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

Second meeting

Geneva, 15–17 December 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

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

Activities and staffing of the secretariat

Report by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the International Conference on Chemicals Management, in its resolution I/1, requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish and assume overall administrative responsibility for the Strategic Approach secretariat and to co-locate it with the chemicals and wastes cluster of UNEP. The Conference invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide appropriate staff and other resources in accordance with the indicative budget and staffing provisions set out in tables 1 and 2 of the resolution. In paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, Governments and other stakeholders were invited to provide resources to enable the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to fulfil its tasks, and the private sector, including industry, foundations and other non-governmental organizations, was also invited to contribute.
2. At its first session, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, in which it recalled the lead role of UNEP in arranging for an effective and efficient Strategic Approach secretariat and requested the Executive Director to continue to support the Strategic Approach, including in the development of orientation and guidance to implement the 2020 goal. Furthermore, in the same resolution the Environment Assembly invited the Director-General of WHO to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and provide appropriate staff and other resources to its secretariat, and requested the Executive Director to forward this invitation to the next meeting of the Executive Board of WHO. The Environment Assembly further invited members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to consider ways to support the Strategic Approach secretariat, including possible staffing support. In response to that request, the Strategic Approach secretariat will forward the resolution to WHO and the participating organizations of IOMC for their information and response. The resolution is available for the consideration of the Working Group in a note by the secretariat (SAICM/OEWG.2/5).
3. The present report provides a summary account of the secretariat's activities since the update provided to the Conference at its third session (activities were reported up to June 2012), taking into account the adoption by the Conference of its resolution III/5 on the indicative budget and staffing table for the period 2013–2015. It focuses on activities implemented during the period from July 2012

* SAICM/OEWG.2/1.

to July 2014, providing information on the secretariat's staffing, funding, operational guidance and budget considerations. Further updates will be provided to the Conference at its fourth session.

4. The present report also provides initial information on budget and staffing for the period 2016–2020 based on the current staffing complement of the secretariat taking into consideration that the activity budget and future staffing for the period 2016–2020 will be guided by the overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals (SAICM/OEWG.2/4). In its resolution III/5, the Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a budget for the period 2016–2018 for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session. The secretariat would like to draw the attention of the participants to the fact that the fourth session is currently the last decision-making meeting scheduled before 2020 and that therefore the Conference may wish to consider adopting a budgeting decision covering the whole period up to and including 2020.

5. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to take note of the information provided in the present report together with the overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals (SAICM/OEWG.2/4). The final activities and the budget for the Strategic Approach secretariat will be dependent upon the approval of the overall orientation and guidance by the Conference at its fourth session.

II. Consideration of the Open-ended Working Group

6. The Working Group is expected to take note of the present report on activities and staffing of the secretariat and to provide inputs to the Conference at its fourth session for its action and final approval.

III. Activities and financing of the secretariat from July 2012 to July 2014

A. Activities

7. The present report provides information on the activities of the secretariat for the period from July 2012 to July 2014 according to the functions set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, subsequent resolutions of the Conference on the Quick Start Programme and emerging policy issues. The report will be updated prior to the fourth session of the Conference in order to give a fuller picture of the secretariat's activities in the intersessional period between the third and fourth sessions of the Conference.

8. Priority was accorded during this period to the final organization of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, Strategic Approach regional meetings, organizing and servicing meetings of the Bureau, preparations for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the development of the overall orientation and guidance document, the Strategic Approach reporting process and the ongoing management of the Quick Start Programme. The third session of the Conference provided stakeholders with the opportunity to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including its future financing, and to agree on key activities to be undertaken in the light of the approaching 2020 goal. The regional meetings were successful in facilitating discussions on regional successes and challenges in implementation and on priorities in the remaining years up to 2020.

