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**Regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

## **Updates on the implementation of Emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. Following previous updates and progress reports provided to OEWG<sup>2</sup> and ICCM<sup>4</sup>, lead emerging policy issue (EPI) agencies have provided brief progress reports for the regional Strategic Approach meetings in early 2018, with a view to reporting also to the 3rd Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting early in 2019.
2. Participants at the regional meetings are requested to provide feedback and to share any major initiatives or updates in their countries/organizations.
3. The document is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

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<sup>1</sup> SAICM/OEWG.2/6

<sup>2</sup> SAICM/ICCM.4/9

## Highly hazardous pesticides (FAO/SAICM)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

Recognizing that highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries, ICCM4 supported the FAO, WHO and UN Environment Strategy calling for concerted action to address HHPs.

### 2. Progress since ICCM-4

Since the endorsement of the strategy, FAO and WHO have published Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides for taking action on highly hazardous pesticides in 2016. The guidelines lay out a 3-step approach - identification, need and risk assessment, mitigation – to reduce risks from highly hazardous pesticides

With the aim to roll out the guidelines to the countries, a capacity building programme to empower pesticide authorities to make and implement informed decisions about pest management policies and about which pesticides or other pest management measures may be used in their countries and for what purposes has been established. This capacity building efforts include specific training modules in the FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit, training of trainers to build a cadre of facilitators and several national level projects.

As a result, some developing countries in the world have already taken action to address the risks associated with the use of HHPs (including Mozambique, Botswana and Tanzania in Africa; China and Myanmar in Asia, and Paraguay in Latin America). Furthermore, the Regional Economic Communities of Eastern and Southern Africa have listed highly hazardous pesticides as a priority and have urged FAO and other concerned actors to expedite work in the sub-region and set up regional strategies and mechanisms to address across borders. The Pacific Small Islands, as part of their efforts in strengthening chemical management in agriculture, have initiated a process of regional collaboration on pesticide risk assessment, including the compilation of their pesticide registries into a database.

FAO is gathering partners into an interagency technical team, comprising Keml and the University of Cape Town (UCT), to be able to respond to the country demand in Africa.

### 3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement

At country and regional level, there is need to support the development of regional strategies sub-regional regulatory responses to mitigate the risk of HHPs. A strong focus on alternatives, and particularly on non-chemical alternatives, to enable the replacement of highly hazardous pesticides is emerging as critical to the implementation of the strategy.

There is a growing demand from partners from academia and civil society to collaborate within their mandate to the cause of HHPs. With the aim to strengthen international cooperation, FAO jointly with the other partner agencies, will convey a technical round table to bring key SAICM actors together from the public and private sectors, civil society, academia and producers to review global progress towards the implementation of the FAO/WHO strategy and to develop mechanisms for joint learning and international cooperation. Lessons learned will be disseminated through the SAICM Knowledge Management platform.

## Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (FAO/UNEP/WHO)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

ICCM 4, by decision IV/2: Emerging policy issues, part III, invited relevant participating organizations of the IOMC within their respective mandates as part of their programmes of work to lead and facilitate cooperative action and to develop a plan of work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. Further, ICCM 4 also invited relevant participating organizations of the IOMC and other Strategic Approach stakeholders to report on the cooperative action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants to the Conference at its fifth or any other session as decided upon by the Conference.

### 2. Progress since ICCM-4

To advance work on Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs), UN Environment is implementing a component of a project funded by the European Commission entitled: Capacity building and technical assistance for developing countries to support the implementation of this Emerging Policy Issue. The objective of this component is to generate and share information to fill identified knowledge gaps on EPPPs and provide capacity building and technical assistance support to developing countries for cooperative action by making available relevant information and guidance. An initial scoping and mapping exercise has started and will be ready mid-2018. It aims at collecting and compiling information, applicable legislation, stakeholders and work being undertaken that can serve as the basis to add understanding on EPPPs and facilitate the development of an appropriate strategy to address the issue within UNEP's mandate. Findings will be disseminated broadly to all relevant SAICM stakeholders.

