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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

International Conference on Chemicals Management
Third session
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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

Submissions received from stakeholders on the inclusion of activities relating to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products to SAICM Global Plan of Action.

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate in annexes to the present note, in compliance with Decision 1/1 of the Open-ended Working Group, submissions received from stakeholders on the inclusion of activities relating to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach.

2. The secretariat called for comments via the SAICM website from 5 March to 23 April 2012 on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and from 5 April to 7 May 2012 on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products.

3. Comments received were posted on the Strategic Approach website as requested and are compiled in the Annexes to the present note for the consideration of the Conference.

4. The submissions are presented as received by the secretariat for the information of participants and have not been formally edited.

* SAICM/ICCM.3/1.

Annex I – Suggested table of proposed activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials annotated according to the comments received in submissions

Annex II – Submissions on the proposal to include a new work area to the Global Plan of Action on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

The following stakeholders submitted comments of the table of proposed activities of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in compliance with Decision OEWG.1/1 I:

Annex III – Submissions on the proposal to include a new work area to the Global Plan of Action on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electric and electronic products

The following stakeholders submitted comments of the revised table of proposed activities of on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electric and electronic products prepared by the secretariat, in compliance with Decision OEWG.1/1 II:

Annex I

Suggested table of proposed activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials annotated according to the comments received in submissions

Abbreviations used in the Table to indicate the origins of comments

Canada (CAN)
Costa Rica (CRI)
European Union (EU)
Japan (JPN)
Madagascar (MDG)
Senegal (SEN)
United States of America (USA)
Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Ecological Restorations (ER)
Friends of the Earth Australia (FoE)
International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)
Nanotechnology Industries Association (NIA)
Open-ended Working Group brief consultative meeting (OEWG CM)

Revised table of proposed activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials annotated with comments from stakeholders

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
Nanotechnologies and Manufactured nanomaterials	**1. Develop, establish and promote adoption of technical guidelines and harmonized standards on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials based on precaution.** USA: Change to: Support existing efforts to develop, establish and promote adoption of technical guidelines, including international standards on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to manage identified risks of nanomaterials, as informed by the best available scientific data to protect human health and the environment. OEWG CM: Replace by: Contributing to the development, promotion and adoption of internationally recognized technical guidelines and harmonized standards on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials based on hazard and risk.	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO** IOMC: Add IOMC (OECD) OEWG CM: Add: OECD, ILO	**2012 – 2017**	**Guidelines and standards are developed.** OEWG CM: Change to: Internationally recognized guidelines and standards are developed. OEWG CM: Add: Increased awareness And use of these guidelines and standards.	
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional	**2. Identify, strengthen and implement legal instruments to ensure the**	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international**	**2012-2015**	**Best practices for production, use, transport, and disposal of**	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
aspects (Area 29)	**use of best practices in the production, use, transport and disposal of manufactured nanomaterials.** JPN: Delete the word "legal" or the words "Identify, strengthen and implement legal instruments to" USA: Narrow to address specific nanomaterials or categories of nanomaterials or delete	**organizations, industry, academia, NGOs and other interested groups.** IOMC: Add IOMC (OECD)		**manufactured nanomaterials are in place and implemented in all relevant sectors.**	
CAN: to Research, monitoring and data (Area18), Or to: Occupational health and safety (Area 4)	**3. Increase the active involvement of the health sector to identify, treat and track diseases potentially caused by occupational exposure to manufactured nanomaterials and develop and implement preventive interventions.** EU: Could be linked to 21 through cross referencing USA: Delete	**WHO, ILO, national governments, industry NGOs and other interested stakeholders** IOMC: Delete :WHO, ILO, Add: IOMC (ILO, WHO, OECD)	**2012-2020**	**WHO/ILO project to identify, treat and track diseases potentially caused by occupational exposure to manufactured nanomaterials.** **Guidance on preventive measures is adopted.**	
CAN: to Occupational health and safety (Area 4)	**4. Increase the understanding of the environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials through further research**	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, academia, NGOs and other interested groups** IOMC: Add : IOMC (OECD)	**2012 - 2018**	**Number of publicly available research papers on hazards and risks, significantly increase in all regions** NIA: Include an indicator on a process to monitor funding for, and number of, ongoing research projects	Coordination by IOMC

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	EU: Combine with 5 and 6 with text: Enhance information and knowledge sharing through general public engagement activities on national and regional policy and regulatory activities. USA: Combine with 5 with text: Increase the understanding of the environmental, public, and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials through continued support for independent research. OEWG CM: Replace by: Increase the understanding of the environmental, public, and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials through supporting, and where feasible, increasing funding for collaborative research.			NIA: The qualification "in all regions" is of limited importance because scientific journals are published internationally. OEWG CM: Include Indicators of 5 here. For comments on these indicators, see under 5. Number of publicly available peer reviewed research papers on hazards and risks significantly increases. Increased allocation of national budget towards research on nanotechnologies. Number of funding opportunities available to promote nanotechnology research. Ratio of approved project versus proposed projects. Overall number of students in the nano-toxicology field.	
CAN: to Occupatonal health and safety (Area 4)	**5. Support and, where feasible, increase funding for independent research on the environmental and occupational health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials.** EU: Combine with 4 and 6 with	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO, Academia**	**2012 – 2020**	**Number of publicly available peer reviewed research papers on hazards and risks significantly increases.** OEWG CM: Delete here – move to 4 **Increased allocation of national budget towards**	**Creation of International and national information clearing houses.** NIA: The task of the international clearing house is not clear

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	new text (see 4) USA: Combine with 4 with new text (see 4) OECD: Replace "independent research" by "research of relevance to regulatory scientists". OEWG CM: Delete			**research on nanotechnologies.** FoE: Replace by : Increased allocation of national budget towards research on environmental, health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials OEWG CM: Delete here – move to 4 **Number of funding opportunities available to promote nanotechnology research.** FoE: Delete OEWG CM: Delete here – move to 4 **Ratio of approved project versus proposed projects.** FoE: Add at the end: researching environmental health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials **Overall number of students in the nano-toxicology field.** OEWG CM: Delete here – move to 4	
CAN: to Information management and dissemination (Area 21)	**6. Enhance information sharing on national and regional policy and regulatory initiatives.** EU: Combine with 4 and 5 with new text (see 4).	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO, Academia**	**2012 – 2015**	**All stakeholders are informed of hazards and risks of nanomaterials. All relevant stakeholders have access to available relevant information.**	**IOMC**

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	OEWG CM: Replace by: Enhance information sharing through public engagement activities on national and regional policy and regulatory initiatives.			USA: Change to: All stakeholders are informed of current and pending policies and regulatory frameworks NIA: Add: Perform a stakeholder mapping in order to implement the proposed activity in a targeted fashion. NIA: Adjust indicator to sharing of information related to policy and regulatory initiatives. OEWG CM: Include indicators of 21 here. For comments on these indicators, see under 21: Key stakeholders, particularly consumers and workers, are informed of risks and hazards of nanomaterials. Add:Number of national and regional workshops on nanomaterials.	
CAN: to Information management and dissemination ((Area 21)	**7. Develop a national inventory reflecting the national situation of nano-research, production, and marketing.** EU: Delete and combine with 9 with text: Develop inventories or registers of activities for manufactured nanomaterials produced, imported or integrated into products.	**National governments, Intergovernmental and International organizations, industry, NGOs, Academia, other interested groups**	**2012-2015**	**Number of national inventories developed.**	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	JPN: Combine with 9				
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**8. Develop mandatory labeling schemes for manufactured nanomaterials.** EU: Delete the word "mandatory". JPN: Delete "mandatory", USA: Delete OECD, UNITAR: Delete OEWG CM: Delete "mandatory".	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO**	**2012 – 2015**	**Nano product labels developed.**	
CAN : to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**9. Develop national or regional registers for manufactured nanomaterials produced, imported or integrated into products.** EU: Delete and combine with 7 with new text (see 7) JPN: Combine with 7 USA: Delete	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations**	**2012-2015** CRI: 2012 - 2018	**Number of national registers in place.**	
CAN: to Information management and dissemination (Area 21)	**10. Develop and promote a voluntary global scheme certifying the presence of manufactured nanomaterials in products.** EU: Delete JPN: Delete USA: Delete	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO**	**2012-2020**	**Certification scheme is developed.**	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	OECD/UNITAR: Delete				
CAN: to Globally Harmonized System (GHS) (Area 5)	**11. Develop GHS criteria to address the safety of manufactured nanomaterials.** EU: Replace by: Analyse and discuss in the GHS forum criteria to address the safety of manufactured nanomaterials. This will improve information management systems. JPN: Replace by: Develop work plan for the adaptation of GHS to address the safety of manufactured nanomaterials USA: Specify specific nanomaterials or categories of nanomaterials or delete	**National governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry, NGOs** JPN: Add: UN Committees of Experts	**2012-2015**	**Criteria for labeling of manufactured nanomaterials are developed and incorporated into the GHS.**	**UN ECOSOC, Regional economic integration organizations, WTO, WCO, ECOSOC**

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
CAN: to Information management and dissemination (Area 21)	**12. Improve existing information management systems to include information specific to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.** EU: Sound activity, but could be incorporated into other activities USA: Change to: Expand information management systems containing non-proprietary information to include information specific to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, considering existing efforts (such as international standards activities and relevant informatics communities).	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO** IOMC: Add IOMC (OECD)	**2012 – 2015**	**MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) includes relevant nano information. Databases (e.g. nano portals) are developed.** NIA: Inclusion of nano-specific information in the MSDS does not necessarily address the focus of the proposed activity. NIA: The development of databases is vague and would merit further description and justification.	
CAN: to Life cycle (Area 22)	**13. Develop life cycle analysis (LCA) for manufactured nanomaterials** EU: Sound activity, but could be incorporated into other activities	National governments, international organizations, NGOs, Industry, trade unions, chamber of commerce, IOMC: Add IOMC (OECD)	**2012 -2015** USA: 2012 - 2020	**Number of LCA developed for manufactured nanomaterials; Availability of LCA tools for manufactured nanomaterials**	
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**14. Identify and increase access to, and refine where necessary, existing guidance on the incorporation of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in national chemicals management programs, and identify where gaps exist.**	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO**	**2012 – 2015**	**Nanomaterials are included in increasing number of chemical management programs.** ICCA: Change to: Guidance for assessing nanomaterials are included in an increasing number of chemical management programmes. **Increased access to existing**	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	EU: Sound activity, but could be incorporated into other activities USA: Combine with 15 OECD/UNITAR: Combine with 15 and 23 OEWG CM: Replace by: Develop country specific approaches incorporating lifecycle thinking to nano technologies and nanomaterials in existing national frameworks, policies, regulatory provisions and chemical management programmes.			**guidance available.** OEWG CM: Add: Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps. OEWG CM: When necessary new and/or amended legislation addressing the management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials is in place and enforced.	
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**15. Incorporate nanomaterials and nanotechnologies in national chemicals management program.** EU: Sound activity, but could be incorporated into other activities USA: Combine with 14 OECD, UNITAR: Combine with 14 and 23 OEWG CM: Delete	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO** IOMC: Add IOMC (UNITAR, OECD)	**2012 – 2015**	**Nanomaterials are included in increasing number of chemical management programs.**	**Involvement of all stakeholders and use of guidelines developed by intergovernmental organizations.**
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**16. Identify and address existing gaps and needs in existing legal and institutional framework addressing nano specific issues, including in relation to enforcement.** EU: Delete and combine with 17,	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO, Academia** IOMC: Add IOMC (OECD)	**2012 – 2015**	**Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps.** OEWG CM: Delete **New legislation addressing the management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials is in place**	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	19 and 23 with text: Develop approaches to protect workers, the public and the environment from potential harm related to manufactured nanomaterials which could include the update or introduction of new legislation, and incorporation of lifecycle thinking in existing frameworks, policies, regulatory provisions, best practice guidelines and chemical management programmes. USA: Delete OECD: There is no consensus at this time as to whether specific legislation is necessary or whether existing regulatory regimes (for example those which address chemicals management) could be adapted to nano.			**and enforced.** OEWG CM: Delete	
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**17. Establish national policy and institutional coordination plan regarding nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.** EU: Delete and combine with 16, 19 and 23 with new text (see 16) USA: Delete	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO** IOMC: Add IOMC (UNITAR, OECD)	**2012-2015**	**Number of national policy and institutional coordination plans in place.**	**Involvement of all stakeholders and use of guidelines developed by intergovernmental organizations.**

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**18. Identify, strengthen and enforce regulatory provisions for the environmentally sound management of waste containing nanomaterials.** JPN: Delete If it is included, refer to "..sound management of hazardous waste containing nanomaterials." USA: Questions whether sufficient information exists to require waste containing nanomaterials to be managed in a manner different than that already required by existing legal frameworks for waste. OEWG CM: Replace by: Identify, strengthen and ensure through best practice, producer responsibility and/or regulatory provisions for environmentally sound management of manufactured nanomaterials throughout their lifecycle including waste containing nanomaterials.	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO**	**2012 – 2015**	**Relevant legislation or/and best practices are in place and implemented in all relevant sectors.** OEWG CM: Include indicators of 20 here: Number of countries who have EPR schemes in place (voluntary or mandatory). Number of manufacturers applying EPR schemes.	**Develop pilot project for the sustainable management of waste containing nanomaterials.**
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**19. Develop and/or update existing legislation covering the entire spectrum of work situations in which nanomaterials are handled, to protect workers, the public and the environment, from potential harm related to nanotechnologies and**	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO**	**2012 – 2015**	**Relevant legislation is fully implemented in all relevant sectors.**	**IOMC**

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	manufactured nanomaterials. EU: Delete and combine with 16, 17 and 23 with new text (see 16) USA: Delete				
CAN: to Promotion of industry participation and responsibility (Area 20)	**20. Promote extended producer responsibility (EPR) throughout the life cycle of manufactured nanomaterials.** JPN: The feasibility for implementation should be carefully considered. USA: While supporting EPR, as appropriate, it is unclear that producers of nanomaterials should be singled out in this manner. OEWG CM: Replace by: Promote extended producer responsibility (EPR)	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry or industry associations, academia, NGOs**	**2012-2015**	**Number of countries who have EPR schemes in place (voluntary or mandatory).** OEWG CM: Delete here – moved to 18 **Number of manufacturers applying EPR schemes.** OEWG CM: Delete here – moved to 18	**Involve Association of industrial chambers of commerce.**
CAN: to Education and training (public awareness) (Area 24)	**21. Increase the understanding of environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials through awareness raising and capacity building, and information sharing and dissemination.** EU: Support activity, but could be	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, academia, NGOs, consumer groups, public and community research centers, trade unions and other interested groups**	**2012-2020**	**Key stakeholders, particularly consumers and workers are informed of risks and hazards of nanomaterials.** USA: Change to: Key stakeholders, particularly consumers, are informed of known risks and hazards of	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
	linked to 3 through cross referencing MDG: Setting risk reduction objectives should be included	IOMC: Add IOMC (UNITAR)		nanomaterials. NIA: Focus should be on providing information to minimize risk if there is a hazard NIA: Downstream user is also a key stakeholder BCM: Delete here – move to 6 **Number of national and regional workshops on nanomaterials.** NIA: This indicator is too broad. Most workshops are taegeted at a scientific audience ant not to consumers or workers. BCM: Delete here – move to 6 **Development of inventories of nanomaterials including their environmental, health and safety risks accessible to all stakeholders.** US: Delete. Could be replaced by an indicator addressing outreach activities to make stakeholders aware of all the tools at their disposal, including any developed inventories.	

WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)					
Work Area	**New Activity**	**Actors**	**Target/Time frame**	**Indicators of progress**	**Implementation aspects**
CAN: to Implementation of integrated national programmes for the sound management of chemicals at the national level in a flexible manner (Area 26), Or to: Capacity building to support national actions (Area36)	***22.*** **Promote public and private sectors partnerships for the environmental sound management of nanomaterials with adequate financial support to assist developing countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition to build scientific, technical, and legal capacity to address associated risks.** JPN: Add "as appropriate" after "Financial support".	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGO, Academia**	**2012 – 2015**	**Number of public/private partnerships signed.**	
CAN: to Legal, policy and institutional aspects (Area 29)	**23. Develop guidance on legal and institutional gaps and needs assessment.** EU: Delete and combine with 16, 17 and 19 with new text (see 16). JPN: The meaning or contents of "legal and institutional gaps "and needs" should be clarified in detail. USA: Delete OECD, /UNITAR: Combine with 14 and 15 OEWG CM: Delete	**National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations (IOMC), industry, academia, NGOs and other interested groups**	**2012-2015**	**Guidance document is available.**	

Annex II

Submissions on the proposal to include a new work area to the Global Plan of Action on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

Submission from Canada

April 2012

SAICM Secretariat
Chemicals Branch
Division of Industry, Technology and Economics (DTIE)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland
Email: saicm@unep.org

Reference: Nano GPA addition

Dear Secretariat:

As requested, Canada has a number of comments related to the proposal to add activities related to nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action (GPA).

Firstly, consistent with our level of engagement in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (OECD WPMN) and recent commitments in the North American context, Canada supports a global approach to the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials.

It is important to recognize, however, that actions regarding nanotechnology and nanomaterials should reflect the current state of science. Canada is of the view that in many cases the state of the science regarding nanomaterials is still in development and as such, many of the proposed activities (especially items 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 16, and 18) may be premature. For example, the OECD WPMN is currently working on developing information on the safety of manufactured nanomaterials. Although the results of this initiative are not yet available, the information will be important in understanding the intrinsic properties of nanomaterials that can inform risk evaluation, risk management and technical guidance.

More specifically with respect to the format of any additions to the GPA, Canada would like to reiterate its comments made at the OEWG that the ICCM2 Decision on the Global Plan of Action does not refer to a process for the addition of new "Work Areas"; the decision refers only to "Activities".

Further, Canada suggests a new work area for nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials is not necessary as all the activities proposed, could be included under existing Work Areas of the GPA. (Canada provided a possible mapping of the proposed new activities by existing Work Areas at the OEWG and has re submitted this in a separate word document accompanying this letter).

Canada notes that under the OECD Working Party for Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) work proposed under a number of activities (e.g. activities 4, 5, 6, 13,) is already underway. To avoid duplication of effort, Canada encourages that SAICM cooperate and consult with the secretariat of the WPMN to discuss lessons learned on research results as they become available and on effective mechanisms for information exchange.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Leppinen
Director
Chemicals Policy Bureau
Safe Environments Directorate
Health Canada

Attachment: Annex 1: Possible Mapping of proposed new activities by existing GPA Work Areas

Attachment:

Nanotechnologies and Manufactured nanomaterials

POSSIBLE MAPPING OF PROPOSED NEW ACTIVITIES BY EXISTING "WORK AREAS"[1]	
WORK AREA[2]	**PROPOSED ACTIVITY**
	1. Develop, establish and promote adoption of technical guidelines and harmonized standards on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials based on precaution.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	2. Identify, strengthen and implement legal instruments to ensure the use of best practices in the production, use, transport and disposal of manufactured nanomaterials.
18 Research, monitoring and data **Or** **4 Occupational Health & Safety**	3. Increase the active involvement of the health sector to identify, treat and track diseases potentially caused by occupational exposure to manufactured nanComaterials and develop and implement preventive interventions.
4 Occupational Health & Safety	4. Increase the understanding of the environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials through further research.
4 Occupational Health & Safety	5. Support and where feasible, increase funding for independent research on the environmental and occupational health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials.
21 Information management and dissemination	6. Enhance information sharing on national and regional policy and regulatory initiatives.
21 Information management and dissemination	7. Develop a national inventory reflecting the national situation of nano-research, production, and marketing.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	8. Develop mandatory labeling schemes for manufactured nanomaterials.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	9. Develop national or regional registers for manufactured nanomaterials produced, imported or integrated into products.
21 Information management and dissemination	10. Develop and promote a voluntary global scheme certifying the presence of manufactured nanomaterials in products.
5 Globally harmonized system (GHS)	11. Develop GHS criteria to address the safety of manufactured nanomaterials.
21 Information management and dissemition	12. Improve existing information management systems to include information specific to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.
22 Life cycle	13. Develop life cycle analysis (LCA) for manufactured nanomaterials

[1] Table A. Possible Work Areas and their Associated Activities

[2] Current existing Work Areas of GPA

POSSIBLE MAPPING OF PROPOSED NEW ACTIVITIES BY EXISTING "WORK AREAS"[1]	
WORK AREA[2]	**PROPOSED ACTIVITY**
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	14. Identify and increase access to, and refine where necessary, existing guidance on the incorporation of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in national chemicals management programs, and identify where gaps exist.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	15. Incorporate nanomaterials and nanotechnologies in national chemicals management program.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	16. Identify and address existing gaps and needs in existing legal and institutional framework addressing nano specific issues, including in relation to enforcement.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	17. Establish national policy and institutional coordination plan regarding nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	18. Identify, strengthen and enforce regulatory provisions for the environmentally sound management of waste containing nanomaterials.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	19. Develop and/or update existing legislation covering the entire spectrum of work situations in which nanomaterials are handled, to protect workers, the public and the environment, from potential harm related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.
20 Promotion of industry participation and responsibility	20. Promote extended producer responsibility (EPR) throughout the life cycle of manufactured nanomaterials.
24 Education and training (public awareness)	21. Increase the understanding of environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials through awareness raising and capacity building, and information sharing and dissemination.
26 Implementation of integrated national programmes for the sound management of chemicals at the national level in a flexible manner **Or** **36 Capacity building to support national actions**	22. Promote public and private sectors partnerships for the environmental sound management of nanomaterials with adequate financial support to assist developing countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition to build scientific, technical, and legal capacity to address associated risks.
29 Legal, policy and institutional Aspects	23. Develop guidance on legal and institutional gaps and needs assessment.

Submission from Costa Rica

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
Name: Dr.-Ing. Paola Vega-Castillo
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Contact email: pvega@ietec.org
Government: Costa Rica
Organization: Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica
Date of submission: April 23rd 2012

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 4, 5 and 6: These activities should be carried out in inclusive frameworks that allow developing countries to access their counterparts in developed countries by means of research stays and joint research projects with scientists of both kinds of countries, to ensure a critical mass of human resources addressing nanoparticles risk assessment in developing countries, since the limited funds for research and limited access to scientific information and exchange may severely limit the ability of these countries to fulfill all expectations listed for most of the activities listed in the activity chart.

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal : None

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment : In activity 9, the period to implement legislation in Costa Rica is very short. It will probably take at least 3 years more than the time mentioned in the activity chart. Besides the time for writing the proposal, the approval time is much longer, due to the established procedures to approve a new law.

Submission from the European Union

Danish Ministry
of the Environment
Environmental
Protection Agency

Comments on behalf of EU and its Member States

on proposal for addition of new activities to the Global Plan of Action on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

25 April 2012

Issue

In preparation for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 3), the SAICM secretariat has asked for comments on the new activities under the Global Plan of Action (GPA). A proposal for updating the GPA to include activities relating to nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials was submitted to the first meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) in November 2011 by the Government of Switzerland.

Background

The use of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials has evolved rapidly since the first session of the International Conference on Chemical Management in 2006. Today, these new materials are used in a wide range of applications, and much research and development is underway in many countries to understand the basics of the characteristics, properties, possible hazards and risks. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials offer potential societal and economical benefits as well as potential environmental, health and safety risks.

Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials were not an issue at first session of the International Conference on Chemical Management but they were discussed at the Sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety held in Dakar, Senegal in September 2008 and addressed in the report of the meeting as the Dakar Statement on Manufactured Nanomaterials. Furthermore, nanomaterials were addressed as an emerging issue under SAICM during the second session of the International Conference on Chemical management (ICCM2) in 2009. The SAICM Global Plan of Action (GPA) does not yet address this issue.

The Swiss proposal now contains 23 activities. The SAICM Secretariat has asked to comment specifically on the following parts of the proposal:

i. editorial amendments to the wording on activities 4-6, 12-15, 21 and 22 in the column entitled "New activity" in the Swiss proposal (*note: these were activities that during informal session at Belgrade parties agreed were not contentious*)

ii. where the new activities should be included in the Global Plan of Action.

iii. clarify any remaining concerns on the other activities in the proposal

Re (i):

Activities 4-6

We agree with what these activities are trying to achieve but suggest that we combine 4, 5 and 6 to the following text: "*Enhance information and knowledge sharing through general public engagement activities on national and regional policy and regulatory initiatives*." Target/Time frame 2012-2018.

Activities 12-15

We agree that the activities are sound, but they could be incorporated into other activities to reduce the total number of activities.

Activity 21

We support the activity, but point out the link with Activity no 3 and suggest some cross referencing.

Activity 22

We support this activity and have no editorial amendments.

Re (ii):

The current proposal addresses all the important considerations relating to nanomaterials and we have no further activities to add.

Re (iii):

We are concerned that the number of activities planned is not proportionate to other areas for concern within the GPA. There is duplication in the activities proposed and we propose the following amendments:

Activities 7 and 9:

Delete and replace with one activity: *Develop inventories or registers of activities for manufactured nanomaterials produced, imported or integrated into products.* Rationale: Avoid duplication.

Activity 8:

Remove the word "mandatory" to read: "*Develop labelling schemes for manufactured nanomaterials*". Rationale: labelling schemes may be appropriate for certain nanomaterials or products containing nanomaterials but not all.

Activity 10:

Delete the activity. Rationale: We do not see the need for a global scheme for certifying the presence of nanomaterials. Where nanomaterials are hazardous then they should be addressed through the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Activity 11:

Change text to read "*Analyse and discuss in the GHS forum criteria to address the safety of manufactured nanomaterials. This will improve information management systems.*" Rationale: This is a more accurate reflection on how amending the GHS criteria would work.

Activities 16, 17, 19 and 23:

Delete and replace with one activity: "*Develop approaches to protect workers, the public and the environment from potential harm related to manufactured nanomaterials which could include the update or introduction of new legislation, and incorporation of lifecycle thinking in existing frameworks, policies, regulatory provisions, best practice guidelines and chemical management programmes*". Rationale: Avoid duplication.

Submission from Japan

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
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Organization:
Date of submission: May 8, 2012

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 22 ("New Activity" column):
While capacity building for addressing risk of nanomaterials in developing countries would be important, financial support would be done if appropriate. Therefore "as appropriate" should be added after "financial support".

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal :
None

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

General comment on proposed activities :
1) Japan believes that we should fully utilize and take into account the results of activities which OECD, ISO and other international organizations have been implementing internationally.
2) It should be considered carefully not to duplicate with existing related work area in GPA.
3) Nano-related area is the one which scientific knowledge has not yet been established even in the developed countries, therefore necessity of new activities should be considered based on the progress of scientific discussion and should focus on activities which are feasible for implementation.

Comments relating to proposed activities

Number 2:

The word of "legal" or the phrase of "Identify, strengthen and implement legal instruments to" should be deleted. Utilization of best practices can be done by using non-legal framework such as guidance.

Number 7 and 9:

Generally "registration" would be necessary for making "inventory", therefore those two items seem to be duplicated. Japan proposes integration of activity 7 with 9.

Number 8:

The word of "mandatory" should be deleted. The way of labeling schemes should be judged by each country.

Number 10:

This activity should be deleted because internationally applicable definition of nanomaterials is not yet established and scientific knowledge is limited. Thus it is premature to include this item into GPA.

Number 11:

Hazard including carcinogenicity of nanomaterials can be classified in the current GHS because GHS does not exclude nanomaterials. Therefore we should consider carefully whether new endpoints for nanomaterials are necessary or not in GHS.

At first, we should start work for adaptation of GHS. Therefore "New Activity" column would be appropriate to be replaced with "Develop work plan for the adaptation of GHS to address the safety of manufactured nanomaterials", and "Actors" column would be replaced with "the UN committees of experts".

Number 18:

This activity should be deleted (the same reason as activity 10).

If this type of activity is really required, the activity should clearly focus on hazardous waste containing nanomaterials, and "New Activity" column should be "… sound management of hazardous waste containing nanomaterials".

Number 20:

The idea to manage nanomaterial through the life cycle of material sounds important with the view to better control.

However, if EPR would apply, it should be considered carefully about its feasibility for implementation.

Number 23:

The meaning or contents of "legal and institutional gap and needs" should be clarified in detail.

Submission from Madagascar

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

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Organization: -
Date of submission: 03 April 2012

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to the nine activities:
No comment

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal

The objectives of risk reduction should be included in the activity number 21 which clearly defines some ways to prevent and reduce nanomaterials risks.

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment : No additional comment

Submission from Senegal

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

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Organization: Direction de l'Environnement
Date of submission: 07/05/12

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number X: My comments are referring to the whole added activities. I find that globally all the activities relevant to a sound management of nanomaterials are included in this new proposed SAICM GPA.

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal : In my opinion, the location of the new activities are not very important. What is relevant is already done: it is the inclusion of activities aiming to risks reduction when dealing with nanomaterials, particulary in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment : None

Submission from the United States of America

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

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Organization: Department of State
Date of submission: April 23, 2012

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 4:
After carefully reviewing activities 4 and 5, we find it difficult to make a distinction between the two. Accordingly, they should be consolidated into a single activity or, alternately, the description of the activities should be modified to make the differences clear. In addition, we suggest avoiding the suggestion that clear deterministic relationship exists between funding level and research outcome.

To consolidate and clarify, we suggest something along the lines of the following:

Increase the understanding of the environmental, public, and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials through continued support for independent research.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 5:
See number 4.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 6:
In the Indicators of progress column, please make the following changes:

All stakeholders are informed of current and pending policies and regulatory frameworks ~~hazards, and risks of nanomaterials. All relevant stakicholders have access to available relevant information~~.

We support this activity, but indicators of progress do not match the activity. The OECD WPN and WPMN have ongoing work projects to survey national regulatory frameworks for nanomaterials, in general, and for nanotechnology in food and medical products.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 12:
We are not clear what is meant by "information management systems" in this context. We are concerned about the consistent use of language across different stakeholder groups and nations. If what is meant is a general type of database or otherwise searchable and shareable material listing, then, in order to be useful, such information management systems should use terms and meta data that are based on a shared set of descriptors. International standards activities, for example those being undertaken in and coordinated by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO TC229) WG1 (including those with the International Council for Science, CODATA, etc.) provide a basis for establishing naming conventions and other required data sharing inputs. Other informatics activities underway will also support this effort, but are too premature to result in a useful information management/database for this activity at this time.

If our understanding is correct as noted above, we suggest rewording the description of this activity as:

Expand ~~Improve existing~~ information management systems containing non-proprietary information to include information specific to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterial, considering existing efforts (such as international standards activities and relevant informatics communities).

Editorial comment relating to activity number 13:
We recommend extending the end date, which we currently believe is impractically ambitious:

2012 – ~~2015~~ 2020

We support on-going work in the OECD WPMN but believe the 2015 date is impractically ambitious because in our experience, this process takes at least 3 years for an analysis. Without defining this activity more specifically, we believe it is unreasonable to expect that the actors listed will be able to conduct or sponsor a number of these analyses within 3 years.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 14:
We support activity 14 and have already taken measures in support in the context of the United States' National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) Goal 4: Responsible Nanotechnology development.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 15:
We have difficulty making a distinction between activities 14 and 15. Accordingly, we recommend that they be consolidated into a single activity or, alternately, the description of each activity should be modified to make the differences clear.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 21:
We recommend that text in the Indicators of Progress column be changed to:

Key stakeholders, particularly consumers and workers, are informed of known risks and hazards of nanomaterials. Number of national and regional workshops of nanomaterials. ~~*Development of inventories of nanomaterials including their environmental, health and safety risks accessible to all stakeholders.*~~

The development of inventories is an activity, not an indicator. Inventories are covered elsewhere already. We suggest that the indicators instead speak to outreach activities to make stakeholders aware of all tools at their disposal, including any developed inventories.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 22:
We support this activity.

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal
We suggest that these new activities be placed under the objective of addressing knowledge and information (Objective 2). We believe a consensus exists on the need for further research on understanding the environmental and health effects of nanomaterials, but we are concerned that placing the activities under the auspices of risk reduction prejudges the environmental and human health impacts of nanomaterials before there is sufficient research to draw a conclusion.

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comments :
The United States continues to have concerns about activities 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 23. We propose deletion of several of the proposed activities, including development of certification schemes, labeling, regulatory and legislative provisions for the environmentally sound management of waste containing nanomaterials or worker and public protection. Such actions must be based on scientific evidence and principles. Without strong scientific evidence that manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks, such activities can unnecessarily stigmatize manufactured nanomaterials and products. We suggest deletion of the above-referenced activities now, without prejudice to their consideration later.

As a vocal proponent for nanotechnology as an emerging issue at ICCM2, the United States welcomes continued work on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials under SAICM. We support the addition of activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to the GPA. We underscore the importance of carefully examining proposed activities against the criteria set out in the procedure for the inclusion of new activities in the GPA, especially their relevance and cost-effectiveness. The United States strongly supports activities that seek to incorporate nanotechnology issues into existing chemical management frameworks. We also welcome efforts to increase the understanding of environmental health and safety implications of nanomaterials through information sharing, such as the awareness raising workshops conducted by UNITAR and OECD over the past two years.

Activity number 1:
We suggest rewording this activity. Work is currently underway to develop technical guidelines and international standards, but it is not yet clear that additional efforts to develop international standards are needed. Additionally, it is not apparent that standards need to be harmonized between countries, but could, rather, be tailored to meet the needs of individual countries. Finally, standards should be based on principles of identified hazards and risk.

Support existing efforts to develop, establish, and promote adoption of technical guidelines, including ~~harmonized~~ international standards on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials ~~based on precaution~~ to manage identified risks of nanomaterials, as informed by the best available scientific data to protect human health and the environment.

Activity number 2: Legal instruments should not be specific to nanomaterials without a strong foundation of scientific evidence on which to base them. Further, without sufficient scientific evidence, one cannot adequately develop or identify best practice in the production, use, transport, and disposal of manufactured nanomaterials. Against this background, we propose the deletion of this activity.

Activity number 3: This activity assumes there is a definitive link between manufactured nanomaterials and morbidity where there is not; inclusion of this activity could potentially stigmatize further research and development in nanotechnologies. At this time, we cannot adequately identify commercial activity for nanomaterials and to what workers are potentially exposed. It is possible that this activity could be narrowed to address specific nanomaterials or categories of nanomaterials, but without that, we propose the deletion of this activity.

Activity number 8: We propose the deletion of this activity. The reason for promoting the development of mandatory labeling schemes for manufactured nanomaterials is unclear and, thus, we do not believe such schemes are necessary. Even if such a scheme were agreed to be necessary, we have concerns that the development of a labeling scheme is not yet feasible for nanomaterials generally because there is no scientific consensus on characterization thresholds, parameters, values, or characteristics needed to identify a material as a nanoproduct. Additionally, there is not a risk or hazard unique to nanotechnology or the use of manufactured nanomaterials within the product. Without strong scientific evidence that manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks, labels can unnecessarily stigmatize manufactured nanomaterials and reduce use, trade, research, and innovation in this field.

The need for a label and its informational value is specific to the audience, i.e. business-to-business,

occupational, consumer, etc. Labeling should be based on principles developed under GHS. GHS does not currently specifically address nanotechnology or nanomaterials unless a weight-of-evidence demonstrates the need for labeling. It should be noted that GHS is taking up the discussion of nanotechnology at meetings this summer in Geneva and such the results of such discussions may help to inform ICCM3. Since the GHS work is sponsored by the UN and OECD, however, the United States believes it is more appropriate to develop these types of criteria and decisions within that process.
Activity number 9: Our concerns with activity number 9 are similar to those expressed under activity number 8. We recommend deletion of this activity. Without strong scientific evidence that manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks, registers can unnecessarily stigmatize manufactured nanomaterials and products and reduce use, trade, research, and innovation in this area. With respect to products, it is unclear what the basis is for developing registers in the absence of strong scientific evidence that the manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks or their presence is relevant to the product's function or use.
Activity number 10: The need for a certification scheme that would certify the presence of manufactured nanomaterials in products is not clear. If the intent is to prevent misrepresentation about the nature of materials in the product, then existing statutes and regulatory authorities in most countries can adequately address such concerns. Certification schemes, no matter how voluntary, add to the cost of the product, which invariably are passed onto consumers. Other effective conformity assessment mechanisms can be found that can address specific conformity assessment needs. We recommend deletion of this activity. Without strong scientific evidence that manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks, registers can unnecessarily stigmatize manufactured nanomaterials and products and reduce use, trade, research, and innovation in this area. With respect to products, it is unclear what the basis is for developing registers in the absence of strong scientific evidence that the manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks or their presence is relevant to the product's function or use.
Activity number 11: This activity is not technically feasible for "nanomaterials" in general. Specific nanomaterials or categories of nanomaterials may lend themselves to this activity, but without identifying them, we propose deletion of this activity. Development of GHS criteria is geared toward labeling. (Please see our concerns under activity number 8 with respect to labeling.)
Activity number 16: Identifying and addressing gaps in legal and institutional frameworks, including enforcement, implies that an accepted reference model or best practice exists for such a legal and institutional framework. We question that such a model exists at a national, regional, or global level and find this activity premature. Against that background, we recommend deletion of this activity.
Activity number 17: The intention of this activity is not clear. If it is to develop national plans for policy and institutional policy for managing nanomaterials, we question whether sufficient scientific evidence exists on which to base such plans and find this activity to be premature. Similar to Activity number 16, this suggests that best practice exists for such a plan. Without such existing thinking, we suggest deleting this activity.
Activity number 18: We question whether sufficient scientific evidence exists to require waste containing nanomaterials to be managed in a manner different than that already required by existing legal frameworks for waste.
Activity number 19: The development of legislation specific to nanomaterials should be based upon scientific principles and evidence. We question whether sufficient principles and evidence exists and propose the deletion of this activity.
Activity number 20: While the United States supports extended producer responsibility, as appropriate, it is unclear that producers of nanomaterials should be singled out in this manner. Such prejudice against one sector separate should be based upon scientific principles and evidence. Without strong scientific evidence that manufactured nanomaterials present certain risks, singling out producers of nanomaterials can unnecessarily stigmatize manufactured nanomaterials and products.
Activity number 23: We have similar concerns for this activity as stated above for Activity number 16. Identifying and addressing gaps in legal and institutional frameworks, including enforcement, implies that an accepted reference model or best practice exists for such a legal and institutional framework. We question that such a model exists at a national, regional, or global level and find this activity premature. Against that background, we recommend the deletion of this activity.

Submission from the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)

FORM FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
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Organization: WHO
Date of submission: 03/04/2012

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number X:
See attached: (i) additions to table of Work Areas, for Actors and Indicators of progress; (ii) separate page of comments from OECD and OECD/UNITAR
- -

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment :

1. OECD/UNITAR comments (lead IOMC organizations for this emerging issue)

It might be difficult to reach consensus on a mandatory system of labelling as outlined in activity 8. We believe that at the present time, consideration of this issue could involve too much effort. It might be better considered under activity 11 (GHS) before considering mandatory labelling schemes.

It is difficult to consider how a certification scheme (activity 10?) might be established and what it might involve. It could be recommended to concentrate on activity 12, which addresses SDSs.

Activities 14 and 15 are very similar. For the sake of clarity, they could be combined.

Activity 23 seems closely linked to activities 14 and 15. It might be possible to incorporate the three activities together.

2. OECD comments

Collectively, this would be a highly ambitious programme of work and some rationalisation of the activities might be beneficial to those considering the proposal.

Second, as regards item 3, we note that WHO and ILO are mentioned. However, there has been substantial work done by OECD in this area, which we believe might be usefully recognised.

We have some suggestions regarding the wording in activity 5. The way the text under this activity is currently worded almost assumes that any research is helpful. In our experience, much published research (especially that of some years ago) is of questionable value to regulatory scientists. There are a number of reasons for this but we will give just one example. In the recent past, there were many different approaches to the preparation of samples used in experimental systems to test nanomaterials. This meant that it was difficult to interpret and compare results. This is why the OECD has spent considerable efforts on preparing guidance in this area. In practical terms, we would prefer a reference to “research of relevance to regulatory scientists” rather than “independent research”. The indicators of progress described under this activity would not ensure that research would be relevant. Unless, such indicators could be found it might be worth deleting this activity altogether.

Activity 16 could be considered to be very controversial. There is no consensus at this time as to whether specific legislation is necessary or whether existing regulatory regimes (for example those which address chemicals management) could be adapted to nano. Therefore, the indicator of progress suggesting new legislation is likely to prove controversial.

Submission from the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

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Organization: International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)
Date of submission: April 3, 2012

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 4: ICCA supports this proposed activity. Research activities should be directed at the highest priority questions, and be conducted in a transparent manner in collaboration with stakeholders (research needs have also been identified in the REACH Implementation Project on Nanotechnology in the EU which could also apply on a global level).

Editorial comment relating to activity number 5: ICCA supports this proposed activity. Research activities should be directed at the highest priority questions, and conducted in a transparent manner in collaboration with stakeholders.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 6: ICCA supports this proposed activity. Information sharing should give due consideration to the protection of trade secrets and other forms of confidential business information, in order to facilitate continued innovation.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 12: ICCA supports this proposed activity, and urges governments to make use of existing databases containing information submitted by industry to fulfill requirements under national regulatory regimes. In addition, ISO TTC 229 has for some time been working on the issue of MSDS for nanomaterials, and ICCA would urge stakeholders to take this work into account.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 13: ICCA supports this proposed activity in principle, although we would note that many governments, inter-governmental bodies, and industry groups are already conducting such analysis. SAICM stakeholders should be encouraged to consider existing work in this area rather than duplicating it.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 14: ICCA supports this proposed activity. ICCA suggests that the first indicator of progress might be better stated as “Guidance for assessing nanomaterials are included in an increasing number of existing chemical management programs.”

Editorial comment relating to activity number 15: ICCA supports this proposed activity.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 21: ICCA supports this proposed activity.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 22: ICCA supports this proposed activity, so long as the provision of financial support to developing country governments to facilitate their participation in public-private partnerships is provided through existing funding mechanisms (industry is, of course, prepared to provide financial contributions to the public-private partnerships themselves).

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal: ICCA's view is that the content of each of the proposed actions for addition to the GPA needs to be clarified and agreed before deciding which of the SAICM core objectives the proposed actions should be listed under.

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment: In the limited time available for discussion on this issue at the OEWG meeting, there was only time for an initial assessment by those stakeholders participating in the contact group of the proposed activities for addition to the GPA. ICCA notes that the request for comments only appears to relate to nine of the twenty-three proposed activities for addition to the GPA. It would appear that these nine items were the ones that all participants in the contact group on this issue at the OEWG meeting said they could agree with. The other fourteen proposed additions all attracted varying levels of opposition from the stakeholders present. ICCA questions why comments were not sought on the fourteen other proposed activities. Have these activities now been omitted from the proposal? ICCA has significant concerns about several of these proposed activities, and if these activities are still proposed for consideration at ICCM-3, ICCA would appreciate an opportunity to provide further comments.

Submission from Ecological Restorations

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

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Organization: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATIONS
Date of submission: 01/04/12

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number X:

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment : I don't have problems with the structure as in the GPA but I will suggest much emphasis on capacity building for developing and countries with economies in transition as these are not or may not even be aware of the hazards and risks associated with nanotechnologies and nanomaterials.Therefore increasing the capacity of these countries at all levels may help to achieve desired results.This could be in awareness raising, research(funding, increased number of researchers in the fiels, laoboratories and equipment).

Submission from Friends of the Earth

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

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Government:
Organization: Friends of the Earth Australia
Date of submission: 23/4/12

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 4:

Typing error in *Indicators of Progress* – it should read 'papers' rather than 'paper'

Editorial comment relating to activity number 5:

New activity
There should be a comma after 'Support and'

Indicators of progress
Paragraph 2 needs to specify an increased allocation of national budget towards research on the environmental, health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials, as opposed to merely research on nanotechnologies which could include funding for broader (or commercial) research and development.

Paragraph 3 should be deleted. The number of funding opportunities available to promote nanotechnology has no bearing on supporting and increasing funding for research on the environmental, health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials.

Paragraph 4 needs to changed to make it clear that it is referring to projects researching the environmental, health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials – rather than to nanotechnology research more broadly.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 22:

New activity
The proposed promotion of private sector partnerships to assist developing countries to build scientific, technical and legal capacity to address the risks of manufactured nanomaterials introduces conflicts of interest. It also raises practical and ethical concerns if the companies involved have a vested interest in the commercialization of the technology. Strict guidelines and systems to identify and insulate conflicts of interest will be needed to ensure that environmental, health and safety objectives are not undermined due to private sector involvement. For example, to ensure that research goals, conduct and communication are not distorted by the interests of funders, funding from private sector parties should not be linked to particular or identifiable projects.

Indicators of progress
The number of public/private partnerships signed may not be the best measure of successful progress.

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal
The vast majority of the new activities are best placed under '*Measures to support risk reduction*' in the Global Plan of Action, with the exception of activities 12 and 21 which would be best placed under '*Strengthening knowledge and information'*.

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment :
The background information provided by the Swiss Government highlights a number of the environmental, health and safety concerns raised by manufactured nanomaterials. In recognising the wide range of hazards and risks associated with the release of nanomaterials into the environment and into human systems, coupled with the likely disruptive social and economic impacts of nanotechnology, Friends of the Earth call for a strongly precautionary approach to the development of nanotechnology.

We recognise that further scientific research on the health and environmental safety of nano-materials and products is required to inform the development of regulations to manage the risks of nanotoxicity. However, for even this non-commercial research work to proceed, precautionary protocols will be required to protect the health and safety of researchers and to strictly minimise any environmental releases.

