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**International Conference on Chemicals Management**

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: evaluation of and guidance on implementation and review and update of the Strategic Approach**

**Summary and commentary on submissions received from stakeholders in response to the questionnaire on Strategic Approach implementation**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Background**

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 receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach”. Information obtained through such reports is necessary to enable the Conference to perform other related functions such as reviewing and evaluating progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the Strategic Approach as necessary; providing guidance on implementation; and reporting on implementation progress to stakeholders.

2. The Conference has not yet adopted a mechanism for Strategic Approach reporting and is to consider at its second session the issue of reporting modalities and the participation of all stakeholders in a future reporting framework. In the absence of such a mechanism it was agreed during the process of preparing for the second session that as a provisional measure the secretariat would prepare a questionnaire that would enable stakeholders to provide the Conference at the current session with information on their progress in implementing the Strategic Approach.

3. The questionnaire was issued in two versions, one for Governments and the other for organizations. A compilation of submissions received from stakeholders in response to the questionnaire and the individual submissions, as received by the secretariat, are available on the website of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (<http://www.saicm.org>). The questionnaire sought information on progress with the implementation of activities to achieve the five objectives of the Strategic Approach set out in paragraphs 14 to 18 of the Overarching Policy Strategy:

- (a) Risk reduction;
- (b) Knowledge and information;

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\* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

- (c) Governance;
- (d) Capacity-building and technical cooperation;
- (e) Illegal international traffic.

4. The present note summarizes the submissions. Where appropriate, commentary and additional information are provided by the secretariat. The summarized responses are grouped under the questions set out in the questionnaire, as originally numbered. The summaries of the responses from Governments and those from organizations are presented separately.

## II. Executive Summary

5. Submissions were received from 36 Governments, one regional economic integration organization, seven intergovernmental organizations and eleven non-governmental organizations in response to the questionnaire issued by the secretariat on the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Although submissions were received from developed, developing and transition economy countries, the relatively small number of responses submitted made it difficult to draw significant conclusions in relation to one region of the world or another. There are nevertheless slight indications of similar efforts at the regional and subregional levels in certain cases.

6. Responses to the questionnaire reveal that considerable efforts have been made by many Governments and organizations to implement or promote the objectives of the Strategic Approach at the national, regional or subregional level. In the case of Governments, this has often involved the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into official planning documents and relevant initiatives. Some developed country Governments indicated that existing plans and programmes relating to chemicals management adequately reflected Strategic Approach objectives. Some Governments of developing and transition economy countries appear to be relying on projects under the Quick Start Programme as vehicles to assess needs and capacities and to integrate Strategic Approach objectives into strategies or plans.

7. All national Governments and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations that submitted responses to the questionnaire reported that they had named Strategic Approach focal points. Most Governments indicated that their focal points were located within the ministry or agency responsible for the environment. A few Governments placed their focal points in ministries for foreign affairs, health or labour.

8. Coordination arrangements for the Strategic Approach appear to be in place for most Governments and organizations, although the coordination mechanisms described reveal some differences from one another. A majority of Governments indicated that they had established inter-ministerial committees or working groups to carry out coordination functions. Most indicated that they had entrusted such functions to committees of bodies consisting of representatives from both the public and private sectors, including the academic community, non-governmental organizations and other interested civil society groups; a few indicated that coordination efforts were the responsibility of inter-ministerial committees limited to Government officials. A few developing countries have yet to establish their coordination arrangements but have submitted proposals for funding from the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme for projects that include plans to establish such arrangements. Answers submitted by Organizations indicate that they have established various bodies such working groups, task forces, scientific committees and regional coordination groups to follow up on the Strategic Approach and its objectives.

9. According to responses received from Governments, planning meetings and priority-setting workshops have been convened in most countries to discuss the Strategic Approach or related chemicals management issues. Participating stakeholders in those meetings have included representatives from the public and private sector, non-governmental organizations, the academic community and civil society. The objectives, outcomes and frequency of the meetings vary significantly depending on the coordination arrangements, priorities and progress made.

10. Among the most common priorities identified during meetings and cited by Governments are dissemination and exchange of information on chemical safety matters and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements such as the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The need to improve engagement and cooperation efforts among stakeholders and the importance of promoting synergies to achieve the goals of the national and international chemicals agendas were also emphasized.

11. Some responses provided by Governments suggest that regional or subregional efforts have been considered to promote Strategic Approach implementation. Under the framework of the Southern Common Market, or MERCOSUR, a regional plan on chemical products has been developed under the umbrella of the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. Another initiative considered a proposal to invite the Central American Committee on Chemical Safety to incorporate into its plans a subregional chemicals management scheme with direct links to the Strategic Approach. Among the members of the North American Free Trade Agreement, consultation meetings have been convened to discuss possible regional implementation. Member States of the European Union, as well as others in the process of acceding to the Union, stressed that preliminary discussions on a chemicals management strategy, both at the national and regional levels, are under way based on activities within the framework of the European Commission regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances and its implementation.

12. Several Governments reported that they had developed Strategic Approach implementation plans, although the level of progress and expected outcomes of those plans varied. In some cases a specific plan is not envisaged; instead, existing mechanisms for chemicals management are taken into consideration to address activities contained in the Global Plan of Action. Developing and transition economy countries cited similar expected outcomes from the initial phases of their planning for Strategic Approach implementation. Responses to the questionnaire also indicated that a small number of developing and transition economy countries expect to facilitate enabling activities at the national level through the Quick Start Programme. In contrast, developed countries seemed to have a more advanced level of progress in their implementation efforts, either through the development of specific plans for the Strategic Approach or by incorporating Strategic Approach objectives in current strategies for chemicals management.

13. Responses received from organizations also indicated that work on initial planning is an ongoing process in support of the Strategic Approach. Most non-governmental organizations reported that they were participating actively in national initiatives, providing input and views on chemical safety issues, developing educational and awareness-raising campaigns and in general engaging civil society on such issues. The participation and contributions of the academic sector and research institutions seemed to be critical for national discussions and priority setting. Responses submitted by the industry sector suggest that industry is focusing its efforts to contribute to the Strategic Approach on specific programmes that promote policies within companies at the international level to improve their environmental performance indicators.

14. Participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) play a key role in the Strategic Approach implementation process. As outlined in the responses received activities are being undertaken to provide knowledge and expertise in relevant areas, including in the discussion of emerging issues of potential interest for the Global Plan of Action. These organizations also offer training and specialized capacity-building programmes, produce and disseminate technical and policy documents, offer cooperation and facilitate coordination among stakeholders. These are tools that Governments and stakeholders in general may wish to consider to assist them in their implementation efforts.

15. The reporting on implementation progress that has been sought in preparation for the second session of the Conference may provide an indication of the level of progress that has been achieved to date in the five categories of objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy. Generally speaking, most countries seem to agree that risk reduction measures should focus on the assessment of occupational exposure to toxic chemicals, with further recommendations that risk assessment studies to support decision-making be conducted. Also highlighted was the importance of identifying and implementing preventive measures to reduce exposure, particularly through awareness-raising campaigns. Responses also referred to the incorporation of risk reduction initiatives into existing development plans and programmes as a good way forward.

16. In response to questions about actions to address information and knowledge, Governments suggested that there was a need to make improvements in coordination mechanisms to address chemical safety and management issues, and emphasized in particular the importance of information sharing and exchange among stakeholders. Training and educational programmes appeared to offer strategic activities to increase awareness and engage civil society. Several organizations considered that workshops and seminars on chemical safety should be conducted and that information already developed in various formats should be made available to interested sectors.

17. General agreement to work on certain governance issues was seen in responses coming from developing and economy transition countries, which elucidated the challenges that some of those countries faced with regard to chemicals management. Considerable emphasis was made on the need to review, update and, most of all, strengthen current legislation and policies related to chemicals at the national level. By contrast, in countries with appropriate legislation seemingly in place to support Strategic Approach implementation the objective appears to shift to enforcing existing coordination mechanisms with stakeholders and the provision of support in the form of technical assistance and training on enforcement and compliance issues. As for organizations, industry plans call for implementing specific sector strategies to promote pollution prevention and improvements in environmental performance, which can be seen as a proactive response aimed at complying with applicable regulations. Other organizations prefer to work directly with Governments and offer technical expertise and information on related matters, particularly in support of facilitating the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

18. Given that most Government responses to the questionnaire were submitted by developing and transition economy countries, answers related to capacity-building were of significant importance and directly linked to other objectives of the Strategic Approach. In many cases there was a preference for receiving technical and financial support to enable progress on initial Strategic Approach planning and enabling activities. Developed countries noted and described continuing support for building and strengthening capacities on a wide range of issues, including the Strategic Approach, governance, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, pollutant release and transfer registers, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and, at the European level, activities related to the European Commission regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances. Responses received from organizations confirmed their continuous support for building and strengthening capacity, particularly in developing countries. Specialized training programmes, field and research work, promotion of cleaner production initiatives and other advanced environmental technologies and practices were among the most common areas of work.

19. With regard to illegal international traffic, responses emphasized the need to promote strong and coordinated efforts to prevent and control the illegal trade of chemicals of concern and illegal hazardous waste transfer. This responsibility falls primarily within the purview of the customs office or department in most countries. However, cooperation with other sectors with relevant functions on chemical safety and management is seen as a key element to address this issue, particularly when it comes to compliance and enforcement actions as set out both in multilateral environmental agreements and national regulations. In general organizations acknowledged the relevance of this matter and offered support to Governments through training programmes, information collection, providing research and field data, promoting the Globally Harmonized System and other prevention practices.

20. Against the background of the Quick Start Programme being the only new mechanism specifically dedicated to supporting initial enabling activities for implementing the Strategic Approach, a large number of developing and transition economy countries responded that they have been relying on the Programme to get started on their Strategic Approach implementation. The secretariat notes that over five rounds of applications to the Quick Start Programme trust fund, held between May 2006 and October 2008, the secretariat received 166 project proposals, of which 74 were approved. The projects will be implemented by 60 Governments and seven civil society organizations and involve activities in 73 countries, including 34 least developed countries and small island developing States.

21. Additional issues raised by respondents included, among others, the need to promote global action on mercury and other heavy metals; discussions on emerging issues such as nanotechnology and nanomaterials, toys and chemical safety, alternatives and substitutes; activities to prevent major industrial accidents; ratification of relevant international instruments; and the importance of developing materials and guidelines in local languages for rural communities.

### **III. Analysis of submissions**

#### **A. Submissions received**

22. In response to the questionnaire, the secretariat received submissions from the Governments of the following 34 countries: Albania, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lithuania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Palau, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Thailand, the United States of America

and Zambia. A submission was also received from one regional economic integration organization, the European Commission.

23. Submissions were received from the following intergovernmental organizations: Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo del Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (Central American Commission on Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System, or CCAD); the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS); Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

24. Submissions were received from the following non-governmental organizations: Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE); Associated Labour Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP); Association pour la valorisation de l'environnement et pour la promotion d'une gestion rationnelle des produits chimiques (Association for the Promotion of the Environment and for the Sound Management of Chemical Products, or AVEPGRC); Red de Desarrollo Sostenible (Sustainable Development Network, or COLNODO); CropLife International; Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química (International Federation of Chemical Workers Unions), Energía, Minas e Industrias Diversas (ICEM); Informer, Sensibiliser et Eduquer Sur Les Pollutants Organiques Persistantes (Inform, Sensitize and Educate on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or ISE-POP-CI); Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC); Union for Defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya (UDASA); and the University of Cape Town.

## **B. Submissions received from Governments (includes countries and one regional economic integration organization)**

### **1. National coordination arrangements**

*(a) Has a SAICM National Focal Point been nominated?; (b) If yes, what sector does the National Focal Point work in?*

25. All Governments responding to the questionnaire indicated that national focal points had been appointed. Combined with the more comprehensive data on focal points held by the Secretariat the data reveals that of the 163 countries that had nominated national focal points by 9 February 2009, 131 had chosen officials from their ministries responsible for environment matters to fill this role. Eleven Governments named officials from health ministries as their national focal points. Other ministries from which focal points were drawn included foreign affairs (eight) and labour (two). In addition regional focal points have been nominated for Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Western Europe and others group of countries. The European Commission indicated that focal point responsibilities fell within the remit of the Environment Directorate General.

