



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

Second meeting

Geneva, 15–17 December 2014

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*

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

**Compilation of regional chemicals challenges in the
implementation of the Strategic Approach to International
Chemicals Management**

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a compilation of the summaries of chemicals challenges provided by the regional focal points for Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (see annex).
2. The regional summaries have been prepared to reflect on the successes of the Strategic Approach in the regions and to identify specific challenges in advancing efforts towards the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The summaries are aimed at contributing to the development of the overall orientation and guidance towards achieving the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management.
3. The regional focal points for the Asia-Pacific States and the Western European and other States have asked that the reports of their regional meetings, namely, the fifth European Union-JUSSCANNZ¹ regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Paris on 14 February 2014, and the fourth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Kuala Lumpur from 23 to 27 March 2014, be communicated to the Open-ended Working Group (the reports of the regional meetings are available at www.saicm.org).
4. The submissions on the summary of regional chemicals challenges are reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* SAICM/OEWG.2/1.

¹ Japan, the United States of America, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

Annex

SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL CHALLENGES FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

Purpose

1. This summary has been developed to reflect on successes of the Strategic Approach in the African region and to identify specific challenges in moving forward towards the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach. It is based on existing documentation and outcomes of the fifth African Regional SAICM Meeting, held in November 2013.
2. It is a contribution to the development of the Overall Orientation and Guidance towards achieving the SAICM 2020 goal.

Regional Background Summary

3. Although chemical production and use in Africa is substantially lower than the global average, the region shoulders a disproportionate human health and environment risk burden according to the Africa Environment Outlook.¹ Environmental factors contribute about 28 per cent of Africa's overall disease burden (AEO-3).
4. Potentially hazardous chemicals and their categories whose use is prevalent in Africa include: agrochemicals, mercury (particularly for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining) and persistent organic pollutants, while chemical stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, electronic waste and petroleum waste streams are proving to be increasingly problematic in countries in the region (AEO-3).
5. The costs of inaction on chemicals are shown to be high in the region. The UNEP Report of the Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals (2013)² estimates costs of injury to pesticide users on smallholdings in 37 sub-Saharan African countries (conservatively defined as lost work days, outpatient medical treatment, and inpatient hospitalization) from pesticide poisonings amounted to USD 4.4 billion in 2005 – this now exceeds the total annual overseas development aid given to the region for basic health services, excluding HIV/AIDS. A conservative future risk scenario analysis suggests that accumulated health costs in sub-Saharan Africa for pesticides users on smallholdings will increase to approximately USD 97 billion by 2020, assuming the current inadequate capacities for the sound management of pesticides at the national and local levels remain constant.
6. The Africa Environment Outlook 2013 identifies a number of strategies for policy maker consideration in moving towards environmental sustainability and optimal human health for the region. For chemicals and waste, these include:
 - i. Apply Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) framework to African context;
 - ii. Accelerate domestication and implementation of, as well as cooperation among the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Bamako Conventions;
 - iii. Sensitize public on the benefits of the 4Rs: reducing, reusing, recycling and recovery;
 - iv. Strengthen national and institutional capacity for chemicals management including recycling and disposal technologies; and
 - v. Strengthen implementation of the polluter pays principle.

¹ The Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) is a tool of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) for monitoring environmental management in Africa. The latest version AEO-3 was released in 2013.

² www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Portals/9/Mainstreaming/CostOfInaction/Report_Cost_of_Inaction_Feb2013.pdf.

Overarching perspective on SAICM progress in the African region

7. At the 5th African regional SAICM meeting, participants identified that increased collaborative relationships have been formed between governments and industry as a result of SAICM. Notably, the effective and transparent multi-stakeholder engagement of SAICM enables the issue of chemical safety to be more visible at the regional level.

8. The Quick Start Programme enabling activities have contributed substantially to building and strengthening capacity in the region to advance sound chemicals management towards achieving the 2020 goal with 63 projects in the region as of November 2013 with 21 completed projects, 38 underway and 4 suspended. Most of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects have created or are creating synergies with other initiatives, and have interesting lessons learned to be documented and shared. Furthermore, a number of regional activities and workshops have already been carried out through these projects that have promoted information exchange.

9. At the same time, securing other resources, beyond the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, for sustainable implementation of SAICM has proven to be more challenging.

10. Since 2006, progress towards national financing to support sound management of chemicals and wastes has been achieved, particularly resulting from the Libreville Declaration (see description on page 4) that aimed at achieving a balance in the allocation of national budgetary resources for international health and environment programs as well as through a number of Quick Start Programme projects directed to mainstreaming.

Progress towards the Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives

Risk Reduction

11. The region reported levels of implementation similar to the global average for some of the risk reduction indicators in the 2009-2010 timeframe, while registering notable gaps in prioritising chemical contaminants in consumer products, chemicals subject to wide dispersal, chemicals produced in high volume, other metals or their compounds, carcinogenic, mutagenic or reproductive toxic substances, and other persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances. Some of these areas are being addressed under SAICM emerging policy issues, while others are covered under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

12. In terms of Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects completed and underway in the region related to risk reduction: 25 projects promoted the implementation of agreed chemicals management tools in the region, 7 projects supported the development of mechanisms to address key categories of chemicals, 6 projects supported the creation of legislation on chemicals management, 4 projects engaged in monitoring data on household products and inventories of chemicals, 10 projects contributed to set priorities for risk reduction, 11 projects are monitoring data on selected environmental and human health priority substances.

