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**International Conference on Chemicals Management****Second session**

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International  
Chemicals Management: emerging policy issues****Emerging policy issues****Note by the secretariat****Executive summary**

1. One of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management set out in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is “to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”.
2. In accordance with that function the Conference will discuss emerging policy issues at its second session. The particular issues to be discussed were identified through consultations aimed at narrowing the great number of issues that could be considered to a manageable number. To begin with, in response to an invitation from the secretariat 21 stakeholders suggested 36 issues for discussion by the Conference. A summary of those issues was then reviewed at informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008. A set of follow-up actions to prepare for the current session of the Conference was undertaken as proposed in Rome. Those actions included screening the suggested issues in a transparent manner according to agreed criteria and consulting with regional focal points, Governments and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations to determine which issues would be considered at the current session.
3. As a result of this process four issues have been identified and additional preparatory work has been carried out to enable their detailed consideration at the current session. The issues are “nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials”, “chemicals in products”, “electronic waste”, and “lead in paint”. Other emerging policy issues from among those first suggested will be the subject of side-events and high-level round table discussions at the current session. Modalities for addressing the remaining suggested issues could be part of a longer-term procedure that the Conference may wish to establish.

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\* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

4. The Conference may wish:
  - (a) To review each of the four emerging policy issues prepared for detailed consideration at the current session and to consider calling for possible cooperative action on each issue, as appropriate;
  - (b) To decide on the future procedure for the nomination, review and prioritization of emerging policy issues, taking into account experience in preparing such issues for discussion at the current session.

## **I. Background**

5. One of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management set out in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach is “to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”. Paragraphs 14 (g) and 15 (g) of the Overarching Policy Strategy call, respectively, for new and emerging issues of global concern to be sufficiently addressed by means of appropriate mechanisms and for an acceleration of the pace of scientific research on identifying and assessing the effects of chemicals on human beings and the environment, including emerging issues.
6. In early 2008 an informal “friends of the secretariat” planning group was convened to assist with preparations for the second session of the Conference. The group comprised regional focal points and representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. Following consultations with the group the secretariat prepared a short questionnaire as a means for Strategic Approach stakeholders to propose “emerging policy issues” for consideration by the Conference at the current session. The questionnaire was brought to the attention of stakeholders by e-mail, through discussions at regional meetings and by publication on the Strategic Approach website. Stakeholders were asked to submit proposed emerging issues by 31 August 2008.
7. Twenty-one stakeholders submitted 36 emerging policy issues for consideration. Annex I to the present document contains a list of those issues. An overview and summary of the submissions was prepared by the secretariat and was then reviewed by participants in informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008. These informal discussions also included the preliminary consideration of a procedure for preparing emerging policy issues for discussion at future sessions of the Conference.
8. Participants in the informal discussions proposed a number of follow-up actions to prepare for the consideration of emerging policy issues at the current session. This included a set of immediate actions to be completed by the end of 2008. Because the bureau of the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group had no mandate beyond the conclusion of its first meeting (held in Rome from 21 to 24 October 2008) it could not play a role in the final preparations for the second session of the Conference and the secretariat was left to determine the most efficient way of consulting with stakeholders. The secretariat decided to continue to do so through consultations with the Friends of the Secretariat group. The group held teleconferences on 27 November and 12 December 2008 and 14 January 2009. The secretariat then prepared the present document taking into account those consultations.
9. Annex II to the present document provides a summary of the preparatory work undertaken in advance of the current session, including the preparation and review of an annotated list of emerging policy issues suggested by stakeholders. In accordance with the guidance provided by the friends of the secretariat group, proponents and other interested stakeholders have assisted the secretariat in preparing information documents on the following four emerging policy issues for detailed consideration at the current session of the Conference: nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials; chemicals in products; electronic waste; and lead in paints. Proposals for cooperative action on each emerging policy issue have been developed for consideration. A technical briefing will take place on Sunday, 10 May 2009, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to introduce these four emerging policy issues to participants at the current session.

## **II. Emerging policy issues for detailed consideration**

10. The participants in the informal discussions that took place in Rome in October 2008 agreed that an emerging policy issue could be defined as “an issue involving the production, distribution and use of chemicals which has not yet been generally recognized or sufficiently addressed but which may have significant adverse effects on human beings and/or the environment”. The Conference may wish to adopt this definition in its consideration of emerging policy issues.

