
**Open-ended Working Group of the International
Conference on Chemicals Management
Second meeting**

Geneva, 15–17 December 2014

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

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

Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals (see annex).
2. Following the high-level dialogue during the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and based on the views expressed, the Conference agreed to request the secretariat to prepare overall orientation and guidance on what needed to be done to achieve the 2020 goal. That orientation and guidance would be reviewed at regional consultations in the period leading up to the fourth session of the Conference and at the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The orientation and guidance would be drawn up under the guidance of the Bureau and should be both forward-looking and based on past experience, and would be further discussed at regional meetings and in the Open-ended Working Group for possible consideration at the fourth session of the Conference.
3. The Strategic Approach secretariat, with guidance from the Bureau of the fourth session of the International Conference, has led the process of elaborating the document. Consultations regarding the development of the overall orientation and guidance have taken place both at regional meetings and through the Strategic Approach website.
4. Background information has been developed to support the overall orientation and guidance and is available to the Working Group (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2).
5. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to review the overall orientation and guidance and provide input on priorities and policy direction for achieving the 2020 goal in support of its finalization and in preparation for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
6. The overall orientation and guidance will be finalized by the Bureau in early 2015, taking into consideration input at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and will be presented for consideration at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

* SAICM/OEWG.2/1.

Annex

The future we want for the sound management of chemicals

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Governments identified the goal of “achiev[ing] by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment” (see appendix). That goal was further adopted as part of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by all stakeholders at the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2006.

2. The importance of the sound management of chemicals for the protection of human health and the environment has been recognized on a number of subsequent occasions, including by Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. In the outcome document of the Conference, “The future we want”,^a they reaffirmed their commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste, at all levels, that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges. In resolution 1/5, the United Nations Environment Assembly welcomed the important contribution of the Strategic Approach in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, and emphasized the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement as well as the need for continued strengthening of the Strategic Approach.

3. The Strategic Approach provides a policy framework to support efforts for achieving the World Summit goal. It complements the international chemicals and waste framework, by including existing multilateral environmental agreements and addressing the need for and importance of comprehensive national chemicals management frameworks. The Strategic Approach is the only global mechanism which covers all agricultural and industrial chemicals of concern, throughout their life cycle. It has created an inclusive and overarching multi-stakeholder and multisectoral platform for achieving the World Summit goal of sound chemicals management by 2020. Environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety are reflected in the Strategic Approach and the Quick Start Programme. With its integrated overall approach, the Strategic Approach allows for a balanced consideration of all factors relevant to chemicals management, including the identification of emerging policy issues, and it provides a flexible framework for international action that both complements and goes beyond legally binding approaches.

4. While significant achievements have been made towards achieving the 2020 goal, changes that have occurred since its establishment in 2002 and since the Strategic Approach was adopted in 2006 have resulted in a need to review plans and strategies. To ensure lasting achievements by 2020 and beyond, stakeholders must respond to the advances made in the overall chemicals and waste cluster, build on the solid foundations and momentum that the Strategic Approach and the Quick Start Programme have helped to create, and make optimal use of resources.

5. More detailed background documentation and analysis has been developed to support the overall orientation and guidance, reviewing the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy, emerging policy issues and financing implementation of the Strategic Approach.^b

^a General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

^b See SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2.

II. Aim of the overall orientation and guidance

6. The aim of the overall orientation and guidance is to provide direction and identify approaches for all Strategic Approach stakeholders^c towards the achievement of the overall objective by 2020, including some concrete elements to support the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

III. Progress in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy

7. Since the Strategic Approach was adopted in 2006, considerable progress has been made in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy. As requested by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session, held in September 2012, the overall orientation and guidance shall take into consideration the core achievements of the Strategic Approach.

A. Risk reduction

8. Achievements towards the implementation of the risk reduction objective of the Overarching Policy Strategy have resulted in enhanced risk reduction measures of a cross-cutting nature; the identification of risk reduction measures beyond those contained in legally binding instruments; strengthened policy and regulatory frameworks; and compliance and enforcement measures, in particular for procedures for the authorization and regional harmonization of pesticides. These achievements are more apparent in countries with national focal points for chemicals and a demonstrated capacity for coordination.