*(c) Have interministerial or inter-institutional coordination arrangements been put in place?; (d) If yes, please describe (e.g. composition of an interministerial committee, involvement of multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) focal points)*

26. Coordination arrangements are in place for most Governments, in the form of inter-ministerial or inter-institutional committees, working groups or advisory bodies. The mechanisms for establishing such arrangements, however, vary among countries. The Government of Indonesia indicated that it was still in the process of establishing such a committee while the Government of Belarus noted that coordination efforts for the Strategic Approach had been documented but were awaiting official approval by the Council of Ministers. The Governments of Costa Rica and Cyprus noted that inter-sectoral arrangements for coordination were being considered under existing chemicals management legislation. The Governments of Albania and Bahrain indicated that the establishment of a committee was an activity included in the project that they had proposed for funding under the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme. The Government of Romania reported that an existing inter-ministerial committee responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Approach was being reorganized. The Government of the United States of America indicated that coordination took place through inter-agency meetings.

27. In most cases countries have multi-sectoral committees in place. Stakeholders participating in such committees or advisory bodies include representatives from the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, the academic community and civil society. The Government of Estonia indicated that non-governmental organizations were invited to participate in its chemicals safety

committee when necessary. The European Commission, responsible for proposing legislation for the European Union, referred to inter-divisional consultations between services coordinated by the Environment Directorate. The Government of Thailand indicated the existence of several inter-ministerial committees that addressed chemicals management issues, including a preparatory committee for the Strategic Approach. The Government of Mali reported on a national committee, in place to pilot activities under the framework of the Strategic Approach, with participation from agencies responsible for chemicals management, civil society, and the private sector. The Government of Norway established an advisory body with ministerial cooperation to address the Strategic Approach. An inter-ministerial committee presided over by the Department of Environment and comprising several Ministries and non-governmental stakeholders has been established in Morocco.

28. The Governments of Bolivia, Chile, the Czech Republic, Greece, Lithuania, Moldova, Pakistan, Panama, Sweden and Thailand clearly indicated a certain level of involvement by national focal points established under the framework of multilateral environmental agreements in their respective coordination efforts. In some cases the focal points for the Strategic Approach were within the same units where multilateral environmental agreement focal points had been designated. The Government of Germany noted that the Strategic Approach and related activities were coordinated through an existing inter-ministerial committee. Morocco similarly explained that an inter-ministerial committee had been established initially in the context of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the development of its own “national chemicals profile”.

## 2. Initial planning

*(a) Has a planning meeting or meetings of national stakeholders been convened?; (b) If yes, please elaborate (e.g. describe the nature of the meeting(s) and indicate which stakeholders participated)*

29. The Government of Germany noted the organization of a stakeholder meeting to raise awareness of the Strategic Approach. It reported that it expected to implement the Strategic Approach through a process, rather than a plan, and to engage actors according to their potential to accomplish activities listed in the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action. The Government of the Czech Republic noted that an inter-ministerial committee filled the planning role by addressing issues related to chemicals and the Strategic Approach at its meetings. The Government of Hungary referred to an initial planning phase to obtain an overview of the current situation regarding governance and capacity for chemicals management. The Government of Indonesia held a multi-stakeholder workshop to review its national status and discuss a potential integrated approach to chemicals management. The Government of Morocco reported that several Committee meetings of various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders were held, including for the development of national priorities and the discussion and adoption of the national strategy and the plan of action.

30. The Governments of Bolivia, Estonia, Jordan, Mexico and the Republic of Moldova indicated that meetings had been held to discuss broader issues related to chemicals management, integrating the the Strategic Approach with the requirements of multilateral environmental agreements and including a wide audience in the discussions. The Governments of Estonia and Lithuania have held consultation meetings with stakeholders to address specific issues, including in relation to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances. The Government of Costa Rica noted that its Technical Coordination Secretariat met on a regular basis, at least once a month. The United States reported that it had gathered input on the Strategic Approach through consultations with non-governmental organizations and industry stakeholders, which in turn had been useful for trilateral discussions in the North American region. The Government of Zambia indicated that a multi-sectoral meeting had served the purpose of keeping all stakeholders informed, through presentations of sectoral reports on chemicals management. The Government of Panama referred to a project to strengthen governance, public participation and partnerships for chemicals management and related meetings as the framework for engaging all sectors involved in the Strategic Approach.

*(c) Has work commenced on preparing a national SAICM implementation plan?; (d) If yes, please elaborate (e.g. indicate the timeframe for preparing the plan and note its relationship, if any, to previous plans such as national profiles or Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans; describe the outcomes of any national capacity needs assessment and prioritization exercises undertaken)*

31. The Government of Mongolia reported that the main outcomes of its multi-stakeholder workshops included work plans to assess national capacity and the current institutional framework and legislation related to chemicals. The Governments of Bolivia, Georgia, Mali and Mexico indicated that

one of the main outcomes of the development of national implementation plans was the updating of their chemical profiles. In Morocco, based on the development of the national profile, a national strategy and a plan of action for implementing the strategy, encompassing activities up to 2020 with short-term priorities for 2009 to 2011, have been developed and adopted. In some cases, a first approach to developing a national chemicals management profile is expected as a key product during an initial phase of implementation, as noted by the Governments of Bahrain, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania. The Government of Costa Rica reported that its implementation plan consisted of short- and medium-term actions in the context of a life-cycle approach to chemicals management. Some of its priorities include institutional coordination, governance and illicit traffic. The Government of Pakistan indicated that consultations were under way among stakeholders, with an implementation strategy expected to follow an in-depth study at the national level.

32. The Governments of Estonia and Lithuania indicated that efforts and preliminary discussions with stakeholders were currently focused on the implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances. The Governments of Poland and Sweden noted that implementation plans specific to the Strategic Approach were not envisaged and that Strategic Approach objectives had instead been incorporated into existing legally binding and voluntary instruments. The Government of Argentina referred to its national plan, which was based on a Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) regional plan on chemical products developed under the umbrella of the Strategic Approach's Global Plan of Action. The Government of Chile referred to a national policy on chemical safety that included measures related to the Strategic Approach in support of its implementation. The Government of Indonesia reported that its implementation plan, under development through a project proposal under the Quick Start Programme, would enhance and sustain cross-sectoral coordination among stakeholders. The Republic of Moldova noted that a key outcome of its planning efforts consisted of a programme for the sound management of chemicals and implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Government of Zambia indicated that baseline data collection was needed before a priority-setting phase could take place.

