



Second meeting of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management
Ljubljana, Slovenia,
9 and 10 June 2011

Draft report of the second intersessional face-to-face meeting of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

Background

1. At its second session held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted, by resolution II/1 rules of procedure covering the operations of the Bureau of the Conference. The Bureau comprises a President and four Vice-Presidents elected by and from among the representatives of the governmental participants in sessions of the Conference. The role of the Bureau is to advise the President and the secretariat on the conduct of the business of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies.

2. In light of the multi-stakeholder character of the Strategic Approach, the Conference agreed that four representatives of non-governmental participants (from health, industry, trade union, and public interest groups) and one representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals would also participate in meetings of the Bureau for the purpose of advising and responding to the Bureau. In accordance with a rule providing for the President to invite other participants, the Bureau subsequently decided, during a teleconference on 22 June 2010, to also include Strategic Approach regional focal points in its meetings.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The second intersessional face-to-face meeting of the Bureau was held at the Ministry of Health, Slovenia, Ljubljana commencing on 9 June 2011 at 10.00 a.m. Bureau members and other participants were welcomed by the President of the Conference, Mr. Ivan Eržen (Slovenia), and by Ms. Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator of the secretariat.

II. Organizational matters

4. The Bureau adopted the agenda set out below on the basis of the provisional agenda which had been circulated as document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/1 with the addition of "Additions to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach" under agenda item 3 and reordering of some of the parts of that item.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group:
 - (a) Date and time;
 - (b) Agenda.
4. Updates by the secretariat:

- (a) Regional and other SAICM meetings;
 - (b) Health issues, including the health sector strategy;
 - (c) Emerging policy issues:
 - (i) Past issues;
 - (ii) Future issues, i.e. nominations;
 - (d) Reporting guidelines;
 - (e) Information clearing house;
 - (f) Financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
 - (g) Quick Start Programme;
 - (h) Additions to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach;
5. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20 Summit), 4 to 6 June 2012.
6. Preparations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management:
- (a) Date and venue;
 - (b) Agenda;
 - (c) Nomination of the President of the ICCM.
7. Fundraising.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the meeting.

5. The meeting was attended by the following Bureau members: Mr. Ivan Eržen (Slovenia) as President, Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu (Japan), Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla (Senegal), Ms. Ana Garcia Gonzalez (Spain). One Bureau member, Mr. Osvaldo Alvarez Perez (Chile) was unable to attend.

6. The following representatives of non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting: Mr. Joseph diGangi (International POPs Elimination Network, IPEN), Ms. Birgit Engelhardt (International Council of Chemical Associations - ICCA), Ms. Lilian Corra (International Society of Doctors for the Environment - ISDE), Ms. Judith Carreras on behalf of Ms. Anabella Rosemburg (International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC). The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was represented by Mr. Jonathan Krueger (United Nations Institute for Training and Research - UNITAR) on behalf of Mr. Mark Davis, IOMC Chair (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO).

7. Mr Edmund Reid participated on behalf of Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Regional Focal Point for Latin America and Caribbean and Ms. Kinga Mroziejewicz participated on behalf of Mr. Jerzy Majka (Regional Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe). The regional focal points for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Western Europe and Others were unable to participate in the meeting.

III. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group

8. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/INF/7 containing notes from the informal meeting of the Bureau held at the time of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on 6 May 2011 and document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/INF/2 containing information on options for the proposed scheduling of the Working Group's first meeting and on the draft provisional agenda for that meeting taking into account possibilities for shortening its duration.

9. She summarised the circumstances, previously discussed, which, in April 2011, led to the need to reschedule the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the very challenging task that followed of identifying alternative dates particularly given the third Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a globally binding instrument on mercury (INC3) to be held 31 October to 4 November 2011, Nairobi, the Joint 9th Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and 23rd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, tentatively scheduled for 14 - 18 November, Bali and the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

and the 7th Conference of the Parties to Kyoto Protocol to be held 28 November to 9 December 2011, Durban, South Africa. She referred to the consultation with Bureau members following their meeting in New York on 6 May 2011 and the further efforts made by the secretariat in exploring all alternative options for the date and venue of the meeting.

