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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**

**Reports from Strategic Approach Regional Focal Points on
activities undertaken during the intersessional period**

Note by the secretariat

1. Resolution II/2 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on regional activities and coordination recalls the importance accorded to regional meeting in paragraph 26 of the Overarching Policy Strategy and in resolution I/1 of the Conference.
2. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution II/2 of the Conference, the secretariat has the honour to circulate, in annexes I– III to the present note, reports from SAICM regional focal points on activities undertaken during the intersessional period between the second and third session of the Conference for the information of participants at the current session:
 - Annex I: Report from the African Regional Focal Point;
 - Annex II: Report from the Central and Eastern European Regional Focal Point;
 - Annex III: Report from the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Focal Point.
3. The reports have been reproduced as received without formal editing.

* SAICM/ICCM.3/1.

Annex I

Report from SAICM African Regional Focal Point

I. Regional meetings conducted 2009-2011

1. The African region held its third regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 28–29 January 2010. The meeting was attended by 33 government representatives, four intergovernmental organisations and about seventeen non-governmental organisations.¹

2. The fourth SAICM African regional meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya 5, 7 and 8 April 2011. It was attended by 34 government representatives, representatives from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academia and research institutes: AGENDA for Environment and Development, AREMEDD, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), International Pops Elimination Network (IPEN), Day Hospital Institute for Development and Rehabilitation (DHIDR), Development Indian Ocean Network, Environmental Conservation Society, Environmental Health Fund, Groupe pour la Promotion de la Flore et la Faune (GAPROFFA), Groundwork - Friends of the Earth South Africa, Informer, Sensibiliser, Eduquer sur les POPs en Côte d'Ivoire, International Trade Union Confederation/Africa, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Physicians for Social Responsibility, Safe Water for Africa Community Initiative, Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria).²

II. Regional coordination mechanisms employed

3. The SAICM coordinating mechanism for the African region is the African Core Group which was established in 2006 at the region's first regional meeting in Cairo, Egypt. The African Core Group has representation from each African sub-region, together with representatives of regional and intergovernmental organizations and civil society. It has provided an effective regional SAICM coordination mechanism to facilitate regional work, the organization of regional meetings and assisting with the coordination of intersessional work. The region's positions have been championed through the African Regional Focal Point. This position is held by Mr. David Kapindula from Zambia.

4. The African Core Group met in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009 (SAICM/ACG.4/2) and back to back with the third African regional meeting in Abidjan on 28 and 29 January 2010 (SAICM/ACG.5/2). It also held two teleconferences, on 13 August 2010 and 10 January 2011.

III. Key outcomes from regional meetings

5. At the third African regional meeting recommendations were adopted on hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, and illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous products. A regional statement on the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation was also developed. To address challenges, the participants also agreed to revise the African Core Group's composition, procedures and terms of reference.

6. At its fifth meeting the African Core Group reviewed the recommendations made at the third African regional meeting and developed a summary of progress on possible regional priorities identified in 2006. It also reviewed its workplan.

1 The report of the meeting can be accessed on the SAICM website as document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/4.

2 The report of the meeting can be accessed on the SAICM website as document SAICM/RM/AF.4/4.

7. At the fourth African regional meeting resolutions and recommendations were adopted on financial considerations, the addition of activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach, elimination of lead in paints, illegal traffic of toxic and dangerous products, and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. There was also substantial discussion of the need to update the African regional implementation plan and collectively develop regional project proposals.

IV. Regional implementation plans

8. The Work plan for the implementation of SAICM in the African region was developed and has undergone regular updates. At its last teleconference held on 13 August 2010, the ACG reviewed the workplan and agreed to prepare project proposals for regional priorities on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, mainstreaming and heavy metals, sub-regional poison centres and illegal international traffic.

9. Zambia on behalf of the African region with support from the WHO submitted a SAICM project entitled "Feasibility Study for a Sub-Regional Poison Centre in the East Africa Sub-Region". The project involves a detailed analysis of the need for poisons centre services in the East Africa sub-region and the feasibility of poisons centre services being provided on a multi-country basis, i.e. establishment of a sub-regional poisons centre. The project involves a survey of 16 countries in the sub-region that have a SAICM National Focal Point and a more in-depth analysis of four countries namely Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia. This project was launched in 2011 and activities have since commenced.