13. A priority area identified by the Africa Core Group for regional risk reduction was the development of poison control centres under the WHO guidelines. There are not enough centres to serve the population. Currently, there are 14 centres located in nine countries of the region - South Africa has three centres, Algeria, Egypt and Kenya have two, and Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia and Zimbabwe host one centre each. Roughly 770 million people living in the other 45 countries are without a single pesticide control centre. Zambia, in collaboration with other East African Countries, is implementing a feasibility study project for a regional poison centre in the East Africa sub-region: the WHO is the executing agency of this project that is supported by the Quick Start Programme.

14. Furthermore, establishment of integrated national, regional and sub-regional systems to prevent, prepare for and respond to chemical accidents and emergencies was raised as a basic building block to sound management of chemicals in the region at the fifth African regional meeting. In terms of achievements in this area, Ghana's national strategy for handling industrial accidents is identified as a particular notable achievement as well as the ECOWAS draft guideline for handling of industrial accidents.

15. Overall, the African region reported a lower rate of development of legislation and permits for specified waste streams when compared with the global average in 2009-2010. Notably, there is a gap for electrical and electronic equipment. In particular, imports of used electrical and electronic equipment

(EEE) have been recognized as a serious environmental problem in Africa. A 2011 study published by the Basel Convention shows that 30 per cent of the imported used EEE in Benin and 48 per cent in Côte d'Ivoire, for example, is non-functional and non-repairable. This waste is typically hazardous and ends up in open landfills, releasing toxics to the environment.

16. In Nigeria, the enforcement arm of the Ministry of Environment, the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), has made progress at the national level in addressing waste electrical and electronic equipment. With its "National Environmental (Electrical/Electronic Sector) Regulations, 2010. S. I. No 23", there is now commitment to prevent and minimize pollution from all operations and ancillary activities of the electrical and electronic sector. This Regulation covers both new and used Electrical/Electronic Equipment (EEE/UEEE) and could be a model for others in the region to work from. The BCRC Nigeria has been active in supporting Nigeria in this work, and has notable expertise to offer the region. The region retained a consistent focus on pesticides in its 2009-2010 progress report, reporting more legislation in that area. A harmonized registration of pesticides involving 16 countries in the region was noted as a particular achievement at the fifth African regional meeting, as well as the establishment of criteria for the definition of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the search for suitable alternatives. In addition, the establishment of a new regional association of pesticides regulators was viewed as a particular achievement, providing a forum for discussing new developments, challenges and lessons learned.

17. At its fifth regional meeting the African region also adopted Resolution C that promotes action on highly hazardous pesticides, and which includes an invitation to the Food and Agriculture Organization to develop an information paper targeted to the situation and needs, to encourage countries to gather more information on highly hazardous pesticides, to recommend to the Africa Core Group to prepare success stories on phase-out, and invites the development of an on-line clearinghouse for the region.

18. The AEO-3 identifies continued stockpiling of obsolete pesticides as an on-going problem in the region and recommends mechanisms for safely disposing of chemical stockpiles be instituted.

Knowledge and Information

19. Regional representatives identified a continued need to share information and best practices among stakeholders and between sectors. While one of the clear achievements identified in this regard in the region in the SAICM context is the establishment of an African chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, approved in May 2012 at the 6th SETAC World Congress, further opportunities exist for building and enhancing institutionalized platforms targeted to share relevant information.

20. In terms of Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects completed and underway in the region related to knowledge and information: 12 projects contributed to sharing information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups, 1 project undertook scientific research lead test of paints, 5 projects are evaluating and strengthening national and regional capacities for implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), 17 projects are communicating information on the risks associated with chemicals to the general public, 3 projects are undertaking scientific research on chemicals, 2 projects are making information available to stakeholders through websites.

21. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Responsible Care Program helps industry to operate safely, profitably and with care for future generations. Through the sharing of information and a rigorous system of checklists, performance indicators and verification procedures, Responsible Care enables the industry to demonstrate how its health, safety and environmental performance has improved over the years, and to develop policies for further improvement. Responsible Care is currently active in only two countries in the region, South Africa and Morocco.

22. The African region generally showed low levels of labelling standards, compared with the global average in the 2009-2010 progress report. Specific to the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), the African region demonstrates significant focus on pesticides, reporting assessments of conformity with the GHS for pesticides, but the region reported low assessment of GHS for other chemical types and purposes (industrial chemicals, occupational health and safety/workplace use, consumer products, and dangerous goods).

23. The QSP Trust Fund has supported five projects that are evaluating and strengthening national and regional capacities for implementing the GHS for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, including four GHS-focused projects executed by UNITAR in Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia and Zambia. Seven other UNITAR QSP projects in the region include GHS components to evaluate and strengthen GHS capacity in Benin, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Seychelles, Togo, and Tunisia. The experiences gained through the QSP provide an opportunity to assess current status of implementation in the region, encourage south-south information sharing to build overall capacity and move towards regional actions. Regional policy makers may wish to consider conducting GHS assessments to cover industrial chemicals, occupational health and safety/workplace use, consumer products, and dangerous goods in the future. Greater involvement of sectors other than the environment, such as health, labour and industry, may be relevant in the development of adequate labelling policies.

24. A QSP project implemented by The Research and Education Centre for Development (CREPD, Cameroon) indicates that labelling for paints is severely limited in Cameroon, with results indicating that “only 8.5% of paints had labels identifying any of the ingredients and none of the lead paints included a warning.”³ The report also concluded that 67% of the analysed paints contained more than 90 parts per million lead - the level at which paint is classified as lead paint according to the U.S. standard.

Governance

25. The fact that 49 of the 54 countries within the African region have nominated SAICM National Focal Points indicates a high level of commitment towards SAICM, especially when compared with other regions. The National Focal Points are mainly from the environment sectors, and this highlights the importance of, and need for coordination across other sectors. While there are good results in establishing committees to coordinate SAICM matters and inclusion of information on progress on SAICM implementation in annual reports, without published SAICM implementation plans, these efforts may be somewhat disjointed.