Further, we recognise that given the scale of existing knowledge gaps and technical barriers, it is not yet possible to develop systems for risk assessment and management in which the public can have confidence.

In the absence of established and validated regulatory systems, Friends of the Earth Australia is calling for an immediate moratorium on all commercial research, development and release of nanotechnological materials and products.

Submission from Nano Industries Association

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

Please refer: Table showing proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
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Contact email: david.carlander@nanotechia.org
Government: not applicable
Organization: Nanotechnology Industries Association,
Avenue Louise 101, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Date of submission: 2012-04-03

For each editorial comment please identify which of the following nine activities (activity 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15. 21, 22) the comment relates to and provide a rationale to support your comment.

The Nanotechnologies Industries Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Addition to the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action Activities Related to Nanotechnologies and Nanomaterials. The NIA's comments focus on five of the nine activities (out of the total 22), for which comments were sought. Finally a number of general comments are provided.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 4: Comment related to indicators of progress column: In its nature, scientific publications are published after the research has been completed. The inclusion of a process to monitor funding for and number of ongoing research projects should be considered as an earlier indicator. In addition, as scientific research is published mostly in international scientific journals the relevance of monitoring publications in all regions may be of limited importance.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 5: Comment related to implementation aspects column: The task of the international and national information clearing houses is not clear.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 6: The new activity describes enhanced information sharing of regional policy and regulatory initiatives, whereas the indicator of progress column indicates information of hazards and risks. Sharing of policy and regulatory initiatives are related to risk management, whereas information related to hazards and toxicity is related to risk assessment. It is proposed that the indicators of progress is harmonized and adjusted to share information related to policy and regulatory initiatives. It is furthermore proposed, as a first step, to perform a stakeholder mapping in order to implement the proposed activity in a targeted fashion.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 12: Comment related to indicators of progress column: The inclusion of nano-specific data in MSDS (material safety data sheets) does not necessarily address the focus of the proposed activity (i.e. '[i]mprove existing information management systems to include information specific to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials'). MSDS contain – and should continue to contain, information that is directly relevant to the hazard profile of a material only. Nano-specific information, such as particle size, is no indication of the safety or hazard potential of a material. Provision of nano-specific information on Technical Data Sheets (TDS) should be considered to complement the suggested indicator of progress, if this does not fall under confidential data. The development of databases is vague and would merit further description and justification.

Editorial comment relating to activity number 21: Comment related to indicators of progress column: Information to consumers is very important, but the focus should be about providing nanomaterials that are safe for consumers to use at the intended use. Workers and downstream users (before consumer) are the key stakeholders. Focus should be on providing information to minimize risk if there is a hazard. The number of national and regional workshops may be too broad an indicator, as most workshops are targeted and a scientific audience and not related to consumers or workers.

Currently the proposal as drafted includes the proposed additions under the objectives of risk reduction. Do you have a comment on where any of the proposed new activities (1-22 of the proposal) should be included? If so, please provide details.

Comment on structure of proposal: Risk is the function of hazard and exposure and reduction of risk is therefore achievable in a dual manner, either reduce the hazard (e.g. its severity or effect) or by reducing the exposure to the hazard. The proposed range of activities is broad, and the activities are sometimes somewhat overlapping, both in their nature and in their indicators of progress. This should be considered for the inclusion of the activities.

If you have any additional comment/concern that is not linked to the issues above please provide it in the following area:

Other outstanding comment: The proposed addition would merit from a description of the differences of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. Nanotechnologies may be applied and used without generation of nanomaterials. Thus the potential effects are different and therefore require a different approach. The proposal should acknowledge this and provide a separation where appropriate and relevant.

For all activities where national actions are proposed, the proposed addition should strive for harmonisation. Measures to promote harmonisation should be included to avoid creation of a patchwork of divergent actions that would have a negative impact of resource utilisation of all involved parties.

Other outstanding comment: (continued)

The NIA would also like to recall the current activities of other international organisations in the area of nanotechnology and nanomaterials (e.g. ISO and OECD) that addresses a number of the proposed activities and where consolidated progress has been made. Broad cooperation should be promoted to avoid unnecessary duplication of activities and optimisation of resource utilisation.

The NIA has positive experience in the effectiveness of public/private partnerships as suitable means to achieve a number of the proposed activities.

//END

Annex III

Submissions on the proposal to include a new work area to the Global Plan of Action on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electric and electronic products

The following stakeholders submitted comments of the revised table of proposed activities of on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electric and electronic products prepared by the secretariat, in compliance with Decision OEWG.1/1 II:

Submission from Canada

June 2012

SAICM Secretariat
Chemicals Branch
Division of Industry, Technology and Economics (DTIE)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland
Email: saicm@unep.org

Reference: HSEE GPA addition

Dear Secretariat:

As requested, Canada has a number of comments related to the proposal to add activities related to Hazardous Substances in the lifecycle of Electrical and Electronic Waste to the Global Plan of Action (GPA). Comments on specific activities are included in the table below.

Canada continues to view the GPA as a working tool and guidance to aid in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. As such, it is neither restrictive nor exhaustive. Not only are countries free to undertake any Activity in the GPA, as appropriate, in implementing SAICM, but the GPA does not prevent any stakeholder from undertaking Activities not included in the GPA. As such, Canada is also of the view that it is inappropriate, in a guidance document associated with a voluntary approach, to prescribe actors, timelines, indicators or other aspects of implementation. Should ICCM adopt a document containing these columns, Canada would request the same footnote currently in the GPA. As such we have not provided comments on those sections.

The GPA is voluntary and activities should be flexible enough to address differing national circumstances and needs, and should not lead to trade restrictions that are not based on sound science and risk assessment. In addition, any policy or framework should be consistent with the principles of minimizing the regulatory burden on stakeholders. This comment refers to several proposed activities in the table below including activities 3, 5, and 6.

With respect to the format of any additions to the GPA, and in particular, regarding suggested new Work Areas, Canada suggests a new work area (or work areas) for Hazardous Substances through the lifecycle of Electronic and Electrical Waste is not necessary as all the activities proposed, could be included under existing Work Areas of the GPA. (In the form for submission of comments below, Canada has provided a possible location of the proposed new activities by existing Work Areas of the GPA).

Canada recognizes electronic waste as an ongoing global challenge for environmentally sound management (ESM), particularly in developing countries which may lack capacity to ensure the proper management of these wastes. Canada supports many of the proposed activities identified below. However, Canada remains concerned that some of the proposed activities under the GPA duplicate the ongoing work of the other international forums, and existing multilateral agreements and processes. Canada believes it is essential to avoid duplication and continue to support the valuable work underway through the Basel Convention as the principal forum for international cooperation to address transboundary movement, Environmentally Sound Management and capacity building issues related to electronic waste.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Leppinen

Director
Chemicals Policy Bureau
Safe Environments Directorate
Health Canada

Attachment: Annex 1: Comments on proposed new activities and suggestions of existing GPA Work Areas where activities might fit.

Annex 1: FORM FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
Name: Suzanne Leppinen
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Government: Government of Canada
Organization: Health Canada
Date of submission: May 30, 2012

For each of the work areas below, using the revised table, specify the activity for which you are providing comments, or suggest a new activity as appropriate providing inputs on actors, target time, indicators of progress and implementation aspects.

Work area	New activity	Comment from Canada
E-products green design	1.Compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health or the environment in e-products	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of an already existing activity and Work Area under the GPA: For example, the following activity (#88 of the GPA under the ***"Hazard data generation and availability"*** Work Area) already exists: *- Generate and share information detailing the inherent hazards of all chemicals in commerce, giving priority to hazard information for those chemicals that have the greatest potential for substantial or significant exposures.* In addition, Canada agrees that database and information should be available as part of the Chemicals in Products (CiP), however, consideration must be taken regarding the Confidential Business Information (CBI) Management.
	2.Promote public and private partnerships for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances in e-products	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of an already existing activity and Work Area under the GPA: For example the following activity (#186 of the GPA, under the existing ***"Social and economic considerations"*** Work Area) also already exists: *- Develop frameworks for promoting private-public partnerships in the sound management of chemicals and wastes.*
	3.Assess and fill gaps in existing policies, legal and institutional framework addressing design of e-products	See comment in the attached letter.
	4.Identify tools and best practices that advance design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and	While Canada could support the inclusion of this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of already existing activities and Work Area under the GPA: For example, the following corresponding activity exists

Work area	New activity	Comment from Canada
	substitution	*- Encourage sustainable production and use and promote the transfer, implementation and adoption of pollution prevention policies and cleaner production technologies, in particular best available techniques and best environmental practices* (Activity #43 under the existing ***"Cleaner production"*** Work Area) The following activities exists under the existing ***"Risk assessment, management and communication"*** Work Area *- Apply science-based approaches, including those from among existing tools from IOMC organizations on, inter alia, test guidelines, good laboratory practices, mutual acceptance of data, new chemicals, existing chemicals, tools and strategies for testing and assessment; (Activity #63 of the GPA)* *- Encourage the development of simplified and standardized tools for integrating science into policy and decision-making relating to chemicals, particularly guidance on risk assessment and risk management methodologies.(Activity #64 of the GPA)* *and* under the ***"Waste management (and minimization)"*** Work Area) *-Prevent and minimize hazardous waste generation through the application of best practices, including the use of alternatives that pose less risk.(Activity #70 of the GPA)* *As well the following two activities exist under the **"Life cycle"** Work Area:* *- Encourage management practices that take into account the full life-cycle approach to sustainable chemicals management, emphasizing front-end pollution prevention approaches.* (Activity #119 of the GPA) *- Utilize the life-cycle management concept to identify priority gaps in chemicals management regimes and practices and to design actions to address gaps in order to identify opportunities to manage hazardous products, unintentional toxic emissions and hazardous wastes at the most advantageous point in the chemical life cycle.(Activity #121 of the GPA)*
	5.Adopt policy instruments and actions that support hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in electrical and electronic products	See comment in the attached letter.
	6.Promote harmonization of	See comment in the attached letter.