9. The organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) have developed chemicals management tools and guidance to support the implementation of risk reduction measures at national and regional levels. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) launched the Responsible Care Global Charter in 2006 and has provided financial support for some 60 projects between 2008 and 2012.

B. Knowledge and information

10. Progress has been made in the development and exchange of knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals, including through regional meetings and workshops, improving the sharing of information, encouraging cooperation, supporting the establishment of priorities and reinforcing regional delivery.

11. The Strategic Approach has fostered enhanced coordination and cooperation among intergovernmental organizations and has expanded stakeholder participation in the sharing of knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals. More than 90 projects under the Quick Start Programme trust fund have contributed to the development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management. In addition, the Strategic Approach has raised the profile of the emerging policy issues and supported informed decision-making on the future use and regulation of a number of substances. These initiatives have contributed to bridging the knowledge and information gap between developed and developing countries on a range of emerging policy issues. Through the emerging policy issue of chemicals in products, progress has been made in addressing this need. A process has been developed for the dissemination of relevant information on chemicals in products among all stakeholder groups.

12. Progress has also been made in developing, implementing and promoting the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, including relevant supporting tools and materials. The Quick Start Programme trust fund has directly supported 22 projects on the labelling of chemicals according to internationally harmonized standards and on the assessment and strengthening of national and regional capacity for implementing the Globally Harmonized System.

C. Governance

13. The Strategic Approach has significantly enhanced the engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders and promoted discussion on a range of issues, in particular those topics not covered under legally binding agreements. The Strategic Approach focal points now include 175 Governments (158

^c The Overarching Policy Strategy reads: “the main stakeholders in the Strategic Approach are understood to be Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in the management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles from all relevant sectors, including, but not limited to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labour and science. Individual stakeholders include consumers, disposers, employers, farmers, producers, regulators, researchers, suppliers, transporters and workers”.

Governments represented by environment or foreign affairs ministries, and 17 by health, labour or agriculture ministries) and 85 non-governmental organizations, including a broad range of representatives from industry and civil society. The Strategic Approach secretariat has facilitated connections, coordination and involvement on the part of all stakeholder groups across the chemicals and waste cluster.

14. Foundational and institutional capacity has been strengthened at the national level in some countries, and also at regional and global levels. Over 80 per cent of the projects under the Quick Start Programme trust fund have contributed to the development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives. In addition, the Quick Start Programme has directly supported 10 countries^d in incorporating sound chemicals management into their national development plans, which has resulted in an increase in the volume of domestic resources dedicated to chemicals management.

D. Capacity-building and technical cooperation

15. The Quick Start Programme trust fund has served as a primary tool for enabling activities related to capacity-building and technical cooperation through the implementation in 104 countries of 168 projects approved for funding under the Programme's trust fund, 52 of these in the African region, 38 in Asia and the Pacific, 13 in Central and Eastern Europe and 41 in Latin America and the Caribbean. A further 24 projects are multi-country in nature. Governments lead 149 of these projects, and 19 are led by civil society. Of the Quick Start Programme projects, 59 have been awarded to least developed countries or small island developing States. The vast majority of all projects supported by the Quick Start Programme have contributed to the creation of foundational capacity. Furthermore, Quick Start Programme projects have significantly contributed to an enhanced knowledge of the chemicals management situation of the countries concerned, by developing policy and legal frameworks, strengthening institutional capacity and raising awareness.

16. Capacity and technical cooperation at the regional level have been further fostered through information sharing and exchange on best practices in relevant regional meetings and forums, through regional projects under the Quick Start Programme trust fund, voluntary industry initiatives, the promotion of partnerships and the establishment and active engagement of Strategic Approach regional focal points. In addition, the IOMC participating organizations have supported the implementation of risk reduction measures at the national and regional levels.

E. Illegal international traffic

17. The progress made in tackling illegal international traffic, in particular the frequency of incidents over time and the quantities of materials involved, is not well documented. While measures taken by Governments and industries to promote compliance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements are mostly confined to legitimate businesses that are generally equipped to comply with legal requirements, it may be assumed that a certain volume of unrecorded trade in banned chemicals, counterfeit chemicals and hazardous waste is still occurring even in countries with strong legislation, owing to the difficulties in monitoring and effectively enforcing the requirements for such movements.