26. As of 27 May 2014, 51 countries had ratified the Basel Convention, 45 had ratified the Rotterdam Convention, 52 countries had ratified the Stockholm Convention and 25 had ratified the Bamako Convention. These figures imply commitment to the major international chemicals conventions, but further efforts are needed for integration and full implementation at the regional and national levels. The International Health Regulations are also adopted at a wide level across the region. These avenues can open up existing, efficient infrastructure to contribute to SAICM implementation, for example for sharing information.

27. In terms of Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects completed and underway in the region related to governance: 28 projects have strengthened the national commitment to SAICM implementation by supporting the development of national policy on SAICM implementation; 28 projects have supported the development/strengthening of a national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for sound management of chemicals, 6 projects are supporting the development of mechanisms to implement key international chemicals priorities through the creation of legislation for the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

28. Ministers of health and ministers in charge of the environment from 52 African countries gathered in Libreville in August 2008, in the first ever Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa. The main outcome of the conference was the Libreville Declaration in which participating countries committed themselves to 11 actions and established a Health and Environment Strategic Alliance. The Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa represents an umbrella framework upon which African countries and their development partners coherently address environmental determinants of human health and ecosystems integrity.

29. Progress towards gaining access to national financing of chemicals and wastes has been achieved in some countries within the region through a number of Quick Start Programme projects directed to mainstreaming and related actions sponsored by the Government of Sweden relating to its 2012 “8 Years

³<http://www.okinternational.org/docs/Report%20on%20Paint%20Sample%20Analyses%20FINAL%20English.pdf>
The Research and Education Centre for Development (CREPD): Lead Concentrations in New Residential Paints in Cameroon, 2011.

8 Actions” Declaration⁴. Within the African Region, Uganda and Zambia have implemented mainstreaming projects at the national level with support of the Quick Start Programme and have included chemicals into their development plans as a result of these projects. Further efforts in this area must be promoted as successes in some of these mainstreaming examples can be replicated in other countries in the region.

30. Zambia used the results of the mainstreaming project to support the development of principal legislation on environment and in particular chemicals management, and the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 12 that prescribes fees for the following licenses: manufacturing of chemicals, registration, importation and exportation, distribution, transportation, pest control and fumigation. The Zambian EMA retains the fees raised through licensing and uses them for various activities such as monitoring. Furthermore, proposals have been made to introduce a quantity based fee on all imported pesticides.

Capacity-building and technical cooperation

31. In terms of capacity building, the African region has shown success with securing funding from UN agencies and the GEF. Conversely, regional funding streams are less used by the region, which may be an indication of more work to be done in mainstreaming sound management of chemicals into national development plans and the priorities of regional development financial institutions.

32. There are difficulties in formulating project proposals and documents, leading to challenges in accessing funding. The merit of being more strategic in the area of resource mobilization and budget was raised at the fifth African region meeting, noting that consideration should be given to the following funding approaches: institutional budgeting; providing for strengthening of chemicals in budgeting processes; incentives and disincentives; project formulation; and external funding.

33. From rounds 1 to 12, the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee approved 63 projects in the African region - 10 of them multi-country - to support and promote sound management of chemicals in 38 countries. As of 31 August 2013, 21 projects had completed their activities, 38 are underway (some of them with delays as compared to the initially agreed work plans), and four were suspended.

34. The Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, through its multi-stakeholder nature, has helped to establish partnerships and mechanisms, and to strengthen those already existing, in Africa. For example, funds supporting Mali in 2010 to implement a QSP project to reduce mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, in cooperation with UNIDO, laid the ground-work for the coordination and collaboration required for project formulation to establish a broader regional project in this area in Francophone West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal), securing approximately 2.2 million USD in financing (from the GEF and the French Global Environment Facility, FFEM) as well as additional in-kind contributions from other partners. These governments and stakeholders were able to maximize their collective efforts towards sustainable development and promote efficient use of limited available technical and financial resources. Overall, the issue of mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining is a complex global development issue that will require continued strategic attention and actions in the coming years as the Minamata Convention on Mercury is ratified and implemented by countries in the region. The existing hub of action in this sub-region may be further enhanced and leveraged in moving forward.

Illegal International traffic

35. Overall, the region reported relatively low levels of cooperation/legal agreements with neighbouring countries and implementation of legislation preventing illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals. Furthermore, the 2009-2010 progress report highlights a relative focus on specific training of border control agents and communication of information on movements of hazardous chemicals. It is unclear whether this training is comprehensive given the region’s notable lack of monitoring of traffic in hazardous chemicals.

36. With a low level of public information and awareness of illegal trade and remedial actions, information on illegal traffic may be an area for additional focus to promote greater cohesion. In this context, participants at the 5th African regional SAICM meeting proposed full participation in the EU-African network for the control of illegal traffic and its expansion to other potential sources of illegal import as one action in moving forward.

⁴ <http://www.government.se/sb/d/15451/a/192408>

Concluding remarks and general recommendations

37. Progress has been made in the region towards the SAICM 2020 goal, in particular with support from the QSP Trust Fund for enabling activities. However, more needs to be done to enhance the capacity for sound management of chemicals and wastes in the African region through adapting the SAICM framework to the regional and national context.

38. General efforts to promote uptake of and broaden successful initiatives must be increased, particularly in priority areas. The tools developed, knowledge gained and lessons learned under the relevant QSP Trust Fund projects as well as other experiences need to be further utilized to support the implementation of SAICM and to integrate and strengthen chemicals management governance across all relevant sectors of society.

39. A number of proposed possible actions were identified at the Regional SAICM Priority Setting Workshop for Africa held in November 2013 for further consideration of the region. Attached in the Annex to this report is a list of the proposed possible actions identified by the region, specific to the 12 basic elements for sound management of chemicals commonly identified across the SAICM regions.