10. Members reported on their own consultations following the Bureau meeting on 6 May 2011 on the holding of the meeting of the Working Group in the period 14 to 18 November 2011. Strong opposition remained to the rescheduled meeting dates in two regions particularly considering that in some countries the same person would be tasked with participating in several of the international meetings referred to in paragraph 9 above. The multitude of meetings created a number of difficulties particularly for those undertaking preparatory consultations in reduced intervening time periods. Accordingly a number of Bureau members reiterated their preference for delaying the meeting of the Working Group until January 2012 and sought further information from the secretariat on the feasibility of this request. The views of those members representing regions with a high numbers of developing countries and those with economies in transition were taken into particular consideration. In the case of the African region and the Latin America and Caribbean region it was confirmed that information on the revised dates had been provided at recent regional meetings and no opposition had been voiced.

11. The representative of the secretariat confirmed that conference facilities in January 2012 were not available and that a minimum of six months was needed between the meeting of the Working Group and the third session of the Conference particularly to reflect the outcomes of the Working Group into Conference documents.

12. Given the constraints identified above, a number of meeting participants welcomed the opportunity provided by the present Bureau meeting for an additional discussion of the ways to ensure an effective Working Group meeting with the maximum possible participation. Preferences were expressed for a shortening of the agenda and focusing only on those critical issues requiring preparatory discussions rather than covering all issues that would be subsequently included on the agenda of the third session of the Conference. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare short, focused meeting documents and to facilitate the preparation of draft resolutions for consideration of the Working Group wherever appropriate.

13. Taking into consideration the expressed preferences for a shortened meeting duration participants turned their discussion to those issues that required a substantive preparatory discussion such as the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, the adequacy of financial and technical resources for implementation, set out in resolution II/3, and the draft strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, as requested by resolution II/8.

14. Participants focused additionally on the explicit role of the Open-ended Working Group in relation to resolutions II/4 on those emerging policy issues considered in detail at the second session of the Conference, on the role of the Working Group in considering regional inputs and other information to assess proposals for (new) emerging policy issues, on progress on perfluorinated chemicals according to resolution II/5, on inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action; and on evaluating progress with implementation of the Strategic Approach including using information obtained through use of the secretariat's data collection tool.

15. Taking into account the breadth of the work on the different matters for inclusion on the agenda, the Bureau considered that on balance it was unlikely that the meeting could be conducted in less than four days.

16. Recognizing a need for detailed consideration of progress with the emerging policy issues considered at the second session of the Conference, including proposals for addition of elements on two of these issues to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach, members considered it likely that contact group discussions would be needed on these issues and also on sustainable financing, the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, and budget. In relation to contact group discussions, the Bureau considered that no more than four contact should be considered, and of those, no more than two contact groups should be held in parallel to ensure full and open participation. A clear time-limited mandate for the work of the contact groups would be provided by the Working Group before setting any group to work. Possible co-chairs for different issues would be further discussed by the Bureau ahead of time with the aim of optimizing balance among co-chairs that includes regional group, developmental status and gender.

17. Anticipating a large number of requests for side events and the limited time available, the secretariat undertook to provide a formal mechanism for receiving requests for side-events. It was

suggested that priority might be given to relevance to those items on the agenda for the meeting.

18. Participants discussed the opportunities provided by the meeting for technical briefings and side events in addition to the formal sessions of the meeting. To allow time for the arrival of participants, members decided that the technical briefing session should commence in the middle of the day preceding the Working Group on 14 November 2011.

19. In order to balance the likely time needed in the meeting, it was proposed to invite the proponents of the two new emerging policy issues on international cooperation on endocrine disrupting chemicals, submitted by UNEP, and on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, submitted by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, to participate in the technical briefing on 14 November 2011. It was also suggested to invite the leaders of the work on perfluorinated chemicals to provide an update on progress with resolution II/5 at the technical briefing session on 14 November 2011.

20. Following on from the discussion of the possible focus of the technical briefing session; the likely need for contact groups; and the complexity of issues for consideration, members requested the secretariat to describe in the annotations to the provisional agenda that discussions on emerging policy issues be taken in the following order:

- (a) progress with lead in paint, chemicals in products and perfluorinated chemicals;
- (b) progress on those emerging policy issues associated with proposals for additions to the Global Plan of Action for nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products; and
- (c) new emerging policy issues for possible addition to the agenda for consideration at the third session of the Conference.