V. Regional priorities

10. According to the SAICM regional workplan, the African region has prioritized a number of issues with the view of developing proposals for regional or sub-regional projects. These priorities include:

- (a) The Globally Harmonized System for the classification and labelling of chemicals,
- (b) Training and Capacity for Mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals into national development plans and policies,
- (c) Heavy metals,
- (d) Sub-regional poisons centre networks,
- (e) Illegal traffic and waste,
- (f) Training/guidance on economic instruments,
- (g) Elimination of Lead in Paint, and
- (h) Chemicals in products/articles

VI. Sources of assistance for regional activities and coordination

11. The source of assistance for implementation of regional activities has mainly been through the SAICM Quick Start Programme. The Region accessed funding through the QSP to initiate work on one sub-regional project entitled "Feasibility Study for a Sub-Regional Poison Centre in the East Africa Sub-Region". Individual countries in the region have also accessed funding for a range of projects on various issues through the QSP. The other source of assistance has been on bilateral basis.

VII. Implementation of SAICM and linkage with other regional activities

12. The regional focal point participated in the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment held in Luanda from 23 to 26 November 2010. In accordance with the outcome of the third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, inputs to the Luanda meeting focused on the linkages between implementation of the Strategic Approach and the process of conducting situation assessments and needs analyses as part of the establishment and implementation of a health and environment strategic alliance. A side event was held on SAICM and presentations were made by the RFP on status of SAICM implementation in Africa and a representative from Kenya presented on the SANA process.

13. In response to Resolution II/7 on the Commission on Sustainable Development which highlighted that chemicals would be included in the Commission's work cycle for 2010-2011, the region developed a position paper on SAICM implementation in the African region. The paper was presented by the RPF at the regional implementation meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) which was held from 26 to 30 October 2009 in Addis Ababa.

VIII. Looking back over 2009-2012 key achievements

- (a) Participated in the development of the Health Sector Strategy.
- (b) Made significant contributions to Africa's position on chemicals and Wastes as present to the Commission on Sustainable Development during the Commission's work cycle for 2010-2011.
- (c) The Region accessed funding through the QSP to initiate work on one sub-regional project entitled "Feasibility Study for a Sub-Regional Poison Centre in the East Africa Sub-Region".
- (d) The region recommended for inclusion in the GPA the emerging issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products.
- (e) The region has been involved in the development of a new chemicals management focal area in the Global Environment Facility.
- (f) About 90% of the countries in the region have national focal points, predominantly from the environment sector.
- (g) At national level, Inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder coordination is growing in many countries in Africa.
- (h) The RFP represented the region at a number of international meetings.

IX. Looking forward to 2012 -2015

14. The region will continue to review and update its regional workplan with a view of developing project proposals on outstanding priority issues.

Annex II

Report from SAICM Central and Eastern European Regional Focal Point

I. Regional meetings conducted 2009-2011

Two regional meetings in the CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) region were conducted in this time period:

A. Third Central and Eastern European meeting, Lodz, Poland, 7-11 December 2009³

1. In addition, UNEP organized a consultation from 7 to 9 (1p.m.) December 2009 to assist countries in the CEE region to prepare for the upcoming negotiations on mercury as mandated by UNEP Governing Council in its decision 25/% and a workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials was offered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on Friday, 11 December 2009.

B. Fourth Central and Eastern European meeting, Lodz, Poland, 27-29 June 2011⁴

2. The meeting was held back to back with UNITAR workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (27-28 June 2011).

3. The meeting was attended by around 40 participants including representatives of 12 countries in the region, as well as representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Mr. Michal Andrijewski, Ms. Linda Tafaj and Mr. Marin Kocov were elected co-chairs of the meeting, each for half day respectively. Mr. Eugeniy Lobanov agreed to serve as rapporteur.

II. Regional coordination mechanisms employed

4. The Central and Eastern European Regional Coordination Group for SAICM was established as a mechanism for consultation, dissemination and exchange of information, and to support, with the assistance of the SAICM secretariat, the regional focal point and the region's representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board in the execution of their duties. The Group was established in September 2008 at the second meeting of the Central and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM held in Bucharest, Romania, from 8 to 11 September 2008. The membership of the regional coordination group comprises:

- (a) The regional focal point, as chair and convenor;
- (b) Regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
- (c) Two governmental representatives from each of the following groups of countries:
 - (i) Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia;
 - (ii) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia;
 - (iii) Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine;
 - (iv) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Romania;
- (d) One representative from a non-governmental organization in each of the following three sectors: industry, trade union and public interest;
- (e) One representative of a key regional organization (for example, one that has region wide responsibilities relevant to the sound management of chemicals) on a rotational basis;

³ http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/meeting/cee/LodzDec09/SAICMCEE3_finalreport.doc

⁴ http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/meeting/cee/LodzJune2011/Meetingdocs/CEE43meetingreport_en.doc

- (f) One representative from a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals with a significant regional chemical safety programme;
 - (g) The immediate past SAICM regional focal point.
5. The regional coordination group carries out its mandate from the end of each session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management until the end of the subsequent session, commenced its work after the second session in 2009. The terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Group were adopted during Third Central and Eastern European meeting, Lodz, Poland, 7–11 December 2009 and are attached as annex C to the Report of the Third Central and Eastern European Regional Meeting on the SAICM.
6. Two face-to face meeting have been held on 6 September 2009 in Brno, Czech Republic and on 6 December 2009 in Lodz, Poland.

