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Agenda item 4 (e)*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International
Chemicals Management: financial and technical resources for implementation**

**Summary and commentary on submissions received from
stakeholders in response to the questionnaires on financial
arrangements for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals
Management**

Note by the Secretariat

Executive summary

1. The functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management include working to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available for implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and evaluating the performance of its financing. Submissions, which are summarized in the present note, were received from 22 Governments, 4 intergovernmental organizations and 5 non-governmental organizations in response to a questionnaire issued by the Secretariat on the Strategic Approach financial arrangements. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather information to assist stakeholders in preparing for the second session of the Conference. The submissions process was undertaken in advance of the informal preparatory discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008. An earlier version of the present note was issued as document SAICM/InfDisc/3 for the informal discussions. Participants in the second session of the Conference may wish to take account of the views expressed by respondents as they consider the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach.

2. Responses to the questionnaire revealed that considerable efforts have been made by many Governments and organizations to support the financing of Strategic Approach objectives at the national or sub-national levels. In the case of Governments, this has often involved the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into formal planning documents. Some developed country Governments indicated that existing plans and assessments relating to chemicals management adequately reflected Strategic Approach objectives. Many of the Governments of developing and transition economy countries that responded appeared to be relying on projects under the Quick Start Programme as a means of assessing needs and integrating Strategic Approach objectives. The use of economic instruments to support the cost of chemicals management was reported by many of the developed country Governments that responded. Notwithstanding the evidence of significant investments to implement the Strategic Approach at the national level, it might be observed that a relatively small proportion of developing and transition economy countries responded to the questionnaire and those respondents may be assumed to be among the more active and committed of such Governments. This suggests that the overall picture of

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

efforts to support the financing of Strategic Approach at the national level in the initial implementation phase (2006–2008) may be less positive. General reporting on implementation progress that has been sought in preparation for the second session of the Conference may provide additional indications.

3. Responses to questions on enhancing industry partnerships suggest that relatively few new initiatives have been taken in this area since the adoption of the Strategic Approach. Developed country Governments tended to indicate that existing initiatives or responses to other developments such as regionally-applied legislation were sufficient. One intergovernmental organization with a specific mandate relating to industrial development had active programmes to enhance industry partnerships. No response to the questionnaire was received from industry associations.

4. Responses indicated that new work to integrate Strategic Approach objectives into national planning for development assistance cooperation was under way in a significant number of developing and transition economy countries and that the Quick Start Programme was a key facilitator in this regard. A small but important group of donor Governments also confirmed that chemicals management, and sometimes specifically Strategic Approach, objectives were being reflected in development cooperation planning. While the governing bodies of all participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) had formally recognized the Strategic Approach, the limited responses to the questionnaires did not reveal the extent to which Strategic Approach objectives had been reflected in the activities of most of the organizations. More extensive information in this regard is expected to be presented at the second session of the Conference.

5. Responses to questions provided only a glimpse of the use of existing sources of relevant global funding, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer. It may be necessary to undertake more systematic and direct research in conjunction with the relevant secretariats and implementing agencies to obtain a true picture.

6. Given that the Quick Start Programme is the only new mechanism specifically dedicated to supporting initial enabling activities to implement the Strategic Approach, it is unsurprising that responses to questions on this arrangement were relatively extensive. They have been supplemented with additional data provided by the Secretariat. Comments on the adequacy on the effectiveness of the Programme were generally positive, though some respondents noted that administrative delays had affected the commencement of projects. Some respondents were of the view that more resources were needed and that restrictions on the number of projects for which individual countries were permitted to apply should be lifted.

7. The Secretariat would like to express its appreciation to the Governments and organizations that have made generous financial and in-kind contributions enabling the Secretariat to fulfil its functions. Resources have been sufficient for the Secretariat to fulfil most of these functions in the initial phase of Strategic Approach implementation. There are nevertheless continuing resourcing challenges to be discussed during the second session of the Conference.

8. Additional issues raised by respondents included the need to resolve arrangements for financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach after the Quick Start Programme, to broaden the donor base, to improve the availability of practical technology, to improve multisectoral engagement in the Strategic Approach and to make financial arrangements more flexible.

Background

9. The functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management set out in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach include working to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available to implement the Strategic Approach and to evaluate the performance of its financing. In preparation for the informal discussions in advance of the second session of the Conference, and in consultation with the “Friends of the Secretariat” planning group, the Secretariat issued a questionnaire on Strategic Approach financial arrangements. The questionnaire was issued in two versions, one for Governments and the other for organizations. Individual responses thereto may be viewed on the Secretariat website (www.saicm.org).