In May 2017, the Global Environment Facility approved a Full Size Project to promote best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM and agreed to support a Medium Size Project proposal entitled Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (EDCs, EPPPs and HHPs) and with the objective to accelerate and measure adoption of national activities to control Emerging Policy Issues to achieve the 2020 implementation of SAICM goal and support early planning for chemical management in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The GEF MSP is under development in consultation between FAO, WHO, and UN Environment.

The third session of the UN Environment Assembly, 4-7 December 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the overarching theme of "Pollution" adopted a resolution on Environment and Health and within that resolution recognized that antimicrobial resistance is a current and increasing threat and challenge to global health, food security and sustainable development. The UN Environment Executive Director was requested in collaboration with other inter-governmental organizations including WHO and FAO to prepare by UNEA-5 a report on environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance and the causes for development and spread of resistance in the environment.

WHO released guidelines recommending that farmers and the food industry stop using antibiotics routinely to promote growth and prevent disease in healthy animals:  
[http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas\\_work/antimicrobial-resistance/cia\\_guidelines/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/antimicrobial-resistance/cia_guidelines/en/)

### **3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement**

UN Environment in joint efforts with WHO, FAO, OIE and in consultation with IOMC participating organizations is developing a plan of work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. The plan will be circulated among SAICM stakeholders and inputs will be requested so that the plan includes efforts, achievements and plans by different stakeholders.

## Lead in paint (UNEP/WHO)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) identified lead in paint as an emerging policy issue. ICCM 3 and ICCM 4 resolutions affirmed the call to eliminate lead paint in all countries by 2020.

### 2. Progress since ICCM4:

#### A. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) has strengthened its efforts to support countries eliminate lead paint by producing the following:

- “**2017 Update on the global status of legal limits on lead paint**” published in September 2017 provides global and regional overviews of countries that currently have lead paint laws. This is complemented by the **WHO Global Health Observatory** database and map. As of 31 October 2017, 68 countries (34%) have legally binding controls to limit the production, import and sale of lead paints.
- “**Model law and guidance for regulating lead paint**” published in November 2017 aims to assist countries in establishing (or modifying) and implementing regulation on lead paint.
- “**International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**” has taken place every October since 2013, using campaign materials developed by the Lead Paint Alliance. In 2017, 67 events in 44 countries were registered with WHO.
- Regular updates of the regulatory toolkit for governments. An international webinar on lead paint took place in August 2016, one webinar for East Africa (June 2016) and another one for CARICOM in April 2017. US EPA supported development of an on-line, interactive map displaying the economic impacts of lead exposure.

#### B. Region/Country Specific Projects and Activities

- 2014-2017: Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia and Tanzania participated in a UN Environment project to work toward national legal limits on lead paint. This was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by IPEN
- October 2015: Embassy of Canada hosted a Lead Paint Alliance briefing for foreign embassies in Washington, DC, to raise awareness in representatives from 18 countries about the critical issue of lead in paint.
- May 2016: A regional workshop was held in Moldova to assist 14 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to develop national legal limits on lead in paint. The workshop, convened by UN Environment, included participation by WHO, the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, the GEF, IPEN and other NGOs.
- October 2016: Paint manufacturing associations in Latin America co-sponsored two workshops in Colombia, in partnership with the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), to encourage the elimination of lead additives from paint through best industry practices.
- In November 2017, UN Environment provided technical assistance to the China Project eliminating lead paint in China under the South-South cooperation framework. The project produced a paint market analysis report and a Chinese brochure creating awareness.

- C. **UN Environment Assembly third session (Nairobi, 3-6 December)** adopted a Resolution “Eliminating Exposure to Lead Paint and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries”. The **World Health Assembly**, at its 70<sup>th</sup> session, approved the “Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic

Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond”, which includes the phasing out of lead paint as a priority action.