III. Key outcomes from regional meetings

7. The following topics constituted the main part of discussion during the regional meetings:
- (a) Outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and follow-up action;
 - (b) Central and Eastern European Coordination Group terms of reference;
 - (c) Regional priorities;
 - (d) Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:
 - (i). Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach;
 - (ii). Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes;
 - (iii). Financial and technical resources for implementation;
 - (iv). Emerging policy issues including new proposals for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session;
 - (v). Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation;
 - (e) Health sector strategy;
 - (f) Cooperation with intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development;
 - (g) Activities and budget of the secretariat;
 - (h) Quick Start Programme including status of approved projects and applications in the region; progress with the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme;
 - (i) Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group; and
 - (j) Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
8. At the Third Central and Eastern European regional meeting, the participants adopted recommendations on hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and agreed upon the workplan and terms of reference of the regional coordination group as developed at that group's first meeting.
9. While no resolutions were adopted during the fourth Central and Eastern European regional meeting, the participants agreed that further discussions should take place at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on proposals or recommendations on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, financial considerations, hazardous substances in the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products, the health sector strategy and lead in paint.

IV. Regional implementation plans

10. The work plan of the Central and Eastern European Regional Coordination Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was developed at the first meeting of the

regional coordinating group for the Central and Eastern European region in September 2009. The work plan was discussed and modified at the second meeting held on 6 December 2009. The work plan was updated during the Third Central and Eastern European meeting, Lodz, Poland, 7–11 December 2009.

11. The work plan of the Central and Eastern European Regional Coordination Group is attached as Annex B to the Report of the Third Central and Eastern European Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.⁵

V. Regional priorities

12. A regional priority list was developed in the context of possible Quick Start Programme projects at the second Central and Eastern European regional meeting in Bucharest, from on 8 and 9 September 2008. The list was reviewed during of the first meeting of the Central and Eastern European Regional Coordination Group on the SAICM on 6. September 2009.

13. During the third Central and Eastern European meeting, it was agreed that with regard to mainstreaming of chemicals management into national development strategies, adherence to GHS was important. The GHS is one of the main tools for handling chemicals safely and cooperation on chemicals issues at the national or regional level begins with standardized classification and labelling. Trade between countries would also be enhanced with a harmonized system through provision of standardized hazard communication for protection of end-users. It had been expected that the GHS would be introduced by 2008 but in many countries of the region it was still not implemented. The inclusion of the GHS as a future additional priority in the regional action plan was widely supported. The meeting encouraged an increase in activities on this topic wherever possible.

14. As a follow-up, the representative of the regional focal point delivered an intervention on behalf of the SAICM CEE Regional Focal Point and on behalf of the countries of the CEE region during UN CSD-18 in New York, 3-14 May 2010.⁶ In July 2010 the Regional Focal Point prepared, in consultations with the countries of the region a letter of support regarding the initiative of Moldova to host the CEE regional workshop on the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The above mentioned meeting is scheduled to be held in July 2012.

VI. Sources of assistance for regional activities and coordination

15. In December 2009, a joint letter of the President of the SAICM ICCM Bureau and Regional Focal Point was sent to CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, in carbon copy to GEF Focal Points of the CEE Countries, regarding the GEF support to the strategy for a chemicals focal area. The letter reiterated the regional position for the replenishment negotiations.

VII. Implementation of SAICM and linkage with other regional activities

16. During the the Fourth UNECE Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM-4) that took place in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 2009 in preparation of the Commission on Sustainable Development's cycle (CSD-18 and 19), the Regional Focal Point delivered a presentation as a key speaker during the introductory panel, which allowed him to present progress made and priorities identified in the achievement of sound chemicals management in the CEE region.

17. The intervention on GHS during the CSD-18 is mentioned in paragraph 15.

VIII. Activity of the Regional Focal Point

On regular basis, CEE Regional Focal Point conducts regional consultations and participates in the process of dissemination of information on SAICM-related issues in the CEE Region. Specific activities undertaken are as follows:

- (a) Hosting two regional meetings
- (b) Consultations regarding the nomination of participants from CEE Region for the Global PFCs Group.