F. Summary of the status of implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy

18. While progress has been made in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy, it is recognized that the progress differs from one objective to another and that significant further coordination and cross-cutting efforts are required by all stakeholders in order to achieve the Strategic Approach 2020 objective. In particular, progress has been achieved in the areas of risk reduction, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation, whereas less progress has been measured in that of knowledge and information and little information is available to assess progress related to illegal international traffic.

^d Belize, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mauritius, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

IV. Guidance towards the achievement of the 2020 goal

19. Based on input from the 2013–2014 Strategic Approach regional meetings, a set of 11 basic elements^e have been recognized as critical at the national and regional levels to the attainment of sound chemicals management, namely:

- (a) Legal frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste;
- (b) National, subregional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms;
- (c) Implementation of relevant international conventions;
- (d) Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders;
- (e) Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life-cycle approach;
- (f) Industry participation and responsibility, including cost recovery policies and systems as well as the incorporation of sound chemicals management into corporate policies and practices;
- (g) Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
- (h) Inclusion of chemicals in national budgeting processes and development plans;
- (i) Chemicals risk assessment through the use of best practices;
- (j) Strengthened capacity to deal with chemicals accidents, including poisoning;
- (k) Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.

20. Stakeholders should establish a set of basic activities for the sound management of chemicals and wastes to support the assessment of progress towards intermediate steps at the national level; guide regional delivery; set national priorities for Strategic Approach implementation; and forge links to the sustainable development goals. The 11 basic elements above may offer a useful starting point. The Global Plan of Action remains a major resource for developing the detail of the basic activities and should always be taken into account.

21. In recognition of progress made, and taking into account basic elements identified by the regions, six core activity areas^f are identified below for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy towards achievement of the overall 2020 goal:

- (a) Enhance responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement;
- (b) Strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals: improving capacity to address the basic elements of sound management of chemicals and encouraging regional cooperation;
- (c) Mainstream sound management of chemicals in the sustainable development agenda: promoting and enhancing sound management of chemicals as an important component in development planning processes, strategies and budgets;
- (d) Consider emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements and work areas, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies;
- (e) Promote information access: improving accessibility of information at all levels of society;
- (f) Assess progress towards the 2020 goal: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020.

22. Guidance and action points are set out below for each of these identified core activity areas. Each activity area contributes directly to the implementation of each of the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

^e The 11 elements have been developed on the basis of input from the 2013 and 2014 regional meetings of the Strategic Approach.

^f Based on the analysis set out in document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2.

A. Enhance responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement

1. Overall guidance

23. The involvement of all relevant stakeholders and sectors, at all levels, is key to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach, as are a transparent and open implementation process and public participation in decision-making.

24. Greater awareness and involvement of sectors – in particular health, agriculture, labour and industry – in policy deliberation, development and implementation are critical in providing an informed basis for the sound management of chemicals at the national level, and also at regional and global levels.

25. There is a need for stronger engagement and responsibility by downstream entities, in particular industries, to address the distribution and use of chemicals in the manufacture of products and throughout their life cycle, and for a more extensive approach to stewardship.

2. Action points

26. Stakeholders should take action to ensure that the sound management of chemicals involves a balance of sectors and stakeholders and that sectors other than the environment increase their active participation in a coordinated manner. Such actions include developing and strengthening linkages with other international agreements and relevant initiatives supporting the mainstreaming of chemicals in the broader development agenda.

27. National Strategic Approach focal points should coordinate action by relevant stakeholders to strengthen the governance of sound management of chemicals, with particular attention to the development and implementation of effective risk reduction measures. They should focus upon highly hazardous pesticides and other substances which are known to present major risks in their country. National focal points should also coordinate information exchange on these matters, both within their countries and, with the assistance of regional focal points, beyond.

28. National Strategic Approach focal points should also work proactively with the national focal point of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations to coordinate activities on chemicals and health and maximize collective efforts relating to chemicals management.