### **3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement**

**SAICM GEF FSP** has a project component "Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by governments to phase out lead in paint.". The project outcome is for **40 countries to restrict lead in paint** with BAT/BEP demonstration pilots and global technical guidelines for paint manufacturers and policy advocacy as key project outputs.

## Chemicals in products (UNEP)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

The ICCM4 Resolution IV/2(1)(B) on Chemicals in Products *inter alia*:

- Welcomed the CiP Programme and its accompanying Guidance;
- Encouraged the private sector, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the CiP Programme and report on implementation;
- Renewed the mandate of the Steering Group; and
- Invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to continue to lead the chemicals in products programme in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, and to facilitate chemicals in products programme pilot and implementation activities.

### 2. Progress since ICCM-4

Since the first intersessional meeting there has been progress on the following elements of the CiP Programme:

- a. UN Environment support of the CiP Programme and its Steering Group:
  - i. Organization of the Meeting of the Steering Group of the CiP Programme (Feb 2017) which called for increased involvement of the Group in promoting stakeholder engagement in the Programme;
  - ii. Generation of stakeholder outreach materials (3 separate documents) led by the Steering Group members, and targeting the business and industry, civil society and government stakeholder audiences;
  - iii. Terms of reference for the Group were formulated and adopted.
- b. Increasing engagement in the CiP Programme:
  - i. Stakeholder knowledge-sharing meeting (Feb 2017) and targeted stakeholder contact (ongoing); activities which raised awareness and provided input on elements needed to further stimulate action on the CiP issue and engagement in the Programme.
- c. Project oriented activities:
  - i. Organization of a Chemicals in Products: Strengthening Actions Workshop (Oct. 2017) to provide input to the GEF project activities (approved in 2017) on "Lifecycle management of chemicals present in products", which will promote best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern and include activities with potential for delivering reduction of risks from chemicals in the toys, electronics and building products sectors.
  - ii. Progress under GEF project ID 5662, "Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products"; specification of the chemicals to include in the supply chain information exchange was finalized. Tool formulation to take place in early 2018.

### 3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement

UN Environment will continue to support the activities associated with the processes and projects identified above. These themselves offer substantial opportunities for stakeholders to become aware of or involved in the CiP Programme. Inquiries and information are available on the [unep.org](http://unep.org) website and from [cip@un.org](mailto:cip@un.org).

It is highly important for the international chemicals community to collect and apply knowledge from the diverse and widespread groups of stakeholders which are taking action / are motivated to act on this policy issue. Opportunities are vast for sharing of practices and lessons, development of international norms on information exchange and recognition of achievement in accessing CiP information and using it to control risks from chemicals in products.

The SAICM regional meetings are crucial opportunities for policymakers and other stakeholder groups to formulate a strategy for how to engage with stakeholders and constituents. CiP is a SAICM priority issue, and the main push for awareness and stakeholder outreach rests with the SAICM community at large.

## **Electrical and Electronic waste (HSLEEP) (UNIDO)**

### **1. ICCM Resolutions**

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals (ICCM4), in paragraph of resolution IV/2, invited the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in partnership with other organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and relevant stakeholders to undertake a process to develop and finalize the work plan 2016–2020 set out in the table below.

Stakeholders were requested in the resolution to provide comments and input on the work plan and to take steps to enhance their involvement and efforts to develop and implement the work plan.

### **2. Progress since ICCM-4**

An SAICM–HSLEEP 2020 Action Plan has been developed by IGOs and stakeholders concerned. Resource Mobilization for implementing the Action Plan was initiated, for example in the framework of the GEF SAICM supporting financing window. The resource mobilization efforts have unfortunately not been successful.

### **3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement**

There is a well-planned, formulated and agreed Action Plan for HSLEEP. All donor agencies have the opportunity to support financially and substantively the successful implementation of this plan.

## Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (OECD/UNITAR)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

ICCM2, in its resolution II/4 agreed to initiate collaborative work on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. This was reaffirmed at both ICCM3 and ICCM4. The ICCM4 resolution in 2015 had the following key components:

- Encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to address the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials in relevant national and international instruments, including regulatory
- Welcomed the establishment of regional networks focusing on the safety of nanomaterials
- Emphasized the need to continue facilitating the exchange of information on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials
- Emphasized the need for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to continue development of international guidance and training materials
- Welcomed the proposed workplan for the period 2016–2020 in the note by the secretariat
- Invited all stakeholders to continue to raise awareness and enhance capacity.

### 2. Progress since ICCM-4

#### UNITAR -supported national projects

Viet Nam developed a proposal for activities for 2016-2020 and a national vision up to 2025, provided a review of activities and ongoing research in Viet Nam related to nano, and assessed national nanosafety priorities. Armenia drafted a new nanosafety policy and a nanosafety chapter set to be added to the national profile on chemicals management. Jordan has developed a national workplace safety guideline, and the project should be completed in 2018.

#### UNITAR e-Learning course

UNITAR has not been successful in hosting its nanosafety e-Learning course in 2016 and 2017, given lack of interest from paying participants. However, adding in components from the WHO workplace health and safety guidelines ([http://www.who.int/occupational\\_health/publications/manufactured-nanomaterials/en/](http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/manufactured-nanomaterials/en/)) may prove to be more appealing to stakeholders.

#### OECD work on nanosafety

An important part of this system is the OECD Test Guidelines that allow the assessment of the potential effects of chemicals on human health and the environment. In October 2017, the OECD published the first Test Guidelines developed or updated specifically for nanomaterials.

The WPMN is currently working on two projects related to the physical chemical properties of nanomaterials. The purpose of these projects is to develop a framework to identify the appropriate methods for characterising physico-chemical endpoints for different manufactured nanomaterials, or categories of nanomaterials, for regulatory purposes. It is expected that this work will facilitate progress for the development of guidance for the categorisation of nanomaterials. Work continues to develop methods to adapt existing risk

assessment methodologies to MN as well as on exposure of nanomaterials, including workplace, from contact with consumer products, and from environmental releases. A number of publications have been made since ICCM4 and they are available at: [www.oecd.org/env/nanosafety](http://www.oecd.org/env/nanosafety).

### **3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement**

#### UNITAR and OECD Nanosafety regional meetings

UNITAR and OECD will be organising regional meetings back-to-back with the SAICM regional meetings. These will be in Panama City, Panama on 1 and 2 February 2018, and Lodz, Poland on 22 and 23 February 2018. Nanosafety interventions are also planned for the SAICM regional meetings in the African and Asia-Pacific regions.

#### UNITAR guidance document on developing national policies

UNITAR would welcome contributions to support a revision to the guidance document for developing a national policy.

## Endocrine disrupting chemicals (UNEP/OECD/WHO)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

ICCM 4, by decision IV/2: Emerging policy issues, part II E, invited the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to address the needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, subject to available resources, by generating and disseminating information on endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), as part of the workplan set out in the progress report on EDCs prepared by the UNEP, WHO, and the OECD. Further, ICCM 4 invited the IOMC to further develop and implement the plan of work for the cooperative actions set out in the progress report referred to above in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and requests all interested stakeholders to support those efforts.

### 2. Progress since ICCM-4

To advance work on EDCs, UN Environment organized two meetings back-to-back with the meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Conferences of the Parties. They include a Consultative Meeting on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, 20-21 April 2017, followed by the Fourth Meeting of the UN Environment Advisory Group on EDCs, 21 April 2017 in the afternoon. The consultative meeting on EDCs was an important milestone in the discussions and work under preparation. Specific objectives of the meeting included:

- a. Finalize the three UN Environment reports under development:
  - i. Worldwide initiatives to identify EDCs and potential EDCs
  - ii. Review of existing national, regional and global regulatory frameworks that address EDCs
  - iii. Overview of the current knowledge on chemicals identified as EDCs and selected potential EDCs
- b. Share information and perspectives about recent advances in science and implications.