11. The four emerging policy issues that have been identified for detailed consideration at the second session of the Conference are summarized as follows:

(a) **Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials.** Matters encompassed by this issue were suggested for discussion by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) (“nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials”), the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) (“manufactured nanomaterials”) and the Government of Japan (“sound management of specific substances - nanomaterials”). Information about how this emerging policy issue meets the selection criteria developed during the informal discussions in Rome is contained in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/34. The proposed cooperative actions that are suggested for consideration by the Conference at the current session are described in document SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1. In its submission IFCS referred to the new challenges, especially in respect of health and safety, posed by rapidly emerging nanotechnological approaches and the need to understand, avoid, reduce and manage risks. IOMC referred to the challenges of assessing the safety of nanomaterials, the need to review the methods used for testing and assessing safety and the cooperative international work being undertaken in this regard. The Government of Japan referred to the wide use of nanomaterials and the lack of the full assessment of their health and environmental hazards;

(b) **Chemicals in products.** Matters encompassed by this issue were suggested for discussion by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (“information needs on chemicals in products”), the Government of Japan (“chemicals in products”) and IFCS (“toys and chemicals safety”). Information about how this emerging policy issue meets the selection criteria developed during the informal discussions in Rome is contained in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/35. The proposed cooperative actions that are suggested for consideration by the Conference at the current session are described in SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1. In its submission, the European Union referred to the growing understanding of the spread of and potential exposure to chemicals from articles (products) such as computers, textiles, toys and costume jewellery, the health risks to end users and the economic risks for producers. The Government of Japan said that there was a need for the sound management of chemicals in products through, for example, the recovery of chemicals from products in the waste recycling system. IFCS pointed to possible adverse health effects for children of chemicals in toys as a result of the toys’ intended use or foreseeable misuse, the increased vulnerability of children to chemical harm and the actions agreed by IFCS at its fifth session, which was held in Budapest from 25 to 29 September 2006;

(c) **Electronic waste.** Electronic waste was suggested for discussion by the African region at its second regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on 16 and 17 July 2008, and by the Government of Peru. Information about how this emerging policy issue meets the selection criteria developed during the informal discussions in Rome is contained in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/36. The proposed cooperative actions that are suggested for consideration by the Conference at the current session are described in document SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1. The problem described by the African region was a lack of capacity for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes. This lack of capacity meant that toxic chemicals such as heavy metals and brominated flame retardants were being released into the environment and posing a threat to human health in the region. The Government of Peru said a large volume of electronic waste, mainly computers and televisions under the designation of second-hand products, were entering the country from all parts of the world;

(d) **Lead in paint.** Matters encompassed by this issue were suggested for discussion by the non-governmental organization Toxics Link (“continuing use of lead in paints in developing countries and its eventual phase-out”), IFCS (“substitutions and alternatives”) and the United States of America (“enhancing capacity on lead and cadmium management through cooperative action”). Information about how this emerging policy issue meets the selection criteria developed during the informal discussions in Rome is contained in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/38. The proposed cooperative actions that are suggested for consideration by the Conference at the current session are described in document SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1. In its submission, Toxics Link described lead in paints as the biggest source of lead exposure to children after exposure from gasoline and pointed to a lack of necessary legislation in most developing countries to regulate the use of lead in paints. In its submission IFCS provided information on a resolution on eliminating lead from paints adopted by the Forum at its sixth session, which was held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008. IFCS also submitted a proposal for a global partnership to promote the phase-out of lead in paint in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development developed by an ad hoc working group of the IFCS Forum Standing Committee. It is set out in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/29. The United States drew attention to actions that could be replicated to

enhance the capacity of developing countries in particular to reduce the environmental and health effects of lead.

12. It is recognized that some stakeholders wish to present additional emerging issues for consideration during the current session. To accommodate this wish a programme of side events at which such issues will be featured has been planned. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the side-events. Other issues will be taken up during the high-level round table discussions that will take place during the session. The side events and round-table discussions are intended to foster an interactive exchange of information and discussion on these issues. Issues suggested for discussion during the current session but not addressed in detail could also be considered in the prioritization process during the next intersessional period.

### **III. Proposal for future modalities for considering emerging policy issues**

13. It was concluded during the informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008 that during the current session the Conference should consider the adoption of a longer-term procedure for carrying out its functions with regard to emerging policy issues. The secretariat was asked to prepare a draft proposal in this regard in consultation with regional focal points and other stakeholders, taking into account the informal discussions in Rome and experience in the application of the procedure agreed for use in the lead-up to the second session of the Conference. It is anticipated that the Conference may wish to consider three to five emerging policy issues at each of its future sessions.

14. The secretariat proposes the following four-step procedure for the nomination, review and prioritization of emerging policy issues: a call for nominations; submission of initial information by proponents; review and screening of nominations by the secretariat; and prioritization through consultation and advice from stakeholders and experts. The preparation of Conference documents for selected emerging policy issues would be part of the work of preparing for each session of the Conference itself.

#### **A. Call for nominations**

15. Given that the nature of emerging policy issues will vary according to the perspectives and needs of different stakeholders, any process for nominating emerging policy issues should be an open one, in which any Strategic Approach stakeholder is free to participate. The nomination procedure would be published on the Strategic Approach website. To promote communication at the national level, nominations should be copied to Strategic Approach focal points. Because emerging policy issues will arise and evolve over time, nominations will be possible at any point but would be formally invited from stakeholders at specific periodic intervals, for example, once in the lead-up to each session of the Conference. This periodic call for the nomination of issues would serve to encourage the systematic monitoring, review and regular discussion of emerging policy issues among Strategic Approach stakeholders. A deadline for receipt of nominations would be assigned to allow sufficient time for subsequent steps in the procedure. Given the steps that follow nominations would need to be submitted between 9 and 12 months in advance of the sessions of the Conference at which they would be considered.

#### **B. Submission of initial information by proponents**

16. In nominating an emerging policy issue for consideration by the Conference, a stakeholder would be required to complete a questionnaire incorporating the elements used prior to the informal discussions held in Rome in October 2008 and reflecting the screening criteria developed in those discussions. The initial information sought by the questionnaire would include:

- (a) Why a given issue is considered to be an emerging policy issue, in particular how it is consistent with the proposed definition of an emerging policy issue referred to above;
- (b) How the issue meets the selection criteria listed under subchapter III C, below;
- (c) A description of the proposed cooperative action to be requested, including a rationale. Proponents would be encouraged to consider a wide range of options for cooperative actions, which would include identification of any tools, institutions and other mechanisms and resources that could support the proposed action.

### **C. Review and screening of nominations by the secretariat**

17. Review and screening of the nominations according to agreed criteria would assist in sorting the nominations and assessing their relevance to the objectives of the Strategic Approach. This could be undertaken by the secretariat using readily available information. Proponents could be contacted to provide any missing information. The Conference might wish to adopt the following criteria, modified as it deems appropriate:

- (a) Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health or the environment, taking into account vulnerable subpopulations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps;
- (b) Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies;
- (c) Level of knowledge about the issue;
- (d) Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature;
- (e) Feasibility of the action proposed;
- (f) Relevance of the issue to a broad number of countries or regions, and stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

18. The results of the secretariat's screening would be set out in a list of submissions, annotated with information that has been provided on each of the criteria. Similar issues would be grouped or clustered so that as far as possible similar issues could be considered in thematic groups. The list would be made publicly available and other interested stakeholders would thereby invited to provide relevant information.

### **D. Prioritization through consultation and advice from stakeholders**

19. Following the nomination of emerging policy issues and screening and review by the secretariat, it could be beneficial to engage formally the full range of stakeholders in prioritizing issues for detailed consideration by the Conference at its next session and preparing additional information and proposals for action on those issues selected for further elaboration. Such consultation could be pursued through the bureau of the Conference, regional meetings, working groups on specific issues, workshops and advisory groups, engagement of the scientific community and the work of the secretariat and consultants. The optimal mix of such approaches would depend to some extent on what means the Conference determines are needed to carry forward its overall intersessional activities.

20. Because the Conference will perform its function in relation to emerging policy issues for the first time at the current session, there are no precedents for the types of action which the Conference might call for in relation to priorities for cooperative action, once agreed. Taking into account the full range of cooperative actions possible, however, such responses could entail the Conference simply noting and disseminating the agreed priorities, for example through the secretariat's clearinghouse function. The Conference might also consider taking more active measures, such as non-binding recommendations and requests for action addressed to the governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations, Governments, scientific bodies and civil society stakeholders, or the initiation of follow-up work under the auspices of the Conference itself through intersessional working groups, regional meetings and training sessions, a subsidiary body, the secretariat or other mechanisms. Alternatively Governments, civil society and industry could use sessions of the Conference as opportunities to make specific commitments to undertake intersessional workshops, establish partnerships and so on. In some cases, proposed actions might also be relevant to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach.