10. The questionnaire sought information on the implementation of the six financial arrangements for the Strategic Approach set out in paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy:

(a) Actions at the national or sub-national levels to support the financing of Strategic Approach objectives;

- (b) Enhancing industry partnerships and financial and technical participation in the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives;
- (c) Integration of Strategic Approach objectives into multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation;
- (d) Making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding;
- (e) Supporting initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach by establishing the Quick Start Programme;
- (f) Inviting Governments and other stakeholders to provide resources to enable the Strategic Approach secretariat to fulfil its tasks, as set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

11. The present note summarizes and provides commentary from the Secretariat on the submissions for the information of participants in the second session of the Conference. In the sections below, the Secretariat has summarized submissions in relation to each of the six financial arrangements for implementation of the Strategic Approach set out above, with commentary and additional information provided by the Secretariat where appropriate. The summarized responses are grouped under each of the questions, as originally numbered, from the questionnaires. Because responses to the separate questionnaires for Governments and organizations are presented, question numbers are sometimes repeated.

Submissions received

12. The Secretariat received submissions from the following 22 Governments in response to the questionnaire: Bahrain; Belarus; Belgium; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Comoros; Congo; Costa Rica; Croatia; Finland; Germany; Honduras; Hungary; Japan; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Mali; Norway; Peru; Republic of Korea; Sweden; United States of America; and Yemen. A submission was also received from one regional economic integration organization, the European Commission.

13. Submissions were received from the following four intergovernmental organizations: the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS); the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

14. Submissions were received from the following five non-governmental organizations: the Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA); the Associated Labour Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP); the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE); the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC); and the Union for Defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya (UDASA).

Financial arrangement (a): Actions at the national or sub-national levels to support the financing of Strategic Approach objectives

15. Responses to the questionnaire revealed that many Governments and organizations have made considerable efforts to support the financing of Strategic Approach objectives at the national or sub-national levels. In the case of Governments, this has often involved the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into formal planning documents. Some developed country Governments indicated that existing plans and assessments relating to chemicals management adequately reflected Strategic Approach objectives. Many of the Governments of developing and transition economy countries that responded appeared to be relying on projects under the Quick Start Programme as a means of assessing needs and integrating Strategic Approach objectives. The use of economic instruments to support the cost of chemicals management appeared widespread among the developed country Governments that responded. Notwithstanding the evidence of significant investments to implement the Strategic Approach at the national level, it might be observed that a relatively small proportion of developing and transition economy countries responded to the questionnaire and those that did may be assumed to be among the more active and committed of such Governments. This suggests that the overall picture of efforts to support the financing of Strategic Approach at the national level in the initial implementation phase (2006–2008) may be less positive. General reporting on implementation progress that has been sought in preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management may provide additional indications in this regard.

Has your Government integrated Strategic Approach objectives in relevant programmes, plans or strategies at various levels?

16. The Governments of Bahrain, Honduras and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia indicated that such integration was envisaged as part of their upcoming Quick Start Programme projects. The Government of Belarus reported that the goal and objectives of the Strategic Approach had been included in the draft of its updated national strategy for sustainable social and economic development until 2025. The Government of Burkina Faso said that it was currently updating its national chemicals profile. The Government of Costa Rica referred to its Strategic Approach workplan. The Government of Croatia noted that Strategic Approach objectives had been integrated into its national chemical safety strategy, which was being considered by the parliament. The Government of Mali said that plans to clean up medium-sized cities had included references to Strategic Approach objectives.

17. The Government of Belgium said that an analysis of Strategic Approach activities was under way. The Government of Finland confirmed that it had implemented European Union chemicals legislation and described its national chemicals programme, which had a similar goal to that of the Strategic Approach, namely the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target of sound chemicals management by 2020. The Government of Hungary referred to relevant programmes and plans including those relating to environmentally-friendly farming, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and waste management. The Government of Japan reported that its latest “environmental basic plan” had incorporated Strategic Approach objectives. The Government of Norway referred to a national chemicals policy document submitted to the parliament. The Government of the Republic of Korea said that it had appointed a Strategic Approach national focal point and created a Strategic Approach implementation council that would implement a national action plan. The Government of Sweden noted that a “non-toxic environment” was included among its main environmental policy objectives. The Government of the United States reported that its chemicals management objectives were consistent with and integrated many Strategic Approach objectives into national, regional and international programmes and strategies, and provided extensive examples. The European Commission referred to the submission that it had made at the third European Union-JUSSCANNZ¹ meeting on the Strategic Approach on 12 February 2008 and provided updates on the new European Chemicals Agency, recent legislation relating to mercury and a directive on waste.

Has your organization assisted in integrating Strategic Approach objectives in relevant programmes, plans and strategies at the national and sub-national levels?

18. IFCS noted that recommendations made at its fifth session on such topics as applying precaution in the context of chemicals safety, toys and chemical safety and heavy metals had provided guidance on a number of topics that are part of the Strategic Approach objectives. Similarly the outcomes of the sixth session were expected to provide guidance on relevant topics including nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, substitution and alternatives, international transport of lead and cadmium via trade and ecologically based integrated vector management and integrated pest management. UNIDO said that its cleaner production programme contributed to building capacity and implementing sound management practices at company level, through a network of 43 cleaner production centres, in strategic cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The centres were also supporting national governmental institutions in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach, including through the development and execution of Quick Start Programme projects. WHO referred to resolution 59.15 of the World Health Assembly and an updated paper that it had prepared concerning implementation of the Strategic Approach.

