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**International Conference on Chemicals Management  
Second session**

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to  
International Chemicals Management: modalities for  
reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation**

**Submission by the International Council of Chemical  
Associations on modalities for reporting**

**Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a submission by the International Council of Chemical Associations on modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The submission is being circulated as submitted for the information of participants and has not been formally edited.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

\*\* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

## Annex



### **International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) contribution to modalities of reporting on SAICM implementation**

International Conferences on Chemicals Management (ICCM) have been scheduled to undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) until 2020 in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. In this respect document SAICM/ICCM.2/3 contains a proposal on modalities of reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation. ICCA welcomes this document and commits to actively contribute to the adoption of a credible reporting system by which the global chemical industry will participate, measure and report its progress against the SAICM objectives.

Acknowledging the proposal developed in consultation with an international project steering committee (IPSC), taking into account the results of a project sponsored by the Government of Canada, recalling the subsequent pilot testing by several stakeholders including ICCA, reviewing the informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008 and noting the decision to progress SAICM reporting, ICCA has invested significant resources to align with the proposed twenty indicators provisionally endorsed by the IPSC. Specifically the ICCA approach incorporates the guidance that “indicators have been selected taking into account the likely availability of data and ease of data collection” to avoid duplication of effort and additional cost burden.

Recalling that at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, 2006, ICCA launched the Responsible Care® Global Charter (RCGC) and the Global Product Strategy (GPS) as the two programmes through which the national and regional associations together with their member companies intend to implement SAICM and deliver against the target set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, 2002 “that by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impact on human health and the environment”. Taking note that the ICCA Responsible Care programme was launched in 1985 and has a performance data base since 1998, considerable experience already exists in data collection and analysis related to the global manufacture and distribution of chemicals.

In preparation for ICCM-2, ICCA committed to further progress the reporting proposal of the 20 indicators with the objective to ensure that the global chemical industry can demonstrate continuous improvement in a quantitative and qualitative manner over the duration of SAICM

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A pilot system has been developed which embraces the proposed Implementation Status (Not Planned/NP, In Development/ID, Completed/C, or Updating/U) of the original Canadian sponsored project as a technique to assess the stage of implementation in a more quantitative way. Based on the ICCA strategic elements of the RCGC and GPS programmes a limited number of high priority metrics, which have been measured (under Responsible Care) or will be measured (under GPS), were selected. A correlation was developed between the approximately 50 indicators selected by ICCA and the 20 indicators proposed through the SAICM Secretariat as contained in document **SAICM/ICCM.2/3**.

Once this correlation had been established, pilot testing was conducted based on the available 2007 Responsible Care data from the 53 participating national associations. In order to possibly differentiate the status of implementation of SAICM on a global basis it was hypothesized that compiling the data by United Nations (UN) Regions, namely Africa, Asia Pacific, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, and Western European & Other Groups (WEOG), could demonstrate some meaningful differences. The initial overview, while clearly not complete because GPS data will only be available for 2008, does allow for some initial conclusions that this approach will be a workable tool for measuring progress and, just as important, a decision tool for defining future actions to target and accelerate further improvements.

The ICCA has endorsed this approach not only to advocate with other stakeholders but also as an annual reporting tool to help the global chemical industry drive continuous improvement in the future. Clearly the approach relies on the efficient collection of an extremely large data set and while a relatively high level overview is the primary goal, the under-lying national level data will be available in the spirit of transparency to stakeholders that would want to analyze it further.

The full implementation of this approach can be achieved with 2009 and 2010 data ahead of the proposed ICCM-3 scheduled for 2012. As a consequence, the potential exists to already demonstrate in 2012 the value of the tool as well as measuring progress for the global chemical industry relatively early in the SAICM reporting timeframe.

Conceptually this approach could also be tailored by other stakeholders who are already measuring certain relevant data for other reporting purposes and similarly correlating it to the currently proposed 20 indicators that are to be discussed and possibly endorsed at ICCM-2 in Geneva. ICCA is committed to take an active role in the negotiations on reporting at ICCM-2 and will contribute to the eventual system that is the consensus of all stakeholders. Should the final consensus differ from the present ICCA quantitative stage of implementation approach then ICCA will commit to share the extended performance monitoring assessment information as “specific complementary information” as noted in **SAICM/ICCM.2/3**.

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