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Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Emerging policy issues

Report of the International Workshop on the Chemicals in Products Project, 16-18 March 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

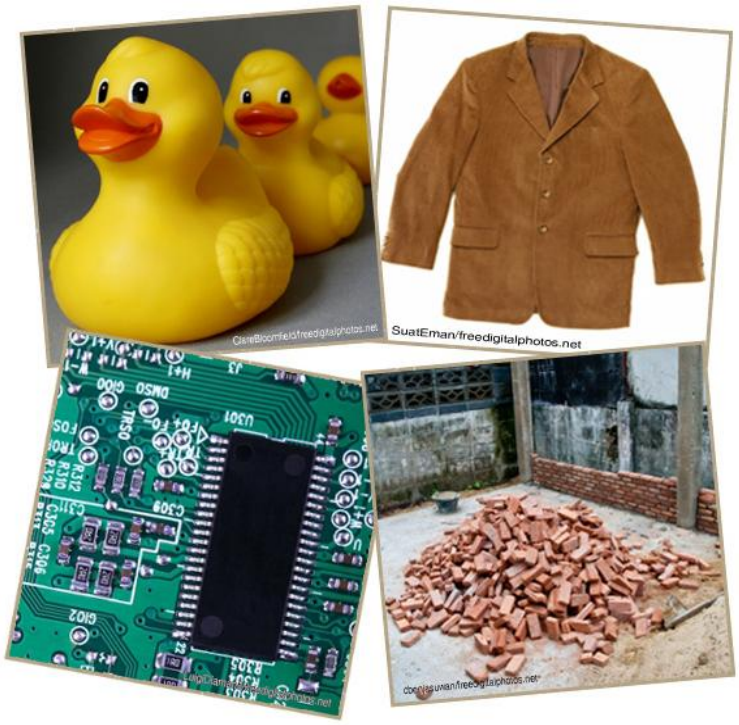
Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the report of the International Workshop on Chemicals in Products Project, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 18 March 2011 for the information of participants at the current meeting. The report was considered by the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) at its first meeting in Belgrade from 15-18 November, 2011 and is presented to the Conference as provided by the Working Group for information.

* SAICM/ICCM.3/1

Report of the International Workshop of the Chemicals in Products Project

16-18 March 2011, Geneva, Switzerland



UNEP / DTIE
Chemicals Branch

IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD

This publication was developed in the IOMC context. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or stated policies of individual IOMC Participating Organizations.

The Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen co-operation and increase international co-ordination in the field of chemical safety. The Participating Organisations are FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD. UNDP is an observer. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote co-ordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organisations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

Background

1. In May 2009, the second session of the International Conference of Chemicals Management adopted a resolution agreeing to implement a project on Chemicals in Products with the overall objective of promoting the implementation of paragraph 15 (b) of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and requesting that specific recommendations be developed for further international cooperative action for consideration at the third session of the Conference in 2012. The Conference invited UNEP to lead and facilitate the project. The Conference agreed that the following tasks be undertaken:

- collect and review existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices;

- assess that information in relation to the needs of all relevant stakeholders and identify gaps;

- develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the SAICM with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms.

2. The resolution recommended that proposals for cooperative actions should take into account the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and avoid any duplication of efforts under that system.

3. An investigation into existing systems and stakeholder needs and gaps was carried out in a report by Kogg & Thidell *Chemicals in Products - An overview of existing systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders' needs for such information* that provided the current status of chemicals information exchange systems. The aim of the report was to conduct an international screening and overview of systems for information on chemicals in products and to describe stakeholders' needs for such information.

