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Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Bucharest, Romania, 23-27 March 2020

Item 6 of the provisional agenda¹

Any other business

Update on the SAICM project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, an update on the progress achieved by the SAICM project entitled, ‘Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)’, GEF ID 9771, which is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The report presented in the annex has been developed by the SAICM secretariat and has not been formally edited.

¹ SAICM/IP.4/1

ANNEX

Update on the SAICM project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

I. Background

1. In 2018, the SAICM secretariat received funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to execute a global project with the purpose of scaling-up action on SAICM 'Emerging Policy Issues' (EPIs) and support knowledge management and information exchange.
2. The SAICM GEF 9771 project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM: *Chemicals without concern, towards safer products for our environment and health*, aims to accelerate the adoption of national and value chain initiatives to control Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and contribute to the 2020 SAICM goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. The project is comprised of three main components:
 - Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint
 - Lifecycle management of chemicals present in products, and
 - Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement.
4. The project is being implemented in over 40 countries over 4 years, aiming at presenting early project results at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) from 5-9 October 2020 in Bonn, Germany. The SAICM secretariat is the Executing Agency, while UNEP acts as the Implementing Agency.
5. The project activities started in 2019 and they involve the participation of multiple stakeholders. More than 15 agreements have been negotiated and agreed with different global partners, including Regional Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), and Academia, for the implementation of the project activities at the regional and national levels.

II. Component 1: Lead in paint

6. The Lead in Paint component promotes regulatory and voluntary action by the government and industry to phase out lead in paint. The project outcome is aiming for at least 40 countries to legislate and implement legislation on lead paint, and for at least 35 small and medium paint manufacturing enterprises in seven countries to phase out lead from their production processes.
7. During 2019, UNEP prepared the ground for collective action on lead-in-paint legislation with the partners. Four regional lead paint workshops were organized in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin American regions, with the participation of more than 130 participants from government, industry, and civil society. In addition, three launch workshops for the work on paint reformulation in small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) took place in Jordan, China and for Andean countries (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia) in collaboration with NCPCs.
8. Subsequently, 41 countries submitted country-approach documents, which contain a roadmap for the adoption of lead legislation in each country. These country-approaches were assessed, and priority actions were identified by UNEP and the relevant partners involved in the execution of this component – American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), the International Pollutants Elimination

Network (IPEN), NCPCs, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

9. In 2019, 11 countries received direct support from the project for drafting legislation. Since the inception of the project, Israel and Bangladesh have announced that they have successfully adopted a lead in paint legislation in 2019. Currently, the following countries are being assisted in lead paint legal drafting: Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU, including Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Russia), Ukraine, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, China and Jordan. Legal support will continue in 2020, aiming at having as many countries as possible adopting lead in paint legislation by ICCM5.
10. NCPC Serbia – one of the executing partners coordinating the work with small and medium enterprises (SMEs), developed a set of draft technical guidelines on paint reformulation. The draft paint reformulation technical guidelines are being pilot tested by SMEs, to identify lessons learned and best practices to be included in the final document, which will be validated in a global meeting scheduled in August 2020 and presented by October 2020.
11. Nineteen SMEs have been selected so far in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Jordan, and China for architectural and industrial paint pilot tests on paint reformulation, using the technical guidelines developed by the NCPC Serbia. More SMEs will be invited to join the pilot testing, which will be completed by mid-2020. In parallel, IPEN is taking the lead in Indonesia and Nigeria to pilot test the guidelines in paint SMEs. A launching workshop to present the draft technical guidelines on paint reformulation and to advocate towards lead paint laws took place on January 28-29, 2020 in Jakarta. Another one will be organized in May 2020 in Lagos, Nigeria. Interested SMEs are in the process of being selected in both countries to undertake the paint reformulation pilot testing.