9. Table 1 highlights activities undertaken by the secretariat.

Table 1
Activities undertaken by the secretariat (July 2012–July 2014) and possible activities following the fourth session of the Conference (2016–2020)

<i>Strategic Approach secretariat function</i>	<i>Activities July 2012–July 2014</i>	<i>Possible activities 2016–2020^a</i>
Core mandate (paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy)		
(a) Facilitate meetings and intersessional work of the Conference as well as regional meetings	<p>Finalized arrangements for the third session of the Conference</p> <p>Organized regional meetings to facilitate input to Strategic Approach activities, the overall orientation and guidance, activity priority-setting, and facilitated the exchange of expertise and information as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America and the Caribbean: Mexico City, 19–22 August 2013 • Central and Eastern Europe: Skopje, 23–26 September 2013 • Africa: Pretoria, 18–22 November 2013 • EU-JUSSCANNZ^b Paris, 14 February 2014 • Asia-Pacific: Kuala Lumpur, 23–27 March 2014 <p>Meetings of regional coordinating bodies to prepare for regional meetings, to identify priority needs in relation to implementation of the Strategic Approach and to develop regional positions on key issues were integrated with the above-mentioned regional meetings</p> <p>Organized face-to-face meetings of the Bureau of the Conference in July 2013 and June 2014</p> <p>Facilitated six teleconferences of the Bureau</p> <p>Undertook planning and fundraising for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group</p>	<p>The secretariat is currently planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fifth session of the Conference in 2020 • The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on a date and at a time to be decided • Regional meetings in advance of the third meeting of the Working Group or the fifth session of the Conference in order to prepare for the fifth session, facilitate input to Strategic Approach activities, receive updates from regions against priority actions agreed upon by the Conference at its fourth session, and promote the exchange of expertise and information • Annual face-to-face meetings of the Bureau of the Conference in the intersessional period to guide Strategic Approach activities and preparations for the fifth session of the Conference <p>Planning and fundraising for the above meetings, if agreed to by the Conference at its fourth session</p>
(b) Report to the Conference on implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders	<p>Provided online data-collection tool allowing stakeholders to report on progress in Strategic Approach implementation, initially open between 30 January and 31 March 2014. Following requests by stakeholders, an extension was formally provided up to 30 April 2014. The secretariat worked with remaining stakeholders still seeking to provide reports after this date until 7 June 2014 when the tool was fully closed. Such delays impacted planning and delivery by the secretariat. The data collected from Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations has been analysed and used to develop a report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, building on the previous report submitted to the Conference at its third session (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4)</p>	<p>Participants at the fourth session of the Conference may wish to plan for two further reporting exercises during the period 2014–2020. Any data collected would be analysed and used by the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop a report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach</p> <p>Proposed reporting periods would be 2014–2016, with a report produced in advance of regional meetings and in time for a final report to the fifth session of the Conference in 2020</p>

<i>Strategic Approach secretariat function</i>	<i>Activities July 2012–July 2014</i>	<i>Possible activities 2016–2020^a</i>
	<p>At its third session, the Conference requested the secretariat to prepare overall orientation and guidance towards achieving the 2020 goal. A concept note was provided to the Bureau of the Conference in February 2013, with feedback received during the March 2013 teleconference. A consultation period was opened from 4 April until 16 May 2013, with the draft consultation framework then developed. Input on the framework was sought from the Bureau in July 2013. The subsequent version of the framework was available for comments during the regional meetings (August 2013–March 2014). A consultant has been engaged to draft the framework document, and the latest version was provided to the Bureau for the face-to-face meeting in July 2014. Comments were provided and will be taken into account in advance of the second meeting of the Working Group (see SAICM/OEWG.2/4 and SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2)</p>	
(c) Promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of Strategic Approach stakeholders	<p>Proactively encouraged the nomination of focal points by Strategic Approach stakeholders, generating a steady rise in the number of focal points. As of July 2014, 175 (up from 172 prior to the third session of the Conference) national focal points, the same number of regional focal points (5), 85 (up from 76) non-governmental organization focal points and 15 (up from 12) intergovernmental organization focal points were part of the Strategic Approach network. The secretariat also conducted outreach to encourage the diversity of Strategic Approach contacts, most notably with WHO, consistent with the multi-stakeholder approach of the Strategic Approach</p> <p>Also undertook outreach activities through broadcasts, contributions to newsletters and exhibition spaces, and presentations at relevant forums</p>	<p>Continue to engage with a large network of Strategic Approach stakeholders, proactively encouraging the nomination of focal points by such stakeholders</p> <p>The development of the information clearing house would facilitate greater engagement of Strategic Approach stakeholders. Not only could it serve as a more dynamic tool for managing the contacts and Strategic Approach meetings, it could also serve as a means to share information and foster the enhanced engagement of different sectors, beyond the dominant environment sector</p> <p>With the importance of industry involvement outlined in the integrated approach and the call made to industry by the Environment Assembly at its first session to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach,^c the secretariat anticipates promoting industry engagement. It is already envisaged that a consultant will be hired in 2016 to continue the work that will be undertaken in this area in 2015</p>
(d) Facilitate the development and dissemination of guidance materials	<p>Revised and updated guidelines for the submission of project proposals to be funded under the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund in consultation with the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee and the QSP Executive Board. Finalized and made available online guidelines for project implementers and for the conduct of monitoring and evaluation reports</p> <p>Put in place guidelines for non-chemical alternatives under QSP, and for projects to integrate mainstreaming</p> <p>Continued to disseminate information and guidance materials via network of stakeholders electronically as appropriate and as requested by stakeholders</p>	<p>Continue to update guidelines for projects under the QSP Trust Fund in addition to general guidance to implementers</p> <p>Through the funding and recruitment of a Programme Officer (P-3) already contained in the approved staffing allocation for the period 2013–2015 for the information clearing house, greater resources will be available to collaborate with IOMC participating organizations and other stakeholders on the development and distribution of guidance materials for Strategic Approach activities. Such guidance can be instrumental in assisting stakeholders to achieve the targets of the Strategic Approach.</p>