33. Efforts made by several Governments when developing implementation plans for the Strategic Approach include specific activities to promote regional or subregional cooperation. The Government of Germany expects to report progress at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, both at the national and European level. The Government of Panama proposed the incorporation of a subregional chemicals management scheme to the Central American Committee on Chemical Safety. The Government of the United States of America reported that it had taken into account the outcomes of national consultation meetings in preparing for discussions with its North American partners and that it supported regional implementation with Canada and Mexico. Expected outcomes of this regional approach include the establishment of a foundation for chemicals management, the development and implementation of a sustainable monitoring programme, the reduction or elimination of risks of mutual concern and the improvement of environmental performance in specific sectors.

34. Links to multilateral environmental agreements and legally binding instruments have also been reported by several Governments. The Governments of Argentina, Bahrain, Bolivia, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Panama and Sweden indicated that they had considered obligations under their Stockholm Convention national implementation plan and under other multilateral environmental agreements, where appropriate. The Government of Mexico referred to the links that had been established with other multilateral environmental agreement implementation processes with a view to enhancing cooperation and avoiding duplication of efforts. The Government of Lithuania reported that goals and policies derived from the Strategic Approach were being incorporated into plans and strategies for implementing multilateral environmental agreements and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

### 3. Assessment of progress

*(a) Indicate, below, each of the five categories of objectives set out in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy in which new and/or extended programmes, projects or activities have been undertaken by your Government as part of national implementation of SAICM.*

*(i) Risk reduction*

35. Several countries reported that efforts made to achieve Strategic Approach objectives included strategies to reduce or eliminate, in conformity with obligations under the Stockholm Convention where applicable, the use and releases of persistent organic pollutants and other high risk chemicals. The Government of Argentina indicated that a national plan was under way for the minimization and elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls. The Governments of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova

referred to policies and plans to reduce risks posed by persistent organic pollutants. The Government of the United States of America described various programmes with particular emphasis on pesticides, including a comprehensive scientific and regulatory assessment of all pesticides registered since 1984, to ensure that they met current regulatory standards and to mitigate any unacceptable risks; it also said that the replacement of older and more toxic pesticides was a continuing activity through the registration of new active products with lesser risk characteristics. Further initiatives reported by the United States included participation in global partnerships that took action to reduce health risks from key pollutants such as mercury, lead, sulphur and coal. The Government of Morocco reported on efforts to reduce the content of sulphur and lead in fuel, the mapping of chemical risks at the national level and regional projects currently being carried out in Morocco on the elimination of pesticide stocks, health risk reduction through safe handling of pesticides, the elimination and management of polychlorinated biphenyls and electronic waste.

36. Activities to improve occupational safety were reported by some countries. The Government of Bahrain described efforts to protect workers from exposure to toxic chemicals and in general by improving safety in the work place. The Governments of Kuwait and Mexico reported on the implementation of safety standards and the establishment of limits for occupational exposure to chemicals, such as those with potential carcinogenic effects. The Government of Thailand plans to establish a surveillance system to monitor exposures at the work place. The Government of Morocco reported the launch of a national programme on health and environment with a particular emphasis on chemical risks and the establishment of a national commission workplace safety and risk prevention.

37. The implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is also considered as a measure to accomplish risk reduction efforts. The Government of Indonesia reported that training of industrial communities was continuing as a means of implementing the Globally Harmonized System. The Governments of Costa Rica and Poland reported that they expected to adopt and implement this system in support of the objectives of the Strategic Approach.

38. The use of methodological tools such as risk analysis and risk communication seemed to provide important guidance for Governments that reported their current or expected use in support of risk reduction measures. The Government of Chile, in support of regulatory processes, intends to implement actions to develop technical guides and promote risk analysis for chemicals throughout their life cycles. The Government of Costa Rica noted the application of both tools to improve prevention and management strategies. The United States of America reported that it was in the initial phase of a process to characterize the risks posed by high- and moderate-production-volume chemicals, while other related activities included risk-based prioritization in respect of high-production-volume chemicals and cumulative risk assessment decisions for selected pesticides.

39. Methods and measures to help in assessing the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment were also reported as tools for promoting risk reduction. The Government of Costa Rica indicated that improvements of these methods and research studies on exposed populations were critical to supporting risk management and risk communication programmes. The Government of Kuwait reported that there was a need to perform laboratory tests on chemicals posing risk. The Government of Romania reported on the implementation of instruments to promote preventive measures to minimize risks, including testing of new chemicals and inventories of existing chemicals. The European Commission noted that it had provided guidance and tools to countries in the European Union to assist them in the implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances.

40. Activities related to waste management were reported in the questionnaire as potential measures for reducing risks. The Government of Jordan reported that a database was being developed to estimate hazardous waste generation in the industrial sector, while Mexico reported on existing programmes to optimize collection and disposal. The Government of Bahrain noted that action plans for waste management and strategies for waste minimization were planned. The United States of America referred to a national waste minimization goal, which encouraged industry and consumers to reduce the use or release of priority chemicals by 2011. Morocco reported on preparations for the establishment of a national centre for the elimination of hazardous waste.

41. Voluntary and regulatory schemes to reduce risks at industrial facilities were referred to as potential actions for achieving this objective of the Strategic Plan. The Government of Cyprus cited the promotion of best available technologies in the industrial sector as a relevant measure and referred to current national legislation that established requirements for the licensing of installations and set emission limits on dangerous chemicals. The Government of Morocco referred to the establishment of a risk prevention plan for industry and industrial zones. The Government of the United States of America

described several initiatives in coordination with industry, such as the Nanoscale Materials Stewardship Programme, the Green Chemistry Challenge and the Design for the Environment programme.

42. Strategies to incorporate into or link the Strategic Approach to national policies, plans or programmes for chemicals management, or related development plans, were reported by several Governments as contributions to promoting risk reduction measures. Specific actions referred to include the setting of restrictions on high risk chemicals (Thailand); implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances (Cyprus, Czech Republic and Poland); environmental health and agro-environment programmes (Hungary); and incorporation of chemicals management considerations into national development plans (Belarus, Estonia). The Government of Sweden referred to the “non-toxic environment” objective of its master plan, reporting that it included targets to phase out chemicals of concern, remediation of contaminated sites and continuous reduction of the health and environmental risks of chemicals.

(ii) *Knowledge and information*

43. Responses to this section of the questionnaire indicated that measures to strengthen knowledge and information either had already been implemented widely or were being developed in different regions of the world. These measures were undertaken not only in consideration of the Strategic Approach but also against the background of other legally binding or voluntary instruments. The Governments of Chile and Costa Rica reported on activities to promote the dissemination of information about chemical safety and management issues, including through educational programmes and training seminars. The Government of Thailand referred to the constitutional right to know and access to information and reported on chemicals management data that was readily available in different formats and systems, mostly through government and academic websites.