29. All industry sectors should participate in developing and implementing policy, projects and partnerships on the sound management of chemicals. The stewardship of chemicals should be extended, in the context of the Strategic Approach, from primary producers to the downstream manufacturing sector, building on existing initiatives where relevant. Both sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies could be used to engage industrial chemical users in pursuing the 2020 goal.

30. To ensure maximum impact, IOMC should continue to perform a coordinating function for intergovernmental organization activities and work programmes. Countries should stress the importance of Strategic Approach implementation to relevant governing bodies of the IOMC-participating organizations to promote enhanced integration of the Strategic Approach within programmes and projects. Other coordinating bodies, such as the United Nations Environment Management Group, should further its cooperation with IOMC organizations in implementing the Strategic Approach and promoting coherent system-wide support for efforts to achieve sound management of chemicals and waste. Finally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should ensure enhanced administrative and programmatic support for the Strategic Approach secretariat.

3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

31. This activity area contributes to all the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy, in particular to governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation. Active promotion of the sound management of chemicals within each relevant sector and integrating programmes across all sectors will maximize the impact of collective capacity-building efforts. Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals in country assistance strategies should ultimately ensure that the sound management of chemicals is a significant component of national policy frameworks.

B. Strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals: improving capacity to address the basic elements of sound management of chemicals and encouraging regional cooperation

1. Overall guidance

32. There is an urgent need to set and strengthen chemicals regulations and controls in a number of countries and to extend cooperation with a view to building the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes and promoting the adequate transfer of cleaner and safer technology to those countries. Some developed countries also face challenges in meeting the 2020 goal.

33. It is critical that all or as many as possible of the 11 elements identified above are in place at the national and regional levels in order to achieve sound chemicals management.

2. Action points

34. Working together with relevant sectors and stakeholders, Governments should have in place the requisite national legislative and regulatory frameworks and capacity to achieve basic sound management of chemicals. The IOMC participating organizations should continue to help countries identify their capacity-building needs and promote the development and use of relevant guidance, the adoption of chemical policy instruments and approaches that are appropriate to those countries.

35. Through the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, Strategic Approach national focal points should identify the key actors at the national, regional and global levels towards strengthening the capacity of health, labour, planning and agriculture agencies, among others, to establish priorities.

36. Stakeholders should contribute to national institutional strengthening of the chemicals and waste cluster, taking steps in particular to implement the integrated approach, including by providing resources under the Special Programme that was adopted in June 2014 at the United Nations Environment Assembly.

37. Stakeholders should ensure that future actions address the elements identified by the regions and build upon the significant contributions of Quick Start Programme projects. The results of these projects should be integrated into national systems in a way that ensures continuing support and commitment. Stakeholders should consider the findings of the Quick Start Programme impact evaluation, to be available at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and the factors of success and lessons learned in the programme. Regional, North-South and South-South cooperation and delivery should be supported and promoted in related future actions.

38. Where illegal international traffic is concerned, all stakeholders should contribute to improving governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation to strengthen the capabilities of key players, such as customs and border enforcement officers, including through such existing initiatives as the Green Customs Initiative. Building on existing initiatives whenever relevant, national Governments should strengthen the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular through regulating and monitoring the production, transport and use of hazardous chemicals and waste with a view to preventing illegal traffic, and through promoting regional cooperation.

39. Regional delivery mechanisms should be more efficiently used by Strategic Approach stakeholders. This may be accomplished by further engaging centres with a range of competencies, such as the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, regional offices of WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), regional bureaux of the United Nations Development Programme and joint UNEP/UNIDO cleaner production centres.

40. Stakeholders should consider whether and how knowledge and experience gained by the Strategic Approach secretariat through servicing the Quick Start Programme could be applied further in future activities.

3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

41. Measures to strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemicals will also contribute to the attainment of all the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy, and in particular to the objectives on governance, illegal international traffic and risk reduction.