## Annex I

### List of emerging policy issues suggested by Governments and organizations for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session

#### Governments

1. Biofuels (the African region)
2. Electronic waste (the African region)
3. Climate change (the African region)
4. Waste containing heavy metals (the African region)
5. Regional coordination on prior informed consent for import and export of hazardous chemicals and waste (Bahrain)
6. Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) substances risk management (Belarus)
7. Management of obsolete chemicals (Burkina Faso)
8. Information need on chemicals in products (France, as Presidency of the European Union)
9. Safety assessment of existing chemicals (Japan)
10. Sharing of chemical safety data (Japan)
11. Chemicals in products (Japan)
12. Sound management of specific substances; nanomaterials; mercury (Japan),
13. Hotspots caused by temporary storage of hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) isomers in the organic chemical plant dump site (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
14. Electronic wastes (Peru)
15. Chemicals management challenges in Samoa (awareness/education, obsolete chemicals, labelling) (Samoa)
16. Utilization (neutralization) of obsolete pesticides (Ukraine)
17. Enhancing capacity of lead and cadmium through cooperative action (the United States)
18. Managing perfluorinated chemicals and making the transition to safer alternatives (the United States)

#### Intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations and groups

19. List of topics identified by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) at its fifth session
20. Applying precaution in the context of chemical safety (IFCS)
21. Heavy metals: need for further global action? (IFCS)
22. Toys and chemical safety (IFCS)
23. Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (IFCS)
24. Substitution and alternatives (IFCS)
25. International transport of lead and cadmium via trade: an international concern? (IFCS)
26. Ecologically-based integrated pest management and integrated vector management: key elements of pesticide risk reduction strategies (IFCS)
27. Climate change and the sound management of chemicals (IFCS)
28. Safety of manufactured nanomaterials (IOMC)
29. Contribution to the discussion of candidate new and emerging policy issues to be addressed at the second session of the Conference (United Nations Environment Programme)
30. Additional roles and responsibilities of the health sector owing to the increased production and use of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (World Health Organization)
31. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) emission and release reduction (Business and Industry Advisory Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)
32. Strengthening national capacity for designing a national pollutant and release transfer register to support SAICM implementation in Georgia (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network),
33. Risk assessment and reduction for priority chemicals (EcoTox Environment and Health NGO)
34. Promoting comprehensible chemicals information for all stakeholders through comprehensibility testing initiatives – the right to comprehend (Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit of the University of Cape Town,

35. Continuing use of lead in paints in developing countries and its eventual phase-out (Toxics Link)
36. Control and monitoring of risks to children exposed to chemicals and child labour (Zambia Consumer Association)

## Annex II

### Summary of work undertaken on emerging policy issues in preparation for the second session of the Conference

#### I. Overview of submissions received

1. In preparing for the Conference's consideration of emerging policy issues at its second session the secretariat developed a short questionnaire as a means for Strategic Approach stakeholders to propose "emerging policy issues" for consideration by the Conference. A copy of the questionnaire may be found on the Strategic Approach web site ([www.saicm.org](http://www.saicm.org)). Stakeholders were invited to submit proposed issues by 31 August 2008.
2. Submissions on emerging policy issues were received from the following 21 stakeholders:
  - (a) The African region, from its second regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Dar es Salaam on 16 and 17 July 2008;
  - (b) The Governments of Bahrain, Belarus, Burkina Faso, France (as Presidency of the European Union), Japan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Peru, Samoa, Ukraine and the United States of America;
  - (c) The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;
  - (d) The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC);
  - (e) Two IOMC participating organizations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization;
  - (f) Six non-governmental organizations and groups: the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network; EcoTox Environment and Health NGO; the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit of the University of Cape Town, South Africa; Toxics Link; and the Zambia Consumer Association.
3. The submissions provide short descriptions of the emerging policy issues, relevant actions undertaken, reasons why cooperative actions are warranted and proposed cooperative action.
4. The issues described reflect the breadth of the matters that might fall within the definition of emerging policy issue agreed during the informal discussions in Rome and suggested for consideration by the Conference at the current session. A number of submissions focus on specific chemicals such as perfluorinated chemicals; chemicals with specific hazard and risk characteristics such as persistent, bioaccumulative or toxic chemicals; and chemicals which pose specific risks at different stages in their life cycles such as chemicals in products, heavy metals in waste and lead in paint. Other submissions draw attention to specific chemicals management matters, including chemicals management challenges in Samoa; regional coordination on prior informed consent for the import and export of hazardous waste; and the need to strengthen the capacity of the health sector.
5. Actions undertaken depend on the issue described and include local and national clean-up operations; national measures such as legislative controls; the development of guidance; the preparation of inventories and national plans; the development of scientific criteria and testing strategies to identify specific hazardous properties; information exchange; regional actions supported by political commitments and goals; international workshops; the development of voluntary actions such as stewardship programmes within industry; actions by intergovernmental forums including political statements and commitments for action; and the initiation of cooperative international work programmes.
6. The reasons put forward to justify cooperative action included the magnitude and importance of a particular problem, such as risks to vulnerable groups including children; a lack of international cooperation on issues which are commonly shared; transboundary effects beyond one particular country or region; the need to agree on how to implement agreed international policies and legal instruments (including to strengthen their implementation and effectiveness); the need to accelerate risk reduction by implementing alternative risk management strategies; an increasing use of new technologies; use of novel chemical materials for which current risk assessment and management approaches might not be



adequate; and the impact on human health of changing patterns in the development and use of chemicals.