44. The Government of Kuwait cited a network to provide information on chemicals in trade and the participation of the scientific community as a relevant source of information and a source of capacity-building. The Government of the Czech Republic noted the publication of chemical monitoring and assessment results on a regular basis, as well as available printed and electronic guidance material on chemicals; it further indicated that the National Persistent Organic Pollution Centre was used as a venue for sharing and disseminating information in the field of persistent organic pollutants. The Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported on a set of national environmental indicators as an important source of information.

45. The Government of Morocco reported that it had undertaken an inventory of hazardous chemical products. The Government of Mexico indicated that a chemicals inventory was under development and that it would be used to gather data at the national level for access by all interested sectors. The Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Mongolia referred to workshops held to exchange information on relevant aspects of the Strategic Approach and multilateral environmental agreements. The Government of Hungary reported on existing programmes in place to offer information on pesticides and their use, with emphasis on health and environmental issues. The Government of Estonia reported on a poison information centre in place to provide information in case of poisoning. The Governments of Cyprus and Estonia reported on a help desk that provided information on activities relating to the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances.

46. The Government of the United States of America referred to the development and publication of novel methods and models, which in some cases had been applied in relation to risk studies and had supported the assessment of health risks posed by the environmental exposure of children. Most of the information regarding risk was available through the database of the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS).

47. The Governments of Panama, Poland, Romania and Sweden cited their existing websites with information on chemical safety issues. The European Commission referred to publications that contained information on chemicals assessments to support the implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances. The Government of the United States of America reported on activities, in collaboration with OECD and participating countries, for developing guidelines and information tools on various aspects of chemicals, which were mostly available through electronic means. The Government of Morocco reported that it had established a website for the exchange of information on chemical products and had reinforced the application of the Globally Harmonized System. The Government of Cyprus referred to available information on a website that included topics like labelling, risk assessment and toxicity assessment for Globally Harmonized System implementation. The Government of

Indonesia reported that training materials for the Globally Harmonized System were available but that an action plan for implementation was still lacking.

48. The usefulness and importance of applying tools such as pollutant release and transfer registers as a relevant source of information on priority chemicals was noted by the Governments of Chile and Mexico, both having national systems already in place. The Governments of Costa Rica, Georgia and Thailand reported that systems were being developed to improve access to chemical information. The Government of the United States of America described the publicly available Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) database, containing information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities, which were reported annually. The Government of Belarus reported that a national register of potentially toxic chemicals was being developed. The Government of Morocco indicated that a pilot registry for emissions and transfers of pollutants at the industry level had been established.

*(iii) Governance*

49. The strengthening of institutions and the review and updating of existing legislation and regulatory mechanisms were some of the most common measures reported by Governments to achieve governance objectives as set out in the Strategic Approach. The Governments of Bahrain, Chile, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova and Thailand indicated that there was a need for efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and to analyse existing chemicals management legislation and policies.

50. The Governments of Albania and Cyprus referred to their national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention. Also in relation to this instrument, the Government of the Czech Republic cited the National Persistent Organic Pollutants Centre and its function as an advisory body on chemicals management issues. The Government of Belarus emphasized the need to set priorities from the Strategic Approach in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Government of Belize indicated that a soon-to-start project targeted the mainstreaming of chemicals management into national development plans. The Government of Costa Rica noted activities to incorporate the concept of pollution prevention in policies and the promotion of public and private partnerships for hazardous waste management.

51. The Government of Panama reported on a pilot project to strengthen governance and increase participation by civil society. The Government of Morocco referred to its national action plan, which envisaged the reinforcement of national legislation concerning the handling of chemicals products through the preparation of a comprehensive law; it also mentioned the involvement of civil society in the activities undertaken in the area of chemicals products. The Government of Cyprus indicated that it used its national chemicals profile to support international cooperation, while the Government of Georgia reported that an update of its chemicals profile constituted an enabling activity in support of the Strategic Approach. The Government of Estonia reported that efforts targeting this objective were considered in existing national programmes and activities to promote and ensure chemical safety.

52. The Governments of Hungary and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported that there was a need to change and update, as appropriate, current national legislation to align it with European Union requirements for the implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances and Globally Harmonized System implementation. The Governments of Poland and Romania referred to specific activities to achieve governance efforts through the implementation of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances; these countries also noted the existence of cooperation networks within the European region. The European Commission indicated that it encouraged global action on mercury, including a legally binding instrument as an option for reducing the risks posed by that substance. It also reported on regular efforts made to support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements throughout Europe.

*(iv) Capacity-building and technical cooperation*

53. The Government of Chile indicated that it expected to achieve capacity-building objectives by strengthening the implementation of instruments related to chemical safety, with specific training programmes for industry and workers. The Government of Costa Rica reported that there was a need to develop a broader and sustainable strategy for capacity-building, with emphasis on, among other things, hazardous waste management, cleaner production initiatives and inventories of contaminated sites. The Government of Panama indicated that several academic programmes were offered to build capacity in the fields of occupational health and environmental impact assessment; it also referred to regular training programmes on thematic areas such as chemical risks and toxicology that were offered to

Government officials. The Government of Mexico responded that a chemicals unit currently being planned would have a strong emphasis on capacity-building activities.

54. The Government of Bahrain reported on education and awareness programmes for stakeholders with responsibility for chemicals management issues. The Government of Kuwait referred to efforts to train and build capacities of customs officers to track and reduce illegal traffic; other areas of work included trade codes used for chemicals and analytical laboratories. The Government of Morocco mentioned the preparation of a national plan for the strengthening of capacities in relation to the management of chemical products for all concerned stakeholders and referred to the organization of national workshops, participation in regional and international workshops and the reinforcement of national capacities for the secure management of pesticides; it also referred to several capacity-building activities in the areas of clean production and sustainable production and consumption, which were undertaken by the Moroccan Centre for Clean Production and industry.