40. The region has identified an important need to address pesticide impacts in Africa, including through the Resolution adopted at the fifth regional SAICM meeting related to highly hazardous pesticides and the Stockholm Convention COP6 recommendation to give priority to ecosystem-based approaches to pest control.

41. The Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa is evolving as a successful country driven regional initiative. It is proving to be an effective umbrella framework upon which African countries and their development partners can put into practice an integrated approach and support the implementation of SAICM to address coherently, the chemical related environmental determinants to human health and ecosystem integrity as a vital contribution to sustainable development.

42. A priority area identified by the Africa Core Group for regional risk reduction was the development of poison control centres under the WHO guidelines. Further efforts focused on strengthening the existing and developing new infrastructures and networks across the region to promote access to poison information for the public are necessary.

43. As the demographic makeup of the region changes and with more citizens moving to urban centres, a commitment to improving air quality may form an increasing part of future chemicals management efforts. Furthermore as urban centres become more populated, a focus on major industrial accidents and hazard identification may also be strategic and necessary. Establishment of integrated national, regional and sub-regional systems to prevent, prepare for and respond to chemical accidents and emergencies is critical. Proposed actions for the future include: streamlining reporting and responses nationally and regionally; creating a central database to share information; developing integrated national and regional systems to prevent major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness; and linking efforts with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights with respect to chemicals and wastes as well as to International Health Regulations and other global health declarations.

44. More needs to be done to take up and expedite action at the national level for the mainstreaming of chemicals into national development plans and strategies, as reinforced in Resolution B related to 'Financing the Strategic Approach' adopted at the fifth African Regional SAICM meeting held in November 2013 and building upon successful QSP projects in the region and the Swedish regional mainstreaming initiative. In addition, it will be important for the region to consider how to build upon experiences-to-date in the coming years as the Special Programme⁵ and the integrated approach to financing the chemicals and wastes cluster are operationalized.

⁵ At the 27th session of the UNEP Governing Council, decision 27/12 on chemicals and waste management "invites governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the future Minamata Convention and SAICM, noting that each respective governing body would have to determine the participation of its entity in the special programme". A Terms of Reference for the Special Programme has been developed for possible adoption at the first session of the UNEA.

ANNEX: Listing of Possible Proposed Regional Actions	
Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Regional Actions for Consideration Proposed at the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshop in Africa, November 2013
i. Legal Frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish, where required, and strengthen existing legal frameworks that manage the lifecycle of chemicals including POPs, highly toxic pesticides, and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC). b) Establish regional guidelines for disposal of chemicals. c) Develop a regional framework for all life cycle stages. d) Develop a mechanism for exchange of information.
ii. National, sub-regional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sharing information on national legislation amongst countries in the region. b) Convene a ministerial forum with experts to discuss harmonization.
iii. Implementation of relevant international conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote ratification and implementation of Chemicals and Wastes Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to control transboundary movement of hazardous substances, including those present in end of life electrical and electronic equipment. b) Implement national implementation plans.
iv. Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strengthen institutional framework/systems, as well as applicable policies based on the lifecycle approach. b) Facilitate and promote multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement in life cycle management.
v. Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Basel/Stockholm regional centres play a more pro-active role in reporting of chemicals. b) Establishment of regional/sub-regional/national multi-stakeholder forum to exchange information. c) Newsletter should be published as a mechanism for information sharing. d) Focal points should take upon themselves to share best-practices available. e) Source resources through collaboration, partnerships and various sources of income. f) Incite research institutes to generate relevant information. Create scholarships/ bursaries in the field of chemical management. Establish partnerships to create opportunities and pursue research.
vi. Industry participation and responsibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The example of Zambia's cost recovery policies could be used as a model for others in the region. b) The mining sector in some countries has an environment fund which they pay a bond into before they start activities. There is a potential for this to be expanded to cover other sectors over time. c) Establish where required and strengthen existing legal frameworks that manage the lifecycle of chemicals including POPs, highly hazardous pesticides, heavy metals and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC). d) Provide information in working languages.

ANNEX: Listing of Possible Proposed Regional Actions	
Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Regional Actions for Consideration Proposed at the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshop in Africa, November 2013
vii. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assess current status of implementation in the region and develop priority regional actions. b) Integrate the GHS within national legal instruments and systems. c) Integrate the GHS within economic zone.
viii. Inclusion of chemicals in national budgeting processes and development plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evaluate the costs of inaction with respect to public resources and individuals arising from hazardous chemicals, including for POPs, highly hazardous pesticides, EDCs, heavy metals, and nanomaterials. b) Draw on lessons learned in the region to support other countries, including make available examples of integration of sound chemicals management in every relevant sector.
ix. Chemical risk assessment through use of best practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop guidelines and methodologies to undertake assessment.
x. Strengthened capacity to deal with chemical accidents, including poisonings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Deliver a workshop to strengthen capacity for Poison Control Centres in the region, similar to the WHO workshops hosted in Asia-Pacific and CEE regions. b) Establish where required and operationalize existing poison centres. c) Promote access to poison information for the public through establishment of more PCCs. d) Basel/Stockholm regional centres play a more pro-active role in reporting of chemicals e) Consider including one referral PCC regionally with appropriate coordination mechanisms driving to cooperation between PCCs, build on Zambia feasibility study. f) Streamline reporting and responses nationally and regionally, including creation of a central database. g) Develop integrated national / regional systems to prevent major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness and response to all accidents and natural disasters involving chemicals. h) Link work to Special Rapporteur on Human Rights with respect to chemicals and wastes as well as to international health regulations and declarations.
xi. Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Creating scientific and technical capacity for monitoring exposure of vulnerable populations to hazardous chemicals including EDCs and using appropriate biomarkers for early warning.