Work area	New activity	Comment from Canada
	policies and regulations that support hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in e-products,	
Environmentally sound manufacturing	Promote sustainable production and pollution prevention	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of already existing Work Areas under the GPA: For example: *- Encourage sustainable production and use and promote the transfer, implementation and adoption of pollution prevention policies and cleaner production technologies, in particular best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP).(Activity # 43* under the "***Cleaner production***" Work Area) *- Develop national profiles and implement action plans for sound management of chemicals.(Activity #1* under the **"*Assessment of national chemicals management to identify gaps and prioritize actions*"** Work Area) *- Encourage management practices that take into account the full life-cycle approach to sustainable chemicals management, emphasizing front-end pollution prevention approaches.(Activity #119* under the **"*Life cycle*"** Work Area)

Work area	New activity	Comment from Canada
	Prioritize reduction of exposure; eliminate or substitute the most hazardous substances of concern[3] and production processes	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of already existing Work Area under the GPA: *- Avoid worker exposure through technical measures where possible; provide appropriate protective equipment; improve the acceptance of wearing protective equipment and stimulate further research on protective equipment to be used under hot and humid conditions.(Activity #19* under the **"*Occupational health and safety*"** Work Area) *- Implement capacity-building programmes on waste minimization and increased resource efficiency, including zero waste resource management, waste prevention, substitution and toxic use reduction, to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded materials.* (Activity #258 under the **"*Waste management*"** Work Area) *- Promote research into technologies and alternatives that are less resource intensive and less polluting.* (Activity #84 under the **"*Research, monitoring and data*"** Work Area)
	Conduct research and development on safer chemicals substitutes, alternatives, and safer production processes	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of already existing Work Area under the GPA: *- Develop scientific knowledge to strengthen and accelerate innovation, research, development, training and education that promote sustainability.* (Activity #83 under the **"*Research, monitoring and data*"** Work Area) *- Promote research into technologies and alternatives that are less resource intensive and less polluting.* (Activity 84 under the **"*Research, monitoring and data*"** Work Area)
	Formulate, promote and implement health-based exposure limits for workers that provide equal protection in the workplace and the community	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of already existing Work Area (s) under the GPA: For example the following activity already exists under the "***Human health protection***" Work Area: *- Develop better methods and criteria for determining the impact of chemicals on human health (and thereby on the economy and sustainable development), for setting priorities for action, for the detection of chemicals and for monitoring the progress of SAICM.* (Activity #4 of the GPA)

[3] [Substances of concern include those that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs); very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia, the reproductive, endocrine, immune, or nervous systems; persistent organic pollutants (POPs); mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; those subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level.

Work area	New activity	Comment from Canada
		In addition, the following activities already exist under the "***occupational health and safety***" Work Area of the GPA: *- Develop harmonized data elements on occupational health and safety for recording relevant workplace data in company-specific databases. (*Activity #11 of the GPA*)* *- Consider legislation to protect the health of workers and the public, covering the entire spectrum of work situations in which chemicals are handled, including such sectors as agriculture and health.(Activity #12of the GPA)* *- Develop a system of health and environmental impact assessment in chemicals handling and incorporate it in occupational safety and health programmes.(Activity #13 of the GPA)* *- Develop, enhance, update and implement ILO safe work standards, ILO guidelines on occupational safety and health management system (ILO-OSH 2001) and other non-binding guidelines and codes of practice, including those particular to indigenous and tribal populations. (Activity #14 of the GPA)* *- Develop national occupational safety and health policies containing specific text on chemicals management, with a clear emphasis on preventive measures, requiring that workplace risk assessments and hazard prevention measures be carried out based on the recognized hierarchy of prevention and control measures.(Activity #15 of the GPA)* *- Avoid worker exposure through technical measures where possible; provide appropriate protective equipment; improve the acceptance of wearing protective equipment and stimulate further research on protective equipment to be used under hot and humid conditions. Activity #19 of the GPA)* *- Develop guidance on a harmonized approach to the setting of occupational exposure limits. (Activity #21 of the GPA)*
Environmentally sound management of e-waste	Assess gaps in existing policy, legal and institutional framework, including control of transboundary movement and illegal traffic	The Basel Convention is recognized as the principal forum for international cooperation to address transboundary movement, ESM and capacity building issues related to electronic waste and participants should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Basel Convention, including PACE.
	Establish voluntary approaches and use of economic instruments Extended producer responsibility and - e-products take-back schemes	Canada could support this as a proposed activity under SAICM work activity "**Waste Management and Minimization" / "Capacity building**" providing that its focus is limited to information sharing as opposed to infrastructure development, which Canada believes to be outside the scope of SAICM. Furthermore, participants should be encouraged to participate in the ongoing work of other

Work area	New activity	Comment from Canada
		international forums that are implementing take-back programs including Basel PACE and UN StEP. Furthermore, it is Canada's view that participants should not duplicate the work of the former OECD EPR work programme, which led to the development of the 2001 *EPR Guidance Manual for Governmen*ts.
	Conduct pilot projects on environmentally sound management of e-waste, without duplicating Basel Convention programme	Canada has concerns with this activity, given that the implementation of pilot projects is resource intensive and typically a multi-year commitment. Furthermore international forums such as Basel PACE and UN StEP are currently implementing pilot projects in developing countries. Lessons learned and approaches used from these pilot projects (including sustainable funding approaches) are intended to be transferrable.
Awareness-raising	Promote awareness, information, education and communication for all relevant stakeholders along the supply chain	While Canada could support this proposed new activity, it could be considered that it may be part of already existing Work Areas under the GPA: *For example,* *- Include a range of preventive strategies, education and awareness-raising and capacity-building in risk communication.(Activity #110* under the **"*Information management and dissemination*"** Work Area) *- Undertake awareness raising and preventive measures campaigns in order to promote safe use of chemicals.* (*Activity #163* under the **"*Stakeholder participation*"** Work Area) *- Implement information, education and communication packages on the sound management of chemicals, targeting key stakeholders including waste handlers and recyclers.* (*Activity #161* under the **"*Waste management Training (and minimization)*"** Work Area)

Submission from Japan

FORM FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
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Contact email: naoko_moritani@env.go.jp
Government: Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Organization:
Date of submission: May 14, 2012

For each of the work areas below, using the revised table, specify the activity for which you are providing comments, or suggest a new activity as appropriate providing inputs on actors, target time, indicators of progress and implementation aspects.

Work Area	Activity	Actors	Target time	Indicator of progress	Implementation aspects
E-products green design	Compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health or the environment in e-products			Database and information freely available on hazards and risks on hazardous chemicals in e-products <**Comment on the proposed indicator**> Database and information should not be limited to hazardous properties. It should be better to clarify evidences and risks associated with specific products groups and include such information.	

	Identify tools and best practices that advance design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution <**Comment on the proposed activity**> Tools and best practices for the selection of feasible/applicable resources by producers would be useful information for developing countries and countries in economy transition, if such tools and best practices can be identified through categorization of products by resources-type and based on risks of inappropriate disposal.				
Environmentally sound manufacturing < **Comment on the proposed work area** > Japan supports the importance of dissemination of this work area.					

Environmentally sound management of e-waste					
Awareness raising	Promote awareness, information, education and communication for all relevant stakeholders along the supply chain <**Comment on the proposed activity**> Japan supports the importance of the activity. However, it should not be limited to the electrical and electronic industry but also for whole supply chain from the view of sound chemical management.				

Any other comments (optional): _____

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Submission from the United States of America

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
Name: Kimberly Cochran
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Contact email: CochranKM@state.gov
Government: United States of America
Organization: Department of State
Date of submission: May 7, 2012

For each of the work areas below, using the revised table, specify the activity for which you are providing comments, or suggest a new activity as appropriate providing inputs on actors, target time, indicators of progress and implementation aspects.

Work Area	Activity	Comments
E-products green design	Compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health or the environment in e-products	We are considering this activity and do not have comments at this time, but may have comments in the future.
	Promote public and private partnerships for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances in e-products	We support the inclusion of this activity.
	Assess and fill gaps in existing policies, legal and institutional framework addressing design of e-products	We do not have any comments.
	Identify tools and best practices that advance design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution	We support the inclusion of this activity.
	Adopt policy instruments and actions that support hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in electrical and electronic products	In “Indicators of progress” column, it is unclear that the number of instruments and policy actions has a direct relationship with sound management of chemicals. The number of instruments is not important, but the effectiveness of those instruments is important. Additionally, in the same column, “regulations of” should be changed to “policy instruments and actions on” to ensure consistency with the activity title and allow for broad consideration of various types of instruments and actions. Please also note that the policy instruments and actions being adopted can be at the local, national, and/or regional levels.
	Promote harmonization of policies and regulations that support hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in e-products,	We suggest that this activity should be removed. It is not clear that harmonization of policies and regulations would solve or even reduce the challenges posed by electrical and electronic products. On the contrary, policies and regulations that may work in one country may not work in another. Policies and regulations are tailored to the unique domestic circumstances in each country.