21. The representative of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) sought additional guidance on the IOMC documents that would be useful for the Open-ended Working Group taking into account the shortened and focused agenda.

22. Participants concluded their discussions on this agenda item by revising the provisional draft agenda of the Open-ended Working Group and preparing a tabular scenario document with an indicative timing and organization of the meeting and associated events. These documents are contained in annex I and II of the present report to assist the continuation of the work of the secretariat in preparing the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

IV. Updates by the secretariat

23. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/INF/3 providing an update on intersessional activities. Discussion of these activities is summarized below.

A. Regional and other SAICM meetings

24. The representative of the secretariat noted that the completion of a first intersessional round of regional meetings in 2010 had provided an excellent opportunity to review the outcomes of the second session of the Conference and to create an impetus for good follow-up work. The key objective of holding a second round of regional meetings had been to assist preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group building upon this follow-up work. She acknowledged the effective cooperation with UNITAR and the funding support from the Governments of Spain and Switzerland. Without this support these meetings would not have been possible.

25. She introduced document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/INF/1 containing a summary of the outcomes from recent regional meetings. She spoke of the active participation in the fourth African regional meeting and of the five resolutions agreed on financial considerations; lead in paint; illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products; nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials; and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. She explained that the latter two resolutions had also included recommendations on the addition of activities to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. Referring to the Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting held in the preceding week to the Bureau, she also reported strong participation and a number of resolutions including on the health sector strategy and on the substantial discussion on the development of the regional implementation plan for Latin America and the Caribbean. A meeting of the Central and Eastern European region would be held from 27 to 29 June 2011 and planning for the Asia-Pacific

region was in progress, with a meeting tentatively scheduled for the first week of September 2011. Regional coordinating groups had also met in association with the recently held regional meetings and had continued to be instrumental in carrying forward the work of the regions. It was hoped that an initial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Group on SAICM would be possible at the time of the upcoming Asia-Pacific regional meeting.

B. Health issues, including the SAICM health sector strategy

26. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress with the completion of the health sector strategy and reviewed the process followed for its development, the level of cooperation with the World Health Organization, the contents of the strategy and the next steps to enable its consideration by the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Outstanding issues included the means of implementation and indicator(s) of engagement. A number of case-studies had been proposed for presentation at the third session of the Conference to enable consideration of examples of different forms of engagement. One participant suggested that more visibility should be given to WHO at the Conference to present experiences and recently developed tools. Others highlighted the relevance of the health sector strategy to the health workforce and labour sector including in health-care workplaces and on the strategy in relation to issues arising in connection with the emerging policy issue on hazardous substances in electrical products. The guidance developed by the Government of Slovenia to establish a framework for assisting cooperation and engagement on the issue of toxicovigilance was noted and this would be discussed in more detail by the Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting. Participants requested the secretariat, in consultation with WHO, to additionally prepare a draft resolution on the health sector strategy for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group.

C. Emerging issues, including past and future issues

27. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress with those issues considered in detail at the second session of the Conference ("past issues") and on the nomination of two new emerging policy issues in accordance with the procedure adopted by the second session of the Conference.

28. Participants considered that the work on emerging issues was one of the strengths of the Strategic Approach and an important function to focus attention, call for appropriate action and forge consensus on the priorities for cooperative action. In respect of the third session of the Conference, members considered it would be important to discern those issues that had been addressed and those where further consideration was needed. One participant ventured that in this respect emerging policy issues should not be emerging issues for ever. In respect of the new proposed emerging policy issues the identification of organizations able to carry forward any work considered necessary should be addressed in completing the preparatory work.

D. Reporting on progress with SAICM implementation

29. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress on reporting under the Strategic Approach and reviewed the modalities for reporting adopted at the second session of the Conference, the approach to data collection on the agreed indicators, the types of readily available information for the baseline report and the use of the online data collection tool for the first periodic report. She presented some preliminary findings of the baseline report, gave details of the response rates achieved from each region for the preliminary first progress report and highlighted some of the lessons learned from these activities. She indicated that the Open-ended Working Group may wish to take into account the results so far in deciding how to complete the report for the full reporting period of 2009-2012. One important issue included how to increase the level of participation and whether any changes were needed to the online data collection tool.

