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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference  
on Chemicals Management  
Second meeting  
Geneva, 15–17 December 2014**

**Report of the work of the Open-ended Working Group of the  
International Conference on Chemicals Management at its  
second meeting**

**I. Introduction**

1. By its resolution II/6, the International Conference on Chemicals Management established the Open-ended Working Group as its subsidiary body. The Working Group was to meet in the year before each session of the Conference to carry out the groundwork for the session with the aim of ensuring its comprehensiveness and effectiveness. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group took place from 15 to 18 November 2011 in Belgrade in preparation for the third session of the Conference, which took place in Nairobi from 17 to 21 September 2012. At that session, by its resolution III/5, the Conference confirmed the establishment of the Working Group and requested the secretariat to convene its second meeting in 2014 in preparation for the fourth session of the Conference, keeping the meeting as short as possible. In accordance with resolution III/5, the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was held at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2014.

**II. Opening of the meeting**

2. The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 15 December 2014, by Mr. Richard Lesiyampe (Kenya), President of the Conference.

3. Opening and welcoming statements were delivered by Mr. Lesiyampe and Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, Head, Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

4. In his remarks, the President emphasized that the deadline for the goal of the Strategic Approach of ensuring by 2020 that chemicals were produced and used in ways that minimized adverse impacts on the environment and human health, first agreed upon at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, was only six years away. The current meeting was therefore important as a means of reviewing progress made and agreeing on measures to guarantee advancement towards that goal. The meeting would also feature discussion of the sustainable development goals and international chemicals management beyond 2020, as well as the overall orientation and guidance on achievement of the 2020 goal, which was the expected strategic policy outcome of the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and included concrete elements to support implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy. He outlined the methodology used for the development of the overall orientation and guidance and noted that the draft document developed under the guidance of the Bureau with the support of the secretariat was the result of extensive consultation among all stakeholders and regions. The Strategic Approach secretariat had been actively

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participating in the country-driven consultative process on the challenges and options for further enhancing cooperation in the chemicals and waste cluster in the long term, thereby ensuring that the orientation and guidance reflected current thinking. He drew attention to the health sector strategy as an essential component in the attainment of the 2020 goal. The unique multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of the Strategic Approach was crucial to the efforts in pursuit of the 2020 goal. The United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session had adopted resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, in which it called upon the international community to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach and encouraged stakeholders to make financial and in-kind contributions to it. New and non-traditional donors needed to be identified to support implementation of the Strategic Approach, without which the 2020 goal would not be fulfilled. Concrete proposals on priority issues for inclusion on the agenda of the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management would be welcome and it was hoped that an agreement would be reached on how the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020 might be considered by the Conference at that session.

5. Ms. Keita-Ouane drew attention to the action of UNEP in the chemicals and waste cluster, which had been intense in recent years. Such action was carried out as the chemicals agenda gained political interest at all levels and was being recognized as an issue clearly linked to sustainable development. She cited the report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 agenda, “The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet”, which said that 2015 presented a unique opportunity to combine efforts to end poverty. The sound management of chemicals played a key role in that area, since the contamination or depletion of resources most affected the poorest populations. Increasing industrialization required the parallel promotion of sustainability, including the management of chemicals. The sustainable development goals provided an opportunity for fostering a collaborative approach to action on chemicals and waste, driving the implementation of activities on sound chemicals management at the national level and setting priorities in developing a comprehensive approach. The incorporation of chemicals management into the focal areas of the sustainable development goals, three of which explicitly addressed chemicals and waste management, would highlight to the international community the connection between a safe environment, the well-being of people and sustainable development. Resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP set forth foundational activities, and the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach would be key to identifying solutions concerning chemicals and waste management, including through mainstreaming and the financing of all aspects of chemicals and waste management. The Environment Assembly had called for enhanced participation by all Strategic Approach stakeholders to improve responses to emerging policy issues and had requested the UNEP Executive Director to continue to support the Strategic Approach. The discussions at the current meeting would guide the future sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and the overall orientation and guidance had also been developed to that end as the strategic policy outcome of the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and a road map for meeting the 2020 goal.

### **III. Organizational matters**

#### **A. Adoption of the agenda**

6. The Working Group adopted the agenda set out below on the basis of the provisional agenda (SAICM/OEWG.2/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Organization of work.
3. Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management:
  - (a) Regional achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the 2020 goal;

- (b) Progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy;
  - (c) Implementation of the health sector strategy;
  - (d) Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal.
4. Sustainable development goals and sound management of chemicals beyond 2020.
  5. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern:
    - (a) Report on progress on emerging policy issues:
      - (i) Lead in paint;
      - (ii) Chemicals in products;
      - (iii) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
      - (iv) Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
      - (v) Endocrine-disrupting chemicals;
    - (b) New proposed emerging policy issue for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants;
    - (c) Other issues of concern:
      - (i) Perfluorinated chemicals;
      - (ii) Highly hazardous pesticides.
  6. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2016–2020.
  7. Preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
  8. Other matters.
  9. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
  10. Closure of the meeting.

## **B. Organization of work**

### **1. Attendance**

7. The following governmental participants were represented: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia.

8. The following intergovernmental participants were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, League of Arab States, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development

Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and World Health Organization.

9. The following non-governmental participants were represented: American Petroleum Institute, Asociación Nacional de la Industria Química, Association de l'Éducation Environnementale pour les Futures Générations, Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology for the African Region, Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific in China, Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa in Senegal, BASF SE, Blacksmith Institute/Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, Centre for International Environmental Law, Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement, Centre for Environmental Solutions, Centro de Análisis y Acción en Tóxicos y sus Alternativas, CropLife International, DuPont International SARL, Earthjustice, EcoLomics International, Ecological Restorations, Endocrine Society, European Chemical Industry Council, Greenpeace East Asia, Greenpeace International, "Greenwomen" Analytical Environment Agency, Groupe d'action pour la promotion de la flore et la faune, Health and Environment Alliance, Health Care Without Harm, Hewlett-Packard, Indonesia Toxics-Free Network, Indyact-League of Independent Activists, International Council of Chemical Associations, International POPS Elimination Network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, International Trade Union Confederation Africa, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Island Sustainability Alliance CIS Inc., Lebanese Environment Forum, National Environmental NGO MAMA-86, Outdoor Industry Association, Pesticide Action Network, Pesticide Action Nexus Association, RAPAL Uruguay, Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas de America Latina, Risk Reduction Foundation, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology Czech Republic, Stockholm Environment Institute, Thanal, Toxic Link, United States Council for International Business, University of Cape Town Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Research, Women in Europe for a Common Future, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, Zoi Environment.

10. The following other entities were also represented: Chemtopia Co., Ltd., Chemical Watch, Cogeneris, Hyundai Motor Europe Technical Centre GmbH, IWW Water Centre, Mizuho Information and Research Institute, Inc., Sofies, S.A., Sony Mobile Communications, University of Guelph, University of Leuven, University of Pretoria, University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès.

## 2. Officers

11. The rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as provided in rule 23 of those rules, apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 14, the officers elected at the third session of the Conference were to serve as the Bureau during the current meeting. Since the third session, however, a number of the officers elected by the Conference were replaced in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure.

12. Accordingly, the Bureau was constituted as follows at the time of the current meeting:

President:	Mr. Richard Lesiyampe (Kenya)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation)
	Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
	Ms. Gabi Eigenmann (Switzerland)

13. Mr. Richards served also as rapporteur.

## 3. Organization of work

14. In carrying out its work at the current meeting, the Working Group had before it working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the meeting agenda. Those documents are listed, according to the agenda items to which they pertain, in annex I to the present report.

15. The Working Group agreed to work in accordance with the proposal set out in a scenario note prepared by the President (SAICM/OEWG.2/2). It thus agreed, *inter alia*, to work in plenary session each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to establish such small groups as it considered necessary, on the understanding that no such group would work concurrently with plenary and that no more than two would meet at the same time.

## **IV. Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management**

### **A. Regional achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the 2020 goal**

16. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a summary of the outcomes of Strategic Approach regional priority-setting workshops and resolutions adopted at Strategic Approach regional meetings in 2013 and 2014 (see SAICM/OEWG.2/3), as well as a compilation of regional chemicals challenges that had been prepared based on input from the regional meetings and other consultations (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/3).

17. Representatives speaking on behalf of the five regional groups then reported on the outcomes of the regional meetings and priority-setting workshops, describing regional achievements as well as the gaps and challenges that remained in working towards the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management.

18. The regional focal point for Africa said that the region was actively committed to implementing the Strategic Approach and to meeting the 2020 goal but underscored the need to reflect critically on how to prepare for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as it would be the last before the 2020 goal deadline. Careful thought also needed to be given to financing matters, as the funding of the Strategic Approach continued to pose a challenge, and on how to continue promoting sound chemicals management as a sustainable development goal. Consideration also needed to be given to what the future of the Strategic Approach would be after 2020.

19. Thanks to the Quick Start Programme, many countries in his region had strengthened their capacity for chemicals management, including through projects on creating appropriate legislation, monitoring data on household products and inventories of chemicals, risk reduction and monitoring environmental and human health data relating to particular substances. Many of the Quick Start Programme projects had created or enhanced synergies with other initiatives and various regional activities and workshops had strengthened information exchange and capacity-building. An association of toxicologists had been established thanks to a project on subregional poison centres, based on World Health Organization guidelines. Some countries had conducted projects on chemical accident prevention and preparedness, the outcomes of which could also be used by other countries. Sixteen countries had developed a harmonized system for registering pesticides and had established criteria for defining highly hazardous pesticides. National focal points were now in place in almost every country in the region, demonstrating the high commitment to implementing the Strategic Approach, and many had also ratified the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and were initiating the process for ratifying the Minamata Convention.

20. Many gaps remained, however. There was a lack of capacity in the region for identifying chemical contaminants in consumer products; chemicals were produced in high volumes and dispersed widely; hazardous electrical equipment was still used and often ended up in open landfills, releasing toxins into the environment; and lead was still used widely in decorative paints throughout Africa. Financing was a particular challenge, including with regard to how to involve industry and how to access external funding. There was also a significant lack of poison centres, with only 14 centres in nine countries of the region. Finally, highly hazardous chemicals were a major concern, especially with regard to the continued stockpiling of obsolete pesticides and the lack of a proper framework for substituting and eliminating those substances.

21. The regional focal point for the Asia-Pacific region said that while sound chemicals management existed in the region there was still a need in some countries for capacity-building. He noted the broad range of capacities of the countries of the region, which could become yet more pronounced with the possible expansion of the region to include countries of Central Asia. Mechanisms had been established to coordinate various national stakeholders and inter-agency cooperation had been strengthened at the national and regional levels. National chemicals management bodies and networks of contact points had either been established or strengthened and chemical profiles had been formulated in a number of developing countries in the region. National and regional action plans had also been developed. The region was working to provide accessible information for the public on hazardous chemicals and waste. Action had been taken to raise awareness and to exchange information among government ministries and other stakeholders and further work was being done to increase knowledge and information sharing, especially on emerging policy issues. Several programmes in the region had been supported by the Quick Start Programme, which helped countries to build capacity for chemical safety and to implement their obligations. Finally, the issue of

lead in paint had been made a regional priority. The regional meeting had also resulted in the conclusion that limited financial resources and financing mechanisms, a lack of information exchange and a lack of appropriate technical support were significant challenges to achieving the 2020 sound chemicals management goal.

22. The regional focal point for Central and Eastern Europe said that his region had made significant progress in implementing activities relating to the Strategic Approach and achieving the 2020 goal but that much work still needed to be done to ensure the sound management of chemicals and to reduce their effects on human health and the environment. With only six years remaining to achieve the 2020 goal, capacity and progress towards implementing the Strategic Approach varied among the countries in the region. Despite their differences, however, all countries recognized their common responsibility for achieving the goal and a number of possible actions had been identified for that purpose. Regional priorities were poison control centres; managing industrial accidents; implementing international chemicals conventions; engaging stakeholders; using the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); and training specialists. The region believed that an integrated approach to financing was essential if the 2020 goal was to be met. As such, the region welcomed the Global Environment Facility's new focus on chemicals and waste and the establishment by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach. In view of those new possibilities for financing projects, the region was looking forward to detailed user-friendly information regarding the procedures for applying for GEF funds for projects in the chemicals and wastes focal area as well funds from the special programme.

23. Speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean region, one representative said that the region placed great importance on achieving the 2020 goal and that, with only six years to go, it was essential that the overall orientation and guidance on achievement of the goal include specific measures for risk reduction, such as the elimination of lead in paint. The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session should discuss the future of the Strategic Approach after 2020, how intergovernmental and intersectoral cooperation could be improved, and how the Strategic Approach could be incorporated into the broader synergies process of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The region called for the Open-ended Working Group to meet at least once before the fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to identify the measures necessary beyond 2020. Noting some items that had not been included on the agenda for the current meeting, the region underscored the need for the Working Group to discuss the financial status of the Strategic Approach and the availability of funds and appropriate financing mechanisms. He said that the overall orientation and guidance document should include financing as a central item over and above the special programme and GEF and should consider whether the Strategic Approach would have financing beyond 2020.