19. ALU-TUCP said that it had assisted through an information, communication and education campaign for agricultural workers. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate reported that they had assisted in establishing chemical safety focal points in the health sector, promoting policies related to heavy metals and pesticides and cooperating to implement instruments such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 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. UDASA indicated that it was publishing available data on pollutants affecting tap water and the Amu Darya River. It had held several seminars regarding the issue to inform the local population about persistent organic pollutants and other substances.

1 Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

Has your Government assessed current laws, policies and regulations to identify changes that may be needed to advance implementation of Strategic Approach objectives, including by assessing funding needs where appropriate?

20. The Governments of Bahrain, Belarus and Honduras indicated that such assessments would form part of their projects under the Quick Start Programme. The Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali said that these matters had been or would be tackled in their national chemicals profiles. The Government of Costa Rica referred to its Strategic Approach workplan. The Government of Croatia reported that its national chemical safety strategy included goals relating to assessment of the present situation. The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said that its legislation related to chemicals was relatively new, that sub-laws were being prepared and that its upcoming Quick Start Programme project would provide an excellent opportunity to incorporate Strategic Approach objectives into national legislation.

21. The Government of Finland described its national chemicals programme, which included prioritization of national tasks in such areas as taking control and enforcement actions and identifying substances of high concern. The Government of Germany reported that it had already implemented many elements of the Strategic Approach in national legislation and was also assessing legislation, policies and regulations for their contribution to implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Government of Japan said that inter-ministerial committees were currently reviewing legislation related to chemicals in the light of the Strategic Approach objectives. The Government of Norway indicated that an assessment has been carried out by the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority. The Government of Sweden highlighted its annual progress reports on environmental quality and the in-depth evaluations that it carried out every four years. The Government of the United States reported that it had focused its efforts on progress towards tackling the risks presented by chemicals and had made some policy enhancements in its current programmes. It annually reviewed programmatic investments in relation to priorities.

Has your organization assisted in assessing current national or sub-national laws, policies and regulations to identify changes that may be needed to advance implementation of Strategic Approach objectives, including by assessing funding needs where appropriate?

22. UNIDO indicated that assistance with assessments was foreseen in the Quick Start Programme projects that it would be executing, but these had not yet begun as a result of delays in the transfer of funds for the projects. WHO said that it was working to implement resolution 59.15 of the World Health Assembly through six regional offices and 147 country offices, in the context of country cooperation strategies, where applicable.

23. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate reported that they had been engaged in activities to strengthen national and regional policies and regulations to promote the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives and disseminate information on the Quick Start Programme. UDASA said that, during a campaign in 2004, prior to the adoption of the Strategic Approach, it had assessed national legislation to understand how it protected the population and nature against chemical pollution. The report was addressed to the Parliament of Uzbekistan with suggestions as to how the legislation should be improved, mainly in relation to water resources.

Has your Government assessed, and where necessary adopted, appropriate policies at the national and sub-national levels, including economic instruments, which might help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management?

24. The Government of Costa Rica referred to its national Strategic Approach workplan. The Government of Croatia explained that it was undertaking a project, with the assistance of the European Commission, to strengthen its legal framework and institutional infrastructure for protection from dangerous chemicals. The Government of Finland confirmed that it had implemented European Union chemicals legislation and described its national chemicals programme. The Government of Germany also referred to its adoption of European Union legal measures and noted that the costs of authorization and registration for chemicals were paid by applicants, usually chemical companies. The Government of Hungary reported that farmers could obtain grants for reducing the use of pesticides and that a certain portion of fines imposed by the chemical safety inspectorate were allocated to research and information dissemination. The Government of Norway indicated that it had a system of fees. The Government of Sweden described its system of fees on the annual production and import of chemicals, for the approval of plant protection products and biocides and on sales of chemicals. Such fees covered assessment costs and contributed to the financing of the chemicals inspectorate. The Government of the United States reported that industrial and agricultural chemicals were primarily managed through a national

programme with contributions from regional offices and state and local governments. In addition, there was an extensive waste programme managed at the regional and State levels. Some of these programmes helped to cover the cost of managing chemicals over their life cycle. The European Commission pointed out that the European Chemicals Agency was partially funded by fees paid by companies registering their substances or applying for authorization to use substances of very high concern.

Has your organization assisted in assessing appropriate policies at the national and sub-national levels, including economic instruments, which might help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management?

25. IFCS reported that the agenda for discussions at its fifth session had included the topics of poverty reduction and the sound management of chemicals, building on the Forum's previous work to tackle the issue of integration of chemicals management into development strategies and agendas. The agenda for the Forum's sixth session had included ecologically-based integrated vector management and integrated pest management and their integration into development policies and strategies. UNIDO indicated that, while assessment assistance was foreseen in the Quick Start Programme projects that it would be executing, this had not yet occurred as a result of delays in the transfer of funds for the projects. WHO said that it was working to implement resolution 59.15 of the World Health Assembly through six regional offices and 147 country offices in the context of country cooperation strategies, where applicable.

26. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate reported that they were promoting participation in and raising awareness of the Strategic Approach at the sub-national, national and regional levels. UDASA said that it had developed its own concept as to how water resources should be managed, including through the use of financial instruments. This concept was offered to the parliaments of all five Central Asian States and included a mechanism to tackle chemicals management in relation to water pollution.

Has your Government, where appropriate, assessed and adopted at the national and sub-national levels economic instruments intended to internalize the external costs of chemicals?

27. The Government of Costa Rica referred to its national Strategic Approach workplan. The Government of Finland said that relevant ministerial decrees relating to fees were in place, covering, among other things, authorization procedures for biocides and plant protection products. The Government of Germany reported that a comprehensive set of regulations was in place, which dealt with the various impacts on health and the environment from chemicals management with the aim of applying the "polluter pays" principle, i.e., internalizing external costs. The Government of Hungary said that internalization of external costs was one of the key concepts upon which its environmental protection legislation was based. The Government of Sweden provided information on taxes imposed on plant protection products, fertilisers and wastes. The Government of the United States reported on sponsorship programmes for industrial chemicals, notification and registration fees for chemicals and pesticides and permit schemes related to wastes and other releases and discharges. It also promoted other economic instruments such as procurement incentives for environmentally preferable products. The European Commission noted that the most commonly discussed instrument to internalize environmental costs – taxation – remained the domain of individual member States and was not harmonized at the European Union level. Some elements of analysing externalities were nevertheless present in the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) system.

Has your organization assisted in assessing at the national and sub-national levels economic instruments intended to internalize the external costs of chemicals?

28. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate noted that internalization of costs should form a part of all sustainable strategies for chemical safety and were always part of their own actions.

Does your Government have information on experience in and studies on the national use of economic instruments which it could share with the UNEP in order to make it broadly available?

29. The Governments of Finland and Sweden, together with the European Commission, provided references for reports and technical guidance in relation to economic environmental policy instruments. The Government of the United States provided information on its national centre for environmental economics and the resources available on its website.

Does your organization have information on experience and studies in the national use of economic instruments which it could share with UNEP in order to make it broadly available?

30. UNIDO reported that it had conducted a survey on funding options for small and medium-sized enterprises in relation to cleaner production projects and investments in environmentally sound technologies. The survey, which would soon be published, highlighted the obstacles faced by such enterprises in securing viable funding and the lack of information on funding options and on cleaner production and environmental sound technologies. ALU-TUCP recalled that it had presented such information at a United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) event and had focused on trade union issues and concerns.

Financial arrangement (b): Enhancing industry partnerships and financial and technical participation in the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives

31. Responses to questions on enhancing industry partnerships suggest that relatively few new initiatives have been launched in this area since the adoption of the Strategic Approach. Developed country Governments tended to indicate that existing initiatives or responses to other developments such as regionally-applied legislation were sufficient. One intergovernmental organization with a specific mandate relating to industrial development had active programmes to enhance industry partnerships. No response to the questionnaire was received from industry associations.

Please provide information on steps taken by your Government, if any, to encourage industry contributions to Strategic Approach implementation.

32. The Government of Bahrain indicated that the private sector was a main stakeholder and had participated actively in the implementation of ratified conventions. The Government of Belarus reported that industry was included in its inter-ministerial coordination mechanism and a pesticides factory was participating in the national project on Strategic Approach implementation. A special training programme for industry under development included as one its objectives the demonstration of the economic profits associated with improved chemicals management. The Government of Burkina Faso said that industry had participated in the development of its national profile for Strategic Approach implementation and that the environmental and social management plans of each industry manufacturing chemical products had taken the Strategic Approach into consideration. The Government of the Comoros reported that it had not yet encouraged the participation of the industrial sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Government of the Congo indicated that it had very little industry in its country and had not adopted measures in the framework of the Strategic Approach. The Government of Costa Rica noted that private enterprises participated in its technical secretariat for chemicals management coordination. The Government of Croatia said that industry was preparing for implementation of European Union legislation that would help to fulfil Strategic Approach objectives. Workshops had been organized to help industry with new obligations and to raise awareness of chemical safety issues. The Government of Mali indicated that a public-private partnership was carrying out projects relating to chemicals and that the environment office had conducted an awareness-raising campaign for industrial sectors. The Government of Peru reported that major companies importing and formulating agricultural pesticides had constructed a storage centre in the southern region for the collection of used pesticides packaging. Another storage centre was under construction in the north of the country. The Government of Yemen noted that its upcoming multisectoral Quick Start Programme project would include activities in partnership with industry.

33. The Government of Germany described its national multi-stakeholder process for Strategic Approach implementation, which had included industry participation. The Government of Finland described its advisory committee on chemicals, which included industry representatives. The Government of Hungary said that industry was required under European Union regulations to obtain and disseminate information on its products, assess their impact and apply risk reduction methods. The Government of Japan referred to a partnership programme in which industry voluntarily contributed to the safety assessment of high production volume chemicals. The Government of Sweden pointed out that as it already had a tradition of close cooperation with industry it had not been necessary to initiate new forms of cooperation. The Government of the United States described an extensive series of partnerships that it enjoyed with the private sector to enhance the sound management of chemicals in the country. The European Commission noted that the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) system required strong industry involvement in the management of chemicals.