Supplementary information from the African region

Background	
Regional meetings conducted 2012-2014	<p>The African region held its third regional meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 28–29 January 2010</p> <p>The fourth SAICM African regional meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya 5, 7 and 8 April 2011.</p> <p>The 5th African regional SAICM meeting was held in Pretoria 18-22 November 2013</p>
Regional coordination mechanisms employed	The regional coordination was done by the SAICM Regional Focal Points through National Focal Points. The Regional Focal Point was assisted by the Africa Core Group
Regional coordination mechanisms meetings conducted 2012-2014	<p>The Regional Coordination Meetings were done back to back with Regional Meetings.</p> <p>The African Core Group held its third regional meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire 27 January 2010</p> <p>The fourth African Core Group Meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 4th April 2011.</p> <p>The 5th African Core Group Meeting was held in Pretoria on 17th November 2013</p>
Status update on regional implementation plans	<p>Status has not changes since fifth Regional Meeting see Table below, except the following:</p> <p>The project on Sub-Regional Poison Centre has been completed, recommendations will be probably discussed during the next Regional Meeting.</p> <p>A Regional Network of Toxicological Expert has formally been established.</p> <p>Furthermore attempts were made to survey the HHP in Africa, very few countries responded. The data cannot be used to make an intelligent assessment of the extent of the problem.</p> <p>Inventory of POPs and updating of National Implementation Plan is on-going in about 27 countries are involved.</p>
Regional delivery centres used in the region (regional centres, academic institutions)	The Basel Centre in Pretoria is implementing the SADC NIP update project.

Overarching Policy Strategy Objective 1: Risk Reduction				
Basic element	Progress to date	Achievements	Gaps	Proposed Actions
a. Poison control centres (PCC), particularly in relation to an information provision role		<p>Some countries have centres. There are 14 centres in Africa - 3 in South Africa.</p> <p>Feasibility study for the establishment of a network of poison control centres to serve as regional hubs of information and other services.</p> <p>The WHO has practical recommendations for such centres available.</p>	<p>Many countries do not have poison control centres (48 out of 54). There are not enough centres to serve the population.</p> <p>Existing centres are not always fully functional. Cooperation and information sharing is often lacking. Limited harmonization of reporting, no systematic reporting and trends analysis.</p> <p>Location of PCC does not always provide for effective management of incidents.</p> <p>Limited capacity of PCC to effectively manage incidents.</p>	<p>Deliver a workshop to strengthen capacity for Poison Control Centres in the region.</p> <p>Establish where required and operationalize existing poison centres.</p> <p>Promote access to poison information for the public through establishment of more PCCs.</p> <p>Consider including one referral PCC regionally with appropriate coordination mechanisms driving to cooperation between PCCs.</p>
b. Integrated national / regional and sub-regional systems to prevent, prepare and respond to chemical accidents and emergencies.		<p>Establishment of national frameworks working on the prevention and response to chemical emergencies, for example Ghana has a national strategy for handling industrial accidents.</p> <p>ECOWAS established draft guideline for handling of industrial accidents.</p>	<p>Very few countries have mechanisms in place to deal with transport incidents, lack of regional collaboration.</p> <p>Requirement for carrying MSDS may not be enforced.</p> <p>Lack of understanding of particularly sensitive areas (biodiversity/high risk).</p> <p>Insufficient capacity to respond to accidents.</p> <p>Lack of follow-up.</p> <p>Poor reporting of accidents.</p> <p>Lack of multi-stakeholder engagement, in particular industry.</p>	<p>Streamline reporting and responses nationally and regionally, including creation of a central database.</p> <p>Develop integrated national / regional systems to prevent major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness and response to all accidents and natural disasters involving chemicals.</p> <p>Link work to Special Rapporteur on Human Rights with respect to chemicals and wastes as well as to international health regulations and declarations.</p>

Overarching Policy Strategy Objective 1: Risk Reduction				
Basic element	Progress to date	Achievements	Gaps	Proposed Actions
c. Harmonized pesticide registration systems		<p>SADC region already harmonized (16 countries). SAHEL also fully functional system. Work proceeding in COMESA and Ecowas, EAC.</p> <p>Establishment of a new regional association of pesticides regulators, providing a forum for discussing new developments, challenges and lessons learned.</p> <p>Establishment of criteria for the definition of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the search for suitable alternatives.</p>	Not consistently implemented or operational (although present in some areas).	Establish additional harmonized registration systems and fully operationalize the existing ones.
d. National, sub-regional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms.			<p>Lack of harmonized legal frameworks.</p> <p>Differences in capacity in institutions in different countries.</p> <p>Lack of political will.</p>	<p>Sharing information on national legislation amongst countries in the region.</p> <p>Convene a ministerial forum with experts to discuss harmonization.</p>
e. National systems for management of occupational and public health chemical safety controls.			<p>Lack of implementation and enforcement.</p> <p>Insufficient knowledge of protection under occupational health legislation.</p> <p>Legislation may not be specific enough to deal with specific chemical issues</p>	Private industry needs to engage and take ownership for occupational health.
f. Legal Frameworks that manage the life cycle of chemicals		Nigeria has a legal framework established.	<p>Lack of monitoring, compliance and enforcement.</p> <p>Limited awareness.</p> <p>Legal frameworks in draft, not endorsed.</p>	<p>Establish regional guidelines for disposal of chemicals.</p> <p>Develop a regional framework for all life cycle stages.</p> <p>Develop a mechanism for exchange of information.</p>