24. The use of highly hazardous pesticides was a particular concern for Latin America and the Caribbean; the region had made considerable progress in defining the legal status of those substances and in finding alternatives, but much better global coordination was needed to eliminate them altogether. He suggested that a document be produced for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management with specific measures for providing information on the toxicity of pesticides and their adverse effects on human health and the environment. The health sector was a key part of the Strategic Approach and the World Health Organization should be urged to participate in the secretariat, and more also needed to be done to strengthen the presence of the International Labour Organization and other worker organizations, given their importance in chemicals management.

25. The regional focal point for Western European and other States, recalling a meeting of member States of the European Union and Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States held in February 2014, said that countries in that group had implemented legislation regulating the placing on the market, use and disposal of chemicals with a view to protecting human health and the environment and underscored the need to ensure compliance with such legislation if implementation of the Strategic Approach was to be achieved. Countries had also identified a need for greater transfer of knowledge and for the translation of existing guidance and information into more useable formats. A progress report for the region had shown that countries were doing well at implementing the Strategic Approach; various actions had been taken in the areas of risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance and illegal international traffic. Nearly all countries had scientific committees to assess risk and most had implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

26. Following the presentations on regional matters, representatives of individual governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental delegations also spoke, describing activities to implement the Strategic Approach in the period since the third meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, progress towards the 2020 goal and remaining gaps and challenges. In addition, representatives highlighted matters that they said required further attention at the current meeting or in the period leading to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
27. Several representatives said that their countries had implemented legislation regarding sound chemicals management, including waste management, the protection of human health and the environment and on the substitution of dangerous substances when suitable alternatives were identified. Some representatives said that their countries had fully implemented relevant multilateral agreements and other mechanisms such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Others said that their countries had strengthened their systems for registering chemicals and for identifying hazardous substances and suitable alternatives. Several had improved efforts to prevent hazardous chemicals from entering the environment and endangering human health. Some representatives said that their countries had ensured appropriate levels of funding for national and regional activities, including as donors to the Strategic Approach or by establishing funds to assist developing countries in particular.
28. The representative of a non-governmental organization said that his organization had had success with a framework for eliminating lead in paint and in developing initiatives globally for testing for lead and raising awareness about its harmful nature. As a result, a number of countries were close to eliminating lead in paint, although it was important to note that the majority of developing countries and countries with economies in transition still produced and used lead paint. The same organization had also worked with others to produce guidance on endocrine disruptors and mercury.
29. In describing the challenges that they faced, several representatives underscored the need for better collection and monitoring of data, including on hazardous waste, and for improved risk assessment, including with regard to vulnerable groups. Greater cooperation between countries and all other relevant stakeholders would also be needed to ensure the achievement of the 2020 goal. Some representatives said that progress was still lacking in implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. A representative of a country with a large chemical industry said that there was a need to improve cooperation in that sector and to hold multinational companies responsible for their actions. Illegal trafficking was a key concern of another country, especially as it was an issue that could not be tackled properly by individual countries and required regional and global cooperation.
30. Several speakers drew attention to matters that should be reflected clearly in the overall orientation and guidance and would require greater attention if the 2020 goal was to be achieved and the Strategic Approach was to be fully implemented. Of particular concern to the majority of representatives was the lack of a framework for identifying and phasing out highly hazardous pesticides. Some countries had already prohibited or placed restrictions on their use, but much greater regional and global coordination was needed to ensure their complete elimination and substitution and thus take a significant step towards achieving the 2020 goal and the full implementation of the Strategic Approach. Highly hazardous pesticides put many people at risk, especially those required to work with them, most of whom were in developing countries. It was suggested that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be invited to develop a global alliance to phase out highly hazardous chemicals. Many also called for greater efforts to be made for the total elimination of hazardous chemicals in electrical products, endocrine disruptors, mercury use and lead in paint, the last of which was still a particular problem in the informal sector.
31. Several representatives underscored the need to address the financing of the Strategic Approach. One suggested that countries should identify their key areas of concern and should tie requests for funding to their national sustainable development plans. Another said that the Strategic Approach needed a financing mechanism that was accessible, verifiable and sustainable.
32. One representative said that least developed countries and small island developing States typically had very small delegations at meetings and therefore risked missing the opportunity to participate fully in meetings or to intervene on issues of particular importance to them. To enable them to prepare properly for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, countries should be allowed to make written submissions on key areas of concern in the period leading up to the session.

## **B. Progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy**

33. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that its purpose was to provide participants with information on the status of Strategic Approach implementation, including with regard to financing. Noting that one of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was to evaluate implementation of the Strategic Approach and report on progress to stakeholders, the representative of the secretariat introduced a number of information documents pertinent to the item. The documents included SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, a note by the secretariat on progress in Strategic Approach implementation based on the 2011–2013 reporting process; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/5, containing an analysis by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) of efforts to implement the Global Plan of Action and key issue papers; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/6, a report by IOMC on its activities to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/7, a secretariat report on the Quick Start Programme; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/8, a report on the cooperation and coordination task force of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/16, a note by the secretariat on its performance of information clearing-house functions; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/18, a report by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on its activities in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach; and SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/22, a report by the Environment Management Group on United Nations system-wide support in achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste, which was also relevant to overall orientation and guidance on achievement of the 2020 goal, to be discussed under agenda item 4 (d). Drawing attention to the document on the Quick Start Programme, the representative of the secretariat noted that 36 million dollars had been raised since 2006 and that the period for contributions to the Programme Trust Fund had been extended until the fourth session of the Conference. She invited representatives to consider how the documents might be utilized in the context of the overall orientation and guidance.

34. The President said that while there had been progress in respect of financing for Strategic Approach activities, including under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, there remained a need to identify non-traditional donors at all levels. He invited authors of the information documents to provide additional details where relevant.

35. A representative speaking on behalf of IOMC drew attention to document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/6, which discussed actions by IOMC participating organizations to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Such actions included designing criteria for occupational diseases; assisting developing countries in meeting their obligations under the relevant conventions; supporting cleaner production at the plant level; carrying out activities under the Minamata Convention; and developing methods for predicting the hazardous properties of chemicals. He also drew attention to document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/5, which set out an analysis by IOMC of efforts by IOMC participating organizations to implement the Global Plan of Action, including progress, and remaining gaps and proposals to address them. While much work remained to be done, the participating organizations had advanced, particularly in domains where they had strong mandates and where several organizations worked collectively. He hoped that the papers would serve the participants in reflecting on progress made and planning forthcoming projects.

36. One representative, speaking on behalf of his region, said that a lack of chemicals management in the region remained a cause for concern. Given that most countries of that region relied on agricultural activity, pesticide control was of paramount importance. The 2009–2010 regional progress report revealed lower activity for indicators in the area of knowledge exchange than in governance, demonstrating that the long-term sustainability and relevance of knowledge-sharing mechanisms was important. With regard to capacity-building, he said that difficulty in establishing and maintaining websites was a significant problem. Stockholm Convention national implementation plans were the most frequently completed plans but there was no information on their implementation, suggesting that they were not the means of solving problems with persistent organic pollutants. The situation, he suggested, was the result of a lack of funding.

37. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the 2011–2013 progress report lacked clarity regarding the purpose and delivery of the Strategic Approach. He expressed support for the development of reporting procedures for a third progress report prior to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemical Management, saying that they should be consistent with the procedures used for the second report. Ways to increase reporting timelines and the quality of reports needed to be identified, and he encouraged participants to include in their reporting assessments of any difficulties in implementing the activities in the overall orientation and guidance, along with possible solutions. The indicators should not be revised for the third report, and the focus



should remain rather on implementing the Strategic Approach at the national level. Finally, he said, the third report should include an assessment of progress regarding the actions to achieve, as a priority, the 11 basic elements of the overall orientation and guidance document. One representative said that when revising the indicators at its fourth session the Conference should take into account the sustainable development goals and related indicators addressing the sustainable management of chemicals and waste.

38. The representative of UNEP said that certain regions were underrepresented in the 2011–2013 progress report. Reporting from those regions needed to be improved, and he expressed concern at what he said was a widening gap between least developed countries and other developing countries. He echoed the views expressed above regarding indicators, saying that any revision should be undertaken at a later date, with the current focus to remain on implementation.

### **C. Implementation of the health sector strategy**

39. Introducing the sub-item at the request of the President, the representative of the World Health Organization highlighted the results of the second Strategic Approach reporting survey, on which WHO had based a report on the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation in 2012–2014 (see SAICM/OEWG.2/8). Regarding risk reduction, the health sector monitored occupational diseases related to chemical exposure and poisoning. In the area of knowledge and information, the sector provided training and awareness-raising on chemical safety, aimed mainly at the general public. Although activities in the framework of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week had been registered in 44 countries, only two countries had referred to such initiatives in their reporting. Underreporting was likewise observed with regard to implementation of the International Health Regulations. The underreporting demonstrated the need to strengthen communication between the health sector and other sectors. Document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/17, on the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach, presented additional information on the work of the health sector at the international and regional levels on several emerging policy issues. WHO regional offices played a major role in health and environment ministerial processes and in the holding of regional workshops on the implementation of the Strategic Approach. WHO also established networks and undertook technical cooperation aimed at monitoring risk and formulating norms on chemical use and management. The document gave many more examples of health sector engagement than could be mentioned.

40. In the ensuing discussion, all who spoke welcomed the report by WHO. There was general agreement regarding the importance of enhanced health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach, particularly in developing countries, with several representatives highlighting the disease burden attributed to chemical exposures. One representative said that countries should collect data on poisonings by lead, mercury and other substances, that health indicators to monitor low-level chemical exposures should be developed and used and that the protection of at-risk populations required the involvement of employers. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that countries needed to improve coordination and communication at the national level to strengthen the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

41. Most representatives who spoke, recalling resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to similar effect, called on WHO to play a leading role in the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, saying that it should provide staffing and other resources to the Strategic Approach secretariat and allocate adequate funding to WHO departments dealing with chemicals. One such representative also said that WHO needed to highlight the benefits of health measures in reducing the burden of disease, and he expressed the hope that the WHO Executive Board would discuss its role in the Strategic Approach at its next meeting and invite the Strategic Approach secretariat to report to it on the discussions of the Open-ended Working Group on the issue.

42. One representative, speaking on behalf of African States, said that while chemicals and waste management were multisectoral in nature there was no clear mechanism for coordinating the relevant sectors. He accordingly called on African countries to develop and strengthen health and environment strategic alliances, as called for in the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, as vehicles for mainstreaming chemical and other health-related issues, and he said that the African region should use the institutional arrangements formed to implement the Libreville Declaration on Climate Change and Health as a way of streamlining chemicals management and health issues across sectors. Observing that the involvement of the health sector in chemicals and waste management varied considerably from country to country, as stated in the WHO report, he said that efforts were needed to define clear roles in national legislation, and he expressed support for the recommendations

by WHO on awareness-raising, risk assessment, capacity-building, resilience, information collection and assessment and international communication and networking.

43. Outlining their organizations' expertise and activities, the representatives of two health-care-related non-governmental organizations expressed their organizations' desire to participate actively in the effort to strengthen the involvement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach. They also outlined a number of recommendations aimed at increasing the capacity of the health sector and related agencies with regard to chemicals and waste, disseminating information on safe alternatives, strengthening links between Strategic Approach focal points and health ministries, health sector involvement in the elimination of lead paint, human biomonitoring of highly hazardous pesticides and endocrine-disrupting chemicals and the use of an electronic medical tracking tool for work on occupational health issues related to nanomaterials, electronics and e-waste recycling.

44. The representative of UNEP said that resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly marked a paradigm shift to a more holistic approach to chemicals policies that included social and economic concerns, in response to which UNEP was refocusing its work in the area to emphasize links with matters such as sustainable production and consumption, the green economy and human health. UNEP would continue to work with WHO and IOMC partners to address the health and environment nexus with the aim of achieving the 2020 goal.

#### **D. Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal**

45. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management (see SAICM/OEWG.2/4), which had been developed under the guidance of the Bureau by the secretariat taking into account the regional achievements and gaps identified in document SAICM/OEWG.2/3. Among the key components, he highlighted the six core activity areas for implementing the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy for 2015–2020 and the specific guidance and action points for each area; the focus on optimizing the use of resources, including in the operationalization of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste; and the need for a global approach to long-term collaboration. He also drew attention to the background information provided in document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2 and the terms of reference for the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach (see SAICM/OEWG.2/5). The Working Group was invited to review and provide relevant input for the document, which would be taken into account in its finalization for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.