30. One participant asked about possible duplication of reported activities by different stakeholders and the representative of the secretariat suggested that this would be minimised by evaluating the activities of different stakeholders separately. The representative of the IPEN informed the meeting that it would be making an update of the Citizen's Report on the Global Outreach Campaign on SAICM which would provide additional information on progress in SAICM implementation by non-governmental organizations. The potential value of the information collected by the online tool to further inform regional implementation plans was noted and the continued engagement of regional focal points in the reporting work was encouraged. The Bureau member of the Asia-Pacific region sought an extension of the timeframe to reporting to 30 June 2011 in view of the low reporting rates from this region.

E. Information clearing house

31. The representative of the secretariat spoke to this item and informed participants that no further development of the information clearinghouse was possible until resources became available. Participants encouraged the secretariat to follow-up with opportunities that might exist with the infrastructure for a clearinghouse being established under the three multi-lateral environment agreements for chemicals and wastes, so that resources could be shared if possible.

F. Financing the implementation of SAICM

32. The representative of the secretariat introduced this sub-item providing information on the strategy for sound chemicals management considered by the Global Environment Facility in November 2010 and progress with the UNEP consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste management launched by the Executive Director, UNEP. She further informed participants of her follow-up actions with officers in UNEP to ensure that they are informed of relevant issues for the financing of the Strategic Approach such as the differentiation of enabling needs for initial capacity-building. She said it was her understanding that the outcomes of the UNEP consultative process would be reported both to the next session of the UNEP Governing Council and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. One participant raised the issue of development banks and their potential interest in issues related to the sound management of chemicals. Several participants raised the need for a renewed commitment to the Strategic Approach as an important part of any financing discussion and underscored the importance of drawing on the successful Quick Start Programme to provide information on the impact achieved from relatively modest investments. Bureau members requested a more direct involvement of the SAICM secretariat in the UNEP consultative process on financing options.

G. Quick Start Programme

33. The representative of the secretariat introduced this sub-item highlighting the significant size of the Quick Start Programme portfolio comprising 140 projects with a total funding of \$29, 681,748. The projects were being implemented by 104 Governments and 15 civil society organizations in 102 countries. She highlighted that with the end of the programme in 2013, the Executive Board may wish to further discuss how to organize the future rounds of project applications. She provided an update on the conduct of the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme and on planning of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board meeting in September 2011 which would provide a significant opportunity to review the desk study, interviews and survey work conducted by external consultants and for the Executive Board to shape the recommendations for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group.

34. Participants discussed the scope of the recommendations on the Quick Start Programme to be provided to the Open-ended Working Group and requested that the secretariat explicitly include provisions for recommendations and/or actions to address the future of the Quick Start Programme.

H. Additions to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach

35. The representative of the secretariat introduced this sub-item by recalling the procedure for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action that had been adopted by the second session of the Conference. She further recalled that in relation to two of the emerging policy issues, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, proposals for additions to the Global Plan of Action had been discussed at regional meetings. Both proposals had been supported by regional meetings held so far with a number of comments and recommendations on the specific texts.

36. In response to a question, the representative of the secretariat confirmed that while time at the second session of the Conference had precluded consideration of the detail of the proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, the Conference had agreed to include this subject in the agenda for the third session of the Conference. This agreement was recorded in paragraph 88 of the report of the second session of the Conference. For the issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products the Open-ended Working Group would need to decide whether to include that action on the agenda for the third session of the Conference.

V. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20 Summit), 4 to 6 June 2012

37. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/INF/4 containing information on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20

Summit) including the two themes of the Conference of (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

38. Many participants questioned why sound chemicals management had not featured more obviously in the preparations for Rio +20 to date particularly given the Strategic Approach was itself conceived at Rio + 10 and had relevance both for the green economy and international environment governance. While members acknowledged that the tight deadlines and detailed preparatory processes would probably preclude the specific inclusion of the issue of chemicals in the outcomes document of the Summit, a number of further actions might be pursued aimed at raising awareness of the linkage of SAICM to sustainable development in national, regional and global preparatory processes for Rio +20 in order to give better recognition of the achievements made to date, and to help strengthen commitment to the Strategic Approach in future years.