Overarching Policy Strategy Objective 1: Risk Reduction				
Basic element	Progress to date	Achievements	Gaps	Proposed Actions
g. Access to alternatives to dangerous substances.			Fragmentation between government sectors, stakeholders such as industry, users and enforcement. Lack of frameworks to determine suitable alternatives.	Enforcement of all major conventions, including ILO 170. Identification of safer alternatives and sharing information. A list of alternatives and their properties is published and disseminated to assist decision-making.
h. Policies and regulations for the environmentally sound management of wastes at the national level.			Lack of infrastructure, competence, resources etc. Focus on transboundary movement – may be less emphasis on local waste or those from smaller industry.	
i. Capacity to identify, assess prioritise and manage/remediate contaminated sites		The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) is assisting low- and middle-income countries to take concrete action to address legacy pollution and its impacts on human health, including remediation and prevention of future contamination.	Lack of a practical, risk based framework to manage contaminated sites (tendency to use standards which may not be appropriate), which must be a multi-stakeholder approach and could include a polluter pays element.	
j. Chemical risk assessment through use of best practices.			Lack of guidelines and methodologies to undertake assessment. Lack of classification of chemicals, imported chemicals has foreign labels.	

SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL CHALLENGES FOR THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGION

A. Purpose

1. This summary has been developed to reflect on successes of the Strategic Approach in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region and to identify specific challenges in moving forward towards the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach. It is based on existing documentation and outcomes of the fifth CEE Regional SAICM Meeting, held in September 2013.
2. It is a contribution to the development of the Overall Orientation and Guidance towards achieving the SAICM 2020 goal.

B. Regional Background Summary

Background	
Regional meetings conducted 2012-2014	5th Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and related consultations, Skopje, Macedonia FYR, 23 to 26 September 2013.
Regional coordination mechanisms employed	The Central and Eastern European region coordinate work through the CEE coordination group for SAICM which was established as a mechanism for consultation, dissemination and exchange of information, and to support, with the assistance of the SAICM secretariat, the regional focal point and the region's representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board in the execution of their duties. The Group was established in September 2008 at the second meeting of the CEE regional meeting on SAICM. The current members to the CEE regional coordination group were elected during 5th CEE regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). ⁷
Regional coordination mechanisms meetings conducted 2012-2014	Face to face meeting of the CEE Regional Coordinating Group – 27 September 2013. During intercessional period, region coordinates through the exchange of emails and all arrangements are taken by consensus. Moreover EU Member States form CEE region, meet regularly at meetings in Brussels, where the SAICM is often discussed.
Status update on regional implementation plans	In refer to the voluntary character of regional implementation plan, and due to large differentiation in progress in implementation of SAICM objectives, CEE region has not decided to developed common regional implementation plans. Nevertheless, region made efforts to establish a coordination mechanism (CEE coordination group for SAICM), and identified Regional Priorities ⁸ .
Regional delivery centres used in the region (regional centres, academic institutions)	Due to multi-stakeholder nature of SAICM, in the CEE region there are many institutions which serves as delivery centres. On the national level, these function are render by SAICM National Focal Points representing ministries and other institutions responsible mostly for health and environment. There are also institution such as Regional Centres for Stockholm and Basel Convention or Research Centre For Toxic Compounds In The Environment (RECETOX) (Masaryk University Brno) which support SAICM implementation on the regional level.

⁷ Annex IV to the Report of the fifth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9)

⁸ Annex I to the Report of the fifth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9)

3. Countries in the CEE region represent differing levels of economic development, a variable that is often associated with the type of chemicals management necessary at the country level – different levels of economic development come with different economic activities related to chemicals production and use and, therefore, varied requirements in establishing sound management of chemicals policies and institutions. Regardless of differences, in all countries in CEE region the consumption and production of chemicals continues to grow and with it the need for sound chemicals and wastes management. For specific information regarding trends in chemical production and uses, please refer to Global Chemicals Outlook - Towards Sound Management of Chemical and Costs of inaction on the Sound Management of chemicals.

C. *Overarching perspective on SAICM progress in the Central and Eastern European region*

4. For the 2009-2010 SAICM reporting cycle, the CEE region had the highest level of Strategic Approach reporting from all of the regions with 14 completed submissions out of 23. This was a 20% higher reporting rate than the global average. The CEE reporting rate increase from 14 to 18 for the 2011-2013 reporting period.

5. The information collected during the 2009-2010 period indicates significant efforts that the region has made in implementing SAICM activities, particularly in the areas of Illegal International Traffic, Globally Harmonised Systems (GHS), Labelling Standards, and Waste Stream and Hazardous Waste Management. The information also pointed to a few gaps, specifically in terms of risk reduction, with low usage of IOMC tools and the development of new tools and guidance.

6. Some trends among EU candidate and potential candidate countries, current EU members, and non-EU countries (that are not candidate or potential candidate countries) were identified.

7. The Quick Start Programme has contributed substantially to building and strengthening capacity in the region to advance sound chemicals management towards achieving the 2020 goal. This has been done through concrete activities supporting basic sound chemicals management principles with a good implementation overall. From rounds 1 to 12, the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee approved 14 projects in the Central and Eastern European region - four of them multi-country - to support and promote sound management of chemicals in eight countries. Most of the projects have created or are creating synergies with other initiatives and have interesting lessons learned to be shared.

8. Data collected during the 2011-2013 reporting period are currently analyzing and they are not been considered for the evaluation of progress in the Central and Eastern European region.

9. The table below provides a general overview of the reported progress at the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013 towards a list of basic elements of sound management of chemicals. It provides a sense of how SAICM progress is viewed collectively by the national focal points. It should be noted that this overview is based on subjective assessment. Full and objective progress assessment will be possible when data collected during the second reporting cycle, will be fully analyzed and compared with previous data.

10. The document elaborates further details on regional progress, based on the outcomes of the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013 as well as available documentation and information.