4. The first phase of the Chemicals in Products project also involved determining the scope of further project activities. As it would not be possible to work in all areas and on all chemicals at this stage of the project, a survey was designed to identify good examples provided through existing information systems, to collect thoughts and views from SAICM stakeholders on the focus and priorities for the upcoming assessment of stakeholder information needs and to determine which product sectors stakeholders deemed to be of highest priority. The results were considered at a Scoping Meeting in December 2009. Product sectors of highest priority were: *children's products/toys, electronics, textiles/clothing, construction materials*, food packaging and personal care products from which, due to resource limitations, the former four were selected for more in-depth examination. Case studies were carried out for these four sectors through different institutions and are available at (http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cip/default.htm). The case studies were carried out to:

- provide reviews of the state-of-the-art for Chemicals in Products information exchange in the sectors (also addressing differences among regions);

- identify the specific needs for Chemicals in Products information of the different stakeholders groups of the selected sectors, map out the information flows in the sector and perform a gaps analysis;

- identify obstacles in providing / accessing information and look for possible actions that could help overcome such obstacles.

5. The case studies made use of work already carried out under the project. Each case study described in detail the focus of the study, the methodology used and the sources contacted to obtain information.[1]

6. As a part of this study phase a small Sector-expert Consultation for the Chemicals in Products Project was held on 9-10 December 2010 for discussions between the individual institutes and sector-experts. The goals of the Consultation were:

- to share the collective research results of the institutes as the case studies neared completion;

[1] Documents prepared during the development of the project can be found at the following site – (http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cip/default.htm)

- to exchange experts' experiences and knowledge from the different sectors on product chemical information;

- to identify critical issues with regard to exchange of information on chemicals in products, especially on the data provider's side; and

- to discuss possible measures or options that could help overcome obstacles for providing information.

7. The report of the Consultation can be found on the project website (see footnote below). Based on the principal findings of the four sector reports and other reports prepared during the project development, a synthesis report was prepared to identify some common concerns as highlighted by the case studies and to suggest a way forward for the project.

Opening

8. The International Workshop on the Chemicals in Products Project was held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva from 16 – 18 March 2011. The Workshop was opened at 9.10 a.m. by Mr. David Piper, Deputy Head, Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP.

9. In his opening statement, Mr. Piper welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr. Per Bakken, Head, Chemicals Branch. He outlined the background and activities undertaken to date in the Chemicals in Products project. He noted that chemicals could be released during all phases of a product lifecycle and only slowly was there a growing understanding that those exposures were not always insignificant or benign. Studies had demonstrated that babies could be born with over 200 chemicals in their blood transferred from mothers not engaged in any particular chemical-related activities. He said the awareness of chemicals' potential to cause adverse health and environmental effects must be improved at all levels. Such awareness along with improved information exchange on the chemicals contained in products within the supply-chain will allow improved management of the chemical risks throughout the product life-cycle thereby improving protection of human health and the environment from adverse effects while, at the same time, benefitting from the positive properties of the chemicals. He highlighted the need to differentiate between systems that provided information on chemicals that were not contained in a product, or contained below a certain level, and those systems that indicated what was in a product. He also emphasized the differentiated needs for information by different stakeholder groups.

10. Mr. Piper said that the main goal of the Workshop was to identify elements to be addressed in the draft recommendations for cooperative actions to be presented at the SAICM Open-Ended Working Group, to be held in August 2011, and thereafter finalized for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session in 2012. He stressed that the Workshop would also serve to raise awareness and understanding of the project and its outcomes among a wider audience of SAICM stakeholders and urged those present to fulfil an extended role by taking every opportunity to inform others about the project.

11. He concluded by acknowledging the continued support from Sweden and the Nordic Council of Ministers for supporting work undertaken to date on the project as well as the generous contributions received from Austria, Germany, Sweden and the Nordic Council that had enabled the current workshop to be convened.

Election of Officers

12. Mr. Babajide Alo (Nigeria) and Mr. Magnus Bengtsson (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) were elected to serve as co-chairs of the Workshop.

Adoption of the Agenda

13. The provisional agenda was adopted without amendment.

Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Canada, China, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia.

15. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental bodies: SAICM

Secretariat, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, United Nations Institutes for Training and Research and World Health Organization.

16. The meeting was also attended by representatives from industry and the private sector, research institutes, civil society and other non-governmental organizations as follows: Azeri Toxicologists Society, BASF, BASTA online AB, Center for Clean Products, Centro de Analisis y Acción en Tóxicos y sus Alternatívas, Consumer Specialty Products Association, DEKRA Industrial Sustainability Management, Digital Europe, Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and Organic Pigments Manufacturers, Everway Yarn Dyeing Ltd., Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Greenpeace International, Hasbro Inc., Hennes & Mauritz GBC AB, Hewlett-Packard EMEA, Intel Corporation, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, International Chemical Secretariat, International Council on Mining and Metals, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, International POPs Elimination Network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, LEED AP ID+C Construction Specialties, Inc., Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute, Oko-Institute e.V Produkte and Stoffstrome, Research and Education Centre for Development, Rising Group, SGCI Chemie Pharma Schweiz, Siemens North American Healthcare, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Toxics Link, Toy Industries of Europe, United States Council for International Business, University of Tennessee Center for Clean Products, Verband TEGEWA e.V. and Women in Europe for Common Future.

Introduction

17. To introduce some of the history leading to the chemicals in products project and set the scene, the coordinator of the SAICM Secretariat, Ms. Leonor Alvarado, made a presentation on the SAICM emerging issues process entitled "Overview of the procedures for reporting on the identified emerging policy issues at the Open-ended Working Group and the third session on the International Conference on Chemicals Management". She described SAICM as a global policy framework to support efforts to achieve by 2020 that chemicals were manufactured and used in a way that minimized the impact on human health and the environment. She noted that SAICM was an instrument that was not legally binding and did not replace existing instruments. She provided a background to the adoption of SAICM and to the process of identifying new emerging policy issues recalling that at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2009 four new emerging policy issues had been identified: lead in paint, electronic waste, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, and chemicals in products. The need for increased availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout the life cycle was identified, to be implemented through a UNEP-led project. She said the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), to be held in August 2011 had several tasks assigned to it including modalities for reporting progress in implementation, guidance and preparation of reports. She said the OEWG was a key element in the decision-making process leading to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

18. A representative of UNEP Chemicals made a presentation on the background of the chemicals in products project and overview of work undertaken to date. Mr. Aake Thidell, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics gave a presentation entitled "Overview of selected information systems targeting chemicals in products" in which he described examples of information systems and identified stakeholders and their information needs as well as the gaps and obstacles faced. He highlighted the value of knowing what substances were present in a product or able to migrate from it as well as interpretation of what chemicals content means. He concluded by noting the importance of such issues as information access, the format and technology platform, control and verification of information, full disclosure or restricted substances lists and the legal status of any information system.

Presentation of priority sector case studies

19. The Workshop heard presentations on the four case studies as follows: Toys - Ms Susanne Hartlieb (DEKRA), Textiles - Mr. Kevin Munn (UNEP Chemicals), Electronics - Mr. Nardono Nimpuno (ChemSec) and Building Materials - Mr. Jack Geibig (University of Tennessee). A representative of the Secretariat introduced the synthesis report that had been prepared taking into account the principle outcomes of the chemicals in products project to date, the overview report prepared by Kogg and Thidell,[2] the four sector case studies and the Consultation meeting held in December 2010 with an aim to identify major and common findings including suggestions for taking the project forward. Following the presentations brief question and answer sessions were held.

20. It was noted that the toys sector had been identified as a high priority sector by the greatest majority of

[2] Beatrice Kogg & Åke Thidell *Chemicals in Products: An overview of systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders' needs for such information*, August 2010. (http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cip/Documents/Kogg_Thidell_CiP%20report_final.pdf)

stakeholders during the scoping phase and was likely to generate much interest at the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The supply chain of the product did, however, pose a challenge to information flow. Awareness raising and manufacturers' capacity had been noted as key issues especially for smaller manufacturers. It was suggested that a platform to pool resources and build capacity would assist them in their engagement to improve chemicals management. Improving the ability of those already undertaking information exchange and transferring that experience could be an important step to meet the challenge. It was also suggested that some form of database that smaller manufacturers could refer to would be useful. Chemical analysis is currently a primary way of determining what is in a toy, which is quite expensive for what is a relatively inexpensive product.