55. The Governments of Cyprus and Estonia referred to capacity-building activities in support of the European Commission regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances and its implementation. The Governments of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova indicated that capacity-building and technical cooperation activities had been incorporated into national development plans. The Government of Romania mentioned an increased institutional capacity through quantitative and qualitative augmentation of relevant human resources. The Government of Hungary reported on efforts made to reinforce and reorganize relevant authorities in order to meet new requirements under legally binding instruments. The Government of Poland cited information networks and cooperation schemes that were conducted at the national and European levels. The Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported on actions taken by the Ministry of Health to cover training in specific issues such as classification, production, marketing, control and inspection of chemicals. The Government of the Czech Republic noted that technical assistance was being offered in respect of persistent organic pollutants, pollutant release and transfer registries, cleaner production, pesticides and health and safety issues.

56. The Government of Indonesia reported that, as host to the regional centre for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, it provided capacity-building and awareness-raising actions in the Asia-Pacific region. The Government of Thailand noted its active participation in technical cooperation activities and related workshops in the same region. The Government of Mongolia mentioned that its national steering committee for chemicals management had already identified priorities and related capacity-building needs.

(v) *Illegal international traffic*

57. The Government of Bahrain said that capacity-building efforts were needed to establish effective control of illegal traffic through customs practices. It stressed that appropriate schemes were needed to integrate chemicals management as a priority issue in development strategies. The Government of Kuwait indicated that coordinating actions among stakeholders at the national level, as along with appropriate mechanisms and necessary equipment, were important to the prevention of illegal traffic. The Government of Morocco referred to efforts to enact a decree on the control of transboundary movements of waste, the reinforcement of coordination among stakeholders and the preparation of a capacity-building programme for customs officials on the transboundary movement of chemical products and waste.

58. The Government of Belarus reported on the enforcement of legislation related to the trade of chemicals. The Government of Hungary described cooperation efforts among customs officials and authorities for chemical safety, promoting the exchange of information on restrictions placed on chemicals and trade. On a similar note, the Government of Cyprus reported that its customs authorities working against illegal traffic. The Czech Republic indicated that financial contributions were made to support a green customs initiative. The Government of Estonia confirmed that it had ratified the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and reported on its participation at meetings at the European level to discuss trade issues related to waste. The Governments of Georgia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova responded by referring to how existing environmental management acts or laws were used to address the illegal transfer of hazardous waste and toxic chemicals. The Government of Romania reported on activities by its customs authority, which promoted measures to control illegal traffic in compliance with international conventions. The European Commission reported on the implementation of a waste strategy in the European Union which addressed, among other things, the prevention and control of illegal trade.

59. The Governments of Chile and Mexico referred to the international chemicals agenda and relevant coordination efforts to comply with multilateral environmental agreements, along with activities to prevent and control illegal traffic. The Government of Panama said that coordination with customs authorities required certain improvements and that activities were under way to achieve that objective. The Government of Costa Rica cited its intention to improve national strategies to prevent, detect and control illegal transboundary movement of wastes.

60. The Government of the United States of America emphasized the support that it gave to the United Nations Environment Programme's Green Customs Initiative to build the capacity of custom officials and noted that it offered training courses to countries in Central America on illegal traffic matters.

61. The Government of Indonesia cited efforts to control the illegal movement of hazardous waste through the enforcement of existing environmental acts. The Government of Thailand indicated that with the ratification of several multilateral environmental agreements the issue of illegal traffic was being addressed in coordination with customs and other competent authorities.

*(b) If desired, please attach a summary of new and/or extended programmes, projects and activities in relation to relevant work areas from among the 36 work areas set out in the SAICM Global Plan of Action.*

62. The Governments of Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Jordan, the Republic of Moldova, Panama, Romania, Sweden and the United States of America submitted summaries of work plans to achieve the five objectives, bilateral activities, participation in projects funded under the Quick Start Programme and new programmes related to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

## **C. Submissions received from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations**

### **1. Coordination arrangements**

*(a) Has a SAICM Focal Point been nominated?; (b) In the case of large organizations, have inter-divisional coordination arrangements been put in place?; (c) If yes, please describe (e.g. composition of a coordinating committee or working group)*

63. All 7 intergovernmental and 11 non-governmental organizations that responded to the questionnaire indicated that they had designated Strategic Approach focal points. The data on focal points held by the secretariat reveals that 60 non-governmental and 13 intergovernmental organizations had nominated national focal points by 9 and 16 February 2009, respectively. AWHHE and ISE POP CI reported that working groups had been established comprising representatives of several non-governmental organizations from the environment and health fields. AVEPGRC indicated that it carried out coordination efforts through a bureau including several technical commissions. COLNODO reported a coordination scheme through a youth group that receives advice from other non-governmental organizations. SETAC reported that its coordination mechanisms consisted of a committee that worked directly on Strategic Approach issues and other thematic and advisory scientific groups.

64. IFCS referred to the Forum Standing Committee as the main coordination group, while OECD reported that representatives of entities in the chemicals field constituted its main coordination contacts. UNDP referred to its Environment and Energy Group, whose Montreal Protocol and Chemicals Unit dealt with chemicals management activities. UNIDO referred to specific units within the organization dealing with cleaner production, water management and persistent organic pollutants that participated in coordination arrangements.

65. Croplife International cited regional coordination by means of a virtual team. Similarly, the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) indicated that national and regional associations participated in overseeing implementation of the Strategic Approach and that the current focus was on preparing contributions for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management based on the work of task groups.

## 2. Initial planning

*(a) Has a planning meeting or meetings of stakeholders within your organization or constituency been convened?; (b) If yes, please elaborate (e.g. describe the nature of the meeting(s) and indicate which stakeholders participated)*

66. AWHHE reported that stakeholder meetings had been convened to allow non-governmental organizations, national focal points and the public sector to discuss the Strategic Approach and chemical safety issues. ALU-TUCP reported that coordination meetings had been organized, while AVEPGRC and ISE POP CI reported on meetings held to disseminate information and raise awareness on issues related to the Strategic Approach. Participants at these meetings included members of women's groups and indigenous communities and several other non-governmental organizations. ICEM informed that consultation meetings had been attended by trade union representatives, scientists and representatives from the public sector. SETAC noted that scientific discussions were the central topic of the meetings that had been organized to discuss Strategic Approach objectives.

67. The chemical safety committee of CCAD, constituted by Government officials from Central American countries, reported that it had convened inter-sectoral meetings to discuss operational aspects of the Strategic Approach. IFCS reported that meetings of the Standing Committee to discuss topics relevant to the Strategic Approach had taken place at its fifth and sixth sessions. OECD noted that chemical safety issues had been discussed by Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and trade unions at its regular meetings on chemicals and pesticides. UNDP reported that its staff members communicated regularly and reported on progress made on chemicals management projects. UNIDO reported that its environmental management branch had held an initial meeting to present the activities that had been carried out and that fit into the objectives of the Strategic Approach, as well as to discuss its role in the Quick Start Programme and planning work for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. WHO referred to a previous meeting of the World Health Assembly, where the Strategic Approach had been adopted by member states and specific activities had been proposed to facilitate its implementation.