III. Component 2: Lifecycle management of chemicals present in products

12. This component aims to accelerate the adoption of measures by governments and value chains to track and control chemicals in supply chains for building products, electronics and toys. The purpose is to create demand-led and market-based incentives for supply chains to act via public procurement and sustainable finance measures; develop quantitative life cycle assessment tools to compare chemical alternatives and avoid regrettable substitutions; and enhancing the ambition of and compliance with regulatory requirements on chemicals of concern.
13. In-depth research and analysis on chemicals of concern in buildings and toys have been conducted in 2019 for the development of tools and an initial mapping of alternatives to be used in these sectors. In 2020, USEtox – one of the project's executing partners -will build up on this research and analysis and finalize life cycle assessment tools for chemicals of concern in buildings and toys. UNEP will put forward some chemicals of concern to support the next stages in implementation of the project, which will allow the adoption of measures by governments and value chains to track and manage chemicals in supply chains for the three sectors.
14. In 2020, draft versions of global guidance documents for Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) covering provisions for the management of chemicals of concern and for eco-innovation in the electronics and buildings & construction sectors will be available. These will be further tested in Colombia and Sri Lanka to obtain relevant feedback on the implementation and to incorporate these lessons to the final documents, which will be available in 2021.
15. For Electronics, this will be complemented by an analysis of Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) transposition into low- and middle income countries and regional studies on circularity. For toys, testing for chemicals of concern in China, and a review of the current status of the legislation in China is underway in 2020. These activities, associated with a review of legislations from other countries, will support awareness raising of the different stakeholders in 2020.

16. In order to prepare for the pilot testing in Colombia and Sri Lanka respectively in the electronics and the building sectors, in 2019, an analysis of the nature of electronic products and building materials manufactured and purchased in Colombia and Sri Lanka, respectively, was initiated. The analysis will serve as a basis for the local technical specifications for the purchase of electronics and building materials to be developed for Colombia and Sri Lanka, using the global guidance, and applying them to existing national SPP practices for electronics and construction/buildings and to private sector criteria for green buildings and green building products.

IV. Component 3: Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement

17. The objective of this component is for countries and stakeholders to access up to date information produced by the project and other stakeholders on the EPIs, and actively contribute to communities of practice for peer-to-peer learning exchanges, to support decision-making and development of new initiatives towards the 2020 SAICM goal and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This project component contributes to the 'Knowledge and Information' objective of SAICM.
18. A Knowledge Management strategy for SAICM was developed to establish an approach to create, identify, document, strengthen, and disseminate knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals and EPIs. This Knowledge Management strategy was completed in a participatory way with input from SAICM stakeholders - provided to OEWG3 as an information document: SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/28.
19. A prototype of a Knowledge Management Platform/Clearing-house has been developed as a space for knowledge exchange to ensure the information on chemicals management is available, accessible, user-friendly, adequate, and appropriate. This beta-version of a Knowledge Management platform will be launched by end of Q1 2020 and publicly available at www.chemicalswithoutconcern.org. The beta version will run from April to October 2020. During this period, feedback from relevant stakeholders will be collected for the platform to be further enhanced through a web service architecture provider aiming at having a fully functional robust platform by the end of 2020.
20. A Knowledge Manager Officer was recruited to strengthen SAICM's role and capacities for information and knowledge sharing on chemicals management amongst SAICM's stakeholders. The Knowledge Management Officer is overseeing the development and implementation of the Knowledge Management Platform/Clearing-house, and its content development. This role will address one of the recommendations of SAICM's independent evaluation about the availability of an information clearinghouse and information sharing between SAICM stakeholders.
21. More than 40 stories related to chemicals, health, and SDGs, including chemicals of concern, lead in paint, chemicals management, and other activities related to the project have been produced and published in 2019 by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) – executing project partner for the knowledge management component – in their SDG Knowledge Hub available at <http://sdg.iisd.org/tag/chemicals-of-concern/>. This work will continue throughout the project timeline and all stories will be also posted at the new SAICM Knowledge Management platform.
22. SAICM has reached an agreement with the University of Cape Town (UCT) for the development of communities of practices through interactive discussion forums. These communities of practice will foster exchanges and interactions amongst experts in relevant chemicals management and EPIs topics. Outcomes of these discussions will be summarized and disseminated in policy briefs that will aim at raising awareness and providing tools for policymakers to address issues of concern and EPIs. These communities of practice are part of the knowledge management strategy and will kick-off in April 2020. SAICM encourages all stakeholders to contribute to these communities of practice by signing up and actively participating.

23. During 2020, SAICM will accelerate the overall project progress to deliver early results by October 2020 so that the project outcomes can contribute to SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. A number of outreach and awareness-raising activities are being planned to showcase the early project results at the margins of ICCM5.