C. Mainstream sound management of chemicals in the sustainable development agenda: promoting and enhancing sound management of chemicals as an important component in development planning processes, strategies and budgets

1. Overall guidance

42. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans in developing countries and into the international development assistance priorities of developed countries will contribute to the reshaping of budgets, allowing for the possibility of national and international financing for the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

43. The sustainable development goals present an opportunity to ensure the sound management of chemicals by 2020 and beyond. The meaningful inclusion of chemicals and wastes in the sustainable development goal process is essential for mainstreaming to reach its potential.

2. Action points

44. Recognizing the different roles of stakeholders, all those involved in national planning processes need to understand the relevance of sound chemicals management to other sustainable development goals, such as those relating to poverty eradication, health, water quality and food security and safety. National focal points should engage relevant ministries in mainstreaming efforts.

45. All stakeholders should contribute to establishing, demonstrating and communicating the economic value of sound chemicals management in terms that are understandable to all those involved in national planning and budgeting processes. The benefits of action, on the one hand, and the cost of inaction, on the other, should be addressed as priorities.

46. While some countries have institutionalized mainstreaming and are starting to demonstrate tangible outcomes, their mainstreaming efforts need to be further developed. Stakeholders should take concerted steps to include chemicals and waste issues within national plans and strategies, in order to signal to Governments, donors and intergovernmental organizations the need for enhanced mobilization of both internal and external resources.

47. Stakeholders should identify ways to enhance institutional and technical capacity for coordination, decision-making and monitoring related to mainstreaming as well as to streamline work aimed at catalysing cooperation and coordination at the regional and global levels through existing delivery mechanisms.

3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

48. Mainstreaming sound management of chemicals underpins progress towards each of the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy. Activities in this area contribute in particular to the implementation of the objectives on governance, on knowledge and information and on capacity-building and technical cooperation. It will also encourage the further development and dissemination of knowledge and information on the benefits of action, as well as on the estimated financial and other impacts of unsound chemicals management, promoting uptake of the sound management of chemicals within each relevant sector.

D. Consider emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements and work areas, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies

1. Overall guidance

49. Emerging policy issues have been identified by the International Conference on Chemicals Management.[§] The emerging policy issue process is demonstrating the broad scope and potential effects of activities that can be undertaken under the Strategic Approach, as, thanks to its non-binding nature, it offers a forum in which the risks of emerging policy issues and measures to deal with them can be considered and leads to increased awareness and national, regional and global responses.

50. Emerging policy issues on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, chemicals in products and

[§] The emerging policy issues include 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.

endocrine-disrupting chemicals offer the prospect of addressing large groups of chemicals at the same time, marking a shift from a chemical-by-chemical approach to a more general one, identifying and managing the risks of chemicals and conducive to significant progress towards the 2020 goal and beyond. Accordingly, in addressing emerging policy issues, Strategic Approach stakeholders should first consider the extent to which those issues would already be addressed through the implementation of components of the existing Global Plan of Action. Any gaps identified in such consideration should be documented and specific actions developed.

51. Strategic Approach stakeholders in countries where lead paint remains in use should continue their efforts to regulate lead in paints and reinforce those efforts as a key risk reduction achievement by 2020.

2. Action points

52. Efforts on emerging policy issues should continue to be promoted by Strategic Approach stakeholders, by drawing heightened political attention to those issues and fostering enhanced coordination, collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders.

53. The creation of a mechanism or process to provide scientific guidance and set priorities for the suite of emerging policy issues could prove helpful by providing decision makers with analysis and a categorization of the issues, by coordinating their consideration and prioritizing them and by identifying synergies between emerging policy issues and other issues in a systematic way. Stakeholders may wish to consider some form of modified or additional governance that will be helpful in managing and supporting the emerging policy issues and prioritizing necessary response actions.

3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

54. Continued actions in this activity area contribute in particular to the implementation of the objectives on risk reduction, knowledge and information, as well as capacity-building and technical cooperation. This activity area supports, among other things, efforts to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries by encouraging and facilitating the appropriate use of work already done and chemicals management models already established by other countries and international organizations; making objective scientific information available for integration into risk assessments and associated decision-making; and the establishment or strengthening of partnerships and mechanisms for technical cooperation.

E. Promote information access: improving accessibility of information at all levels of society

1. Overall guidance

55. The Strategic Approach fosters a strengthened science-policy interface and promotes cooperative action on global priorities, including voluntary industry initiatives, product stewardship and information exchange.