For industry associations and relevant other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: Has your organization reviewed and sought to strengthen current voluntary industry initiatives to address the considerable challenges associated with the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives?

34. IFCS reported that aspects to strengthen industry voluntary initiatives had been included in agenda items discussed at its fifth and sixth sessions. ALU-TUCP said that it was coordinating with the Government of the Philippines.

For industry associations and relevant other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: Has your organization developed or facilitated new industry initiatives, including in partnership with foundations, academia and non-governmental organizations, for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives?

35. IFCS noted that the agenda items for its fifth and sixth sessions had included aspects relating to the facilitation of new industry initiatives and partnerships with a range of stakeholders. UNIDO reported that it had been active in the development of and dissemination of information on a new industry initiative on chemical leasing. ALU-TUCP said that it was about to initiate such initiatives.

For industry associations and relevant other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: Has your industry provided resources, including in-kind contributions, for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives, continuing and building upon its initiatives on good corporate social and environmental responsibility?

36. IFCS reported that discussion on agenda items at its fifth and sixth sessions had contributed to and supported the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives by Governments and other stakeholders. UNIDO referred to its Green Industry initiative and a number of programmes including those relating to national cleaner production centres, the Montreal Protocol, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, chemical leasing, corporate social responsibility, environmental management systems, the elimination of persistent organic pollutants and sector-specific programmes for the reduction of process wastes and pollution from the leather, textile and other sectors. ALU-TUCP said that it was about to initiate such initiatives.

Financial arrangement (c): Integration of Strategic Approach objectives into multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation

37. Responses to the questionnaire indicated that new work to integrate Strategic Approach objectives into national planning for development assistance cooperation was under way in a significant number of developing and transition economy countries and that the Quick Start Programme was a key facilitator in this regard. A small but important group of donor Governments also confirmed that chemicals management, and sometimes specifically Strategic Approach, objectives were being reflected in development cooperation planning. While the governing bodies of all IOMC participating organizations had formally recognized the Strategic Approach, the limited responses to the questionnaires did not reveal the extent to which Strategic Approach objectives had been reflected in the activities of most of the organizations. More extensive information in this regard is expected to be presented at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

For developing countries and countries with economies in transition: Has your Government, where necessary with the technical support of donors, considered the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into relevant national documents that influence development assistance cooperation?

38. The Governments of Burkina Faso, Honduras, Peru and Yemen indicated that they planned to integrate Strategic Approach objectives into national development planning documents after completing current initial work on implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Government of Mali referred to relevant work on updating its national chemicals profile and assessing its capacity for implementing the Strategic Approach. The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported that an overview of the country's chemicals management situation had been prepared for incorporation in its sustainable development strategy.

39. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat notes that the third strategic priority of the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach is "undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Strategic Approach by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities". Of the 74 projects approved for support from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund during the first five application rounds from 2006 to 2008, 12 addressed this strategic priority. These projects involved the following developing and transition economy countries: Armenia, Belarus, Belize, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda.

For all organizations: Has your organization supported the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into relevant national documents that influence development assistance cooperation?

40. IFCS reported that poverty reduction and the sound management of chemicals had been discussed at its fifth session in September 2006, building on the work of previous sessions and that a discussion of ecologically based integrated vector management and integrated pest management at the sixth session of the Forum, in September 2008, had included consideration of the integration of such policies into development strategies and agendas. WHO said that it was implementing World Health Assembly resolution 59.15 on the Strategic Approach through country cooperation strategies, where applicable. ALU-TUCP highlighted the relevance of its information, communication and education campaign for agricultural workers. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate referred to their role in promoting South-South and regional cooperation.

For donors: Has your Government responded to requests from, and worked in partnership with, developing countries and countries with economies in transition by recognizing Strategic Approach objectives as an important element of bilateral aid agency cooperation in support of sustainable development?

41. Responses were received from the European Commission and the Governments of Belgium, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Sweden and the United States. With the exception of Belgium, all said that chemicals management objectives had been included in development cooperation planning or individual projects. In some cases (such as Norway, Sweden, the United States and the European Commission), specific recognition had been given to Strategic Approach objectives.

For intergovernmental organizations: Has your organization included Strategic Approach objectives within its activities, as appropriate?

42. OECD reported that its Council had adopted a resolution on implementation of the Strategic Approach on 28 March 2008 and that implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives was an integral part of its future work programme on chemicals for the period 2009–2012. UNIDO said that on 7 December 2007 its General Conference had endorsed the Strategic Approach and the Organization's participation in implementation. WHO referred to resolution 59.15 in which the World Health Assembly had formally noted the Strategic Approach and requested the Director-General to provide support for its implementation. IFCS provided a list of topics for discussion at its fifth and sixth sessions.

43. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat notes that the governing bodies of all seven IOMC participating organizations have formally recognized the Strategic Approach. Those organizations are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO.