46. In the ensuing discussion, all who spoke expressed appreciation to the Bureau and the secretariat for preparing a document that was comprehensive and provided a sound basis for further discussion. One representative welcomed the progress made in regard to risk reduction, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation, while raising a concern that there was a lack of available relevant information on illegal international traffic. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the focus on progress to date provided a perspective from which to develop future actions and that the action points under each core activity area would help stakeholders to identify their respective priorities. Most representatives were broadly satisfied with the 11 basic elements set out in paragraph 19 and the six core activity areas in paragraph 21. According to one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, they should be taken into account in the toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management developed by IOMC. One representative, however, said that the activity areas did not clearly address the basic elements and that some of those elements, such as “strengthened capacity to deal with chemical accidents, including poisoning”, risked being lost if not incorporated into the activity areas. She suggested including “institutional strengthening for poison centres” in paragraph 19 (j) of the basic elements, adding that a focus on actions that would deliver measurable and significant health benefits was needed.

47. Regarding specific areas in need of further consideration, several representatives said that more attention should be devoted to the issue of financing, with two suggesting the addition of another core activity area on the subject: one said that such an activity area should focus on mobilizing the integrated approach to financing sound chemicals management, and the other added that it should include tangible goals to ensure that the costs of chemicals and waste management were internalized by industry, with an emphasis placed on expanding the donor base, increasing the resources provided by GEF and supporting the work of stakeholders under the special programme. Another representative, however, said that it was best to keep the activity areas simple and comprehensive. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the document did not adequately address the subject of waste management, adding that core activity area (c) should stress the importance of

mainstreaming both sound chemicals and waste management not only in the sustainable development agenda but also in policy-making in all sectors, including labour and health. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that that mainstreaming requirement should also be extended to non-governmental actors. One representative, supported by two others, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for the document to include a focus on the health sector strategy, which would help to determine its roles and responsibilities, as well as on vulnerable groups and ecosystems. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it needed to provide developing countries with further information on how to implement the overall orientation and guidance and that it should stress the role of the international community in promoting implementation of the 11 basic elements while ensuring that multinational companies applied the same standards in regard to protecting human health and the environment in developing countries as they did in their own countries.

48. One representative said that the document lacked tangible output goals, including quantifiable targets for activities to tackle emerging policy issues; and another said that it lacked a detailed definition of roles and responsibilities. One representative suggested adding two new items to the 11 basic elements: promoting and developing safer chemical alternatives – which, according to another, should be listed – and engaging the public and ensuring transparency during policy-making. Another representative said that the document should reflect the outcomes of recent workshops on, among other things, optimizing resource use and the mainstreaming of sound chemicals management into projects under the Quick Start Programme; another said that it should take into account the variations in different countries; and a third said that it was important to address the need to calculate the planetary boundaries for chemical pollution, including in the context of the sustainable development goals. One representative said that the document should provide specific guidance on the priorities for action by stakeholder groups under the five strategic objective areas of the Overarching Policy Strategy. Another said that it should clarify its status in relation to the three constituent Strategic Approach documents: the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action.

49. Following its discussion, the Working Group agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Leticia Carvalho (Brazil) and Ms. Anette Ejersted (Denmark), to review and provide feedback on the six activity areas and 11 gaps that were based on the discussions at the regional priority-setting workshops, the comprehensiveness of the orientation and guidance, omissions and gaps and the need for action points, and how orientation and guidance might be taken forward to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in order for it to be considered, operationalized and implemented.

50. Subsequently the co-chair of the contact group reported on the group's discussions, outlining the contents of a written summary of those discussions prepared by the co-chairs of the contact group.

51. In the ensuing discussion one representative said that the overall orientation and guidance document was useful but was disproportionately focused on process objectives while not adequately addressing risk reduction activities that could be carried out before 2020. The document should identify gaps in risk reduction activities in areas where substantial progress in reducing risk could be achieved by 2020. Such activities would include proposals for more vigorous implementation of the Strategic Approach, emerging policy issues, selected elements of the Global Plan of Action and other activities in the Overarching Policy Strategy such as implementation of the business plan of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint; the adoption and initial implementation of a global alliance to phase out highly hazardous pesticides; robust implementation of the chemicals in products programme; the implementation of the recommendations on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products adopted at a workshop held in Vienna in March 2011;<sup>1</sup> the publication of a list of endocrine-disrupting chemicals; the conduct of monitoring studies and case studies on the possible presence of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in pesticides, textiles, children's products, building products and electrical and electronic products; the identification of gaps in existing regulatory policies and best available practices for the replacement of endocrine-disrupting chemicals; the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention; the promotion of remediation of contaminated areas; and the protection of workers from asbestosis and other occupational diseases. These suggestions, it was said, had been made during the contact group discussions but were not reflected in the co-chairs' summary of those discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/eWaste/HsInternationalWorkshopEwasteLifeCycle-Vienna-20110329.pdf>.

52. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while the matters listed by the first speaker were important there would be no time either at the current meeting or the fourth session of the Conference to negotiate their inclusion in the overall orientation and guidance document.

53. The Working Group agreed that the comments of the first representative would be reflected in the present report and that the summary prepared by the co-chairs of the contact group would be annexed to the present report to be taken into account in the finalization of the overall orientation and guidance. The summary is set out in annex II to the present report, where it appears as submitted, without formal editing.

## **V. Sustainable development goals and sound management of chemicals beyond 2020**

54. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat presented a note on the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970). He suggested that during the discussion, participants should bear in mind the currently proposed sustainable development goals; the recent report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, entitled “The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet” (A/69/700), which set out six essential elements for framing and reinforcing the sustainable development agenda; and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste.

55. A representative of the United Nations Environment Management Group reported on United Nations system-wide support in achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste, outlining the information in document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/22. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the Environment Management Group and encouraged it to continue its efforts.

56. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed what they said was the improved visibility of the chemicals and waste agenda at the international level, as evidenced not least by explicit references to the topic in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and in resolution 1/5. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries particularly highlighted paragraph 19 of resolution 1/5, which called on the Open-ended Working Group to consider ways to improve the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders, while others noted the great similarity between target 12.4 of the sustainable development goals and the Strategic Approach 2020 goal.

57. All representatives who spoke said that the future of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 should be discussed at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, with several saying that resolution 1/5 demonstrated the continuing relevance of the Strategic Approach and one arguing that as the goals of the Strategic Approach were indefinite the Approach itself should not be time-limited. One representative said that if allowed to continue the Strategic Approach would ensure coherence in the international framework for mainstreaming chemicals and wastes into development programmes and policies at the national, regional and global levels. One representative suggested that the tools of the Working Group would be useful in assessing targets and progress in the post-2015 development agenda. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Strategic Approach, given its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder nature, was an ideal forum for tackling chemicals and wastes issues as it could broadcast a clear signal on the importance of the issue and the role of the Strategic Approach for attaining the sustainable development goals in the post-2015 agenda. Another representative noted that, owing to the need to prioritize, a number of issues would not be discussed before 2020; such issues, he said, should be considered in a longer time frame.

58. Many participants said that it was crucial that post-2015 efforts include the broad integration of chemicals management as an essential element of sustainable development and that sustainable development goals specifically relating to chemicals be reinforced and prioritized within the Strategic Approach community. One representative said that the Working Group should emphasize the important role of the Strategic Approach in implementing sustainable development goals and that the potential of the Strategic Approach should therefore be brought to bear in discussions, while another said that the sustainable development goals could also promote Strategic Approach activities by strengthening the health and employment agenda and advancing the issue of sustainable consumption to ensure better management of chemicals throughout their life cycles.

59. One representative said that chemical pollution was a transboundary and global issue that required global action and indicators to measure the effectiveness of remedial actions. The Strategic Approach, as an international multisectoral forum, was well equipped to contribute to the development of such indicators and should therefore play an important role in discussions about them. It had, however, achieved less success in minimizing and eliminating toxic exposure, as it had to date devoted itself principally to enabling activities. Going forward, he said, rather than workshops, capacity-building should take the form of learning-by-doing activities that could solve actual problems while building capacity. Another representative said that Strategic Approach implementation could only be successful if considerable efforts were made to overcome barriers to implementation. One representative observed that chemicals-related conventions did not cover all aspects of chemical safety; the Strategic Approach, by contrast, covered all remaining areas of chemical exposure, not least for developing and transition countries, and was thus of continuing relevance. Communicating the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach was therefore a race against time, and it was vital for decisions on its future to be made at the current meeting.

60. Following its discussion, the Working Group agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Luca Arnold (Switzerland) and Mr. Henry Williams (Liberia), to discuss sustainable development goals and the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020. On the first subject, the group would base its discussions on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on the relevance of sound chemicals management to sustainable development; how messages regarding the relevance of the Strategic Approach could be conveyed to relevant actors and processes such as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals; and the role to be played by the Strategic Approach in the implementation of the sustainable development goals. On the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020 the group would consider how the subject could be discussed at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and what preparations for such a discussion would be required.

61. Subsequently, the co-chair of the contact group said that the group had reached consensus on the importance of sound chemicals and waste management to the sustainable development goals and had agreed on text to be annexed to the report of the current meeting. In addition, the group had agreed that the strengthening of chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 should be on the agenda for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and that resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, due to its clear link, could be used as a basis for further work. The co-chair further said that it had been suggested that the secretariat prepare a thought-starter document on the subject for that session, but no agreement had been reached on that proposal. It was agreed that this could also be further discussed under item 7 of the agenda for the current meeting, on preparations for that session. The Working Group endorsed the conclusions of the contact group. It also endorsed the text agreed to by the contact group, which is set out in annex III to the present report, where it is presented as submitted, without formal editing.

## **VI. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern**

### **A. Report on progress on emerging policy issues**

62. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that one of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as set out in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy, was “to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”. The Conference had identified lead in paint, chemicals in products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and endocrine-disrupting chemicals as emerging policy issues and had adopted resolutions II/4 and III/2 on emerging policy issues, which would guide stakeholder activities on emerging policy issues in the period leading up to 2020. She then introduced the documents pertaining to the item (see annex I), including a note by the secretariat (SAICM/OEWG.2/6) and a number of documents prepared by IOMC participating organizations, providing information on progress in addressing those issues. The Working Group was invited to note the progress made and to consider any necessary further action in the context of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal.

63. Several representatives then made general comments on emerging policy issues, welcoming the documents prepared by the secretariat and the IOMC participating organizations and saying that action to address emerging policy issues supported overall progress towards the 2020 goal. Several said that developing countries in particular needed assistance to address emerging policy issues, but one suggested that the focus should first be on implementation and on ensuring that all countries had the capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste. One representative said that his country

was a major chemical producer and user and was taking a number of measures to address emerging policy issues through reviewing relevant legislation and norms, undertaking research and surveys and exercising strict controls on chemical products.

## 1. Lead in paint

64. The representative of the World Health Organization introduced the sub-item at the request of the President, saying that since the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint had pursued a number of actions in line with its business plan. In addition, a number of countries had provided government-verified information on the status of lead paint regulation; while 52 had reported having legally binding restrictions on the use of lead in paint and 26 had reported that they did not, many Governments had not provided any information on the status of lead paint regulations in their countries. Those Governments were urged to submit such information without delay so that progress towards the 2020 goal of eliminating lead in paint could be accurately tracked.

65. To support countries' actions on the issue, week-long international awareness campaigns on lead poisoning prevention had been held in October 2013 and 2014, with a focus on eliminating lead in paint. A workshop had also been held, in conjunction with the third meeting of the Global Alliance, focused on the establishment of legal limits for lead in paint. The representative of UNEP added that, in collaboration with the International POPs Elimination Network, tests had been conducted in nine countries to measure the lead content of decorative paints, the results of which complemented data already gathered from a further 28 countries.

66. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint had been instrumental in coordinating and supporting activities and had also benefited from strong civil society engagement. Donor support, however, had been insufficient to date. The 2020 goal of eliminating lead paint was achievable, but greater impetus was needed, especially as many countries had not yet begun to address the issue.

67. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives described projects that had been undertaken to eliminate lead in paint with a view to achieving the 2020 goal. It was hoped that all countries would by 2020 have legally binding controls on lead in paints, in particular decorative paints, which contributed to childhood exposure, and that all paint manufacturers would eliminate the addition of lead compounds to their products. Various representatives said, however, that the pace of action needed to be drastically increased, particularly as it was primarily developing countries and countries with economies in transition that lacked the necessary legally binding controls. The adoption of resolutions on lead in paint by two regions was commended, but representatives highlighted further action that Governments should take to support the work of the Global Alliance and to contribute to the achievement of the 2020 goal, including developing appropriate legislation, assisting in the development of guidance on establishing legal lead limits, conducting outreach and awareness-raising events, hosting regional workshops and stepping up monitoring, especially by the health sector.

68. One representative, supported by others, said that legal instruments were not sufficient to address lead in paint because enforcement was difficult. It was therefore crucial that awareness be raised among vulnerable populations, especially in developing countries, where children and informal sector workers were at greatest risk of exposure. In addition, companies needed to take responsibility for eliminating the manufacture of lead paints and their introduction to developing countries, a practice the representative called morally unacceptable. A coordinated effort by manufacturers, importers, exporters and vendors to halt the production, sale and use of those products was needed.