⁵

http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/meeting/cee/LodzDec09/SAICMCEE3_finalreport.doc

⁶ http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/csd-18/04may/chemicals/SAICM_CEE.pdf

- (c) Cooperation in helping the SAICM Secretariat to monitor and increase the number of responses on reporting on SAICM implementation from countries in the CEE region.
- (d) Testing the electronic version of data collection tool for purposes of periodic reporting within SAICM.
- (e) Participation in the informal consultation on nano and its relation to SAICM in Geneva (March 2011).
- (f) Representing the CEE region during the 18th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, thematic session on chemicals (May 2010).
- (g) A joint letter, sent to the GEF CEO and Chairperson, by President of the ICCM and CEE Regional Focal Point.
- (h) During the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Belgrade (November 2011), Regional Focal Point delivered a report on CEE regional activities for the period 2009–2011.

IX. Looking back over 2009-2012: Key achievements and initiatives from a regional perspective, challenges met

18. The CEE Region consists of two different groups of countries: the European Union Member States and countries which are not the EU Member states. The situation in regard to implementation of SAICM objectives is different in these two groups. The EU members implement SAICM usually through harmonized EU legislation meaning that the state of play regarding SAICM in these countries is the same or at least similar to the well economically developed countries of Europe. The situation in other countries of the region is more difficult. All these countries must implement SAICM individually, using almost only their own resources. Change of legislation is the most important measure the countries are to apply. External financing may help to outline the general direction of necessary changes in the country legislation, however all detailed measures must be financed by the country itself, usually from the very scarce resources. Having all of this in mind, the cooperation within the region firstly helps in sharing information and experiences among the countries of the region.

19. From the perspective of the region, implementation of GHS is one of the most important regional priorities. While GHS, when implemented, protects humans and the environment, it facilitates also the international trade with chemicals, thus adding to the economic development of the country. It has been well understood by countries of the region also through sharing the experience among countries. GHS is implemented in the EU, but work on its implementation is also well advanced in some countries of the region which are not EU members. Other countries are considering GHS implementation and the readiness to implement GHS should be considered as the main achievement of the CEE Region. The regional workshop on GHS that is to take place this year is expected to facilitate this work. Most of countries of the region which do not yet have a general framework law on chemicals are also considering preparation of such laws, basing on experiences of countries where such general framework laws were introduced. Although preparation of such law is a real challenge for any country, it seems that regional cooperation should help in those ambitious projects.

X. Looking forward – 2012 -2015: Outlook, priorities for future and main challenges to be addressed

20. Successful implementation of SAICM means introduction of sound management of chemicals in the country, with measures harmonised with similar measures in other countries. Only harmonisation of detailed legal solutions will secure low costs of implemented protective measures and will be beneficial to national economies. GHS is the most important measure to be introduced in countries of the CEE region. As GHS has been implemented in the European Union and in some other European countries it means that the most important trade partners for all countries of the CEE region have this system in place. Harmonisation with this system is of the highest importance for those countries that have not yet implemented GHS.

Annex III

Report from SAICM Latin America and Caribbean Regional Focal Point

I. Outcomes of sub- and regional meetings

1. Sub-regional and regional meetings continue to play an important role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the Latin America and Caribbean region. During the period 2009 and 2011, two regional meetings and two meetings of the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) were held. These meetings were instrumental in facilitating the exchange of experiences among Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations on the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The meetings also allowed the region to identify its priorities for the further development and implementation of the SAICM within the Latin America and Caribbean region.
2. The second meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean region on SAICM was held in Kingston, Jamaica on March 8 and 9-12, 2010. This meeting was attended by representatives of 21 Governments, five inter-governmental and regional economic integration organizations, including the Secretariats of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Central American Commission of Environment and Development and nine non-governmental organizations. At this meeting, the region agreed to amend the Terms of Reference of the RCC to increase the number of members thereby providing a better representation of the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral nature of SAICM implementation within the region. In addition, the LAC Bureau member was also appointed as a member of the RCC to allow for the effective flow of information between the region and the Bureau. The region also agreed to increase the technical expertise available to the region through the appointment of the UNEP Chemicals Coordinator based in UNEP Regional Office of Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC) as a technical advisor to the RCC. In addition, the region adopted resolutions on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of SAICM in an effort to promote linkages between SAICM implementation and the health sector within countries in the region, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products and financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.
3. During the third regional meeting of Latin American and Caribbean held in Panama, 30 May to 3 June, 2012, the region adopted resolutions on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, financial considerations, hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, the health sector strategy and lead in paint. The region also reviewed progress in finalizing the regional implementation plan.
4. The RCC updated its work plan at its 3rd meeting in March 2010, including the identification of regional and extra-regional support, including financing for activities related to the implementation of the Strategic Approach within the LAC region. In this regard, the Committee identified the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Caribbean Development Bank, the Secretariats of CARICOM and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the Organization of American States (OAS) as possible sources of development assistance. In addition, the Committee also explored the possibility of obtaining support from the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) for SAICM-related activities in the LAC region. Letters were sent to several to a number of financial and development institutions, including the regional development banks, to ascertain (i) whether a focal point has been appointed for chemical safety issues; (ii) whether a chemicals window exists to access funding and/or technical assistance (iii) if a chemicals window was in existence, how such funds could be accessed; and (v) what activities, if any, had been undertaken for the implementation of the Cooperative Agenda under the Mar del Plata Declaration by the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas.

II. Regional priorities

5. The following priority areas were identified by the region for future work on a cooperative and collaborative basis, including: (i) prevention of illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals and wastes; risk reduction on persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic Substances (PBTs); (ii) heavy metals (particularly mercury and lead); (iii) implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); (iv) protection of highly vulnerable and at risk groups from exposure to toxic chemicals; (v) hazardous wastes reduction and management, including e-waste; (vi) safe alternatives for the progressive elimination of highly hazardous pesticides; (vii) remediation of contaminated sites; (vi) planning and response for emergencies involving chemicals; and (viii)

chemicals in products; and (ix) development of Pollutants Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) at national and regional levels.

6. In addition, the region recommended that the following broad thematic areas be pursued to assist with implementation of work in the priority areas:
- (a) Integrated approach at the national, sub-regional and regional levels is required for the successful achievement of sound chemicals management, including cooperation and coordination among national focal points for SAICM, the chemicals conventions, CSD, and the GEF;
 - (b) Further engagement of the sub-regional integration bodies (CARICOM, Andean Community, MERCOSUR etc) into the development and implementation of programmes focused on sound chemicals management;
 - (c) Strong emphasis needs to be placed on the mainstreaming of sound chemicals management into national sustainable development plans and programmes;
 - (d) An expansion of the donor/funding base, including the regional development banks to facilitate the financing of sound chemicals management initiatives at the national and regional levels;
 - (e) Increased involvement of the relevant regional development agencies in SAICM implementation at the national, regional and sub-regional levels, including PAHO, ILO, FAO; and
 - (f) United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), particularly in relation to capacity building activities; and
 - (g) Development of SAICM national implementation plans which would inform the development of the regional SAICM implementation plan

III. Sub-regional and regional implementation plans

7. At the Caribbean Workshop on SAICM and related chemicals and hazardous wastes instruments held in Barbados in March 2009, the region highlighted the necessity of developing a regional action plan. This action plan would, inter alia, respond to the principal needs, concerns and interests of the various groups of countries) within the region (emerging economies, small economies, small island developing states and least developed countries) with respect to sound chemicals management, have the commitment and support of Governments and other stakeholders within the region in its development and implementation, and assist countries to achieve the 2020 target.

8. At its second meeting held in March 2010, the region agreed to develop a regional implementation plan. The Plan is informed by the 2005 Mar del Plata Declaration of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, and existing sub-regional plans, such as the implementation plan for seven countries within Central America and the Dominican Republic developed with the support of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the US EPA and UNITAR, and existing national implementation plans. Given the varying capacities within the region with respect to sound chemicals management, the Plan should ideally reflect the circumstances found at the regional and sub-regional level, taking into consideration social, economic and environmental aspects.

9. In 2011, a consultant was engaged, through the SAICM secretariat, to assist the region with the preparation of its regional implementation plan. A framework document was produced which will allow the region to further develop the plan taking into account the regional priorities already identified. It is anticipated that the plan will be dynamic and will reflect and respond to the changing needs and priorities of the region.

IV. Health contact points

10. At its second regional meeting, the Latin America and Caribbean region adopted a resolution on health sector engagement in SAICM focusing on a number of elements relevant to the draft strategy for the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and requesting the countries of the region to make efforts to integrate the health sector in the development of actions with a view to implement SAICM. In preparation for the third regional meeting held in Panama City, WHO working jointly with the Pan American Health Organization contacted all health ministries in the Latin America and Caribbean region and sought nomination of a specific health focal point for SAICM-related matters.

11. Accordingly health-sector contact points have been designated for Argentina, Brazil, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Port of Spain, Suriname and Uruguay, Nicaragua and St Kitts and Nevis. In some instances, the national focal point for SAICM is already within the Ministry of Health, for example, Jamaica and Panama.