<i>Strategic Approach secretariat function</i>	<i>Activities July 2012–July 2014</i>	<i>Possible activities 2016–2020^a</i>
(e) Provide guidance to stakeholders in the initiation of project proposals	Provided updates to interested stakeholders on the final agreement of the \$13 million under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, and the latest available information on the Special Programme. ^c Meeting documents were also provided for regional meetings outlining possible sources of financial and technical support for Strategic Approach implementation	<p>Through the development of the information clearing house, further information on alternative funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme, would be available. With a staff member dedicated to the clearing-house role, guidance could be provided to stakeholders seeking assistance in developing project proposals. This would help to fulfil a part of the mandate of the secretariat that has thus far not been given a central role</p> <p>An information clearing house will assist in showcasing QSP results and demonstrate to project proponents the elements of successful projects and from whom to seek further information, contributing to sustainability of impacts</p>
(f) Provide information clearing-house services	Launched the information clearing house of the Strategic Approach in May 2010 in fulfilment of one of its functions as set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy. Technical problems with the platform in 2011 affected its full development and sustainability until its re-activation in August 2012. Since the third session of the Conference the secretariat has not had sufficient capacity (both in terms of staff and funding) to operate the clearing house in a consistent and comprehensive manner; there is little progress to report on this item	<p>With the anticipated importance of information sharing outlined in the Overarching Policy Strategy as well as the overall orientation and guidance toward the 2020 goal (SAICM/OEWG.2/4), the Conference at its fourth session may wish to approve a budget that contains funding for a Programme Officer (P-3) responsible for the information clearing house and associated informational needs outlined in the Overarching Policy Strategy</p> <p>By showcasing information on chemicals management, a wider range of stakeholders, including Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, can access and provide up-to-date material</p> <p>Assist in the mainstreaming of chemicals management into development planning by linking stakeholders to relevant work under the sustainable development goals and other areas</p>
(g) Ensure that recommendations from the Conference are conveyed to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions	<p>In the follow-up to the third session of the Conference, conveyed all recommendations and relevant information to Strategic Approach stakeholders to ensure maximum distribution</p> <p>Also ensured that relevant information was passed to the appropriate Strategic Approach stakeholders in follow-up to meetings of the regions, the Bureau, the QSP Executive Board and the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee</p>	As part of the follow-up to the fourth session of the Conference, the secretariat will liaise with all stakeholders on the recommendations, resolutions and outcomes of the Conference
(h) Promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information	Ensured that all Strategic Approach regional meetings in the 2013–2014 period (except the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting) included technical sessions, which were focused on the latest science on endocrine-disrupting chemicals as well as the lead in paint and chemicals in products programmes	<p>Continue to keep abreast of stakeholder requests for more information, and the provision of such information</p> <p>The clearing house would act as the central forum for requesting updated guidance on scientific and technical matters, and dissemination of materials from a variety of stakeholders. With a dedicated Programme Officer for this role, the secretariat would be able to perform this function in a comprehensive and routine manner.</p>