21. For the textiles sector it was noted that, where there was information on chemicals in the product, it mostly concerned restricted substances that were not contained or contained below certain limits in the product. While that ensured that certain harmful chemicals were not present, consumers and other stakeholders were still left unable to know what was in the product. Several different restricted substances lists increased the difficulty of having a harmonized approach in the sector. Participants observed that governments were faced with the challenge of examining all restricted substances list to determine what was not in a given product and discussed differences between types of labelling. It was noted that despite most of the textile manufacturing being based in developing countries there was a significant gap between the knowledge base of stakeholders in developing countries and developed countries, the latter having a much higher awareness of the issue given the focus on retail and consumer concern.

22. For the electronics sector it was highlighted that significant work related to information exchange had already been undertaken by industry. The issue remained a priority, in particular for developing countries who were heavily impacted by the problem of waste disposal of electronic products. The study reported that companies were starting to see the benefits of appropriate information exchange but noted that there was a challenge with regard to both provision and protection of confidential business information. It was suggested that there be close collaboration between producers and governments to share information on chemicals in products that might facilitate implementation of regulations and increase producer responsibility. It was further noted that manufacturers must accept responsibility for damage and risks when sufficient information on chemicals in products was not provided. Reference was made to the SAICM emerging policy issue of electronic waste within which this area was considered a subsection given its focus on mobile telephones and computers and the need to work in tandem with activities under that emerging policy issue.

23. For the building sector the vast quantity of materials to be covered was noted. The complexity of the sector with regard to human health was highlighted, as was the challenge that most markets were national but the supply chain was often international. An added complexity in the sector was noting at what stage a product was being used, whether at the installation phase or the maintenance phase. The current trend towards green building was encouraging with the chemical nature of the product used determining what a green building was. It was noted that standards were difficult to apply for natural products such as wood and stone and were rather developed to address composite products. As in other sectors harmonization of information needs was important as was awareness raising to downstream users. It was suggested that emphasis could be placed on some priority substances.

Presentation and discussions on the synthesis report

24. A representative of the Secretariat presented the synthesis report that had been prepared taking into account the commonalities, gaps and obstacles from the four sector reports. The commonalities identified included that there were market leaders in all sectors, legal regulation was a driver to the provision of information, gaps existed in information exchange and all case studies saw potential for pilot projects. The synthesis report also provided an option for next steps in the chemicals in products project. Participants suggested that several options might be examined for next steps, including building on existing tools for provision of information on chemicals in products. The workshop expressed their appreciation for the report but noted that given the short time frame for comments it had been difficult to obtain a reaction from all constituents within industry groups. It was suggested that the synthesis report could at a later date be updated to take on board continuing progress in the project however for the present time it would be submitted as an information document to the SAICM Open-ended Working Group in August 2011.

Presentation on chemicals in products information needs, priorities, systems, issues and experiences from business and industry, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and countries

25. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) made a presentation on "Experiences from UNITAR's training activities on the application of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals".

25. The representative of BASF SE, ICCA Chemical Policy and Health Leadership Group made a presentation on ICCA activities to improve the availability of information. In the ensuing discussion, the importance of obtaining information along the entire value chain was stressed especially to determine the needs of stakeholders and the information necessary for undertaking risk assessment. Use and application data was considered vital to calculate exposure and to advance the interest of end users to pull the information they need from up the value chain. It was noted that formulators and distributors were not yet part of the ICCA activities to obtain information and there was difficulty to reach some regions and some small and medium size enterprises. UNEP's chemicals in products project and forging partnerships could assist in that. Participants highlighted the vast informal sector in some developing countries and noted the benefit of providing safety summaries in local languages particularly for end users and consumers. Companies were currently being encouraged to publish safety data in local languages and outreach activities were targeting government and regulatory authorities to provide guidance, if requested, and to promote buy-in. Participants stressed the importance of discovering grey areas along the value chain where information on chemicals in products was no longer passed on, why the situation arose and how to overcome that barrier. It was also observed that how to provide relevant information was as important as what information to provide in order to ensure optimum use for each stakeholder group.