69. One representative said that measures to be taken to overcome gaps in implementation of the Global Alliance on the Elimination of Lead in Paint should include encouraging Strategic Approach national focal points and others to promote and initiate national discussions involving relevant ministries, paint industry representatives and relevant national stakeholders to address the hazards associated with lead in paint and possible national measures to control them; the adoption by 70 or more countries by 2015 of legally-binding controls on lead paints, with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure; making data on lead in paint available to at least 80 developing and transition countries by 2017 as a step towards establishing legally-binding controls in all countries by 2020; and encouraging WHO national and regional offices to actively support national lead paint elimination efforts.

## 2. Chemicals in products

70. At the request of the President, the representative of UNEP introduced the sub-item, recalling that UNEP had been involved in the development of a chemicals in products programme proposal since the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, together with a team of experts, with financial support from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Nordic Council of Ministers. A first draft had been circulated to the project steering group for comment in 2013, and a revised draft had been prepared. The proposed programme was intended to guide stakeholders on how to exchange useful information on chemicals in a useable format. A pilot project under the programme was due to begin in China in early 2015, with the aim of working with supply chain stakeholders and others in the country's textile sector. Feedback from the Working Group was sought on the current draft (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/11) before further revision and preparation of a final draft at a workshop to be held prior to the fourth session of the Conference. The Working Group might also consider related matters such as institutional arrangements, resource implications, how to integrate the proposed programme with relevant existing initiatives and how to engage the many implicated stakeholder groups.

71. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives underscored the importance of chemicals in products and the programme proposal for the Strategic Approach, as transparency and increased information about potentially hazardous chemicals in products in daily use were crucial for protecting human health, especially in developing countries where a lack of standards and controls often led to exposure among vulnerable populations such as children. Several representatives welcomed the workshop for finalizing the draft programme proposal; one described advantages of knowing the chemicals actually present in products and suggested that the reporting mechanism in the programme proposal needed to be substantially revised or dropped altogether. Another called for the opportunity to discuss how the programme proposal could be further strengthened regarding the practicalities of programme implementation.

72. Several representatives said that the chemicals industry had a key role to play in ensuring the flow of relevant information throughout the supply chain and to consumers. Industry had extensive protocols and mechanisms for information sharing, but expanding global markets created challenges and greater collaboration was needed among various industry sectors. It was also suggested that the proposed programme should build on existing initiatives and should be revised in consultation with industry if it was to be implementable.

73. Another representative said that information on chemicals in products was essential for stakeholders both within and outside supply chains and that the programme proposal provided valuable guidance on generating, sharing and using such information. Further, a key principle of chemicals management was the public's right to know: consumers had an important role regarding disclosure of information beyond regulatory requirements and, their expectations being higher, increasingly demanded to be more and better informed and to have more sustainable, cleaner products. It was clear, however, that in developing countries with weak or inappropriate legislation, companies could delay taking action if they were not compelled to do so by Governments. The same representative said that information on chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential; claims of confidentiality when it came to chemicals of high concern had hindered the collection of necessary data on the chemical content of products. Another representative, speaking on behalf of his region, called for industry to provide information of the sort found in chemical safety data sheets, saying that the countries of his region needed such information urgently in the light of imports of products such as toys that contained chemicals posing risks to children.

74. The representative of China reported that a pilot project was being implemented in his country. A survey of the chemicals used in the dyeing industry would be conducted, as many were the same as those used in the textile industry. Another representative said that stakeholders inside and outside the supply chain should be part of the process as recommended by the chemicals in products programme. Other speakers underscored the value of the pilot project, saying that it would provide useful data and help to increase interest in the programme globally among companies, suppliers and other relevant stakeholders.

## 3. Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

75. Introducing the sub-item at the request of the President, the representative of UNIDO outlined UNIDO activities, undertaken through partnerships with UNEP, GEF, Basel Convention regional centres and other national and international partners, with regard to hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, including sustainable electronic waste ("e-waste") management systems, promotion of sustainable collection schemes and recycling schemes and pilot

projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. A side event at the current meeting would highlight opportunities and challenges in respect of e-waste, with a focus on developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

76. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed UNIDO and WHO activities on e-waste, underscoring the disproportionate adverse effects of e-waste on developing countries and children and other vulnerable groups. One representative said that, while developing countries were most at risk of exposure to hazardous substances from electrical equipment, large quantities of e-waste were unaccounted for even in developed countries. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that WHO should strengthen cooperation with the health sector to protect children from hazardous substances.

77. One regional focal point said that, while some countries had developed legislation to address e-waste, more efforts were needed. Prevention of exposure to hazardous chemicals during the dismantling of electronic equipment had an impact on workers in developing countries and required cooperation between job seekers and manufacturers, who should be held accountable for the production of equipment containing dangerous substances.

78. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that a second global workshop on e-waste could contribute to the achievement of expected outputs by UNIDO. It was important, however, to determine in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention whether such a workshop should be held prior to or following the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, since that Convention dealt extensively with e-waste and the meeting and workshop should be closely coordinated in order to maximize benefits. Many representatives warned against duplicating work by the Basel Convention and other bodies dealing with e-waste.

79. One said that meeting the 2020 targets with regard to e-waste remained possible if recommendations from previous discussions and workshops in the area were implemented. It was important that manufacturers should develop uniform global schemes and that public interest groups be included in all global workshops on substances related to electronic products. She pointed out that the term “e-waste” had been widely debated, given that end-of-life products were often transported with the purpose of being repaired or recycled, and expressed the hope of seeing good outcomes in the form of implementable activities on the issue between 2015 and 2020.

80. Several representatives underlined the importance of sharing and applying best practices, with one representative referring to best practices cited in the compilation prepared by the secretariat (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/14) that could already be implemented. One representative noted that flame retardants had not been taken into account in the compilation of best practices.

81. One representative highlighted the importance of green design throughout production lines, indicating that where hazardous waste products were taken into account in upstream processes of the manufacturing chain they became less of a danger in downstream processes and in end-of-life products.

82. The representative of the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa enumerated activities that the centre had undertaken regarding the management of hazardous substances. A programme funded by the European Union had enabled many West African countries to map manufacturing and production chains and subsequently identify the hazardous substances to which they were exposed when e-waste was dumped. There would be further discussion of the substances contained in end-of-life electronic and electrical goods at the related side event. More activities and actors in the area were needed. He also referred to the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and its reference to the green economy concept. A green economy in his opinion could not be achieved without green chemistry and green design of electrical and electronic products.

83. Another representative outlined measures in place in his country, saying that most industries adhered to European Union directives concerning the use of hazardous chemicals in new electronic products. Green procurement had been promoted in the public sector and would be extended to the private sector. In addition, voluntary commitments agreed at Rio+20 would soon be made mandatory.

#### **4. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials**

84. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), introducing the sub-item at the request of the President, said that resolution III/2 E of the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited relevant international organizations to develop



guidance and training materials and to enhance stakeholder capacity for the sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. With funding from the Swiss Government, UNITAR had launched two rounds of workshops concerning the safe use of nanomaterials, the results of the second of which would be presented at the fourth session of the Conference. UNITAR was committed to working with partners at all levels to build capacity to overcome future challenges in the field of nanomaterials, subject to the availability of resources.

85. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development indicated that the role of his organization in its partnership with UNITAR was to develop high-quality, science-based and internally harmonized approaches to assessing the risk posed by manufactured nanomaterials. In 2013, his organization had recommended that countries apply existing regulatory frameworks for the safe management of nanomaterials. While noting that current standards of the Organization could be adequately implemented with regard to nanomaterials, it believed that there was a need to adapt certain regulations to the specific properties of such materials. His organization would thus continue to review existing methodologies and identify gaps in knowledge. A report would be released in 2015 on disposal and treatment technologies for nanomaterials.

86. The representative of Thailand introduced a conference room paper containing elements of a draft resolution for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session; the proposed resolution would, among other things, recall the mandate in resolutions II/4 and III/2 on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and call for continued implementation of those resolutions, with particular emphasis on information exchange, technical and regulatory guidance and training materials and the work of the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals on the applicability of Harmonized System criteria to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. The conference room paper incorporated proposals by several Governments and civil society organizations on developing policies and programmes recommended by UNITAR to address the issue of nanotechnologies at the national level and encouraging stakeholders to implement the recommendations set out in the Global Plan of Action.

87. In the ensuing discussion most representatives who spoke expressed thanks to UNITAR and to all stakeholders and organizations involved in improving the sound management of nanomaterials. Several expressed support for the conference room paper to that end, as well as the work carried out in line with the recommendations of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.

88. Many representatives also said that there was a need to enhance transparency and recognize the right of consumers to information regarding the risks and impact on human health of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. In that vein, nearly all representatives said that awareness-raising and information and knowledge exchange needed to be scaled up to promote the safe use and responsible development of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. One representative called for another resolution on the development of a legal framework on nanomaterials, given their impact on health and the need for consumer awareness. Another representative said that there was a need to design a science-based risk assessment for nanotechnologies and nanomaterials.

89. In addition, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized the importance of developing technical and legal guidelines on the safe use of nanomaterials, which would be crucial to achievement of the sustainable development goals, for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session. In that connection, one representative highlighted the proposal set out in bracketed text in the conference room paper to invite the secretariat to compile technical legal guidelines on the sound management of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials and to make them available so that they might inform that session.

90. One representative questioned whether the secretariat should prepare papers on information-gathering regarding guidance for regulatory processes on nanotechnology, as proposed in the conference room paper, given competing demands on the secretariat's time and in view of the fact that the resolution would not be decided upon until the fourth session.

91. The representative of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) drew attention to the IUPAC Conference on Green Chemistry, which had been held in 2014 to raise awareness of green nanotechnology to enhance environmental sustainability and promote the safe and responsible use of nanotechnology. Another such conference was due to take place in 2016 and an IUPAC publication would be released in the near future to facilitate knowledge exchange in the field of nanotechnology safety.

92. One representative questioned whether a new resolution on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials was necessary, suggesting that resolutions II/4 and III/2 provided adequate guidance. In response, another representative said that to ensure progress it was necessary to enhance the activities recommended in the previous resolutions, renew the mandate and accelerate implementation of the elements proposed in those previous resolutions.

93. The Working Group agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Cheryl Beillard (Canada) and Mr. Mohammed Kashashneh (Jordan), with a mandate to review and finalize the conference room paper containing elements of a draft resolution on further work on manufactured nanomaterials and nanotechnology to be submitted for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.

94. Subsequently, the co-chair of the contact group reported that the group had reached agreement on a revised version of the proposed elements of a draft resolution for the Conference, with some text enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been the subject of agreement. The Working Group endorsed the elements, as revised by the contact group, for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session. The elements as endorsed by the Working Group are set out in annex IV to the present report, where they are presented as submitted, without formal editing.

## **5. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals**

95. Introducing the sub-item, representatives of the Organization on Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP and WHO gave an overview of those organizations' activities within the framework of IOMC in the field of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, drawing attention to reports that they had published and a joint workplan that included the organization of regional workshops for awareness-raising, knowledge-sharing and identifying policy gaps to be addressed to achieve the 2020 goal (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/23). Among the activities cited, UNEP had established an advisory group on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and was currently preparing a project for the provision of information on the subject; WHO had convened an expert meeting to exchange experiences in health risk assessment methodologies, including capacity-building in the health sector; and OECD, which was planning to develop tools for identifying endocrine disruptors, had continued its work in developing harmonized methodologies for testing their effects on human health and the environment.

96. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed to UNEP, WHO, OECD and the other international organizations active in the field of endocrine-disrupting chemicals for their work in presenting the latest information on the subject. Three representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, urged the relevant organizations to coordinate and accelerate efforts in the areas, among others, of listing known and potential endocrine disruptors; conducting monitoring studies in selected countries in all regions; and disseminating best practices for reducing the use of the chemicals and promoting a transition to safer substitutes and non-chemical alternatives. Two representatives recommended that those efforts also include assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in informed policy-making and robust public awareness-raising campaigns, including outreach to vulnerable groups. They also stressed that it was important to involve professional endocrinologists in Strategic Approach implementation work, as they had the knowledge and expertise to identify and consider the key characteristics of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and their impact on the human body.

97. Two representatives described what they said were key characteristics of endocrine-disrupting chemicals that should be considered, namely, that a single hormone would have changing effects at different times and places in the body during development and with varying sensitivity, thus requiring that sensitive endpoints with predictive ability be prioritized to facilitate the identification of endocrine disruptors; that hormones acted at very low concentrations, such that the effects of very small amounts of endocrine disruptors must be taken into account systematically; that chemical interference with hormone actions during early development could have long-lasting and even permanent consequences that might take years to manifest themselves; and that endocrine disruptors could set up the body for misadaptation.

98. Two representatives, one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was necessary to address the significant gaps in scientific understanding and the methodologies for testing and assessing chemicals, with one stressing that efforts to regulate endocrine-disrupting chemicals at the national level were still in their early stages and that future work under the Strategic Approach must avoid the risk of duplicating or preempting those efforts.