68. Croplife International cited a stewardship workshop attended by non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and the public and private sectors, at which the organization's strategy to support the Strategic Approach was discussed. ICCA referred to its annual regional and global meetings, where affiliates promoted the Responsible Care programme, which incorporated objectives of the Strategic Approach.

*(c) Has work commenced on preparing a SAICM implementation plan for your organization?; (d) If yes, please elaborate (e.g. indicate the timeframe for preparing the plan and note its relationship, if any, to previous plans; describe the outcomes of any capacity needs assessment and prioritization exercises undertaken)*

69. AWHHE reported that projects carried out by the organization reflected efforts to implement the Strategic Approach. ALU-TUCP noted efforts made to implement the Strategic Approach through information networks, capacity-building and educational programmes and specific actions on persistent organic pollutant management. AVEPGRC and ISE POP CI reported on their work in support of activities at the national level with linkages to Strategic Approach training programmes and awareness-raising strategies. SETAC highlighted the scientific content of its implementation plan, with workshops and regional meetings planned to discuss emerging issues in the chemicals field. UDASA indicated that a first stage of planning was expected to start in 2009 with a preliminary phase that would look into existing regional problems and potential solutions, as well as key actors that needed to be identified to contribute to the process. The UCT indicated that implementation of the Strategic Approach is mainly promoted through electronic forums directed to regulators and technical offices in the field of pesticides.

70. IFCS reported on progress made at its fifth and sixth meetings, where the main subjects of discussion were the various objectives of the Strategic Approach. OECD and WHO reported that contributions to the Strategic Approach were being made through their work programmes. UNDP noted that it was in the process of finalizing a global action plan for mainstreaming environmental and sustainable development in national plans, which would include activities related to the Strategic Approach. UNIDO indicated that a planning phase was expected before the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

71. Croplife International reported that its policy on the Strategic Approach involved the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Further priorities that were identified by the organization included, among others, the integration of pest

management strategies, illegal trade and management of obsolete stocks. ICCA emphasized that implementation of the Responsible Care programme was its main contribution to support the Strategic Approach, with further work carried out by task groups on specific areas of work.

### 3. Assessment of progress

*(a) Indicate, below, each of the five categories of objectives set out in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy in which new and/or extended programmes, projects or activities have been undertaken by your Organization as part of SAICM implementation.*

#### *(i) Risk reduction*

72. AWHHE, ISE-POP-CI and Cape Town University (UCT) considered that educational campaigns, awareness-raising and training programmes are priority measures to reduce the risks arising from pesticide use, trade and management. ALU-TUCP saw risk assessment as an important tool for evaluating the use of pesticides at the national level. AVEPGRC referred to information campaigns held to promote the Strategic Approach and its participation in related planning meetings and discussions. SETAC cited a report on activities to enhance scientific knowledge on chemicals, particularly persistent organic pollutants.

73. CCAD noted that a preliminary study under way was considering the need to review existing legal, technical and regulatory infrastructures and proposed a regional implementation of the Strategic Approach. IFCS reported that at its fifth and sixth sessions it had made recommendations to include risk reduction activities relating to toys and chemical safety, nanotechnology, mercury, lead and cadmium, substitution and alternatives, among other things. UNDP provided clear examples of activities that supported risk reduction, such as strengthening regulatory and enforcement frameworks. UNIDO said that a life cycle approach to analyzing chemicals and the development of safer alternatives to chemical products were priority measures for risk reduction. WHO considered that methods to assess the impacts of chemicals on human health constituted key tools for setting priorities to contribute further to this objective.

74. Croplife International indicated that organizational efforts relied on training activities for those involved in the use, trade and management of pesticides and the Africa Stockpiles Programme providing for the safe disposal of obsolete pesticides. ICCA described how its Responsible Care Global Charter was expected to improve performance reporting and also increase best practices at the global level. Other relevant measures cited by the organization included guidelines for products and stewardship and an information database on risks.

#### *(ii) Knowledge and information*

75. AWHHE, AVEPGRC, ICEM and UDASA indicated that information on chemicals management and chemical safety issues was offered through information and awareness-raising campaigns in which users, workers and decision makers were the target audience. ALU-TUCP referred to the existing national chemicals inventory in the Philippines. COLNODO noted that dissemination of the Strategic Approach was a continuous activity prior to a priority-setting stage. ISE-POP-CI reported that it targeted a mass audience with information campaigns through television spots and radio broadcasts. SETAC referred to scientific reports of its technical workshops as a substantive source of information on emerging chemical issues. UCT noted that electronic information and training materials were key tools with which to provide information to regulators in the field of pesticides; relevant research work was also reported as a source of information.

76. CCAD identified the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as a priority issue with regard to the Strategic Approach and said that an information sharing strategy for this work area was in place. IFCS cited its meetings reports along with other materials in electronic format containing information relevant to chemical safety and issues addressed at the Forum's sessions. OECD reported an extensive list of materials and information available on the various issues that were covered by its chemicals programme. UNDP noted its work to disseminate information and training and awareness-raising activities. UNIDO reported that it specialized in producing information through the implementation of methodologies and technologies that promoted pollution prevention in the industrial sector. UNITAR indicated that dissemination materials on several topics pertaining to chemicals management were regularly developed and made available. WHO described its activities in respect of areas that it had identified as health sector priorities, through consultations with its member States, during the Strategic Approach negotiations. Those areas included, among others, improvements in the accessibility, interpretation and application of scientific knowledge, the filling of gaps in scientific knowledge and the development of globally-harmonized methods for chemical risk assessment.

77. Croplife International indicated that free electronic information about pesticide management practices was available and that a learning programme on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides was offered online. ICCA reported that tools and guidance had been developed to foster the gathering of industrial data, which was later published in electronic format.