26. The representative of Siemens made a presentation on the Electrical and Electronics Industry Material Declaration Standardization Activities and IEC 62474 the database on Material Declaration for Products of and for the Electrotechnical Industry. It was noted that the electronics industry had been very active and there was broad internationally agreed horizontal standard-based systems being adopted by the industry. The information provided was designed to work with the complex global supply chain to fit the global market place but was very focused and difficult to broaden. It was observed that broad utilization of the standards should be promoted and governments encouraged to reference standards that were developed. Good communication was vital in that regard. At present the IEC 62474, while applied globally, was meeting more success with European manufacturers. The current chemicals in products project might stimulate broader application. It was suggested that the difficulty of adapting the described system to other sectors was to do with the complexity and the large number of substances on which to report. Broadening the scope of IEC 62474 would also result in the inclusion of substances not applicable to individual industry sectors, necessitate clarification to different industry sectors as to why the information was needed and, importantly, maintaining the list simple was a means to encourage provision of data.

27. The representatives of HASBRO and of Toy Industries of Europe made a presentation on the perspective and activities of the toys industry on chemicals in products information, and described the new European Toy Safety Directive that covered over 300 chemicals. The difficulty of providing information in the sector was exacerbated by the fact that children cannot assess risks and there was sometimes a difference between intended use and actual use of a product. Further, the products covered all sectors from electronics to textiles to wood. Emphasis was placed on the potential benefits of sharing information and lessons learned with other sectors for which appropriate tools had been or would be designed. It was noted that some of the materials were not originally manufactured for toys and cross-sectoral information sharing would therefore be of great value. In addition manufacturers of toys formed a small industry with less bargaining power hence information sharing was crucial. The simplicity and availability of information was of special benefit for small and medium-sized enterprises. The first priority was to identify the chemicals to be regulated and the second priority to determine the tools that would protect consumers.

28. The representative of Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) made a presentation on H&M's Chemical information flow. It was noted that while most of the efforts to provide information on chemicals in products were done by individual brand name groups some joint work was being undertaken through AFIRM, the Apparel and Footwear International Restricted Substances List Management Group. It was also noted that there was a new coalition in the clothing industry aimed at targeting information to consumers but was currently limited to working on fibres and less on chemicals.

29. The Workshop viewed a video providing an interview with Mr. Howard Williams the General Manager of Construction Specialists, Inc. on his company's activities under its Safer Chemicals Policies and some of the drivers and lessons learned of these activities.

30. The representative of the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) made a presentation on the new POPs-free initiative launched under that Convention and work being considered on POPs in articles. The initiative aimed at gathering information on products that did not contain POPs and on the availability of related substitutes and alternatives, as well as encouraging manufacturers and retailers to provide the relevant information. He recalled that articles 9 and 10 of the Convention called for information exchange on alternatives and substitutes including by industry and professional users through a broad range of differing means of communication. He noted that the POPs-free initiative had already been closely coordinated with the chemicals in products project and looked forward to continued and enhanced cooperation.

31. The representative of China made a presentation on Information Exchange of Chemicals in Products in China. He said that, in his country, there was a lack of capacity to collect relevant information and procedures to collect and exchange information still required development. He noted that, information on chemicals in certain products was collected and managed by relevant authority departments but that lack of information exchange that covered the entire supply chain as well as lack of an overall plan and capacity to test and monitor products were barriers to collecting information. He emphasized that developed countries were further advanced in the areas of scientific research, market development and knowledge on safe use of chemicals, but developing countries were in need of financial resources, technology and public policy.