Environmentally sound manufacturing	Promote sustainable production and pollution prevention	We support the inclusion of this activity. The term "compliance," however, should be changed to "implementation" in the "Indicators of progress" column since adherence to best practices is usually not mandatory.
	Prioritize reduction of exposure; eliminate or substitute the most hazardous substances of concern and production processes	We support the inclusion of this activity.
	Conduct research and development on safer chemicals substitutes, alternatives, and safer production processes	We support the inclusion of this activity.
	Formulate, promote and implement health-based exposure limits for workers that provide equal protection in the workplace and the community	We support the inclusion of this activity.
Environmentally sound management of e-waste	Assess gaps in existing policy, legal and institutional framework, including control of transboundary movement and illegal traffic	At OEWG 1, countries expressed concern that this activity duplicates efforts to address e-waste by the Basel Convention. We reiterate those concerns expressed at OEWG 1 and urge that this activity be revised to eliminate duplication with the Basel Convention.
	Establish voluntary approaches and use of economic instruments Extended producer responsibility and e-products take-back schemes	As with the activity above, at OEWG 1, countries expressed concern that this activity duplicates efforts to address e-waste by the Basel Convention. We reiterate those concerns expressed at OEWG 1 and urge that this activity be revised to eliminate duplication with the Basel Convention.
	Conduct pilot projects on environmentally sound management of e-waste, without duplicating Basel Convention programme	It is not clear from the title what additional pilot projects on the environmentally sound management of e-waste are needed beyond those already conducted by the Basel Convention. More clarity is needed in the title about work needed that cannot be completed under the auspices of the Basel Convention.
Awareness raising	Promote awareness, information, education and communication for all relevant stakeholders along the supply chain	We support the inclusion of this activity.

Any other comments (optional): _____

The United States remains concerned about the continued duplication of efforts here with work performed in other forums. While we support much of the work in other forums, such as the Basel Convention, and encourage SAICM stakeholders to also support these efforts, we caution stakeholders not to create new initiatives that would be within the scope of another international agreement. The United States is generally supportive of actions to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals in products. We encourage SAICM to focus its efforts further upstream in the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products and allow the Basel Convention to focus on electrical and electronic products when they become wastes.

Submission from the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound management of chemicals (IOMC)

The following comments by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound management of chemicals (IOMC) have been made:

- **Comment 1:**
    - Work area: E-products green design; Activity 1 Compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health or the environment in e-products; Implementation Aspects: IOMC Coordination - Create coordination committees at the national level and networks (global, regional and national,) involving all key stakeholders:

        "It's not clear what is intended her, because the actors are mainly non-IOMC organizations, so IOMC as such does not have a mandate to coordinate them. However, one or more IOMC organization could volunteer to implement a project on this and involve relevant institutions."

The comments were posted on the Strategic Approach website.

Submission from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
Name: **Dr. Suely Carvalho**
Contact telephone number: **+1 (212) 906-6687**
Contact email: **suely.carvalho@undp.org**
Government: N/A
Organization: **United Nations Development Programme**
Date of submission: **23 April 2012**

For each of the work areas below, using the revised table, specify the activity for which you are providing comments, or suggest a new activity as appropriate providing inputs on actors, target time, indicators of progress and implementation aspects.

Work Area	Activity	Actors	Target time	Indicator of progress	Implementation aspects
E-products green design					
Environmentally sound manufacturing					
Environmentally sound management of e-waste	As in draft	**UNDP**	As in draft	As in draft	As in draft
Awareness raising	As in draft	**UNDP**	As in draft	As in draft	As in draft

Any other comments (optional): _____

_____

Submission from the European Union

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Activities on Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT
Name: EU and its Member States (Lone Schou on their behalf)
Contact telephone number: +45 2968 4138
Contact email: Los@mst.dk
Government: Denmark
Organization: Ministry of the Environment
Date of submission: 10 May 2012

For each of the work areas below, using the revised table, specify the activity for which you are providing comments, or suggest a new activity as appropriate providing inputs on actors, target time, indicators of progress and implementation aspects.

Only paragraphs with suggestions for new text have been included in the table. The rest of the text in the revision by the Task Team should be kept as it is. "Target time" and "implementation aspects" has been deleted in the table as we did not have any comments to those elements.

Work Area	Activity	Actors	Indicator of progress
E-products green design	**Manufacturers and** producers compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health or the environment **and precious and rare metals** in e-product **groups** Promote public and private partnerships **including product stewardship approaches such as the Chemical Industry Association Responsible care programme** for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances in e-products **both during production, use and at the end of life.** **Encourage approaches for green design by quantifying and communicating the potential value of materials that they could recover and i**dentify**ing the** tools and best practices that advance design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution **Work with retailers to raise their internal procurement specifications so that they can choice edit on behalf of consumers.** Adopt policy instruments and actions that support hazardous		**Nations able to adequately assess quantity and recovery value for a range of potentially hazardous, critical and valuable materials in their electronic product streams.**

	chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in electrical and electronic products, **considering work of standardization bodies on definition of threshold values for the max. content of hazardous substances in products and respective measurement methods.**		
Environmentally sound manufacturing **and sustainable consumption**	Promote sustainable production and pollution prevention **and encourage sustainable consumption** Prioritize reduction of exposure; eliminate or substitute the most hazardous substances of concern[4] and production processes **and promote public procurement processes that include this.**		Number of substitutes /alternatives produced and effective Health status of workers and local communities **Number of public procurement processes established.** Number of instruments and policy actions adopted and implemented Regulations of hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products, Hazardous chemical ingredients disclosure across supply chain, Green electrical and electronic product procurement initiatives, **voluntary and mandatory Product Labeling measures, Product Requirements and Self-Regulatory Initiatives by industry.**
Environmentally sound management of e-waste	Assess gaps in existing policy, legal and institutional framework, including control of transboundary movement and illegal traffic **in cooperation with relevant bodies of the Basel Convention** Conduct pilot projects **which lead to financially self sustaining initiatives** on **socially, economically,** environmentally sound management of e-waste without duplicating **other activities including the** Basel Convention programme. **Work with retailers to raise their willingness to contribute to the collection of e-waste.**	National and regional Governments, UNIDO, **UNEP (e.g. IETC)** Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, Solving the e-Waste Problem, Basel Convention regional centres, industry, academic institutions	Number of **socially, economically and environmentally** sustainable pilot projects undertaken

[4] Substances of concern include those that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic and/or those that are carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive or developmental toxins, neurotoxins, neurodevelopmental toxins, respiratory toxins, immunotoxins, organ system toxins, and/or endocrine-disrupting compounds.

Awareness raising	Promote awareness, information, education and communication for all relevant stakeholders along the supply chain **recognizing that different information etc will be required by e.g. manufactures compared to the informal sector.. Awareness and information should be targeted the different stakeholders in the chain.**		

Any other comments (optional): _____

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Submission from Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC)

May 4, 2012

Mr. Muhammed Omotola
Associate Programme Officer
SAICM Secretariat
Room C209 IEH1
UNEP Chemicals Branch
Division of Industry, Technology and Economics (DTIE)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Omotola,

Introduction

On behalf of the leading companies in information and communications technology, we thank the Secretariat for the opportunity to provide comments on Annex I; Proposed new activities for inclusion into the Global Plan of Action considered by the first meeting of the OEWG relating to hazardous substances in the life cycle of e-products: REVISED by the TASK TEAM on 28 March 2012.

Overarching Comments

Our industry recognizes the importance of and fully supports responsible management across the life-cycle of electronic products. We do not believe it is necessary, however, to add a separate proposal to the Global Plan of Action since the topics of interest are being addressed in various existing fora. We instead encourage SAICM to coordinate, share and promote sector-specific best practices.

Life Cycle Management of Electronic Products

We ask the Secretariat to recognize the overlap of e-products green design with SAICM's Chemicals in Products (CiP) emerging issue area. At prior meetings leading up to and including the OEWG in Belgrade, the electronics industry has detailed the broad regulation of the material content of electronic products; market incentives for convergence of global designs; sector-specific chemical supply chain management methods such as the IEC 62474 standard; and, on-going continuous improvement via research in various aspects of environmentally conscious design for electronics. Design for environment materials research and evaluation of safer

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alternatives occurs relative to each stage of the product value chain, and applies not only to our own manufacturing operations, but also to those of our suppliers.

In regards to responsible end of life management, an equally important area, there is also overlap with existing efforts, most notably the Basel Convention. The Basel Convention's Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), as well as the draft Basel Technical Guidelines applicable to all electrical and electronic equipment, are defining environmentally sound management practices for recycling, refurbishment and transboundary movement, including in-country pilot projects and capacity building. We encourage SAICM to coordinate with these existing efforts.

Sincerely,

Rick Goss
Vice President of Environment and Sustainability
Information Technology Industry Council

Erica Logan
Director, Environment and Sustainability
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