V. Participation in chemicals management-related events

12. The LAC Regional Focal Point, on the invitation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), participated in the 3rd Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in La Antigua, Guatemala, November 2009. This meeting provided a regional forum for the implementation of the decisions adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (CSD), taking into account the thematic clusters for the 18th and 19th sessions of the CSD which included chemicals and wastes (hazardous and solid) management. At the meeting, the Regional Focal Point gave an overview of the progress made with respect to sound chemicals management within the Latin America and Caribbean region. In addition, a presentation was made during the thematic discussions on chemicals at CSD-18.

13. In preparation for the regional participation at CSD-18 and CSD-19, the RCC at its meeting in November 2009 highlighted the need for coordination between national focal points for SAICM and the CSD. In this regard, National SAICM focal points were encouraged to work with and share information on SAICM implementation with CSD focal points.

Appendix I

Composition of the SAICM Regional Coordination Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (2009 – 2012)

Regional Focal Point (RFP) – Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)

Immediate Past RFP – Mr. Leopoldo Sahores (Argentina)

Bureau Member – Mr. Osvaldo Alvarez (Chile)

Sub-regional representatives

Mr. Basudeo Subhas Dwarka (Guyana) – English-speaking Caribbean

Mr. Mario Abo Balanza (Cuba) – Spanish-speaking Mesoamerica and Haiti

Ms Maria Inez (Panama) – Spanish-speaking Mesoamerica and Haiti

Ms. Maricruz Hernandez (Ecuador) – South America

Ms. Judy Torres (Uruguay) – South America

Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme

Mr. Clifford Pena (Venezuela)

Mr. Jeffrey Headley (Barbados)

IOMC

UNITAR (Mr. Jonathan Krueger)

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Mr. Marcelo Kos Silveira Campos – Industry

Mr. Nilton Freitas – Labour

Mr. Fernando Bejarano González - Public Interest NGO

Dr. Lillian Corra – Science representative

Regional organizations

Mr. Cletus Springer – Organization of American States (OAS)

Dr. Agnes Soares – Technical Advisor, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

UNEP – Technical Advisor, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

Appendix II

Examples of SAICM implementation within countries/non-governmental organizations in the LAC region

I. Antigua and Barbuda

1. Antigua and Barbuda gave formal recognition to the SAICM initiative in 2012, by designating the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) as the national focal point (NFP). To date all the SAICM related activities in the country have been linked to the management activities of the PTCCB, to include the following:
 - (a) Public information, awareness raising and educational activities as they pertain to chemicals management, the promotion of rational pesticides use and sensitizing stakeholders as to their legal responsibilities
 - (b) The compilation of an inventory of obsolete pesticides under an FAO sponsored project: entitled “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries – Clean-up of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management”.
 - (c) Ensuring the adequate labeling of pesticides and toxic chemicals offered for sale in the country.
 - (d) Maintaining strict control of the sale, transportation, storage, use and disposal of pesticides and toxic chemicals, in an effort to facilitate a safer environment.
 - (e) Monitoring and inspection of pesticide operations to ensure compliance with the law.
 - (f) Strict control of the amounts and kinds of pesticides available for use in the county through a formal registration system.
 - (g) Generation of statistical data detailing annual imports of pesticides to include both mass of formulation and active ingredient, enabling us to meet national and FAO statistical requirements for pesticide and fertilizer use in the country
 - (h) Hosting an annual pesticides awareness week of activities during which the PTCCB engages the general public in pesticides management issues particularly as they pertain to the benefits and risks associated with pesticides use, as well as its role in ensuring rational and effective management and use of these chemicals.
 - (i) Performing the duties of Designated National Authority (DNA) for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade.
2. Antigua and Barbuda have not been able to benefit from the SAICM Quick Start Programme due primarily to their delay in designating the national focal point and communicating the information to the SAICM Secretariat.
3. Antigua and Barbuda are currently participating in intergovernmental negotiations to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury. They are also participating in the activities of both the Regional Organizing Group for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (ROG-GRULAC) and the Global Organizing Group for the second effectiveness evaluation for the Stockholm Convention. They are scheduled to participate in the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

II. Costa Rica

4. Costa Rica has a Technical Secretariat for Coordination of the Chemicals Management, created by Executive Decree No. 33104-REC-MAG-MINAE-S, as a national coordinating mechanism for implementation of SAICM. The Secretariat is composed of representatives from the environment, health, agriculture, foreign affairs, customs, occupational health, academia, private sector and nongovernmental organizations, including the SAICM National Focal Point.
5. The Technical Secretariat for Coordination of the Management of Chemicals has a comprehensive plan that provides for their work in different areas of work across projects, focal points and sub-committees to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, so that

by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

6. The components of the Plan relate to the issues of assessment and risk reduction of chemicals, strengthening the Secretariat and capacity building. These components account of his own strategic actions, such as promoting sustainable procurement system, use, storage, safe transport and disposal of hazardous products, promoting public-private partnerships for projects, product management and hazardous waste, the use, storage, safe transport and disposal of hazardous products, a Chemical Safety Policy (which is under review), the creation of synergies between the Stockholm Conventions, Montreal Protocol, Basel and Rotterdam, the mainstreaming of chemicals management in trade policies, the incorporation of other institutional representatives in the Secretariat, protection of vulnerable and high risk of exposure, prevention of illicit trafficking of dangerous products and establishing the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), among others.