7. The submissions also provide a short description of the proposed cooperative action and options to such action. Some stakeholders propose action at the regional level, while others request information exchange, call for the development of specific types of information and guidance or ask that action be taken to strengthen capacities and mobilize resources. In many cases the submissions refer to a set or number of interrelated cooperative actions. In several cases the submissions were incomplete in this area.

## **II. Review and screening of submissions**

### **A. Screening against the selection criteria developed during the informal discussions**

8. In order to provide a basis for further considering the priority of each nominated emerging policy issue, the following criteria were developed during the informal discussions held in Rome:

- (a) Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health and the environment, taking into account vulnerable subpopulations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps;
- (b) Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies;
- (c) Level of knowledge about the issue;
- (d) Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature;
- (e) Feasibility of the action proposed;
- (f) Relevance of the issue to a broad number of countries, regions and stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition

### **B. Preparation of an annotated list of submissions**

9. As one of the immediate follow-up actions that it took following the informal discussions in Rome, the secretariat prepared an annotated list of the emerging policy issues that had been suggested by stakeholders. The list is contained in document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/33 and is also available on the Strategic Approach website ([www.saicm.org](http://www.saicm.org)). A draft of the list was reviewed by the friends of the secretariat group and supplementary information and footnotes were later added to reflect teleconferences held on 27 November and 12 December 2008.

10. The list organizes and presents the suggested emerging policy issues into 22 groups so that similar issues can be considered together. For example, three of the four emerging policy issues identified for the present current can be associated with more than one original proponent. Each submission is annotated with a short note providing readily available information that may be relevant to further consideration of the issue. In this way it is intended that the annotated list convey in a transparent manner the information relevant for the further review of submissions.

11. The annotated list of submissions on emerging policy issues was used during consultations with the friends of the secretariat group as a tool for screening the submissions against the agreed criteria.

### **C. Experience in using the selection criteria**

12. Some of the experience obtained from use of the annotated list may be relevant to the use of the selection criteria in the future. Endnotes have been included in the annotated list to record this experience.

13. It was not possible to apply two of the criteria fully at the initial screening stage, namely, criterion (b), “the extent addressed by other bodies”, and criterion (e), “the feasibility of action proposed”. In the case of criterion (b) it was possible to identify existing work that might be relevant but it was not possible to complete an assessment of whether that work sufficiently addressed the submitted issue. Similarly for criterion (e), while actions might have been proposed at the time of the initial submission, they were often incompletely developed. In addition while a sense of the relevance of the proposed action to the functions of the Conference could be obtained, the practicality of the actions, the resource and other needs and the interests of potential partners could not be fully assessed. For both criteria, further consultation and advice from stakeholders is envisaged after the initial screening step. In

the future process proposed by the secretariat such considerations are incorporated into the fourth step, “prioritization through consultation and advice from stakeholders.

#### **D. Identifying the issues for detailed consideration**

14 The friends of the secretariat group held two teleconferences, on 27 November and 12 December 2008, to review the annotated list of submissions prepared by the secretariat and to share with the secretariat its views on the emerging policy issues for detailed consideration at the current session of the Conference.

15. Members of the group expressed views as to how each issue met the selection criteria. Members from the African region explained that they wanted the annotated list to reflect the priorities assigned to certain issues by the regions (as agreed at regional meetings, as in the case of the second African regional meeting). It was also said the issues selected should convey to the Conference the perspectives of both developed and developing countries as to what constituted an emerging policy issue. For purposes of applying the definition of emerging policy issue and the proposed screening criteria it was agreed that the global chemicals community was not fully aware of the issue of “nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials”, that the issue of “chemicals in products” was not yet being addressed internationally and that the issues of “electronic waste” and “lead in paints” were of particular and immediate concern to developing countries.

### **III. Additional information on the issues proposed for consideration at the second session of the Conference**

16. For each of the four emerging policy issues proposed for detailed consideration at the current session, an information document is available that provides relevant background information including an assessment of the issue against the selection criteria. In addition to providing information on the four issues, these documents may also provide an opportunity to review the practicality of the selection criteria that have been used thus far.

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