39. A number of specific actions were agreed including (i) encouraging the SAICM secretariat to further engage with the secretariat to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) taking advantage of upcoming discussions between the secretariat of CSD with IOMC if possible; (ii) requesting SAICM regional focal points to write to SAICM focal points to strengthen contacts with CSD contact points nationally, and (iii) for the secretariat to raise the issue further within UNEP particularly building on the references to chemicals in the UNEP Green Economy report. The Bureau requested the secretariat to assist these processes by preparing a summary of key messages about SAICM for stakeholders to use in discussions as part of preparations for Rio + 20.

VI. Preparations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

40. The secretariat introduced document SAICM/ICCM/Bureau.2/INF/5/rev containing an update on preparations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The secretariat advised that the meeting had been scheduled to take place from 15 to 20 July 2012 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva. This scheduling avoided a clash with preparatory meetings for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development which would be taking place from 20 May to 1 June 2012.

41. Participants noted that the rule 14 (1) of the rules of procedure of the Conference concerning officers and operations of the Bureau stated that "The Bureau shall remain in office until the closure of the third session of the Conference". Rule 14(2) provided for the election of a new Bureau before the end of the third session. Rule 15 (3) similarly concerned the length of office and election of representative of non-governmental organizations. Participants of the non-governmental organizations present requested further clarification from the secretariat about arrangements for participation of alternates in Bureau discussions.

VII Fundraising

42. The representative of the secretariat reported on the status of received pledges in support of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, the secretariat and upcoming meetings including the Open-ended Working Group and third session of the Conference. The critical need for funding was noted.

VIII. Other matters

43. No other matters were raised for discussion.

IX. Closure of the meeting

44. The meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m. on 10 June 2011.

Annex I

First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

Belgrade, 15 – 18 November 2011

Revised provisional draft agenda for use by the secretariat in preparatory work

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
 - (d) Priority setting and meeting goals
3. Overview of SAICM activities 2009-2011 - Report of the secretariat
4. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:
 - (a) Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach;
 - (a) Preliminary Progress Report on the Implementation of SAICM (2009-2011)
 - (b) Financial and technical resources for implementation;
 - (i) Mid-term evaluation of Quick Start Programme,
 - (ii) Adequacy of financial and technical resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach,
 - (c) New and emerging policy issues.
 - (i) Report on progress on emerging policy issues and perfluorinated chemicals from secretariat.
 - (ii) Individual progress reports on:
 - a. Lead in paint,
 - b. Chemicals in products,
 - c. Perfluorinated chemicals.
 - (iii) Progress and proposals for additions to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach:
 - a. Hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products,
 - b. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials
 - (iv) New emerging policy issues to be considered at the third session of the Conference
5. Health sector strategy.
6. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20).
7. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the biennium 2012-2014.

8. Preparations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

Provisional meeting scenario

First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

	8 am - 9am	9 am - 10 am	10a.m - 1.p.m	1.p.m - 2pm	2.p.m - 3.p.m	3.pm to 6.pm	Evening	Comments
Monday 14 November		Participants arrive Bureau 11- 12.30			Technical briefings 12.30 -3.00 pm	3.30 – 6 Regional meetings	Bureau 6-7	
Tuesday 15 November	Bureau	Regional meetings	PLENARY	Lunch	Side events/ regional mtg	PLENARY	Side events	<i>Quick pass through agenda and setting off of contact groups</i>
Wednesday 16 November	Bureau	Regional meetings	PLENARY Contact group(1)	Lunch	Side events/ regional meetings	Contact groups – no plenary	PLENARY 5-6pm	Contact groups continue
Thursday 17 November	Bureau	Regional meetings	Contact groups – no plenary	Lunch	Side events/ Regional meeting	PLENARY	Contact groups continue	
Friday 18 November	Bureau	Regional meetings	PLENARY	Lunch	Side events/regional meeting	PLENARY	Bureau wrap-up	Participants depart no earlier than Friday evening