7. With funding from the Quick Start Programme the project "Design and implementation of a National Information System for the Integral Management of Chemicals in Costa Rica" was designed and built as an integrated information system chemicals. The activities initially included the evaluation of information and existing databases and the design of an information system relevant to the users decision makers. The information is to link existing mechanisms and includes information on chemical substances, illegal trafficking, technical protocols, best available technology, best environmental practices, guidelines, legislation and publications. The development of the system also provides analysis of the information, recent communications and training for users.

III. Brazil

8. Activities related to SAICM:
- (a) Brazil has developed its National Profile of Chemicals Management in 2003, but is an ongoing update of the document, given that in this period, knowledge about chemicals in the country and control over them have been improved, allowing to take a picture most current status of chemical management in the country.
 - (b) The National Commission for Chemical Safety (CONASQ), which since 2000 has been the national forum of reference for discussions on chemical safety, established in 2011 the Working Group on Mercury (Mercury GT) and has contributed significantly to the supply of technical support for the Brazilian delegation in the negotiation of binding international instrument on mercury. A national diagnosis on mercury is at final stages of development, with expected release date in 2012.
 - (c) In 2010 Brazil began implementing the project lasting until 2013, with support from GEF, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Inventories are being established on POPs that ultimately will be consolidated into a plan for submission to the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. In 2012, an inventory of dioxins and furans was fully completed. An inventory of contaminated areas, stockpiles, and waste products, as well as an assessment of the legal basis on POPs are being developed with a expected delivery date in 2012. Inventories of PCBs, new POPs are being prepared. Also a comprehensive information system to access the database on POPs is being built. Promotional materials and dissemination of knowledge materials about POPs are being produced, and is planned to hold a workshop for discussion with civil society. Other projects are also developed by universities and research centers as part of the global monitoring of POPs, in cooperation with GRULAC, to investigate contamination in breast milk, water and air.
 - (d) Brazil is actively participating in the Rotterdam Convention by notifying the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention of their regulatory actions, calling attention to domestic importers of safety data for substances and expanding knowledge in the country on the Convention and its objectives.
 - (e) A routine review of pesticides is undertaken in the country, at the end of the process it will be possible to establish prohibitions and restrictions of use of substances, with a focus on protecting the environment and human health.
 - (f) A national strategy for prevention, preparedness and rapid response to accidents involving hazardous substances is being implemented since 2004, advancing the national territory by supporting states and municipalities in developing local strategies to reach solutions by supporting risk mapping and the establishment of institutional arrangements among governmental agencies such as civil defence, environmental agencies and health authorities.

- (g) Brazil also participates in regional activities in the MERCOSUR on GHS implementation, through the Project ECONORMAS, which has among its components to assess national legislation on classification and labeling and the strengthening the national capacity in terms of laboratories.

IV. Colombia

9. In Colombia through the formulation and accomplishment of relevant QSP Trust Fund projects, a variety of sectors directly involved with the management of chemical, such as competent authorities (in health, environment, agriculture, mines and energy, among others) and industrial and non-governmental sectors, have become aware of the importance of realizing a rational management of substances and chemical products and the risks associated to its inadequate management to the human health and the environment.

10. In the same way through those projects, public entities legally competent for chemical and hazardous wastes management have been able to share information related to activities implemented in the country. This has allowed a greater understanding and commitment of those entities to the implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, as well as decisions on synergies between these conventions and SAICM objectives.

11. With a project in the frame of SAICM, the National Profile of chemicals has been updated and published in May 2012. The country also has conducted workshops and training activities in related issues and development of information tools. Also is considering the creation of an inter-institutional coordination mechanism for the management of chemicals at the national level.

V. Honduras

12. From 2009 to date, Honduras has strengthened its strategic framework for the management of chemicals. It has a National SAICM Policy and a SAICM Implementation Plan called SIP Honduras, with 12 action plans to 2022, related to the environmentally sound management of priority industrial products and agricultural products (including their wastes). In 2010 the National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention on POPs was prepared and from the period of 2011 to 2015 it is intended to implement this plan with GEF financial resources.