32. The Representative of the International POPs Elimination Network made a presentation in which he emphasized the role of non-governmental organizations in raising consumer awareness and noted the forthcoming portal with union representatives on information on alternatives. The lack of information available to the informal sector in developing countries was emphasized, as was the need to ensure the same standards for products from developing countries and developed countries. It was suggested that publicly accessible databases be established for information on chemicals in products in all sectors. Additionally, certification systems for recycling, international consumer awareness campaigns, extended producer responsibility, guidelines for safe use and disposal and mandatory labeling of products with hazardous substances were all suggested as positive steps to increase information on chemicals in products. Finally it was noted that chemical safety was not yet a priority at the country level and efforts should be made to work with all stakeholders to increase political attention to the issue.

Breakout groups and subsequent plenary discussions

33. A representative of the Secretariat introduced the questions to be addressed by the breakout groups. It was suggested that the workshop be divided into four breakout groups, each discussing the same questions. The focus was to try and make use of the work done so far and to look for a way forward for the project bearing in mind that the main issue was to develop key elements to include in recommendations to be put forward at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management through the SAICM Open-ended Working Group. To assist the breakout groups in their discussions, a matrix of general information flow for different stakeholders groups was provided. The questions to be addressed by the breakout groups are attached to the current report as Annex 1.

34. The outcome of the four breakout group discussions was presented to plenary and some common elements drawn from those discussions. Suggestions were made to identify additional stakeholder groups that had not yet been included in the documentation prepared during the development of the project such as research and development institutes, the media and other civil society organizations.

35. With regard to stakeholder information needs and gaps it was suggested that governments lacked regulatory framework and tools to perform active surveillance of goods on the market and sometimes failed to adopt international best practices; consumers lacked awareness of the issues at stake; product manufacturers needed occupational safety and health data including on impurities and, as far as possible full disclosure of chemicals content; waste handlers and recyclers needed to be aware of the impact of waste on health and the environment, and also on the methodology for dealing with some waste products. It was observed that there was a need for information about products that did not correspond to standards and regarding alternatives and substitutes for harmful substances and products.

36. Additional gaps identified were the upstream flow of information between the chemical manufacturer and the formulator / downstream users including what the chemical was used for, what was the condition of use for workers along the value chain and what was the end application. Further, full disclosure of information, chemical combinations, ingredients, health effects, producer details, different needs of users, hazards and risks, occupational health and safety data were all considered as gaps in information provision. Participants reiterated the importance of providing relevant information to the end-of-life actors and to provision of information in an easily usable form. Other barriers cited included a reluctance to share information; complex value chains that hindered smooth flow in information; and information access, interpretation and use.

37. All four breakout groups suggested during their deliberations that a policy framework could be developed and that pilot project(s) could be undertaken in a next phase of the project. Principles for what information to provide would be based on stakeholder needs. The framework should be voluntary and there should be capacity building for effective implementation. An analysis could be undertaken to examine the possible creation of a platform for provision and communication of information between different stakeholders, taking into account national and international perspectives. Guidelines for implementing the framework could be developed, and these could be both general and sector specific. Governments at the national level could endorse such guidance and the framework. Pilot

projects could include options for industry to implement principles of information transfer to stakeholders. There should be a clear and articulated need for any pilot study to build on existing systems, have a mechanism to transfer information, identify values and drivers to involve industry and take on board best practices. The pros and cons of single versus multiple systems of information sharing could be elaborated, successful initiatives could be transferred to other sectors, partnerships should be developed and existing systems should be supported to maximize success.

38. It was suggested that a pilot project should propose actions to overcome barriers, including through identifying reasons for which information on chemicals in products was not flowing. To this end existing information of relevance should be identified and access to and understanding of existing information facilitated. Other suggestions made to bear in mind during the development of a possible project included developing common methodologies or guidance to improve market surveillance; developing standards for disclosure of information; and for minimum information requirements. Any framework should be designed to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet their information requirements and take into consideration the concerns of the informal sector.

