provide the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development with information material on SAICM in preparation for the Commission's consideration of chemicals issues in 2010-2011. The secretariat was also providing information for and facilitating the participation of SAICM regional focal points in the "Regional Implementation Meetings" being organized by the United Nations regional economic commissions in advance of next year's session of the Commission.

10. A Bureau member requested that more information be circulated on the SAICM inputs to the Regional Implementation Meetings and their outcomes. One participant suggested that the baseline report on SAICM implementation, due in March 2010, be made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development. The President indicated that although he would not be able to attend the Regional Implementation Meeting organized by the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva in early December, a proposal on pesticides and persistent organic pollutants would be introduced on behalf of the Central and Eastern European region by the Slovenian Permanent Representative. The President hoped to be able to attend the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in May 2010 and encouraged other Bureau members also to do so.

### *Sectoral dialogues*

11. The secretariat briefed teleconference participants on its proposal to initiate a series of sectoral dialogues to facilitate the exchange of information among and strengthen the engagement of stakeholders in each of the main sectors for which SAICM was relevant, for example agriculture, environment, health, industry, labour and science. The intention was to encourage each sector to set itself some targets for enhanced activity in the lead-up to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, such as the development of outreach materials and projects. A number of participants in the teleconference commented positively on the sectoral dialogues concept. One expressed the view that face-to-face meetings, where possible, would be desirable rather than relying entirely on teleconferences and e-mail correspondence. Another participant wondered whether an additional dialogue group for public interest non-governmental organizations might be warranted, though noted the secretariat's observation that the various sectoral dialogues were intended to include multi-stakeholder representation, including from non-governmental organizations.

### **ICCM3: venue and timing**

12. The IOMC representative advised that, contrary to earlier advice, the International Labour Organization, had decided not to associate the 2012 meeting of the International Labour Conference with the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The secretariat noted that on the one hand, this decision exhausted the possibilities for scheduling the third session of the Conference back-to-back with a meeting of the governing body of a relevant intergovernmental organization, as called for in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy. On the other hand, the absence of such possibilities meant that the third session could be scheduled more flexibly, taking into account relative costs of a broader range of potential venues and allowing for geographical rotation away from the seats of the major intergovernmental organizations. Maintaining the tentative booking to hold the session in Geneva also remained an option. The secretariat invited Bureau members to let it know of any proposals on the matter by 30 November 2009. One Bureau member offered to approach the Director-General of the International Labour Organization to explore whether its decision might be revisited.

### **Budget and fundraising**

13. The secretariat provided an oral update on funding for the Quick Start Programme and the secretariat. In part because of the priority given to funding the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management earlier in the year, it seemed that in 2009 the Quick Start Programme would for the first time fall significantly short of its annual fundraising target, even with the expected infusion of substantial funding from an additional donor in the remaining weeks of the year. Similarly, the secretariat had received pledges for only approximately 60% of its agreed indicative budget for 2009. Renewed fundraising efforts in 2010 would be needed.

### **Next teleconference or meeting**

14. A date for the next teleconference would be proposed by the secretariat in the light of progress in the scheduling of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

15. It was suggested that one option for the planned face-to-face meeting of the Bureau in Ljubljana in June 2010 would be to schedule it after the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury in Stockholm. This would enable Bureau members attending the latter to combine their travel to Europe. On that basis, the Bureau meeting could be held from Monday 14 June. (This date and the number of days required remains to be confirmed.)