13. Currently a QSP project (2011-2013) is implemented, related to the mainstreaming of environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Country's Vision (2038) and Nation's Plan (2022); through this project is also intended to formalize the National Chemicals Commission, by decree of the Council of Ministers. As part of this latest project the inclusion of chemicals priorities in Regional Development Plans has been achieved specifically in three development regions of the 16 established in the country. A PRTR project is also been implemented and lessons learned from a first pilot project with the private sector of the reporting process and automated system, will help towards having a specific regulation on PRTR.

14. SAICM in Honduras has also established an important synergy with the health sector through which it intends to comply with the International Health Regulations (2005) and Emergency Response Plan.

VI. Non-governmental organizations

A. APROMAC

15. (Environmental Protection Association)⁷ in coalition with TOXISPHERA – Environmental Health Association has executed small projects related to SAICM emerging issues since 2009.

(a) Project on lead in paints in partnership with IPEN and Toxics Link (India)

16. The project was performed in two phases, collecting samples of paints in the Brazilian market for further lab analysis. As the results showed high levels of lead in major Brazilian brands, including those manufacturers which export to other Latin America countries, a second phase has been performed translating the report, developing of a brochure on the issue, and carrying out some legal

⁷ APROMAC was created in 1985. It is also member of the Permanent Monitoring Group of the Resolution 362/2005 (CONAMA) on used lubricant oil management, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, since 2006 in Brazil, and is member of several international and national citizenship networks

actions on the compliance of the federal law in force by the responsible authorities. At the end of 2011, a second sampling was made to evaluate the state of the art of the industry, and the official report on the analysis is expected from the University of Cincinnati (USA).

(b) A project on the translation and printing of the NGO Guide to SAICM in Portuguese

17. APROMAC and Toxisphera (Environmental Health Association) have created a coalition and have been working together in Brazil to raise awareness on chemicals for society and authorities. TOXISPHERA received support from IPEN to build its website and produce bulletins to be distributed to Brazilian networks on chemicals issues. The coalition has been working on mercury during these years with IPEN and Zero Mercury Working Group on the following:

(c) International market analysis on mercury in mass products in partnership with Arnika and IPEN

18. Several projects on mercury on public awareness and public policies supported by Zero Mercury Working Group (since 2007), involving organization of events on mercury for raising awareness of the public and authorities, participation in the National Chemical Safety Commission and in the National Environment Council (which adopted the APROMAC's proposal of a motion requesting the development of a National Mercury Policy), creation of the Mercury Working Group with the Brazilian federal government and industry, Legal Framework on Mercury in Brazil research, and other activities.

B. IPEN

19. IPEN members in GRULAC region have been very active on several issues regarding SAICM for example on nanotechnology:

(a) ReLANS, the Latin America Network on Nanotechnology and Society

(www.relans.org) has produced a booklet on the societal and environmental implications of nanotechnology development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support and collaboration of IPEN. The booklet highlights the recommendations on nanotechnology made by GRULAC and NGOs in the regional consultation meeting in Panama 2-3 June 2011 and includes the call to apply a precautionary approach, during the complete lifecycle of engineered materials, transparency and the right of consumers and workers to information, the application of extended producer responsibility, and the participation of workers and the health sector. Outreach activities have included the editing and printing of 1000 issues of the booklet in Spanish.⁸ Thanks to the University of California-Santa Barbara the booklet is also in English.⁹ An agreement with the Latin American Secretariat of the IUF (International Union of Food and Agricultural Workers) has also been reached for the translation of the booklet to Portuguese. The booklet has been presented in different congress and universities related with nanotechnology discussion in other GRULAC regional meetings as in Brasilia a weeks ago.

(b) Chemical in products

20. With the support of IPEN in Mexico, the NGO Fronteras Comunes is elaborating a booklet in Spanish on "Toxics at Home", that includes information on lead, mercury, insecticides, PFOS, triclosán, electronics and the importance of SAICM and IPEN's work. It provides key information about toxics in consumer products, identifying products, toxic chemicals, environment and health damage and its alternatives. It is in the final stage of design and will be printed next month for wider distribution and posted on the IPEN website.¹⁰

(c) Mercury

21. With IPEN support among others in Argentina, AAMMA- ISDE has produced a series of fact sheets on the health aspects related with mercury added products and environmental sources. With the purpose to create awareness during the process of the Mercury treaty negotiations, this information will shortly be added to the AAMMA-ISDE website¹¹.

⁸ http://www.ipen.org/pdfs/Nanotecnologia_es.pdf

⁹ http://www.relans.org/IPEN_NT_En.html

¹⁰ <http://www.fronterascomunes.org.mx/>

¹¹ <http://www.aamma.org>