99. Appreciation was expressed to UNEP for the establishment of an advisory group on endocrine-disrupting chemicals as part of its contribution to the joint IOMC workplan, which,

according to one representative, needed to be inclusive and representative of the views of a maximum of stakeholders, and the organizing of regional workshops.

100. One representative called for numerous activities in respect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, including the publication by 2015 of a regularly updated list of such chemicals and sources of exposure taken from the UNEP/WHO state of the science report; monitoring studies of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in 3 to 5 developing countries and countries with economies in transition in each of four United Nations regions by 2018; awareness-raising, from 2015 to 2020, including outreach to vulnerable groups and health care professionals, with regard to endocrine-disrupting chemical uses, health effects, environmental contamination, human body burden and alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives; the collection and dissemination by 2018 of best available practices in reducing the use of 20 endocrine-disrupting chemicals, including safer substitution, non-chemical alternatives and risk management; the identification of gaps in existing legislation and the adoption of strong regulatory, public health and environmental protection policies, based on an understanding of how chemicals disrupt normal physiology, by 2020 in at least 3 to 5 developing countries and countries with economies in transition in each United Nations region; the development of a network to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to share information and collaborate on effective practices for the development, implementation and enforcement of regulatory measures to reduce exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals and ensure compliance with existing legislation, with at least 15 countries sharing information through the network by 2020; collaboration with the chemicals in products project to identify stakeholder needs in respect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals by 2019; the completion by 2018 of the case studies referred to in International Conference on Chemicals Management resolution III/2 F in respect of pesticides, textiles, children's products, building products and electrical and electronic products, identifying potential endocrine-disrupting chemicals and their health effects, documenting human exposure, revealing gaps in existing regulatory policy and highlighting best available practices for replacing endocrine-disrupting chemicals; and regular reporting on the above actions at regional Strategic Approach meetings, future meetings of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of International Conference on Chemicals Management.

## **B. New proposed emerging policy issue for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**

101. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a summary of a proposal by the Governments of Peru and Uruguay and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment to nominate environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session (see SAICM/OEWG.2/7) and to additional information in a dossier (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/15) setting out the proponents' views on how the substances in question met the definition of an emerging policy issue under the Strategic Approach, noting that the latter had been revised in accordance with comments received. The Working Group was invited, in line with the modalities for such nominations set out in the annex to resolution II/4, to review the issue and consider whether cooperative action was appropriate, whether the issue should be included on the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Conference, whether it was relevant to the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, and whether to request the proponents to prepare a summary of the current state of the issue for consideration at the fourth session of the Conference.

102. The representatives of Peru, Uruguay and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment gave presentations outlining the procedure followed in preparing the proposal and highlighting their concerns with regard to environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants: the fact that those substances had similar characteristics and environmental impacts to other persistent pollutants and endocrine-disrupting chemicals but were not addressed by any regulations or conventions; that developing countries and countries with economies in transition lacked the technical capacity, including laboratory equipment, to identify their presence in surface water; and that, owing to a lack of monitoring at the national, regional and global levels, there was too little knowledge on which to base effective action to address a problem that could have dire consequences for human health and the environment. All three representatives said that in the light of extensive consultations with stakeholders and their experience on the ground, the issue of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants met the criteria for inclusion as a new emerging policy issue and should be placed on the agenda for the fourth session of the Conference. They urged the Working Group to approve their proposal for consideration at the fourth session.

103. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation and support were expressed for the proposal, as it was consistent with the work of the Strategic Approach. Many representatives, endorsing and expanding on the content of the documents and presentations, said that more research was required to determine the true scale of the potential threat posed to the environment and human and animal welfare by the uncontrolled disposal of substances designed for use in the human body. As illustrated by the examples provided by one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, the threat in Africa was considerable, and that continent was in dire need of assistance. One representative said that it was important to map and monitor the presence of pharmaceutical products in the environment, with a particular focus on regional differences. Several representatives said that it was a global concern, stressing that in-depth knowledge was crucial to informed decision-making with one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, saying that it was crucial to achievement of the 2020 goal.

104. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that in view of the broad scope of the potential impacts of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants it was important to promote intersectoral and inter-organization synergies and cooperation, although one expressed caution about the need to avoid duplication. Two representatives questioned whether the Strategic Approach was the best forum for dealing with health issues. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the lead role should be given to WHO, focusing on a limited set of actions on which progress on a global scale could be made in the shorter term. One representative said that her country could support the designation of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as an emerging policy issue provided that the activities proposed were consistent with the scope of the Strategic Approach as set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy.

105. Following its discussion the Working Group agreed that the contact group established to consider nanotechnologies and nanomaterials and manufactured pharmaceuticals should also discuss the proposal on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, with an eye to its submission for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.

106. Subsequently, the co-chair of the contact group presented a conference room paper setting forth an amended proposal. The Working Group endorsed the proposal for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session. The proposal as endorsed by the Working Group is set out in annex V to the present report, where it is presented as submitted, without formal editing.

## **C. Other issues of concern**

### **1. Perfluorinated chemicals**

107. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat gave a brief summary of progress on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, emphasizing the role of the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group. Representatives of UNEP and OECD, which had established the Group, added details about its recent work: it had recently issued a synthesis paper on perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals and, in 2013 and 2014, four public webinars had been conducted on the topics in each chapter of the report; it was working on a report on the range of risk reduction approaches to perfluorinated chemicals; it was currently collecting data on global perfluorinated chemicals emission figures in order to ascertain where gaps and uncertainties lay in data collection measures; and it was currently looking for alternatives to perfluorinated chemicals, building on the work of the Stockholm Convention. The Group was also keen to welcome additional members, especially from non-OECD countries.

108. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group for its work. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged the group to continue to expand its membership as broadly as possible; to raise awareness and facilitate the sharing of experiences with the transition to alternatives; and to provide guidance on risk reduction approaches, particularly for the benefit of developing countries. One representative said that industry had a strong interest in the topic but felt that non-fluorinated alternatives that had been discovered to date were not produced on a sufficient scale for industrial purposes. Nevertheless, industrial partners not only from the chemical industry but also from the textile and performance product sectors were conducting joint research.

109. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern at what he said was a lack of transparency and availability of relevant data, as well as at the wide application of perfluorinated chemicals. One report, he said, had indicated that concentrations of perfluorinated chemicals had been found in maternal serum and drinking water in one African country, which highlighted the urgency of the situation. He also said that there was a need to improve data collection and awareness-raising in Africa and to urge industrial partners to assume greater responsibility and

switch to safer alternatives. One participant said that there was accumulating evidence indicating that short-chained perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) presented substantial problems for health and the environment and that a number of fashion retailers, fabric suppliers and supermarkets had committed to phasing out hazardous chemicals (including all long-chained and short-chained PFCs) in all their textile and apparel products by specific deadlines based on considerations including the precautionary principle. Two brands had already eliminated all PFCs (including all short-chained PFCs) from all of their products. A clearer statement on the issue under the Strategic Approach (including with regard to the application of the precautionary approach, which would help to ensure that one problematic group of chemicals was not simply replaced by another) would indicate to industry that hazardous chemicals had no place in a sustainable society and could in turn drive innovation towards safer alternatives.

110. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the difference between long-chained and short-chained perfluorinated chemicals; all who spoke said that measures were needed to reduce long-chained compounds both in manufacturing and chemical products. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they understood that short-chained perfluorinated chemicals might be less bioaccumulative. Another representative argued that scant high-quality research had been conducted on short-chained compounds and said that there was increasing evidence that long-chained and short-chained substances shared similar hazardous properties, observing that Germany's Federal Environment Agency had already ruled that the latter were not environmentally-friendly alternatives due to their high stability and potential for contaminating drinking water. One representative requested the Strategic Approach and World Health Organization to place greater emphasis on carcinogenic effects in the perfluorinated chemicals agenda, as there was a persistent lack of awareness of risk among users of such chemicals.

## **2. Highly hazardous pesticides**

111. Introducing the item, the representative of FAO presented a note prepared by FAO on highly hazardous pesticides (see SAICM/OEWG.2/10), saying that attention should be paid not just to highly hazardous pesticides but to all pesticides throughout their life cycles. In addition, he presented relevant items from the key issues paper (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/5). He said that to succeed in achieving their goals by 2020, Governments would need to take action on highly hazardous pesticides and follow through with enforcement, and there would need to be better intersectoral cooperation, including among the agricultural and health sectors, which were currently poorly represented at Strategic Approach meetings. It was also emphasized that FAO and other IOMC organizations needed approval from their governing bodies before agreeing to additions to their work programmes.

112. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that vulnerable populations in his region were bearing undue health and environmental burdens associated with the continued and increasing importation and use of highly hazardous pesticides. Another representative added that the gulf between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition was large and that poverty and the use of pesticides were closely correlated.

113. The first representative endorsed the resolutions adopted at some of the 2013 and 2014 Strategic Approach regional meetings inviting FAO to develop an information report on safer alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides targeted to the situations and needs of developing countries and economies in transition. The key steps outlined in the note by FAO for countries to address highly hazardous pesticides were not practical or feasible for African countries due to a lack of technical and financial resources. Given the lack of a specific framework or mechanism on highly hazardous pesticides within the Strategic Approach, his region urged the Working Group to invite FAO to prepare a decision on a global alliance for phasing out highly hazardous pesticides, to be tabled at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He also proposed that the Strategic Approach include a new funding structure for highly hazardous pesticides, which could be funded by an annual levy on industry and which African Governments could apply to for specific projects. One recommendation for financing the fund was for industry to make risk management and burden sharing annual contributions as part of their responsible care and product stewardship commitments.

114. The majority of those who spoke expressed strong approval for the establishment of a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides, basing their support on the grounds that their countries relied heavily on agriculture and therefore a large proportion of the population was potentially exposed to intoxication from pesticides; that a global alliance could stimulate and greatly assist in the search for safer alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides, including ecosystem solutions and other non-chemical alternatives; that such an alliance could enable better global coordination of pesticide use; that use of pesticides was accelerating in many countries, which could have a negative impact on

society by contaminating the water supply and products; that strengthening relevant national regulations and technical analysis and control infrastructure could improve identification and management; that an alliance could improve the public's awareness of the problem; and that the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint had made tangible progress since its inception with a similar approach.

115. Although all representatives that spoke agreed on the importance of addressing the matter through the Strategic Approach, a number of representatives expressed misgivings about the formation of a global alliance. One said that it was vital to make sure that an alliance would complement the work of the World Health Organization, FAO, the Rotterdam Convention and the recent resolutions adopted by some regional groups. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management already gave good practical guidance, especially for the private sector, and that by focusing more on implementation at the national level the management of highly hazardous pesticides could be greatly improved. One representative said that it should be the prerogative of national authorities to take the first steps, as they were better placed to assess the risks of pesticides within their jurisdictions. Another representative, while conceding that further action was perhaps warranted, stressed that any ideas should be tabled well in advance of the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management so that they could be considered in full by all participants in advance: his country had not yet received sufficient details on what the suggested alliance would do, how it would fit within the scope of the Strategic Approach and how it would prevent overlap with existing pesticides work. A representative of WHO cautioned that establishing a new administrative mechanism could divert resources away from its own work in countries.

116. The representative of CropLife International, referring to a report on its work that it had prepared (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/19), explained that CropLife had developed a strategy regarding highly hazardous pesticides in which products were classified as highly hazardous depending on their use and a risk assessment rather than their intrinsic hazard. Following an assessment of the risk and the use of commercial products, targeted risk-reduction measures could be applied or products withdrawn. Another participant argued that the harm caused by highly hazardous pesticides on the ground suggested that the approach taken by CropLife was not entirely successful.

117. Following the discussion, the President established a friends of the President group on highly hazardous pesticides, chaired by Ms. Suzana Andonova (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), to discuss the proposals presented during the plenary discussions, including the proposal to establish a global alliance.

118. Subsequently, the chair of the friends of the President group reported that the group had prepared a paper on future steps for action on highly hazardous pesticides. The paper proposed, among other things, initiating a process of consultation by electronic means among interested stakeholders and inviting FAO, UNEP and WHO to facilitate a multi-stakeholder process for developing a proposal to be considered at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which should take into account relevant resolutions adopted at the Strategic Approach regional meetings of the African and Latin American and Caribbean regions, a non-paper circulated by FAO during the current meeting, other relevant texts from relevant meeting reports and other relevant documents.

119. The Working Group endorsed the paper prepared by the friends of the President and agreed to annex it to the report of the meeting (see annex VI).

## **VII. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2016–2020**

120. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that in resolution III/5 the International Conference on Chemicals Management had requested the secretariat to prepare a proposed budget for the period 2016–2018 for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session. As the fourth session was the last session currently scheduled prior to 2020, however, the secretariat had prepared a proposed budget for the period 2016–2020 in addition to a budget for the period 2016–2018. He drew attention to a report on activities and staffing of the secretariat from July 2012 to July 2014 (SAICM/OEWG.2/12) and a note on the performance of information clearing-house services (SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/16), which would support participants' discussions on existing information exchange networks. He also drew attention to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, in which the Environment Assembly had recalled the lead role of UNEP in arranging for an effective and efficient Strategic Approach secretariat, had requested the Executive Director to continue to support the Strategic Approach, had

invited the Director-General of WHO to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and to provide appropriate staff and other resources to its secretariat, and had invited IOMC participating organizations to consider ways to support the Strategic Approach secretariat, including through staffing support.