Financial arrangement (d): Making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding

44. Given that the responses to the questions have provided only a glimpse of the use of existing sources of relevant global funding, it may be necessary to undertake more systematic and direct research in conjunction with the relevant secretariats and implementing agencies to obtain a true picture.

For developing countries and countries with economies in transition: Has your Government sought to use GEF and Multilateral Fund projects to pursue Strategic Approach objectives that are consistent with the objectives of those funds?

45. The Governments of Bahrain, Congo, Honduras, Mali and Peru responded that they were either undertaking GEF-funded projects relevant to chemicals management work or were applying for GEF support for such projects. The Government of Honduras also said that it was undertaking a relevant project with support from the Multilateral Fund.

46. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat has been informed by the GEF Secretariat that projects under the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach have the potential to be treated as co-financing for GEF projects.

For all Governments: Has your Government, through its representatives on the relevant governing bodies, encouraged GEF and the Multilateral Fund to respond positively to the invitation contained in the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach for the two funds, within their mandates, to consider whether and how they might support implementation of appropriate and relevant Strategic Approach objectives?

47. The Government of Finland indicated that national coordination under way for the upcoming GEF Council meeting and the forthcoming fifth replenishment of GEF would need to examine this invitation, along with more general guidance to GEF from the chemicals and hazardous waste conventions. The Government of Germany expressed satisfaction that GEF already reflected capacity-building for sustainable chemicals management in its programming, but noted that effective long-term financial support for the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including potential sources such as GEF, would have to be further considered in the lead-up to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management scheduled for 2012. The Government of the United States said that within GEF it had supported the “chemicals cross-cut” and the one project proposal that had so far incorporated this. It observed that the Multilateral Fund, which only provides funding for the eligible incremental cost of developing country phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol, could be considered a general global contribution to chemicals management since funds were used to improve countries’ management of ozone-depleting chemicals. The European Commission noted that, although it was not itself a member of either GEF or the Multilateral Fund, the European Union has expressed support for appropriate use of GEF to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

For GEF and Multilateral Fund implementing and executing agencies: Has your agency sought to facilitate use of GEF and Multilateral Fund projects to pursue Strategic Approach objectives that are consistent with the objectives of those funds?

48. UNIDO, the only GEF or Multilateral Fund agency to respond, reported on its participation in a meeting of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel in April 2008 in which support was expressed for the inclusion of chemicals management as a new GEF focal area.

49. Two non-governmental organizations (ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate) indicated that they had found it slow and difficult to access funds. ALU-TUCP reported that it would be seeking GEF small grants funding to support Strategic Approach implementation activities.

Financial arrangement (e): Supporting initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach by establishing the Quick Start Programme

50. Given that the Quick Start Programme is the only new mechanism specifically dedicated to supporting initial enabling activities to implement the Strategic Approach, it is unsurprising that responses to questions on this arrangement were relatively extensive. They have been supplemented with additional data provided by the Secretariat. Comments on the adequacy of the Programme’s effectiveness were generally positive, though some respondents noted that administrative delays had affected the commencement of projects. Some respondents were of the view that more resources were needed and that restrictions on the number of projects for which individual countries were permitted to apply should be lifted. More detailed information on Quick Start Programme funding and projects is provided in the report of the Executive Board to the present session of the Conference (document SAICM/ICCM.2/5).

For developing countries and countries with economies in transition: Has your Government made use of the Quick Start Programme?

51. The Governments of Bahrain, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru and Yemen referred to projects in their countries receiving support from the Quick Start Programme.

52. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat notes that 67 government projects involving 71 countries were approved for support from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund in its first five application rounds, as set out in document SAICM/ICCM.2/5.

53. An analysis of countries receiving support under the Programme outside the trust fund framework has not yet been attempted, given the general and global nature of some of the declared non-trust fund contributions.

For non-governmental organizations: Has your organization made use of the Quick Start Programme?

54. ALU-TUCP reported that its eligibility to apply for assistance from the Quick Start Programme had been constrained by delays in the nomination of a national focal point for the Strategic Approach. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate noted that they were involved in a regional and multisectoral project under the Quick Start Programme. Funds had not yet, however, been transferred and they had experienced some administrative inconvenience in dealing with UNEP. SETAC said that it was seeking

to develop a global capacity-building programme related to risk assessment and the life cycle of chemicals within the Quick Start Programme, beginning with a training workshop for African scientists and officials and possibly involving activities in the Latin American and Asia and Pacific regions in the future.

55. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat notes that 11 non-governmental organizations are engaged in seven Quick Start Programme projects as set out in document SAICM/ICCM.2/5.

For all Governments: Has your Government contributed to the resources of the Quick Start Programme?

56. The European Commission and the Governments of Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden and United States referred to their financial contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The Government of Japan highlighted the bilateral support that it was providing to two Asian and Pacific countries as non-trust fund contributions to the Programme. The Government of Bahrain pointed out the in-kind contribution that it was making to its own national project under the Programme and the Government of Germany referred to financial contributions that it had made to support the Secretariat's activities outside the Programme.

57. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat notes that the following Governments have made financial contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, India, Madagascar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States. The European Commission has also contributed to the Trust Fund. A table with information on the contributions of individual Governments is set out in document SAICM/ICCM.2/5. It should be noted that this table does not reflect a number of very recent contributions and some substantial new contributions that are expected to be finalized in the last quarter of 2008. The Secretariat will provide an oral update during the second session of the Conference, if required.

58. The Governments of the following countries have declared non-trust fund contributions to the Programme, which have been recognized as such by the Executive Board of the Programme: Canada, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. Information on the contributions is provided in document SAICM/ICCM.2/5.

For intergovernmental organizations: Has your organization assisted eligible Governments and civil society organizations to make use of the Quick Start Programme?

59. IFCS reported that it had assisted Governments and civil society organizations to make use of the Quick Start Programme by disseminating information about the Programme to Forum participants. UNIDO said that projects submitted by the Governments of El Salvador, Peru, Sudan and Uruguay, and formulated with its assistance, had been approved for support from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. Three further projects requested by the Governments of Colombia, Egypt and Turkey, and assisted by the Organization, were currently awaiting consideration by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee. The Organization was also working with UNEP in the implementation of Quick Start Programme projects in the area of artisanal gold-mining. WHO referred to Quick Start Programme projects led by the health sector.

60. In addition to the above information, the Secretariat notes that the intergovernmental organizations are assisting Governments as executing agencies for 60 Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects approved in the first five application rounds as follows: the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (two projects); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (one project); UNEP (four projects); UNDP and UNEP jointly (seven projects); UNIDO (six projects); UNITAR (36 projects); and WHO (four projects).

61. Intergovernmental organizations assisting Governments under the Programme but outside the trust fund framework comprise the following officially recognized contributors: OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO. In addition, one non-governmental organization, the International Council of Chemical Associations, has declared non-trust fund contributions to the Programme. Information on the contributions is provided in document SAICM/ICCM.2/5.

For all Governments: Please indicate your views, if any, as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the Quick Start Programme's performance.

62. The Governments of Burundi and the Congo expressed satisfaction with the support that they had received under the Quick Start Programme. While acknowledging the value of the Programme, the Governments of Burkina Faso and Honduras called for greater resources to be made available and the Government of Peru expressed concern at delays in initiating approved projects. The Government of Belarus saw the Programme as an effective mechanism for providing financial support for initial Strategic Approach implementation activities at the national level. It called for the Secretariat to facilitate the sharing of countries' experience with projects to assist other countries with the development of applications.

63. The Government of Belgium considered that the Quick Start Programme was performing satisfactorily but that it could be scaled up if more resources were provided. The Government of Germany expressed the belief that the Programme, as a preliminary financial mechanism, was an appropriate instrument to facilitate capacity-building projects and to support cost-effective synergies. While not able to express a view, as yet, on the adequacy of the Programme's performance, it called for any future assessment of finalized projects to take into account the potential pilot character of projects and the value added for enhanced regional and subregional cooperation on a project-related basis. The Government of Sweden viewed the Programme as adequate and efficient but sought greater transparency in decision-making. The Government of the United States said that the Programme had been well managed to provide support to developing countries but expressed some concern that the mix of projects supported or requested might be overly investing in organizational activities whereas there was scope also to invest in implementation work. The Programme had also provided a positive forum to coordinate work between donors, implementing agencies and participants from various regions. The European Commission said that it preferred to wait for the completion of some projects before judging the Programme's adequacy and effectiveness. It expressed interest in receiving the views of developing countries on the ease of accessing the available resources.

For all organizations: Please indicate your views, if any, as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the Programme's performance.

64. UNIDO saw a need for improvement in the functioning of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to combat delays experienced by Governments in beginning approved projects. It also considered it critical for countries to be permitted to submit applications for more than one national, regional and civil society project. The rapid engagement of countries in the Programme had led to a focus on initial assessment activities and it was now necessary to pay more attention to the Programme's other objectives. WHO sought more expeditious transfer of Quick Start Programme funding once projects had been approved by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee, which would greatly assist countries in timely project implementation.

65. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate called for Quick Start Programme funds to be increased and the administrative mechanism to be improved. SETAC saw great potential in the Programme's support for capacity-building. It was hoping for support from the Programme for a broad global programme of regional capacity-building workshops, complemented by similar capacity-building activities focused on the life cycle of chemicals.

Financial arrangement (f): Inviting Governments and other stakeholders to provide resources to enable the Strategic Approach secretariat to fulfil its tasks, as set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy

66. The Secretariat would like to express its appreciation to the Governments and organizations that have made generous financial and in-kind contributions enabling the Secretariat to fulfil its functions. Resources have been sufficient for the Secretariat to fulfil most of these functions in the initial phase of Strategic Approach implementation, including the organization of an extensive series of regional meetings and facilitation of the Quick Start Programme. Staffing will soon match the indicative structure agreed by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution I/1. There are nevertheless continuing challenges, including the current urgent need to secure financing for the second session of the Conference, the unevenness and unpredictability of the Secretariat's cash flow, the reliance on a relatively small number of regular donors, the imbalance between the Secretariat's growing workload and its staffing levels and the possible need for the Secretariat to undertake more extensive outreach, information management and resource mobilization tasks to support the extension and maturation of Strategic Approach implementation beyond its initial start-up phase. Further information on these issues will be prepared for the consideration of the Conference at its second session.

