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**International Conference on Chemicals Management  
Second session**

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

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**

**Submission by the International Council of Chemical  
Associations: progress report on the implementation of the  
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

**Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the executive summary of a progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management submitted by the International Council of Chemical Associations for the information of the Conference. The executive summary is being circulated as received without formal editing.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.  
\*\* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

## Annex



### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATIONS PROGRESS REPORT FOR ICCM-2

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

##### Overview

In 2002, the global chemical industry, represented by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and its members, joined with other stakeholders and governments at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in establishing a goal that, by the year 2020, chemicals will be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. The industry continues to embrace this goal and works actively toward its fulfillment.

ICCA also participated in the formulation and adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai in 2006. SAICM is a policy framework that promotes chemical safety around the world with the overall objective of achieving the WSSD goal. SAICM both acknowledges the essential contribution made by chemicals to modern society and recognizes that there is room for improvement in chemicals management.

ICCA is committed to the successful implementation of SAICM. Indeed, SAICM's core policy objectives -- relating to risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building, and illegal traffic -- have directly shaped the industry's efforts to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal.

This report provides more detail on how ICCA has worked to achieve the mutual aim of achieving the safe and environmentally sound use of chemicals worldwide since 2006, and sets out ICCA's intentions to achieve further progress in the years to come.

##### Concrete Progress Since the Dubai Conference in 2006

ICCA introduced two voluntary initiatives in Dubai as its primary contributions to achieve the objectives of SAICM and to improve the sound management of chemicals. Each of these programs aligns closely with SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy and reflects ICCA's commitment to elevate the global standard of product safety and harmonize the safe management of chemicals. Both initiatives have led to substantial progress since 2006, as described below.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is the Executive Summary of the ICCA Progress Report for ICCM-2. The full report will be issued prior to ICCM-2.

### *The Responsible Care® Global Charter*

The industry's overarching initiative launched at the Dubai Conference was the Responsible Care Global Charter. The Global Charter goes beyond the elements of industry's existing programs to address growing public dialogue over sustainable development, public health issues relating to the use of chemical products, and the need for greater industry transparency.

The Global Charter builds on the original Responsible Care program, which is the industry's voluntary initiative under which companies, through their national associations, work to continuously improve their environmental, health, and safety performance. Responsible Care, which is currently implemented by 53 associations, has been widely lauded for its achievements. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan described it as an "inspiring model of self-regulation that other industries should consider following." A cornerstone of Responsible Care is a commitment to continuous improvement in Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) performance. It also commits the industry to increased transparency, performance tracking, and reporting. The Global Charter seeks to expand these commitments around the world. Companies and associations have made considerable strides over the past five years in collecting and reporting industry performance measurements under this initiative, which has led to ICCA's compilation and publishing of performance statistics for public review. The most recent Responsible Care Status Report is available at [www.icca-chem.org](http://www.icca-chem.org).

Building on that solid foundation of openness, performance tracking, and commitment to continuous improvement, ICCA designed the Global Charter in a way that contributes more directly toward the five goals set forth in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy. The Global Charter has already made progress in improving knowledge and information about chemicals, reducing risks, enhancing processes to better govern actions under Responsible Care, building capacity around the world as Responsible Care has expanded to new nations, and extending Responsible Care along the industry's value chain. We envision even more progress as the initiative further expands around the world and throughout the industry.

### *The Global Product Strategy*

The other major ICCA initiative launched at the Dubai Conference was the Global Product Strategy. The Global Product Strategy is designed to advance the industry's product stewardship performance, measure that performance, and improve communication and transparency about chemical hazards, risks, and appropriate safe handling along the value chain. It aims to develop tools -- such as global guidelines for product stewardship and a process for chemical safety characterizations and provide safe management recommendations -- to address public concerns regarding chemicals in commerce. It is also designed to support national, regional, and international chemicals management policy expectations. The Global Product Strategy works hand-in-hand with the Responsible Care Global Charter in the improvement of product stewardship throughout the supply chain. While product stewardship has always been a discipline under Responsible Care, the Global Product Strategy provides detailed focus and specific actions to improve industry performance in this critical area in the future. (For more information, see [www.icca-chem.org/Home/ICCA-initiatives/Global-product-strategy/](http://www.icca-chem.org/Home/ICCA-initiatives/Global-product-strategy/).)



### *Accomplishments Since 2006*

ICCA's implementation of these two programs has resulted in measurable success across the full spectrum of SAICM policy objectives since 2006. To take just a few examples, the industry has:

- Defined best practices for a base set of hazard and exposure information adequate for conducting chemical safety assessments.
- Developed a set of global product stewardship guidelines for use by member associations and companies to accelerate the implementation of their chemical management programs.
- Adopted a global Responsible Care Governance Process to assure greater accountability for performance and the upholding of the Responsible Care ethic.
- Provided capacity building projects in a number of developing countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and in countries with economies in transition.
- Secured support from more than 75 additional global company CEOs for the Responsible Care Global Charter and Global Product Strategy. These companies join the list of 79 companies presented at ICCM-1.
- Extended the Responsible Care network to include Russia, and other countries in Eastern Europe; established a pilot project with Chinese national companies; and is exploring an initiative in the Persian Gulf region.
- Established new partnerships with governments in developing countries.
- Participated in scientific inquiry to address new and emerging health and environmental concerns under the Long-Range Research Initiative.
- Reported global industry progress in a transparent manner at [www.responsiblecare.org](http://www.responsiblecare.org).

In addition to these accomplishments, ICCA has also restructured internally to enable the organization to more effectively implement the Responsible Care Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy initiatives. As a result, the global industry is even better positioned now to take these initiatives further after ICCM-2.

### **Looking Ahead**

ICCA recognizes that there is still much to be done. ICCA is confident that its members will build on the significant progress achieved to date through the implementation of current and future SAICM-specific, industry-wide programs, and is committed to continued progress in the coming years.

More specifically, ICCA's chemicals management and product stewardship efforts will become increasingly transparent. For example, the Global Product Strategy includes a 2018 target date for companies to have fully assessed the safety of their chemicals in commerce and an interim 2012 target for companies to report on and discuss their progress in making these assessments. In addition, ICCA is committed to reporting on approximately 15-20 more product stewardship performance metrics in the future. These measurement and reporting efforts will contribute to our own commitment to continuous improvement. They will also enable the global community

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to evaluate the progress that the chemical industry has made, and will continue to make, to achieve the goals of SAICM.

By 2020, ICCA member companies aim to have:

- Established a base set of hazard and exposure information adequate to conduct safety assessments for chemicals in commerce;
- Enhanced the global capacity to implement safety assessment practices and safe management procedures, especially in developing countries;
- Shared relevant product safety information with co-producers, governments, and the public;
- Worked across the value chain so that suppliers and customers can effectively evaluate the safety of their products and enhance their performance;
- Made product safety summaries on chemicals publicly available; and
- Extended their monitoring and reporting structure by including additional metrics to quantitatively track progress and support continuous improvement in the sound global management of chemicals.

In sum, ICCA and its members throughout the world are committed to working with all stakeholders to make SAICM a success and to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal.