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**International Conference on Chemicals Management
Third session**

Nairobi, 17–21 September 2012

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Venue and date of the fourth session of the Conference

Scheduling of sessions of the Conference

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management provides that “where appropriate, sessions of the Conference should be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the Strategic Approach’s multi-sectoral nature. Sessions of the Conference should be held in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2020, unless otherwise decided by the Conference”.
2. The first session of the Conference was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, back-to-back with the ninth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The second session was held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, back-to-back with the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the sixty-second World Health Assembly. The present session was intended to take place in Geneva back-to-back with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference. However, due to the changes in the dates of that conference and its close proximity to United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a legally binding instrument on mercury, the Bureau decided to hold the present session of the Conference at the United Nations Office in Nairobi from 17 to 21 September 2012.
3. As indicated above, the fourth session of the Conference is expected to be held in 2015. Governing body meetings of potentially relevant intergovernmental organizations and meetings of other forums to be held in 2015 are likely to include the following:
 - (a) The Conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Substances and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Geneva, May 2015;
 - (b) The Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, June 2015;
 - (c) One-hundred and fourth session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, June 2015;
 - (d) Annual ministerial-level meeting of the Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, May or June 2015;

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- (e) Annual session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, New York or Geneva, mid-2015;
- (f) Twenty-eight regular session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Nairobi, February 2015;
- (g) Annual session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva;
- (h) Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank, Washington or elsewhere.
- (i) Sixty-eighth session of the World Health Assembly will be held in Geneva in May 2015.

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

- (a) Any proposal from an intergovernmental organization listed in paragraph 3 above, or from other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to schedule the fourth session of the Conference back-to-back with the meeting of the organization's governing body in 2015;
- (b) Rotation among the various sectors relevant to the Strategic Approach;
- (c) Geographical rotation, bearing in mind the limited scope therefore, given that the governing bodies of most relevant intergovernmental organizations meet at headquarters locations in Western Europe or in New York and venues outside these areas in 2015 may not yet have been decided.

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