The reports are under the last revision process and will be posted in UN Environment webpage once ready.

WHO is implementing a suite of activities to address “avoidable early environmental exposures” which includes EDCs. Activities include training for medical professionals and communication materials.

OECD is updating a guidance document on the evaluation of data coming from standardised Guideline studies, including the sharing of experience from regulatory programmes in using data. Several routine Guidelines are currently updated to include EDC-related endpoints, thus potentially enriching the database of substances with or without activity or effects on the reproductive or thyroid systems. Communication material will be published to explain what is OECD’s role and main achievements to support OECD member countries policies on this issue.

In May 2017, the Global Environment Facility approved a Full Size Project project to promote best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM and agreed to support a Medium Size Project proposal entitled Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (EDCs, EPPPs and HHPs) and with the objective to accelerate and measure adoption of national activities to control Emerging Policy Issues to achieve the 2020 implementation of SAICM goal and support early planning for chemical management in

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable. The GEF MSP is under development in consultation between FAO, WHO, and UN Environment.

UN Environment, WHO and OECD updated the EDC workplan and invited SAICM stakeholders to share their actions, plans, efforts and achievements. The workplan was presented to the SAICM bureau and submitted to the SAICM Secretariat for information sharing.

### **3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement**

The reports prepared by UN Environment will provide the opportunity to SAICM stakeholders to assess state of the art knowledge and information as well to discuss next steps and opportunities in this area.

## PFCs (OECD)

### 1. ICCM Resolutions

A joint OECD/UN Environment Global PFC Group was established in 2012 in response to the International Conference on Chemicals Management (Resolution II/5), calling upon intergovernmental organisations, governments and other stakeholders to:

“consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible”.

The main goal of the group is to facilitate the exchange of information on per and poly-fluorinated chemicals, focusing specifically on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and support a global transition towards safer alternatives.

### 2. Progress since ICCM-4

The Group has most recently produced the following outputs:

- Release of the OECD Web Portal on PFASs in July 2017 (<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/>);
- A series of six webinars on alternatives to PFASs with the goal of gathering and sharing information on the status of development and use of alternatives to PFASs worldwide;
- Two reports were published in 2015 on *Risk Reduction Approaches for PFASs, a cross country analysis* and *Working Towards a Global Emission Inventory of PFASs - Focus on PFCAs*<sup>3</sup>;
- The 2007 OECD *Lists of Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOs), Perfluoroalkyl sulfonate (PFSAS), Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorocarboxylic Acid (PFCA), related Compounds and Chemicals that may degrade to PFCA*<sup>4</sup> is now being updated. The new version should be available in the first quarter of 2018.

### 3. Next steps and opportunities for engagement

- The 2015 report on Risk Reduction Approaches across Countries is now being updated and a more recent version should be available in the second quarter of 2018;
- The Group will be planning the development of a report on Uses of Alternatives to PFASs in 2018;
- The webinar series on alternatives will continue with the inclusion of broader topics such as remediation technologies and costs, monitoring technologies, etc. and the Web Portal is regularly being updated;
- In general efforts will continue to reinforce the gathering and exchange of information on PFASs and alternatives.

<sup>3</sup><http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/riskmanagement/Working%20Towards%20a%20Global%20Emission%20Inventory%20of%20PFASs.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=en/vjm/mono\(2006\)15&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=en/vjm/mono(2006)15&doclanguage=en)

Efforts have been made, and continue, to engage a wider range of stakeholders to participate in the work of the Global PFC Group, for it to be fully inclusive, including participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and also from a wider range of OECD countries and industry stakeholders at different levels in the supply/value chain.

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