121. He suggested that the Working Group might wish to take note of the report on activities and staffing of the secretariat as well as the draft budget, noting that the secretariat would present a complete budget at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and to consider whether the budget to be presented at that session should cover the period 2016–2018 or the period 2016–2020.

122. In the ensuing discussion the representative of the European Union and its member States, echoed by representatives of donor countries, expressed concern that only a third of the budget approved for 2013–2015 had been raised and that only five secretariat staff positions had been filled, instead of the expected eight. Noting that no resources had been raised to finance the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, she announced that the European Union would contribute €500,000 towards that end.

123. She also said that the number and range of Strategic Approach donors needed to increase significantly to make the Strategic Approach truly multi-stakeholder and to ensure the funding necessary for the effective operation of the secretariat. She suggested that a budget of \$12 million–\$13 million would be needed for the period 2016–2020, which could only be achieved if all who were in a position to contribute did so, including countries and organizations, the latter of which could provide staffing support as requested by the United Nations Environment Assembly.

124. Several developing country representatives expressed thanks to the European Union, Switzerland and Norway for their continued funding of the Strategic Approach and their efforts to make it a success.

125. A number of representatives lamented what they said was a lack of secretariat staffing support provided to date by UNEP and WHO, despite the invitation made to the Director-General of WHO to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and to provide appropriate staff and resources. In that context, one representative said that as currently constituted the secretariat was not multisectoral.

126. One representative said that the budget line for a planned preparatory meeting between the fourth and fifth sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management should be preserved, as such a meeting would be required to help prepare for discussions at the fifth session on the continuation or revision of the Strategic Approach process beyond 2020. Without such a preparatory meeting, the fifth session would be chaotic and unlikely to succeed.

127. Responding to questions, the representative of the secretariat reported that an Associate Programme Officer for the Quick Start Programme had just been hired and that the new staff member would be joining the secretariat in January 2015. Two positions remained unfilled: a Programme Officer position that had formerly been provided by WHO and a Programme Officer position for clearing-house activities. The budget of \$2 million for the current year, which included the cost of the current meeting, had been fully funded. For 2015, approximately \$650,000 had been made available and the European Union contribution of €500,000 was all that was currently available to fund the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The budget to be considered by the Conference at that session would include activities for the continued implementation of mandated secretariat activities as well as activities related to the overall orientation and guidance.

128. The Working Group took note of the information provided.

## **VIII. Preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

129. The representative of the secretariat introduced the item, outlining the information in the note by the secretariat on the preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/OEWG.2/11), including on the allocation of work, options for possible side events and financing needed for the session. He noted that the fourth session was tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 28 September to 2 October 2015, subject to the receipt of an offer to host it. He suggested that the Working Group might wish to propose matters for the session's agenda.

130. Nearly all representatives who spoke, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that preparations for the session should focus on actions aimed at achieving the 2020 goal, including in particular proposals for specific deliverables for achieving the goal. Practical

questions aimed at immediate implementation at the national level should thus drive the discussions, it was said, rather than broad debate on existing or new emerging policy issues. Challenges to implementation of the Strategic Approach by developing countries also needed to be addressed, and the agenda for the session should take into account the specific circumstances of the regions and developing countries, including challenges identified at regional meetings.

131. Many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that planning for the session should take into account the post-2015 development agenda; in that context one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that alternative measures needed to be developed in the likely event that one or more of the 2020 targets were not met. Intersessional meetings to plan for the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 would thus be important. Another representative said that regional meetings following the fourth session of the Conference should be timed to facilitate implementation of the overall orientation and guidance. One representative stressed the importance of the preparation of documents to guide the discussions at the fourth session, suggesting that the Bureau might wish to request advice on the subject from Strategic Approach participants.

132. Many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that the draft overall orientation and guidance document should be finalized swiftly and used to prioritize issues in the preparations for the fourth session of the Conference. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for close cooperation by all participants and stakeholders. It was also said that the fourth session should feature a high-level segment, as well as roundtable discussions involving all stakeholders, aimed at assessing the overall orientation and guidance document and progress in attaining the 2020 goal and reaffirming commitment to the objectives stated in the Overarching Policy Strategy.

133. One representative said that the agenda for the fourth session of the Conference should include concrete actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and that his organization could provide specialists to support the discussions and assist in the development of effective actions to reduce the risks posed by exposure to such chemicals. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled that the fourth session of the Conference would mark the tenth anniversary of the Strategic Approach and said that it should therefore be used to celebrate the achievements of the Strategic Approach and to reflect on the work of all involved. Another representative said that highly hazardous pesticides should be discussed at the fourth session and that the participants should adopt a decision establishing a global alliance to phase them out.

134. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it would also be necessary to discuss financing. As stated in the reporting of the co-chairs of the contact group, the Working Group agreed to include in the agenda for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management the “integrated approach to financing” in order address the need to make tangible progress in implementing all components of that approach.

135. In response to a question about calls for the strengthening of the Strategic Approach secretariat, the representative of UNEP explained that the Executive Director had upgraded the Strategic Approach Coordinator post to the level of D-1 in a bid to raise the profile of the Strategic Approach. In addition, \$200,000 of additional extrabudgetary resources from Norway had been allocated to ensure the success of the current meeting. He noted that collaborative work between the Strategic Approach and UNEP had increased. Stabilization of Strategic Approach staff remained a primary concern and would only be achieved through steady, long-term funding. Possible solutions were being examined to ensure stability and thereby enhance the efficiency of the Strategic Approach secretariat.

136. The secretariat took note of the suggestions for items for possible inclusion in the agenda of the fourth session of the Conference.

## **IX. Other matters**

137. The meeting participants stood and observed a minute of silence to mark the passing in 2014 of Ms. Theodora Emily Colborn and Mr. Matthew Gubb. Ms. Colborn was an award winning scientist whose research on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and persistent organic pollutants had contributed greatly to the Strategic Approach and other international chemicals management efforts. As the first Strategic Approach Coordinator, Mr. Gubb had guided the negotiations leading to the adoption of the Strategic Approach in 2006 and had managed the Strategic Approach secretariat until his appointment in 2009 as Coordinator of the negotiations on the development of a legally binding instrument on mercury, a post that he held until 2011, when he was named Director of the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre in Osaka, Japan.



**X. Adoption of the report of the meeting**

138. The Working Group adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report circulated during the meeting, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization, in consultation with the secretariat.

**XI. Closure of the meeting**

139. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 17 December 2014.

## Annex I

### List of pre-session documents organized by agenda item

#### Item 2 (a)

##### Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

- |                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SAICM/OEWG.2/1       | Provisional agenda                    |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/1/Add.1 | Annotations to the provisional agenda |

#### Item 2 (b): Organizational matters: organization of work

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| SAICM/OEWG.2/2 | Scenario note by the President |
|----------------|--------------------------------|

#### Item 3 (a)

##### Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management: regional achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the 2020 goal

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| SAICM/OEWG.2/3     | Summary of the outcomes of the Strategic Approach 2013–2014 regional priority-setting workshops and resolutions adopted at the regional meetings |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/1 | Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its third session  |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/3 | Compilation of regional chemicals challenges in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management               |

#### Item 3 (b)

##### Progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4  | Progress in Strategic Approach implementation for 2011–2013   |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/5  | Analysis by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals of efforts to implement the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and key issue papers |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/7  | Report on the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund  |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/8  | Report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme                                     |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/18 | Activities of the Global Environmental Facility in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach  |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/22 | United Nations system-wide support in achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes  |

#### Item 3 (c)

##### Implementation of the health sector strategy

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| SAICM/OEWG.2/8      | Health sector engagement with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management 2011–2013   |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/17 | Report by the World Health Organization on the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management 2012–2014 |

#### Item 3 (d)

##### Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| SAICM/OEWG.2/4     | Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals   |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/5     | United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste  |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2 | Background information: overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals                           |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/6 | Activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach |
| SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/7 | Report on the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund  |

**Item 4****Sustainable development goals and sound management of chemicals beyond 2020**

SAICM/OEWG.2/9	Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the sustainable development goals
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/25	Global Dialogue Forum on Initiatives to Promote Decent and Productive Work in the Chemical Industry - Final report of the discussion

**Item 5 (a)****Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern: report on progress on emerging policy issues**

SAICM/OEWG.2/6	Progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/9	Report of the third meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/10	Report on progress on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/11	Draft chemicals in products programme proposal
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/12	Making the business case for knowing chemicals in products and supply chains
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/13	Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Expert Group Meeting on electronic waste
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/14	Compilation of best practices on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/19	Crop protection industry comment by CropLife International on State of the Science of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals–2012, published by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, and the related summary for decision makers
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/20	Thought starter paper by CropLife International on endocrine disrupting chemicals and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/23	Summary of regional workshop outcomes and responses to questionnaires relating to endocrine-disrupting chemicals
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/26	Report by the International Labour Organization on the global impact of electronic waste: addressing the challenge
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/27	Information about the status in countries of legally-binding legislation, regulation and standards for lead in decorative paint

**Item 5 (b)****New proposed emerging policy issue for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**

SAICM/OEWG.2/7	New proposed emerging policy issue: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/15	Submission on a nominated new emerging policy issue: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants

**Item 5 (c)****Other issues of concern**

SAICM/OEWG.2/10	Information note on highly hazardous pesticides prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/21	Paper by CropLife International on its approach to managing highly hazardous pesticides
SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/24	Submission from the Pesticides Action Network and the International POPs Elimination Network on highly hazardous pesticides

**Item 6**

**Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2016–2020**

SAICM/OEWG.2/12

Activities and staffing of the secretariat

SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/16

Performance of information clearing house services

**Item 7**

**Preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

SAICM/OEWG.2/11

Preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

## Annex II

### Summary by the co-chairs of the contact group on the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal

#### Overall summary

We have heard overall positive feedback on the overall orientation and guidance (OOG) from the contact group.

The contact group has noted that OOG needs to support the implementation of the core Strategic Approach policy frameworks: the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action. The OOG is meant as guidance but does not replace these important pillars of the Strategic Approach.

Financing is essential to implementation and needs to be addressed further.

The integrated approach to financing needs to be operationalized.

We heard several calls for setting priorities within the OOG and many helpful suggestions to sharpen the document.

The document is to acknowledge sound management of chemicals beyond 2020.

There is a need to refer to hazardous waste in the document and to include the relevant chemical paragraphs from the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.

#### A. Reflections on the six activity areas and 11 elements identified at the regional priority-setting workshops

There was general support for the six core activity areas and the 11 basic elements identified; at the same time, the need to link them better was noted. The need to review how the elements link to Strategic Approach indicators was suggested in order to monitor the progress on the basic elements, a few additional indicators should preferably be further introduced in the document. It was recognized that the strengthening of institutional frameworks is a key element for achieving sound management of chemicals in moving forward.

We heard that the implementation of the 11 basic elements is a clear priority for Strategic Approach implementation and that the language included in paragraph 20 should be stronger in order to signal that priority. The 11 basic elements also need to be better linked to the five Overarching Policy Strategy objectives.

In general, there was a feeling that the action points need to be more focused, action oriented and quantifiable whenever possible. Also, action should be clearly linked to individual stakeholders or groups of stakeholders.

It was noted that sound management of chemicals is about a partnership between stakeholders.

It was suggested that two concepts should be added to the elements: promoting and developing safer chemicals and greener alternatives; and engaging the public and ensuring transparency in policymaking. A further suggestion was made that engaging the public and ensuring transparency could be included in the elements identified in paragraphs 19 (d) and (e) and in core activity area E.

In addition, resource mobilization and capacity-building were suggested as an additional core activity.

There is a need to review the 11 elements in relation to the core activity areas and to consider harmonization of text, as appropriate, in order to avoid overlaps.

Specific suggestions:

- In basic element (b), add the word “international”.
- Basic element (c) should distinguish and clearly reference the Conventions, including World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO)-related conventions.
- International health regulations should be explicitly incorporated under basic element (c).
- Basic element (j) to include strengthening institutional arrangements of poison centres.

- Paragraph 33 to be moved to be the chapeau of the core activity areas.
- Under core activity (c), all stakeholders to mainstream should be included to also cover intergovernmental organizations financial institutions, etc.
- Core activity (f) should define the level at which the progress is to be assessed.
- Insert hazardous waste into the elements and the language generally.
- Core activity area D related to emerging policy issues could be stronger and focus on accelerating risk reduction.

## **B. Comprehensiveness of the OOG**

We have heard overall positive feedback on the OOG from the contact group. There was no call to expand the OOG further. Rather, we heard a call to improve some language within the OOG to make the guidance more targeted, focused and quantifiable.

Some felt that there was an imbalance of the focus on process-related actions, and they wanted more targeted focus on risk reduction actions and the achievement of the 2020 goal.

There is a need to bear in mind that the challenge is for it to be concise and at the same time to capture all priorities.

An opening paragraph to section IV could be considered. This would take into account different levels of progress and the difference in the levels of achievement by different countries and sectors.

It was agreed that it is essential that development agencies become more aware of sound management of chemicals and waste potentialities for poverty eradication. There was agreement on the interlinkage between national prioritization and mainstreaming, and addressing the focus of development agencies.

## **C. Omissions and gaps within it and the need for action points**

- Given the significant discussion on *health sector* engagement, there is a need to have explicit reference to the health sector in the OOG and to make reference to vulnerable populations.
- The document is to take into account the *different levels* of progress towards the 2020 goal and to recognize the different levels of achievement in different countries, while considering that all are on the same road.
- Identify those countries that have made *least progress* in achieving the 2020 goal and allow for mechanisms to achieve sound management of chemicals. Similarly, different sectors have also achieved *different levels of progress*. The establishment and addressing of priorities will differ from one country to another.
- In addition, the OOG could highlight *waste* under knowledge and information (such as knowledge on accidents and health risks of unsound management) and under illegal international traffic.
- The *integrated approach* is to be kept as a whole and not only focus on the Special Programme, which will be a catalyst.
- In support of giving guidance to relevant actors, refer to *specific groups of stakeholders* when appropriate, in an effort to target action points.
- Need to further elaborate on how information to assess *illegal traffic could be better documented*, as well as monitoring and enforcement with regard to illegal traffic.
- *Industry participation* is currently rather limited in the Strategic Approach context to the chemicals industry. Others, such as recyclers, need to be added, and, in particular, other less organized sectors, such as battery recycling and e-waste. Moreover, there is a need for more action and follow through on e-waste.
- It would be good to bring out the *role of the Strategic Approach* as the instrument and the Strategic Approach as the global plan of action that implies implementation. Good to (a) bring out the Strategic Approach in working in synergy with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention and (b) relate to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5.
- *Prevention of chemicals accidents* should be included in the OOG.
- *Section F* to better match with document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4.

- Transition from *enabling to implementation activities* to be reflected.
- *Paragraph 4* to be reconsidered based on the changes made since, e.g., implementation of the IHR.
- *Paragraph 15* about capacity-building to be more specific on the current status.
- *Paragraphs 3 and 54* to be reformulated to better capture the bridge of the gap between industrialized and developing countries.
- In *paragraph 3* “of concern” narrows the scope of the Strategic Approach.
- *Paragraph 35* to add “address” to the establishment of the priorities.
- Efforts to *build chemicals management infrastructure* to be reflected in the document.
- *Strategic Approach national focal points* to be encouraged to promote national discussions and other relevant stakeholder to address, e.g., lead in paint.
- *WHO country offices* to be fully engaged, which has an enormous influence over national health ministries. This can be replicated in other sectors.
- Identification of some of the activities that can be undertaken before 2020 to *minimize exposure to some sources*; it could start with emerging policy issues and other critical sections of the Global Plan of Action and the overarching policy strategies. Some concrete proposals were presented.
- *Actions with milestones* before 2020 discussed.
- It was noted that *indicators and data* to know the status is critical. Reporting indicators do not show it. However, the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach is not to be rewritten. Important to show success stories. The Strategic Approach stakeholders to base on the outcomes of the sustainable development goal process and to concentrate on a few status indicators that can manage for a large number of countries. The Global Chemical Outlook work to be used.
- The document to reflect the promotion of *extended producer responsibilities*.
- *Green chemistry* to be mentioned in the document, action on the ground and all sectors taking a proactive approach for products and processes. Another felt that paragraph 75 already covers green chemistry.
- Reflection was made on the relevance or appropriateness of including the emerging policy issues in the OOG when also having specific, already agreed resolutions on these. Some preferred to keep them in, others questioned this.

**D. Guidance on how the OOG may be taken forward to the fourth session of the Conference on International Chemicals Management in order for it to be adopted, operationalized and implemented**

- The co-chairs to produce and present a summary of the discussions in the contact group.
- The Open-ended Working Group at its second meeting to ask the secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau of the fourth session, to produce the final draft to be considered at the fourth session, taking into account the discussions at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the co-chairs’ summary of the contact group.
- The contact group did not feel it would be an appropriate use of the time of the fourth session of the Conference to negotiate the OOG line by line.

**E. Further requests received from the contact group**

- Strategic Approach stakeholders might set out their own priorities, highlighting what they expect to achieve by 2020. The need to strengthen inter-organization engagement was also noted. The Environment Management Group and the Issue Management Group be asked to look at how the United Nations system can deliver on the OOG up to 2020. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and IOMC-participating organizations were requested to provide an indication of deliverables for the period to 2020.

- It would be important nationally to consider the usefulness of national units within the chemicals and waste cluster to fulfil international obligations.
- The importance of making tangible progress was emphasized in implementing all three components of an integrated approach to financing, as agreed in Governing Council decision 27/12, towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, and agreed that the Conference at its fourth session should address this.
- It was agreed that implementation of SAICM will benefit from recent progress regarding the restructured focal area on chemicals and waste of the Global Environment Facility and also from the establishment of the Special Programme on institutional strengthening at the national level.



## Annex III

### **Text agreed by the contact group on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020**

The contact group on agenda item 4 on sustainable development goals and sound management of chemicals beyond 2020 agreed on the following text to be annexed to the report of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group:

The Open-ended Working Group invited government participants and intergovernmental participants in their relevant capacities in the United Nations to inform the co-facilitators for consultations on the post-2015 development agenda under the General Assembly of the following message of the group:

Welcoming United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, including its annex on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, which

- “Recognizes the continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” and
- “Emphasizes that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great relevance to the sustainable development agenda”.

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/309, in which the Assembly decided that that “the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly”.

Noting the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and welcoming that sound management of chemicals and waste is addressed under several of the goals identified in that report.

Highlights the contribution that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management has made and continues to make to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including its contribution towards the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, and expresses its readiness and willingness to make available its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder platform to that end as appropriate.

## Annex IV

### **Elements for a draft resolution on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session**

The Conference

Reaffirms its resolutions II/4 E and III/2 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

Calls for continued implementation of these resolutions giving special emphasis to:

- facilitating the exchange of information on nanotechnologies and the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials [for example through an appropriate clearing house mechanism];
- developing international technical and regulatory guidance and training materials for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, based on the compilation of pertinent information [prepared by the SAICM secretariat];
- welcoming the work of the UN sub-committee on GHS in assessing the applicability of GHS criteria for the classification of a number of nanomaterials and encouraging it to continue its efforts.

Further:

Invites all stakeholders to continue raising awareness and enhance capacity on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, paying particular attention to the situation and needs of developing countries and Countries with Economies in transition, for example through e-learning courses and regional consultation;

[Recommends increasing outreach and scaling up accessibility of information through different means;]

Encourages Strategic Approach stakeholders to use the guidance for the Development of a National Nanotechnology Policy and Programme developed by UNITAR;


Requests continued engagement of all Strategic Approach stakeholders, including the relevant organizations of the IOMC in particular the UNITAR and OECD as well as WHO and ILO in the implementation of the relevant ICCM resolutions[ and GPA activities];

Invites all Strategic Approach stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide resources for further work in this area;

Requests the secretariat in coordination with the relevant stakeholders to report on progress in the implementation of the resolutions to the next Session of the Conference.

## Annex V

**Proposal to designate environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants an emerging policy issue for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session**

<p align="center"><b>Questionnaire for governments and organizations to nominate possible emerging policy issues for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session</b></p>	 <p><b>Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management</b></p> <p>Please return by <b>15 March 2014</b> to:</p> <p>SAICM secretariat 11-13 chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva Switzerland Tel: 41 22 917 86 31 Fax: 41 22 797 34 60 E-mail: saicm@unep.org</p>
	<p><b>Issue</b></p> <p>Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPP)</p> <p><b>Submitter</b></p> <p><b>Ministerio del Ambiente de Perú</b> Contacts:</p> <p><b>Mariano Castro Sánchez- Moreno</b> Viceministro de Gestión Ambiental Avenida Javier Prado Oeste 1440 San Isidro, Lima, Perú macastrosm@minam.gob.pe</p> <p><b>Vilma Morales Quillama</b> Punto focal SAICM Avenida Javier Prado Oeste 1440, San Isidro, Lima, Perú vmorales@minam.gob.pe.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment de Uruguay</b> Contacts:</p> <p><b>Jorge Rucks</b> National Environmental Director and SAICM National Focal Point Galicía 1133, Montevideo, Uruguay jorge.rucks@mvtoma.gub.uy</p> <p><b>Judith Torres</b> Responsible for SAICM technical issues Galicía 1133, Montevideo, Uruguay judith.torres@mvtoma.gub.uy</p> <p><b>International Society of Doctors for the Environment - ISDE</b> Contact:</p> <p><b>Lilian Corra</b> ISDE International Secretary Suipacha 1311, piso 3, Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. liliancorra@gmail.com</p>

**State the problem**

Pharmaceuticals comprise one of the few groups of chemicals specifically designed to act on living cells. Many Pharmaceutical chemicals are designed to be slowly degradable or even non-degradable, to resist chemical degradation during passage through the human or animal body. Thereby, they present a special risk when they or their active metabolites or degradants enter, persist, and disseminate in the environment.

In this proposal, we use the term EPPP (Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants) as an abbreviation for these substances.

Although Pharmaceutical residues entering the environment are included in Directive 2001/83/EC (as amended), Directive 2001/82/EC (as amended) they are insufficiently addressed in developing countries as a pollution problem.

A new global database on measured environmental concentrations with more than 120,000 entries has shown that EPPPs have become a global problem with potentially harmful concentrations for aquatic organisms found in all UN regions ().

Chemicals of pharmaceutical origin, widely used globally by humans and for food production for an intended purpose they can persist in the environment and residues are presently found in drinking water. They are found in fish and other animals where they may accumulate.

Pharmaceuticals reach the environment mainly in three ways:

- Manufacturing plants producing the active substances may release pharmaceuticals into the aquatic environment.
- Humans and animals treated with pharmaceuticals excrete residues, intact or metabolized, into their urine and faeces, from which they pass into sewage treatment plants or directly into the environment. Sewage treatment plants often have no specific procedures to eliminate EPPP.
- Unused or expired pharmaceuticals may be disposed from households or hospitals and reach the environment, either via sewage water or via urban solid waste handling.

With the exception of downstream sewage plants receiving water from pharmaceutical industries (where large amount of pharmaceutical chemicals have been monitored), the concentrations of active residues of chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin detected in surface waters and sediments may be low but they may persist for long periods of time contributing to chronic and persistent exposure .

They may pose a threat of important magnitude for Public Health with significant adverse effects on the environment and on human health as exposure may start since conception during the phases of development, with possible important consequences for adult life, e.g. special impacts on vulnerable populations (elderly, sick, and children).

As described above, EPPPs are already found in water all over the world. That diffuse exposure might contribute to:

- endocrine disruption,
- development of microbes resistant to antibiotics,
- reproductive effects that may derive on extinction of species and imbalance of sensible ecosystems,
- genetic, developmental, and immune health effects in humans and other species.

As the world's population is growing and ageing, more people in the developing world can afford medical treatment, and as new treatments are developed, the degree of environmental pollution from chemicals of pharmaceutical origin can be expected to increase without further developing adequate risk management measures. Thus, to mitigate current and to prevent future problems, recognition and global management actions have to be established.

**Information that can be used to assess the nominated issue****a) Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health or the environment taking into account vulnerable populations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps**

Chemicals of pharmaceutical origin present in the environment are a global issue. This has recently been demonstrated by a database on the worldwide occurrence of chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin in the environment (<http://www.pharmaceuticals-in-the-environment.org/en/home/dok/2.php>). The database covers at least 71 countries in all five UN regional groups. It indicates that in total 631 different chemicals of pharmaceutical origin (or their transformation products) have been detected in the environment, including antibiotics, analgesics, lipid-lowering drugs, estrogens, and many other therapeutic groups.

Most chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin have been detected in surface water and sewage effluent, but also in other environmental matrices, including groundwater, tap water/drinking water, manure, and soil. According to the database, sixteen different chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin are found in surface water, groundwater, and/or drinking/tap water in each of the five UN regional groups. In many countries, certain these chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin prevail at concentrations above established Predicted No-Effect Concentrations (PNEC) mainly in surface waters, suggesting adverse eco-toxicological effects on organisms and microorganism at these locations. Urban wastewater discharge is the dominant emission pathway, while discharge from manufacturing, animal husbandry, and aquaculture are important regionally.

Chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin have adverse effects on the environment and biodiversity. Therapeutic levels of the hormone levonorgestrel have been found in rainbow trout downstream from a sewage plant. In a whole lake experiment, male fish exposed to synthetic oestrogen at concentrations found in polluted environments became feminized and within seven years were almost extinct, with downstream effects on the entire ecosystem. The antidepressant oxazepam alters behaviour and feeding rate of the wild fish species *Perca fluviatilis* at environmentally relevant concentrations, so that antidepressants in surface water may alter animal behaviours that are known to have ecological and evolutionary consequences. Livestock excrements containing residues of

antiparasitic macrocyclic lactones have shown to affect dung fauna resulting in reduced degradation rates. Antibiotics reduce growth of plants and are toxic to photoautotrophic aquatic organisms. The anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac has been shown to cause kidney failure and death of Indian vultures feeding on livestock treated with the drug, leading to a significant decline in the Indian vulture population.

The impact of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment on human health cannot be clearly demonstrated yet. Based on the current level of scientific information, adverse impacts of the environmental exposure to chemicals of pharmaceutical origin present in the environment on human health are unlikely, as concentrations of chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin present in drinking water are generally below minimum therapeutic doses, although locally high concentrations to these chemicals occur in well water used as drinking water. Uncertainties prevail regarding the risks of low-level chronic exposure in humans, exposure from conception, during childhood, reproductive age and in other vulnerable population (third age as well as in health conditions) due the presence of chemical of pharmaceutical origin in drinking water.

There is a gap of knowledge regarding the multiple chemical exposures (additive, synergistic or antagonistic effects) to chemicals of pharmaceutical origin as well as of multiple exposures with other pollutants concurrently present in surface and drinking water. There is a scarcity of systematic monitoring schemes. Increasing prevalence of antimicrobial resistance shows how the emission of antibiotics into the environment may have direct negative health consequences for human health and veterinarian.

The presence in the environment of chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin poses an increasing problem. As the world's population is ageing, the production, use and disposal of pharmaceuticals products are growing as well the demand of pharmaceuticals in food production and veterinarian uses. The degree of environmental pollution from chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin can thus be expected to increase, unless adequate global preventive measures are introduced.

### State of the knowledge:

i) ***Pharmaceuticals are special kind of chemicals.*** They are manufactured to be biologically active in living organisms and to have long half-lives. This makes them more risky when released into in the environment where they can impact nature.

ii) The levels of ***pharmaceuticals in surface or drinking water*** are generally below 1 mg per litre, often measured in ng per litre. This low concentration might appear to guarantee that they hardly pose any problem to public health. Assuming a concentration of 100 ng/l of a pharmaceutical that in humans has a DDD (defined daily dose) of 10 mg implies that a volume of 100,000 litres would be required to make up one single DDD. Such calculation, however, is an over-simplification that does not take into account several important dynamic aspects of the ***low chronic exposure to concentrations of pharmaceuticals*** in the water or the ***vulnerable population exposure for example since conception during the period of development.***

iii) ***Aquatic organisms may bio-concentrate and bio-accumulate lipid soluble chemicals, including pharmaceuticals.*** It is well known that certain fish species, like herring, may contain very high concentrations of the persistent and lipophilic chemicals DDT (***dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane, an insecticide***) and PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls, a group of industrial chemicals earlier used in, for example, building materials). The same mechanism may also be applied for chemicals synthesized for pharmaceutical uses. Bioaccumulation of citalopram (SSRI, antidepressant) and propoxyfen (painkiller) has been found in perch in the Baltic Sea. Therapeutic levels of levonorgestrel (a sex hormone) have been found in Rainbow trout downstream from a sewage plant.

iv) ***Pharmaceutical chemicals are not conceived or designed to enter in the environment and persist there but rather are developed for a clear pharmaceutical purpose.*** Pharmaceuticals are synthetic chemicals. They belong to a wide group of different chemical families and may also react differently in the environment. When a new medicine is developed, its pharmacological and toxicological effects are tested in acute trials before being accepted for marketing. However, clinical test procedures are not entirely sufficient to completely guarantee that a new pharmaceutical is devoid of unacceptable side effects when used in large cohorts of patients for a long time. Furthermore, ***there are currently no test methods to assess whether such effects may occur after long-term use in humans during periods of development, on aquatic microorganisms or how they may affect other animals.*** Based on this, the persistent and ***diffuse exposure to low doses of pharmaceutical synthetic chemicals, for long periods of time, is not well known or studied.***

v) ***The diffuse dissemination of the EPPP in the environment may indiscriminately expose vulnerable populations: embryos/foetuses, children and adolescents, men and women of reproductive age, and elderly persons.*** Some of the pharmaceuticals found in surface water are prescribed to patients under special controlled conditions for short periods of time due to the risk of side effects. Others are prohibited from prescription to pregnant women or children. These chemicals were not synthesized to expose the general population in a diffuse manner. This presents a new and emerging issue under chemical safety and global pollution.

vi) ***A large proportion of excreted or disposed medicines reach the public sewage treatment plants.*** Today, most sewage plants do not have the capacity to ensure that the treated water does not contain pharmaceutical chemicals. This is sometimes also the case for the industries' own sewage plants. In many parts of the world, effluent sewage plant water is reused as drinking water or as irrigation water for food crops, whereas it may, not always be usable after sewage treatment. Detection and monitoring on a global scale of EPPPs in drinking and surface water, as well as in animals and plants, is necessary to understand the magnitude of the problem, as shown by the global database.. The first step is to recognize EPPP as an emerging issue to be able to invest the necessary human and financial resources and develop effective environmental detection methods and monitoring strategies.

**b) Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, particularly at the international level, and how it is related to, complements or does not duplicate such work.**

The issue of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin present in the environment is currently insufficiently addressed at the international level. However, due to the global and interdisciplinary scope of the problem, international coordination is needed.

Initiatives at the international level include activities conducted by the WHO, the joint UN project on sustainable procurement of pharmaceuticals, and SAICM. WHO has conducted activities that address the issue of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin present in the environment to a certain extent, including the WHO Pre-qualifications Programme on Quality and Safety of Medicines, the Member State Mechanism on Substandard/spurious/false-labelled/ falsified/counterfeit medical products and the Global Strategy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance. Moreover, chemicals of pharmaceutical origin present in the environment have been addressed to varying degrees in WHO reports and guidelines on health care waste management, and the assessment of health risks of pharmaceuticals in drinking water..

In Europe, the joint UN project (UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNOPS, and WHO) aims to improve the sustainability of the procurement procedures of UN agencies and criteria for health products and services, and thereby to diminish possible future negative environmental effects of pharmaceuticals. Two different approaches to reach the target are being undertaken: (i) to develop and implement WHO evidence-based technical guidelines on sustainable procurement of health care products including pharmaceuticals, thereby creating an incentive for manufacturers to strive towards production of more “green” products, and (ii) to integrate environmental criteria into Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) utilized by WHO to pre-qualify medications for procurement.

The SAICM initiative on endocrine disrupting chemicals partially overlaps with the issue of chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin in the environment, as some pharmaceuticals (e.g. hormones and contraceptives) have endocrine disrupting properties.

In a recent workshop in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2014 and organized by the German Federal Environment Agency, international experts gathered to discuss the current state of knowledge on the issue of chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin in the environment as well as the results of a research project on the global occurrence of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment. The workshop summary is attached as supplementary information to this document.

On a national level, several countries have funded extensive research on chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment (e. g. the United States, Canada, the European Union, or China). An environmental risk assessment of these pharmaceuticals chemicals is required in e. g. the US and the EU. This is partially harmonized via VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products). On a national and local level, initiatives to manage chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment have started, such as the classification system of the Stockholm County Council or the Swiss programme to upgrade large sewage treatment plants.

**c) Gaps to be addressed:**

**Existing knowledge and perceived gaps in understanding about the issue**

Existing knowledge gaps in understanding about the issue of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment relate to the risks of early (since conception) and low-level chronic exposure in humans when present in drinking water or bio-concentrate in food. Moreover, uncertainties prevail regarding the combined (additive, synergistic or antagonistic) effects of environmental chemical multiple exposures (synergistic effect).

Understanding the behaviour, fate, and effects of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment should be further developed, especially for the ones which are wide spread used, are highly toxic, have been on the market for several years/decades and/or are diffuse pollutants.

Furthermore, the scarcity of environmental systematic monitoring programmes, lack of standardized, harmonize and comparable sampling system according to established analysis protocols as well as regional capacity to support multi-centric studies should be addressed.

There are currently no test methods to assess whether negative effects may occur after long term environmental diffuse exposure in humans, since conception and during the vulnerable period of development, on aquatic microorganisms, or how they may affect other animals. Consideration must be given to bioaccumulation in fish and other aquatic food used by humans. Therefore, the precautionary principle must be guiding.

**d) Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature**

The global problem posed by the pollution of surface water (as well as groundwater, drinking water, tap water, and to some extent farmland and soil), with chemicals of pharmaceuticals origin and their residues is well-known to scientists in the field.

Pharmaceuticals are synthetic chemicals belonging to a wide group of different chemical families and may also react differently in the environment as are not conceived or designed to enter in the environment. As there are thousands of different synthesized chemicals present at the same time in the environment, different interactions may occur and the result of these multiple exposures in humans and to nature are not sufficiently studied or understood.

Documented evidence shows that some pharmaceuticals enter and persist in the environment.

Little is known on the possible negative effects and impacts of EPPP in humans and the environment by diffuse and systematic exposure, for long periods of time, especially during the vulnerable periods of development.

The issue of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment is of a cross-cutting nature, as it encompasses both the issue (among others) of antibiotic resistance and endocrine disruptors.

Chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment (as antibiotics designed to kill bacteria and viruses) can increase risks of antimicrobial resistance. The presence of antimicrobials in the gut of humans and animals leads to the development of resistant bacteria and resistance genes that can be excreted in faeces and spread to wastewater, sludge, manure, and soil. Resistance genes can also spread through the food chain, for example via human consumption of animals treated with antibiotics. Resistance genes can also develop in the environment if chemicals with antibiotic activity are present in the environment. The resistance genes from the increasing environmental reservoir can then be transferred to pathogenic bacteria. There is also evidence of an exchange of resistance genes between environmental bacteria and clinical isolates. The issue of antibiotic resistance is addressed for example by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Moreover, some chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment have hormone activity (synthetic hormones) with endocrine disrupting potentials. In a whole lake experiment, male fish exposed to synthetic oestrogen at concentrations found in polluted environments became feminized and within seven years were almost extinct, with effects on the entire ecosystem. The issue of endocrine disruptors is addressed by SAICM. These may affect microorganism and wild life in severe and unexpected ways.

#### **e) Information on the anticipated deliverables from action on the issue:**

Greater visibility and policy engagement. Greater coordination, consistency and synergies between different initiatives around the globe engaging actors from different sectors.

Improved capacity for assessing and managing risks from EPPP, in particular in developing countries.

Particular outputs would include: Expert guidance for risk identification and assessment; priority setting for research and for risk management / control actions of environmental effects; information exchange and networking from which scientists and policy makers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition could especially benefit, resulting in greater understanding of the EPPP issues and of needs for priority actions.

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### **Describe the proposed cooperative action**

With the objective of

- Raise awareness on EPPP as a global problem, its adverse effects on the environment and possible adverse effects on human health;
- Support the decision-making process;
- Reduce the introduction of chemicals of pharmaceutical origin in the environment promoting cost-effective and measurable prevention measures;
- Improve understanding of the risk posed by EPPP to human health and the environment
- Implement capacity building and technical cooperation to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition,
- Monitor EPPP in order to support decision making process, prioritization of actions, guidance and training tools / activities involving relevant expertise.
- Facilitate information exchange, discussion forums and mutual support in research and advice on translation of research results into control measures.

By

- Establishing an international project on EPPP by building on existing activities, in particular of European Commission, UN European Agencies (Project under UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNOPS, and WHO) including the Swedish experience.
- Building synergy with the EDCs (endocrine disruptors) Strategy, as many actions are similar and points to similar actors
- Facilitating information exchange and networking, inter alia through regional and sub-regional workshops/discussion forums and a dedicated website that links to relevant information sources.
- Providing international support activities to build capacities in countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition,
- Creating an international network of scientists, risk managers, and others that are particularly concerned with EPPP issues
- Improving coordination and consolidation of ongoing initiatives at the international, regional and national level, improve use of available resources
- Building synergies between, but not limited to the Joint UN Programme of Green Procurement in the Health Sector; WHO programme on quality and safety of medicines; relevant SAICM initiatives (as EDCs Strategy) as well as other existing regional and national initiatives.

## **Annex VI**

### **Paper prepared by the friends of the President group on highly hazardous pesticides**

A process of consultations by electronic means among interested stakeholders on the highly hazardous pesticides

Invites the FAO, UNEP and WHO to facilitate a multi-stakeholder process to develop a proposal for ICCM4 (submitted well in advance) taking into account the resolutions from the SAICM regional meetings in the Africa and LAC regions, the proposal from the African region and the FAO non paper presented at the OEWG2, as well as relevant text from other regional meeting reports and relevant information documents to the OEWG2.

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