Has your Government contributed resources, in cash or in kind, as requested in the Overarching Policy Strategy, to enable the Strategic Approach secretariat to fulfil its tasks?

67. The Governments of Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden and United States, together with the European Commission, responded by referring to their various financial contributions to the Secretariat. The Government of Bahrain referred to its in-kind contribution for its own national Quick Start Programme project.

68. To supplement the information provided in the submissions, the Secretariat has created a tabular summary of resources contributed or pledged by Governments during the period from 6 February 2006 to 31 December 2008 to enable the Secretariat to fulfil its tasks. Some contributions were to support activities in multiple years but are reflected in the table only for the year in which they were formally pledged. The United States dollar equivalents of contributions pledged but not yet paid are subject to exchange rate variations.

Table 1

Contributions in United States dollars or in-kind to the Secretariat's core budget as set out in resolution I/1 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
Australia		28 668	56 776
European Commission	187 760		320 000
Norway	38 600	45 640	47 000
Slovenia	3 755	4 032	4 716
Spain		14 000	
Sweden	100 000	77 041	63 000
Switzerland	112 419	12 419	14 470
United Kingdom		49 115	
United States		100 000	90 000

Table 2

Contributions in United States dollars or in-kind to the Secretariat's activities (such as meetings and publications)

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
Australia		20 000	
Austria	6 600		
Chile			Hosting a regional consultation
Czech Republic			32 500
Denmark	16 957		18 050
Egypt	Hosting regional meetings		
European Commission			446 000
Finland	12 700		66 458
Germany	31 500	28 000	60 000
Japan		70 000	50 000
Latvia	Hosting a regional meeting		
Mexico			Facilitating a regional consultation
Norway			131 043
Panama			Hosting a regional meeting
Romania			Hosting a regional meeting
Spain	Hosting a regional meeting	36 000	320 000 ²

² At the time of writing, a further \$590,000 of Spain's 2008 contribution towards Strategic Approach implementation had not yet been allocated.

Sweden	27 063	58 000	319 000
Switzerland	40 323		271 000
Thailand		Hosting a regional meeting	
United Kingdom			26 000
United Republic of Tanzania			Hosting a regional meeting
United States		116 000	

For the private sector, including industry, foundations and other non-governmental organizations: Has your organization contributed resources, as requested in the Overarching Policy Strategy, to enable the Strategic Approach secretariat to fulfil its tasks?

69. Five non-governmental organizations (ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate, ALU-TUCP, SETAC and UDASA) responded to this question by referring to their in-kind contributions to Strategic Approach implementation projects and activities. None of these contributions involved the direct contribution of resources to the Strategic Approach Secretariat to enable it to fulfil its official functions.

70. To supplement the information provided in the submissions, the Secretariat notes that the following organizations supported the holding of regional meetings on the Strategic Approach during 2007 and 2008: the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States and OECD. In addition, UNEP and WHO each provided one staff member to the Secretariat.

Additional comments and recommendations

71. The Government of Bahrain called for developed countries to support developing countries with practical technology for managing hazardous chemicals. The Government of Belarus drew attention to the positions on financial considerations of the African and Central and Eastern European regions, and their possible usefulness as starting points for discussion at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The Government of Burkina Faso saw a need to increase the resources available for implementing the Strategic Approach and for greater flexibility for countries lacking data on required actions. The Government of the Congo acknowledged a need to reinforce the capacity of stakeholders in sound chemicals management to achieve coordinated and efficient action at all levels, in particular that of the decision makers. The Government of Croatia indicated that current chemicals management efforts were aligned towards European Union accession requirements but that the expected adoption of a national chemical safety strategy would diminish this limitation. The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia expressed concern at the long delays in initiating its project supported by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The Government of Yemen sought greater flexibility for least developed countries in the financial arrangements for the implementation of the Strategic Approach, for example with regard to the number of projects that could be supported by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

72. The Government of Norway highlighted the need to resolve arrangements for financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach after the Quick Start Programme, for example through GEF. The Government of Sweden emphasized the importance of broadening the donor base and finding a sustainable solution for the long-term financing of the Strategic Approach, and called for an intensified effort to engage more donors.

73. WHO was of the view that there had only been partial success in achieving multisectoral engagement in the Strategic Approach. It called for additional resources in the period following the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to allow for equitable multisectoral representation in regional and global meetings and in relation to implementation of the Strategic Approach at the national and regional levels. ISDE and its Argentine national affiliate called for donors to meet the commitments that they had made during the negotiation of the Strategic Approach, for GEF, World Bank and International Development Bank to participate more actively, and for the appointment of an "ambassador" to help to promote the Strategic Approach.