General overview of the outcomes of the CEE Regional Priority Setting Workshop⁹

Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Noted level of progress in the CEE Region ¹	Level of priority in moving forward 2015-2020.
i. Legal Frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals	***	
ii. National, sub-regional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms.	**	
iii. Implementation of relevant international conventions.	**	High level of priority
iv. Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among all relevant stakeholders.	Multi-stakeholder engagement: *** / international level * to** / national level	High level of priority noted for multi-stakeholder engagement.
v. Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach.	* to **	High level of priority noted for training of specialists. This is a cross-cutting item.
vi. Industry participation and responsibility.	**protection of workers from hazardous waste	
vii. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.	**	High level of priority
viii. Inclusion of chemicals in national budgeting processes and development plans.	***	
ix. Chemical risk assessment through use of best practices.	**	
x. Strengthened capacity to deal with chemical accidents, including poisonings.	*poison control centres ** capacity to deal with accidents	High level of priority
xi. Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.	*	

¹ Level of progress noted collectively by participants at regional meetings:

*** significant, **some, *limited, -none

Progress towards the Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives

Risk Reduction

11. At the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the CEE region noted significant progress with respect to legal frameworks that manage the lifecycle of chemicals. Participants noted that for EU member countries risk assessment is part of chemical registration procedures and software tools are available to support governments. In addition, they indicated that the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) database is publically available. At the same time, the participants of the 2013 CEE SAICM Regional Meeting noted that there is limited infrastructure in the region (laboratories, QA/QC implemented, facilities/instrumentation) and a lack of trained people with too many demands.

12. Respondents from the CEE region for the 2009-2010 report on progress reported a slightly lower percentage of usage of the FAO International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in comparison to all other regions worldwide (64% compared to a global rate of 69%). WHO information gathered from WHO regional meetings, suggests that countries are confident that there is a

⁹ This is a compilation of the input from participants at the regional meeting to provide a general overview. It does not represent a comprehensive analysis of stakeholder views.

strong system in place for registration and trade control of pesticides. Conversely, there is a need to focus on stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, a monitoring and control system, and health protection.

13. Furthermore the 2009-2010 progress report shows that the region has a greater focus than other regions on tools such as the OECD eChem Portal, OECD guidelines for the testing of chemicals, WHO air quality and drinking water quality guidelines. This provides an indication that the region has positively integrated specific IOMC tools providing a base for better chemical risk reduction management path. The commitment to internationally-agreed tools could be considered a result of the region's proximity to (and partial inclusion in) the EU, with its focus on uniform standards across member countries.

14. The WHO has initiated activities to implement the Health Sector Strategy in the region. The WHO has organized two regional workshops on chemical safety to which SAICM regional focal points were invited to participate, with funding provided by each of the regional offices. The first workshop was organized by the Regional Office for Europe on 17-19 October 2012 in Bonn, Germany, and the second workshop was organized by the Regional Office for South East Asia on 24-26 June 2013 in Bangkok. The main outcomes of environment and health national experts discussion of SAICM Health Sector Strategy implementation during the workshop were a list of initial activities that should be taken at national level to strengthen health sector involvement in SAICM implementation. This includes building of additional capacities in health sector, starting with training of health care professionals; involvement of European Environment and Health process focal point in promotion of health sector participation in chemicals management; strengthening research capacities and infrastructure so as to address health-related aspects of chemical safety; and raising awareness of medical care professionals.

15. The database of poison control centres from WHO Records indicates that 16 of the 23 (70 per cent) countries in the region have a poison control centre¹⁰, while only 86 countries worldwide host a poison centre. Countries with more than one centre include: Poland with six in the country, and the Russian Federation with three. A large part of the population of CEE lives in a country with a poison centre, some 280 million of the 340 million in the region¹¹. At the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, participants noted achievements in this area to include: some countries have centres, some have mechanisms; some countries have integrated poison centres into overall chemical management system and cooperate with authorities manage data, treat cases. Participants also noted that the WHO practical recommendations for poison control centres are helpful. Poison control was raised during a Chemical Safety workshop organized by WHO Regional Office for Europe in Bonn in October 2012, where participants emphasised the "insufficient number" of poison centres in the region and the need to improve the situation, as some of the existing centres do not correspond to WHO guidelines. Participants from the region have requested further supportive workshops in this area.

16. In terms of the management of industrial accidents, the region, through its regional meeting, noted achievements related to guidance on the communication of information on the risks and safe use of chemicals prepared by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) inter alia referring to risk communication in crisis situations¹²; guidance related to special situations covered in WHO guidelines and the International Health Regulations; as well as various EU legislation (such as the SEVESO directive) and UNECE guidelines. One particular gap noted in implementation is that not all countries in the region are part of the UN ECE or the EU.

17. In addition, the WHO/Europe has prepared the publication "Health Sector Involvement in Chemical Management at National Level: review of current practice" that presents the overview of practical examples of health sector involvement including legislative arrangements, research, information collection and dissemination, awareness raising practice, examples of approaches for education and training of medical professionals that can serve as useful guidance to the region.

18. Through the 2009-2010 progress report, higher percentages of countries in the CEE region have reported legislation for the four identified aspects of the hazardous waste management cycle compared to the totals of the other regions. This is important given that an average of 31 per cent

¹⁰ Poison Control Centre – WHO Records http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/poisons_centres/en/ accessed 8 April 2014

¹¹ <http://data.worldbank.org/country> accessed 8 April 2014

¹² http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13639/risk_communications_en.pdf

(\$1,304 billion of the total \$3,753 billion) of the countries' GDPs¹³ is being derived from industry, such as construction, textiles, food processing, and mining: It is important for these countries to maintain the drive towards legislating and managing hazardous waste.