<i>Strategic Approach secretariat function</i>	<i>Activities July 2012–July 2014</i>	<i>Possible activities 2016–2020^a</i>
(i) Establish and maintain a working relationship with participating organizations of IOMC	<p>Participated in biannual meetings of the IOMC and arranged for the participating organizations of IOMC to take part in Strategic Approach regional meetings</p> <p>Maintained regular contact with the IOMC organizations, which form the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee, on aspects of QSP management, including on the terms of reference of the QSP impact evaluation</p> <p>IOMC partners are regularly engaged in submitting material for the regular (approximately every 3 months) Strategic Approach broadcasts of news and updates</p>	<p>Furthermore, this could include the increased use of e-courses, video classes, webinars and distance learning activities, possibly increasing synergies with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p> <p>Continue to participate in biannual meetings of IOMC and arrange for the participating organizations of IOMC to take part in Strategic Approach regional meetings</p> <p>As the IOMC organizations form the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee, there will be regular contact with these partners on aspects of QSP management</p> <p>IOMC partners will be engaged in submitting material for the regular Strategic Approach broadcasts of news and updates</p> <p>A fully-functioning information clearing house could serve to formalize the submission of materials of interest to Strategic Approach stakeholders and help develop the working relationships</p>
Resolution I/4: Quick Start Programme		
(a) Facilitate meetings of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board and the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee	<p>Since July 2012, the secretariat has organized two meetings of the QSP Executive Board: 7 and 8 March 2013 and 8 May 2014</p> <p>Since July 2012, the secretariat has provided support for three meetings of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee: 28–29 November 2012, 29 May 2013, and 25–26 November 2013</p>	<p>The secretariat will continue to organize QSP Executive Board meetings on an annual basis, provisionally up to and including 2019, until all QSP projects are finalized. Meetings would therefore take place in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. A decision on organizing such meetings would follow approval or otherwise by the Conference</p> <p>The secretariat will continue to support and coordinate QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee meetings on an annual basis, provisionally up to and including 2019, until all projects are finalized</p>
(b) Provide administrative support to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund	<p>Finalized 24 new agreements with Governments and executing agencies for approved projects funded by the QSP Trust Fund, and facilitated other arrangements to enable the implementation of projects, including the transfer of funds to project implementers, budget revisions and agreements for extensions</p> <p>Continues to offer support and guidance to over 90 projects, out of a total of 168 projects that have been approved for funding under QSP, totalling more than \$33 million</p>	<p>Provide administrative support to the QSP projects. Given that certain current projects are likely to be ongoing beyond 2015, in addition to one final round likely to be launched after the fourth session of the Conference (a final balance will likely be available for new projects in a final round), two QSP Programme Officers are likely to be needed up to the end of 2017, with only one Programme Officer needed within the secretariat up to the end of 2019</p>
(c) Screen Trust Fund project proposals for completeness and eligibility	<p>For the thirteenth application round, which was opened in December 2012 and closed on 28 June 2013, screened 42 project proposals, including 6 applications deferred from previous rounds, providing guidance and feedback as appropriate. Some 35 proposals were considered as complete and eligible by the secretariat and were presented to the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee for its review</p>	<p>As contributions to the QSP Trust Fund are possible until the fourth session of the Conference, it will likely be necessary to hold an application round after that date, once it has been possible to determine the available balance of funds. Therefore, the QSP programme officers will plan to screen applications for one final round of QSP in late 2015, or early 2016</p>

