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International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Venue and date of the third session of the Conference

Scheduling of sessions of the Conference

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management provides that “where appropriate, sessions of the Conference should be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the Strategic Approach’s multi-sectoral nature. Sessions of the Conference should be held in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2020, unless otherwise decided by the Conference”.

2. The first session of the Conference was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, back-to-back with the ninth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The present, second session of the Conference is being held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, back-to-back with the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the sixty-second World Health Assembly.

3. As indicated above, the third session of the Conference is expected to be held in 2012. Governing body meetings of potentially relevant intergovernmental organizations and meetings of other forums to be held in 2012 are likely to include the following:

- (a) Twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, May 2012;
- (b) 101st session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, June 2012;
- (c) Annual ministerial-level meeting of the Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, May or June 2012;
- (d) Annual session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, New York or Geneva, mid-2012;
- (e) Twelfth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, venue to be determined, February 2012;

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

(f) Annual session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva;

(g) Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank, Washington or elsewhere.

4. No meetings are scheduled in 2012 for the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization or the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Substances and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade or the Stockholm Convention.

5. In considering the venue and dates for its third session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management may wish to take account of:

(a) Any proposal from an intergovernmental organization listed in paragraph 3 above, or from other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to schedule the third session of the Conference back-to-back with the meeting of the organization's governing body in 2012;

(b) Rotation among the various sectors relevant to the Strategic Approach;

(c) Geographical rotation, bearing in mind the limited scope therefor, given that the governing bodies of most relevant intergovernmental organizations meet at headquarters locations in Western Europe or in New York and venues outside these areas in 2012 may not yet have been decided.

6. In the event that no intergovernmental organization is in a position to express interest in having the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management held back-to-back with a meeting of the organization's governing body, the Conference may wish to agree on a process following the current session for deciding the venue and date of its third session. This may involve calling for proposals by a certain date; designating the seat of the Strategic Approach secretariat, Geneva, as the default venue in the absence of alternative proposals; and delegating authority to the Bureau of the Conference to take a decision.