56. The absence of a clearing house has major implications for and impacts on mainstreaming, implementation and capacity-building efforts. A more developed and sustained system for sharing information is required in order to encourage all stakeholders to increase contributions and exchanges of information.

57. Businesses, civil society organizations and Governments should work together to identify effective ways of communicating product ingredients, comparative screening tools and assessments of alternatives and make this information available to workers, users and consumers. The chemicals in products programme needs to address challenges related to the diverse and large number of consumer product sectors involved, which impede efforts to develop a truly global approach.

2. Action points

58. IOMC, in coordination with the Globally Harmonized System Subcommittee of the Economic Commission for Europe, should identify needs and ways to further encourage and support coordinated implementation of the Globally Harmonized System at the national and regional levels.

59. Strategic Approach stakeholders should agree to a plan to define the objective, overall approach, components, responsibilities and means of delivery and operation of a clearing house, and assess the use that can be made of existing mechanisms. In the absence of additional funding, consideration should be given to complementary mechanisms, such as the joint clearing house of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Global Sustainable Consumption and Production

Clearing House hosted by the UNEP Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, or other IOMC resources.

60. Industries should review their approach to classifying business information as confidential to ensure that, while their legitimate interests are protected, they do not prevent the dissemination of relevant health, safety and environmental information to suppliers, distributors, workers, users and consumers.

61. Stakeholders should support the project on the emerging policy issue of chemicals in products to develop a voluntary international programme for information on chemicals in products along the supply chain and throughout their life cycles in order to facilitate and guide the provision and availability of, and access to, relevant information on chemicals in products among all stakeholder groups.

62. Chemical producers and suppliers should make information on chemical exposure and hazards available to distributors, workers, consumers and users at all levels in the supply chain so that chemicals may be produced, used and discarded safely in an environmentally sound manner. Chemicals producers should work with users to identify chemical risks that can be managed by using less hazardous substances and processes.

63. Strategic Approach stakeholders should develop and strengthen global, regional and national integrated health and environment monitoring and surveillance systems to contribute to timely and evidence-based decisions about chemicals management. In addition, a mechanism should be developed to facilitate access to information on the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment.

3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

64. This activity area contributes to the implementation of the objectives on knowledge and information, risk reduction and illegal international traffic. Actions in the activity area promote the application of preventative measures such as pollution prevention; aim to make available science-based standards, risk-management procedures and information-sharing; and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels for the exchange of relevant information aimed at the prevention and control of illegal international traffic.

F. Assess progress towards the 2020 goal: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020

1. Overall guidance

65. In order to secure the necessary level of political support and financing to achieve the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, it is essential to demonstrate credible and continuous progress.

66. The secretariat has developed periodic reviews on Strategic Approach implementation by stakeholders for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management using the 20 indicators of progress agreed upon by the International Conference at its second session based on contributions from Governments and other stakeholders. A number of Strategic Approach stakeholders have made helpful contributions towards evaluating progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach, including IOMC, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) and ICCA.

67. While current Strategic Approach reporting mechanisms are useful in assessing progress toward the 2020 goal, Strategic Approach stakeholders should devise and communicate further means of demonstrating progress. Since the means of demonstrating progress will vary from country to country, national focal points should take the immediate lead in identifying, describing and – as far as possible – quantifying specific indicators of progress in their country. In doing so, they should take account of the Global Plan of Action and in particular its indicators of progress.

2. Action points

68. Stakeholders should assess the further use of the current 20 indicators to monitor overall progress towards the 2020 goal, evaluate their usefulness and consider their link to the sustainable development goals, in particular with regard to assessing non-quantitative aspects of progress. Stakeholders should put in place mechanisms to increase timely reporting, with the intention of increasing overall reporting in the future.

69. Stakeholders should review the report on health sector engagement^h and apply any lessons learned in developing a strategy to achieve the fuller engagement of representatives of economic sectors in Strategic Approach meetings, projects and initiatives, promoting the development of a broader ownership base, which is essential to achieving successful and durable outcomes in pursuit of the 2020 goal.