<i>Strategic Approach secretariat function</i>	<i>Activities July 2012–July 2014</i>	<i>Possible activities 2016–2020^a</i>
(d) Other activities	<p>The secretariat is in the early stages of receiving requests for information from applicants to the fourteenth round with a deadline of 30 September 2014. Ten proponents have so far signified their intentions to apply</p> <p>Developed the QSP brochure highlighting benefits seen from projects, and contributed to the setup of booths at international conferences</p> <p>Drafted and finalized (in collaboration with the QSP Executive Board) terms of reference for the QSP Impact Evaluation, to be undertaken from September 2014. Regular coordination with the evaluators will take place into 2015, with the final document to be prepared in advance of the fourth session of the Conference</p>	<p>The QSP programme officers will assist in the final UNEP evaluation of QSP</p> <p>The QSP programme officers will assist in coordinating final materials of projects to showcase the success of QSP</p>
Resolution II/4: emerging policy issues		
(a) Implement procedures for receiving and screening nominations of emerging policy issues	<p>Received a nomination for a new emerging policy issue in 2014 and opened the nomination for comments. The nomination of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants was available for comment until 11 July 2014, and will be available for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference at its fourth session for their prioritization</p>	<p>No new emerging policy issues are anticipated in advance of the fifth session of the Conference, given current plans for the Strategic Approach to finish in 2020</p>
(b) Report on progress on emerging policy issues	<p>Continued to coordinate reports on progress made in the work on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals, as per resolution III/2, and managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, as per resolution III/3. Also provided updates on progress to the regional meetings and through its working relationship with IOMC. The latest updates on the emerging policy issues are available in documents SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/9–15</p>	<p>The secretariat will continue its functions coordinating work and reporting on the agreed emerging policy issues. Updates will be provided to the regional meetings, the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the Conference, if agreed. Greater focus could be placed on evaluating the success of activities under the emerging policy issues and how that supports the achievement of the 2020 goal</p> <p>The information clearing house would be an appropriate means to communicate reports and developments with regard to the emerging policy issues</p>

^a These activities will be dependent on the outcome of the overall orientation and guidance and may therefore be revised further.

^b European Union, Japan, the United States of America, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

^c United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.

B. Staffing

10. The indicative staffing structure adopted by the Conference at its third session in its resolution III/5, on indicative budget and staffing table for the period 2013–2015, provides for the secretariat to be staffed by seven Professional staff members and one General Service staff member. Owing to funding constraints, this level of staffing has not been achieved. The staff deficit has directly and indirectly affected some key secretariat functions such as the servicing of its information clearing house, preparations for major meetings and processing of QSP projects. Table 2 provides a comparative analysis of the current staffing situation in relation to the indicative staffing structure set out in resolution III/5.

Table 2
Staffing situation July 2012–June 2014 (24 months) in relation to the indicative staffing structure set out in resolution III/5

<i>Secretariat posts</i>	<i>Approved 2013–2015</i>	<i>Proportion of time on board</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
A. Professional and higher				
P-5	1	1	Environment Fund	P-5 staff member in place July 2012–July 2014, and ongoing. No cost implications for Strategic Approach
P-4	1	0.125		World Health Organization (WHO) contribution to the secretariat was discontinued on 1 October 2012. Request to WHO Director-General has been made to reinstate the support from WHO
P-4	1	0.96	Voluntary contributions	Position filled 1 August 2012–July 2014, and ongoing
P-3 (Quick Start Programme)	1	0.46	Voluntary contributions	Position filled by a consultant up to July 2013. P-3 Programme Officer in place since August 2013, and ongoing
P-3 (Information clearing house)	1	0	Voluntary contributions	Position filled by a consultant on a temporary basis until September 2012. Insufficient funding to continue consultancy or initiate recruitment of P-3 Programme Officer in the reporting period. Post had zero funding in approved budget for 2013–2015
P-2 (Quick Start Programme)	1	0	Voluntary contributions	Position filled by a consultant July 2012–June 2014, and ongoing. Recruitment process under way and funds have been allocated to this position
P-2	1	1	Voluntary contributions	Position has been filled since the establishment of the secretariat
Subtotal A	7	3.55		
B. General Service				
G-4/5	1	1	Voluntary contributions	Position has been filled since the establishment of the secretariat
Subtotal B	1	1		
Total (A+B)	8	4.55		

C. Funding

11. Details of contributions to the secretariat's budget and its activities are provided below. These contributions do not include the provision of the Strategic Approach Coordinator position during the period by the UNEP Environment Fund, and additional resources that donors have provided to the QSP Trust Fund.