39. It was noted that a step-by-step approach was valuable given the heterogeneous state from which the project was being initiated. One database to serve all stakeholders in all sectors was not likely to be possible but there was potential for harmonized approaches on certain levels. Knowing which ingredients were being used at the outset was important as a basis for all other information on chemicals in a given product. Participants noted the value of appropriate frameworks, including regulatory measures, and platforms for communication between different stakeholders and sectors that were conducive to increased accessibility to and use of information on chemicals in products. Development of partnerships with owners of existing systems, stakeholders actively seeking information systems, and funders or investors were actively encouraged.

40. It was reiterated that no one information system would adequately address the needs of all sectors; there were, however, important lessons that could be learnt from all. The sector specificity of information provision was stressed. It was also stressed that legal requirements as well as internal standards and initiatives and external factors (e.g. consumer demand) were important drivers. The need for capacity building and awareness raising was stressed. It was suggested that a regional demonstration project could be undertaken and that specific focus should be placed on developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It was also suggested that any pilot project could be carried out under the leadership of UNEP.

41. It was noted that some discussion had taken place in the breakout groups on the relative roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders. A question was raised as to whether efforts to improve provision of information on chemicals in products should be government or industry driven. It was noted that governments should create information disclosure requirements that would impel industry to collect the necessary information. Pooling such information into databases could be undertaken either by governments or industry. The importance of industry taking ownership for information provision was stressed.

42. Based on the outcome of discussions in the breakout groups, the Steering Group of the chemicals in products project and the chairs of the break-out groups prepared a draft paper on elements to be included in recommendations to be submitted to the SAICM Open-ended Working Group for its consideration and transmission to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session. The timeline for action on the paper were as follows:

Development of draft recommendations on cooperative action (Drafting Group)	present to early June 2011
Review of recommendations and possible request for revision (SAICM OEWG)	August 2011
Revision and finalization of recommendations (Drafting Group)	Sept. 2011 – April 2012
Presentation to International Conference on Chemicals Management	mid-2012

During the ensuing discussion various suggestions were made for amending the draft elements paper. There was general support for the final draft text revised following discussions during the plenary session, however it was emphasized that the paper did not imply negotiated text but rather formed an input to the drafting group on elements to be included when drafting recommendations to the SAICM Open-ended Working Group. That text is attached to the current report as Annex 2.

Conclusions

43. The representative of ICCA made a presentation in conclusion of the Workshop. She said the current meeting had been a positive experience for industry and interest from other sectors was increasing. Such forums provided a valuable framework to raise awareness in all stakeholders and afforded an opportunity to discuss progress and evolution and to inspire and improve systems. The suggestion to develop a voluntary framework was a positive one. She noted that protecting intellectual property was essential but that where information was available it was necessary to provide that information when there was a need. She noted that the need for information and the type of information differed. It would be useful to have one system but a single system might not meet all needs. Common elements, however, could be extracted and used to provide guidance for all sectors. She said industry could make a contribution to engage small players in the supply chain that were currently unaware of the benefits and advantages of providing information. Industry could provide expertise, arguments and models to inspire others.

Closure

44. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Workshop was closed at 3 p.m. on Friday, 18 March.