70. Stakeholders in each country should be encouraged to engage with the national focal point to provide other instances or indicators of progress, which should be quantified wherever possible. As far as possible, they should use the indicators of progress in the Global Plan of Action but may also devise other indicators which can readily be measured.

3. Contribution to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy

71. Enhancing capacity to assess progress in Strategic Approach implementation will support the International Conference on Chemicals Management, in particular in fulfilling its functions to evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to measuring progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary. By identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing future actions, optimum progress in each of the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy may be achieved by 2020.

V. Optimizing the use of resources towards achievement of the 2020 goal

72. At its second and third sessions, the International Conference on Chemicals Management recognized that stable and predictable funding involving a broader base of donors, both at the national and global level, is necessary to achieve the 2020 goal. At its third session, the International Conference further acknowledged, through resolution III/I, that this should be based on a strong commitment to three mutually reinforcing elements of an integrated approach to financing, including, first, mainstreaming; second, industry involvement; and third, dedicated external finance. Accordingly, Strategic Approach stakeholders must take steps to implement the integrated approach and engage a broader base of donors to support implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy to the year 2020, including financing to sustain operation of the Strategic Approach secretariat to support stakeholders throughout this period.

73. Overall, significant progress has been made in the discussion of financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through processes under UNEP, which include an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste and the establishment of a special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach. A significant increase in the financial resources available under the Global Environment Facility for chemicals and waste has been approved by Governments, including for the Strategic Approach. The Strategic Approach donor base has broadened, with welcome progress made in the provision of technical and financial assistance for Strategic Approach implementation, in terms of the total number of countries offering both and also as a proportion of the countries that are not listed as aid recipients by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.ⁱ

74. Countries should take measures to further encourage industry involvement, including the development of policies on the responsibilities of the industry sector and national administrations, and should develop financial solutions and appropriate mechanisms and economic instruments to cover the costs of chemicals management regimes at the national level. All those involved in national planning processes must internalize the costs and integrate the economic benefits of providing resources for sound chemicals management, including the rationale for mainstreaming, and of developing capacity for assessing the costs of inaction on chemicals issues at the national, regional and global levels.

^h SAICM/OEWG.2/8, annex.

ⁱ Based on responses received in the second report on progress on implementation of the Strategic Approach, 2011–2013 (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4).

75. The industry sector should further strengthen the sound management of chemicals in the design, production and use of chemicals and related products. The contribution of the industry sector should be pursued more actively through, first, direct industry engagement, fostering and enhancing partnerships, voluntary initiatives and dialogue, and developing policies that define the roles of industry and Governments and their obligation to share the responsibility for and costs of the sound management of chemicals; and, second, greater use of economic instruments to ensure that appropriate costs of sound management of chemicals and waste are internalized by industries.

76. In seeking dedicated external financing, Strategic Approach stakeholders should secure funds from new and innovative donor sources and provide guidance on the use of resources available under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, within the chemicals and waste cluster, and also provide resources to support the effective implementation of the special programme on institutional strengthening of the chemicals and wastes cluster to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach.

77. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals into national development planning priorities, processes and budgets can influence multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation by supporting the inclusion of sound chemicals management in funding priorities, either as a priority area or as a cross-cutting issue, and in developing policies and enforcing legislation controlling the production and use of chemicals.

VI. Global approach for continued collaboration in the long term

78. Projections show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases occurring in countries with economies in transition and developing countries. The need for strong capacity for governance, knowledge and information-sharing, and risk reduction so as to promote the sound management of chemicals, will not end in 2020.

79. The continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is recognized. The need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects of chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment will continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 and could be accompanied by supplementary targets and indicators, within a defined time frame.^j

^j UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.2, annex, para. 12.

Appendix

Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation^a

23. Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants so that it can enter into force by 2004, and encourage and improve coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation;

(b) Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety by 2005, and urge that the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Forum, other international organizations dealing with chemical management and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;

(c) Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

(d) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data;

(e) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

(f) Encourage development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals, such as through national pollutant release and transfer registers;

(g) Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds.

^a *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 03. II. A. 1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.