12. The secretariat wishes to highlight the generous contributions to its budget by the stakeholders listed in table 3.

Table 3

Contributions to the Strategic Approach secretariat indicative budget for the two-year period July 2012–June 2014

(United States dollars)

<i>Contributions deposited</i>	<i>July 2012 to December 2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>January 2014 to June 2014</i>	Total
Austria			27 211	27 211
Belgium		26 525		26 525
Denmark	33 647	44 823		78 470
European Union	655 000	338 000		993 000
Finland	12 953	13 587		26 540
Germany	65 054	120 960	114 799	300 813
Netherlands		67 843		67 483
Norway	120 291	149 071	65 880	335 242
Slovenia	3 861	3 831	4 149	11 841
Sweden	221 720	207 468	302 623	731 811
Switzerland	21 790	12 070	237 451	271 311
United States of America	400 000	370 000		770 000
UNEP		157 522	81 911	239 433
Total	1 534 316	1 511 700	834 024	3 880 040
Resolution III/5 budget provision 2013–2015 (3 years)				7 059 800

13. In addition to the above financial contributions, the following Governments and organizations provided valuable in-kind contributions, typically in the form of meeting facilities and support for meeting activities: Mexico, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, South Africa, OECD and the Africa Institute.

D. Operational guidance for the secretariat

14. In conducting its operations, the secretariat has had the benefit of policy guidance from the Bureau of the Conference, including the preparations for regional meetings, the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the Conference, as well as the overall orientation and guidance. The terms of the current Bureau members will end at the conclusion of the fourth session of the Conference, when new members will take office. In addition, the secretariat has received guidance and support from the regional focal points of the five United Nations regions, who have maintained close relationships with the secretariat. The secretariat wishes to acknowledge with appreciation that guidance and support.

15. With specific reference to the Quick Start Programme, the secretariat continues to receive operational support and guidance from the Executive Board and the Trust Fund Implementation Committee.

IV. Proposed budget and indicative staffing structure for 2016–2020

Proposal to reflect major activities in the budget

16. The full development of the proposed budget and staffing for the 2016–2020 period will be based on the discussions at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the overall orientation and guidance (SAICM/OEWG.2/4), with the final decisions in that regard to be taken by the Conference at its fourth session. Such discussions will clarify the activities required of the secretariat for the 2016–2020 period and will therefore facilitate the generation of a comprehensive budget proposal, including possible revisions in the staffing compliment of the secretariat in order to strengthen the Strategic Approach. It is also expected that the Conference at its fourth session will

provide guidance to the secretariat on future regional meetings, the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the Conference. It is further envisaged that the role of the secretariat will focus increasingly on support to stakeholders in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance and less on the organization of meetings. It is expected that the staffing structure approved by the Conference at its third session will broadly continue.

17. In order to facilitate planning for Strategic Approach stakeholders, table 4 sets out indicative staffing for the secretariat with the associated staffing costs per position.

18. In response to requests to the UNEP Executive Director to continue to support the Strategic Approach, the Executive Director has decided to upgrade the position of Coordinator for the Strategic Approach from the P-5 to the D-1 level. This post has no cost implications for the budget of the Strategic Approach secretariat as it is funded by the UNEP Environment Fund within the authority and at the discretion of the UNEP Executive Director.

19. In its resolution 1/5, the United Nations Environment Assembly also 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, in the light of the withdrawal of direct staffing support from WHO in 2012 and in follow-up to the call from the Conference at its third session for WHO to continue supporting the work of the secretariat in its areas of expertise by reassigning a staff member to the secretariat at the earliest date possible. In addition, the Environment Assembly invited members of IOMC to consider ways to support the Strategic Approach secretariat, including possible staffing support.

20. All funding for the secretariat, with the exception of the provision of Environment Fund support for the Coordinator (D-1 post) by UNEP, is provided voluntarily.

Table 4

Proposed indicative staffing table

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2016–2020</i>
A. Professional and higher	
D-1 (provided and funded by UNEP Environment Fund)	1
P-4 (two for the Strategic Approach secretariat, including one position previously funded and filled by WHO)	2
P-3 (one for QSP, until end of 2019, one for information clearing house)	2
P-2 (one for QSP, until end of 2017, and one for Strategic Approach secretariat)	2
Subtotal	7
B. General Service	
	1
Total (A + B)	8

Table 5

Standard salary costs per position as per the United Nations Secretariat

(United States dollars)

<i>Standard staff costs (per post)^a</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
A. Professional and higher					
D-1 ^b	329 888	343 084	356 807	371 079	385 922
P-4	245 440	255 258	265 468	276 087	287 130
P-3	203 840	211 994	220 473	229 292	238 464
P-2	163 488	170 028	176 829	183 902	191 258
B. General Service category					
G-4	128 849	134 003	139 363	144 938	150 735

^a Derived from United Nations standard salary costs for Geneva (2015)

^b Provided and funded by UNEP Environment Fund.