ANNEX 1: Questions suggested to be addressed by the CiP Workshop breakout groups

The Workshop of the Chemicals in Products Project 16-18 March 2011, Geneva

Suggestions for questions for the break-out groups

Background reports for the CiP project:
- The Synthesis report, including outcome from the sector-expert consultation
- "Chemicals in Products – An overview of systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders´ needs for such information" (Kogg/Thidell)
- Case-study reports on building products, electronics, textiles and toys

1. What conclusions can be drawn regarding information needs and gaps?

The resolution of the ICCM2 mandated the CiP project/UNEP:

- *To collect and review existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices,*
- *To assess that information in relation to the needs of all relevant stakeholders and identify gaps;*

Based on the findings in the background reports and referring to the matrix based on previous work under the project, participants are asked to discuss and conclude:

a) Who are the major stakeholder groups requiring information on chemicals in products and what are their main needs in terms of the SAICM objectives?
b) Which types of information systems does the group consider do provide relevant information on chemicals in products, in full or partly.
c) Considering a and b, what are the main gaps in relation to the current state of information access for the major stakeholder groups?
d) Considering the gaps and existing systems. Are there lessons to be learned from the different sectors? Which systems does the group think could or should be built upon for future CiP information exchange? Could there be different systems used for different stakeholder groups?
e) Are there other conclusions or key findings that are important for further cooperative actions?

2. What next steps are suggested that would contribute to the implementation of SAICM regarding the information needs?

The resolution of the ICCM2 also mandated the CiP project/UNEP to develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the SAICM with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms.

a) Based on the findings in the background reports, participants are asked to discuss and propose cooperative actions that could be suggested as next steps (e.g. pilot studies, design of an information system, etc.) including:
   - Main objectives, results and outputs of the proposed activities.
   - The main questions to be addressed (e.g. what information, which chemicals, what risk basis, in what format, etc.).
   - The key stakeholders involved and organization of the future process.

b) Based on the four case-studies, which two product groups do participants feel should be targeted for demonstrating the adequacy and effectiveness of future cooperative actions?

c) Based on your proposal above, what are the key elements that the recommendations to ICCM3 should contain and what steps/issues need to be taken/addressed before ICCM3 to pave the way for advancing on these future cooperative actions?

ANNEX 2

ELEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY TO INFORMATION ON CHEMICALS IN PRODUCTS

The framework could be generic and, consistent with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, voluntary in nature. The framework could stimulate activities in specific product sectors and allow flexibility to accommodate the different needs of those sectors.

The framework could identify:

(a) The roles and responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups

(b) Principles on what information could be transferred to different stakeholders and how that transfer could take place

(c) Build on existing experiences of best practices

The development of the framework could base itself on an analysis of critical elements of best practices for chemicals in products information, draw on the sector case studies prepared for toys, electronics, construction materials and textiles, a document that had been developed entitled: An overview of systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders' needs for such information, and presentations made during the International Workshop on Information on Chemicals in Products by all stakeholder representatives. It could also draw on conclusions from that Workshop and other meetings held during the development of the project.

During the development of the framework, the needs of stakeholders for information should be recognized and should be implemented in a balanced approach that at the same time recognizes and respects the important concept of intellectual property and protection of confidential business information.

When developing the framework the following could be taken into consideration:

(a) Establishment of principles that determine what information could be provided to address stakeholders needs for example which chemical substances, types of information to address etc.

(b) Provision and communication of information between different stakeholders:

- Development of technical requirements for new information exchange methods including best practices of existing methods, and

- Strengthening of existing information exchange methods to broaden the acceptance and implement their use

(c) Encouraging partnerships across all the stakeholders, including public-private partnerships

(d) Implementing actions to gain buy-in by industry and other stakeholders and ensure success; one possible activity could be "business cases" highlighting the benefits and added value of improved flow of information for key players in the value chain

(e) Building on existing and on-going work on cost of inaction, capacity building, and technical and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition that would assist governments to assess the costs and benefits related to information systems

(f) Awareness-raising of existing systems, in particular to governments, the informal economy, small and medium size enterprises and the public, and strengthening capabilities to implement those systems

(g) Addressing how to define and treat confidential business information

(h) Development of guidance documents and could consider the above-mentioned issues and focus on, for example:

(i) Best practices including lessons learned and successful systems

(ii) Using standardized languages

(iii) Transfer of knowledge

(iv) Policy guidelines consistent with paragraph 16 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy

(v) Proposals for regulatory tools