(iii) *Governance*

78. AWHHE and UDASA indicated that current activities consisted of offering views and suggestions on pesticide issues and existing regulations to relevant authorities with the aim of promoting changes in the existing infrastructure. ALU-TUCP said that adoption of multilateral environmental agreements and coordination efforts among stakeholders was critical to achieving implementation of the Strategic Approach. AVEPGRC indicated that it worked closely with national focal points to offer views and recommendations. ISE-POP-CI preferred the organization of workshops with Government ministries to disseminate information about and promote understanding of multilateral environmental agreements. UCT stressed the importance of existing efforts to harmonize pesticide regulation in African countries.

79. CCAD noted that a regional strategy on health and agricultural issues included a work area on chemicals. OECD referred to continuing work to develop and disseminate several tools supporting governance such as test guidelines, good laboratory practices and compliance monitoring. UNDP indicated that assistance was provided to facilitate the development of national and sectoral policies on persistent organic pollutants and ozone-depleting substances. UNITAR reported on thematic workshops on the Strategic Approach, governance and multi-stakeholder participation. WHO noted its work to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Approach from a health perspective.

80. Croplife International cited its global stewardship strategy and the need to promote it at the regional and national levels. ICCA offered a similar view on its Responsible Care programme, its implementation and its relevance as a governance supporting tool.

(iv) *Capacity-building and technical cooperation*

81. AWHHE reported on field work conducted to identify alternatives for treatment and disposal of obsolete pesticides in hot spots. ALU-TUCP stressed capacity-building needs to strengthen sectoral efforts on chemicals management. AVEPGRC reported initiatives to encourage the use of safer alternatives to toxic pesticides and other products. ISE-POP-CI noted that its efforts were concentrated on building the capacity of non-governmental organizations in respect of persistent organic pollutant issues. SETAC reported that planned activities included a risk assessment workshop, followed by future training focused on life cycle topics. UCT referred to its capacity-building programmes for pesticide regulators in Africa and online courses in the same field.

82. CCAD cited its work in training authorities responsible for chemical emergencies and accidents. UNDP reported that it had embarked on technical assistance activities to demonstrate alternative technologies and more efficient production processes. UNIDO indicated that a wide programme of activities was in place to promote improved efficiency and cleaner production schemes with a preventive approach in the industrial sector. UNITAR reported on its active participation in capacity-building programmes offered to developing countries on a wide variety of topics such as pollutant release and transfer registers, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, risk management and mercury. WHO reported on relevant activities to build capacity to chemical poisoning incidents.

83. At the industry association level, Croplife International reported its continuing training programmes for pesticide users, while ICCA referred to workshops to build capacity relevant to the Globally Harmonized System and product stewardship issues.

(v) *Illegal international traffic*

84. AWHHE and AVEPGRC noted contributions made by providing relevant authorities with information on illegal trade of chemicals. ALU-TUCP raised concerns about the increasing production of chemicals in the developing world and the need to improve efforts to reinforce appropriate regulations. ISE-POP-CI reported on its promotion activities to ensure proper labelling for persistent organic pollutant containers and field work to identify illegal trade in low income areas. The last activity was also reported by UCT in South Africa.

85. CCAD stressed the need to implement tariff codes for the chemicals trade in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements in Latin America. IFCS cited a draft decision that the Forum submitted to the UNEP Governing Council to facilitate activities necessary to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals.

86. Croplife International reported on its activities and programmes to raise awareness on regulatory issues and the training of farmers on the risks associated with the illegal use of chemical products. ICCA emphasized the activities that it carried out to address illegal traffic, particularly awareness and information to help authorities to detect and seize illegal products; it also referred to awareness-raising on the dangers of using illegal products.

*(b) If desired, please attach a breakdown of new and/or extended programmes, projects and activities in relation to the 36 work areas set out in the SAICM Global Plan of Action*

87. AWHHE described additional work that included projects with specific activities to organize workshops related to the Strategic Approach and disseminate information on chemical safety issues; it also reported that guidelines were being developed with information on safe uses of pesticides in agriculture and precautionary measures. ISE-POP-CI reported on other activities that included awareness-raising initiatives in communities and regions; capacity-building for members of non-governmental organizations and civil society through thematic conferences on persistent organic pollutants and pollution issues at the national level; and collection and storage of empty containers. CCAD briefly described additional activities currently being developed in Central America, with emphasis on the development of pollutant release and transfer registers and a scheme for regional Strategic Approach implementation. ICEM reported on a joint initiative to identify and assess capacity and needs of trade unions in the areas of chemical risk and chemicals management.

#### **D. Other comments on SAICM implementation (Governments and organizations)**

88. The Government of Bahrain noted its initial work on a project financed through the Quick Start Programme to build capacity for an integrated and sustainable hazardous waste management programme. The Government of Chile mentioned an agreement with UNITAR to work on an update of the country's national chemicals management profile in support of decision-making and capacity strengthening. The Czech Republic supported Strategic Approach implementation with contributions to the Quick Start Programme and other Strategic Approach related activities and also mentioned its support for a merging of activities or a synergistic approach between IFCS and the Strategic Approach. The Government of Estonia referred to the ratification of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals at the national level, the establishment of activities to prevent major industrial accidents and the use of lead-free petrol. The Government of Mongolia reported on its work on Strategic Approach implementation as a pilot country in a project by UNITAR and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in addition to other Quick Start Programme funded enabling activities. The Government of Panama referred to its efforts to build synergies between the Strategic Approach and multilateral environmental agreements at the country level. The Government of Romania reported on its participation in the pilot testing of Strategic Approach implementation indicators. The Government of Zambia launched a Strategic Approach project to establish coordinating mechanisms.

89. AVEPGRC indicated that additional contributions to the Strategic Approach included making recommendations to the Quick Start Programme and proposing issues for discussion by UNEP and IFCS on several topics in the chemicals field. ALU-TUCP stressed that trade unions had to be involved in consultations on decision-making on chemicals management issues but that education and training programmes were needed to ensure informed participation by that sector. SETAC acknowledged the coincidence of interest between its programme and the scientific interests and needs of the Strategic Approach and reported that it planned to approach common issues to provide solid and peer reviewed science to the Strategic Approach.

90. UNDP described its support for achieving the sound management of chemicals by providing assistance in specific areas, including ozone-layer protection, persistent organic pollutants, the Strategic Approach and reducing and preventing chemical pollution of international waters. UNITAR indicated that most Strategic Approach work areas were covered through programmes and services to support initial capacity development in countries to implement the Strategic Approach. WHO highlighted its leading role in the Strategic Approach through the providing its expertise on health-related issues and its role as the executing agency for several projects funded through the Quick Start Programme to support the strengthening of national capacities in several countries.