Knowledge and Information

19. According to the 2009-2010 report on SAICM implementation, the CEE region has significantly higher percentages of countries with labelling standards for all parts of the chemicals chain compared to the rest of the world. This could be considered an aspect of the region's links to the EU, with its labelling requirements having an effect on nearby requirements. Further, the data shows a greater focus on labelling from candidate countries and current EU member, with non-EU member showing less commitment to labelling standards. This is perhaps linked to the gradual entry into force of the Classification, Packaging and Labelling EU Regulation that draws on the GHS implementation.

20. The 2009-2010 reporting also highlights that the CEE region has high percentages of countries with the GHS for consumer products, dangerous goods, pesticides, and industrial chemicals in comparison to the world overall.

21. Since the 2009-2010 reporting period, the "GHS Stocktaking and Training Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe" took place in July 2012 in Chisinau, Moldova. It was organized through the collaboration of the Government of Moldova, with financial support from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The workshop involved about 60 participants from 14 countries, representing government delegates from countries of Central and Eastern Europe, relevant industry and public interest groups, intergovernmental organizations, research bodies, and bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies. The first part of the workshop provided a basic training on GHS, the second part was dedicated to a summary of the GHS implementation issues in the region including the role of stakeholders, the third part of the workshop (undertaken mainly in working groups) addressed areas of collaboration both nationally and regionally and reviewed the current challenges to GHS implementation, the steps that should be taken to address the challenges and the future issues that will be faced. The region wish to seek more information on the recommendations that came out of the workshop and to discuss possible next steps of benefit to the region.

22. A number of activities have been undertaken in the region over the last number of years related to Pollutant Release Transfer Registries (PRTR). Georgia, Belarus, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan have all received support from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to build national capacity to develop PRTRs, with execution support from UNITAR in the case of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

23. Some positive examples from QSP Trust Fund projects have contributed towards sharing information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups, to governmental personnel from line ministries and to the general public as well as seven projects making information available on sound management of chemicals to stakeholders through websites such as www.saicm.mk, <http://www.chemicals.al>, and www.ishp.gov.al (Albanian Institute of Public Health); or <http://prtrazerbaijan.ru/> (Azerbaijan).

24. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Responsible Care Program helps industry to operate safely, profitably and with care for future generations. Through the sharing of information and a rigorous system of checklists, performance indicators and verification procedures, Responsible Care enables the industry to demonstrate how its health, safety and environmental performance has improved over the years, and to develop policies for further improvement. Responsible Care is currently active in eight of the 23 countries in the region. The 2013 CEE Priority Setting Workshop noted insufficient capacity of small and medium sized enterprises to collect, manage and share data and information pertinent to the sound management of chemicals among all relevant stakeholders, indicating a potential area for wider scale cooperation with ICCA.

Governance

25. The fact that 22 of the 23 countries within the CEE region have nominated SAICM National Focal Points indicates a high level of commitment towards SAICM. The National Focal Points are mainly from the environment sectors (17), but there are five nominated health sector focal points

¹³ The World Bank Economic Data <http://datacatalog.worldbank.org> and CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

allowing for cross-sectoral discussion and collaboration at the regional level. At the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the region noted insufficient involvement of NGOs in some countries, participants noted that in some cases this relates to not enough experienced NGO and in other cases the legislation does not give NGOs the role.

26. All 23 countries in the region are Party to both the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and only one is not a Party to the Rotterdam Convention. These figures imply commitment to the major international chemicals conventions, but participants at the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013 noted that further efforts are needed for integration and full implementation at the regional and national levels. The International Health Regulations are also adopted at a wide level across the region. These avenues can open up existing, efficient infrastructure to contribute to SAICM implementation, for example for sharing information.

27. In this regard, the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE), the Regional Centre of the Basel Convention for Training and Technology Transfer for Central and Eastern Europe, Bratislava, and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are undertaking a project entitled “Strengthening the national capacities for the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. This project responds to the decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions taken by the three Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. More specifically, the project is in line with the BRS Conventions programme of work for joint activities of three conventions in 2014-2015: Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the regional and national levels (activity 17). The project builds on the SAICM QSP project “Development and Mainstreaming of the National Plan on SAICM Implementation for the Republic of Macedonia” and was submitted to SAICM QSP in 2011 without approval. The overall objective of the project is to assist the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to strengthen its capacities to effectively implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in a coordinated and integrated manner. Synergies at national level are contributing to and enhancing a common national approach and understanding on chemicals and waste-related issues so that strategies are streamlined and therefore provide countries with the necessary elements for the coordinated implementation of the conventions.

28. From the 2009-2010 report on SAICM implementation progress, the CEE region displays a high level of commitment, with significant focus on resolutions of governing bodies and, to a lesser extent, publication of SAICM implementation plans or national/ regional equivalents.

29. Data from 2009-2010 further suggests greater commitment from the EU candidate countries to the implementation of SAICM, with EU and non-EU countries showing varied commitment across the different indicators. This is perhaps an area of focus for the regional meetings and regional focal points to work on in harmonising commitment across the region.

30. In terms of Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects completed and underway in the region related to governance: six projects have strengthened the national commitment to SAICM implementation by supporting the development of national policy on SAICM implementation and promoting efforts for its mainstreaming into national development plans; eight projects have supported the development/strengthening of a national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for sound management of chemicals (main sectors involved have been environment and health but there has also been involvement from agriculture, industry and academia); five projects have been supporting the development of mechanisms to implement key international chemicals priorities through the development of legislation for the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in Belarus.

31. At the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia noted its experiences under a Quick Start Programme Trust Fund project to implement a project on mainstreaming indicating that the sound management of chemicals is now included in the national development strategy of her country. This experience was highlighted as a model other countries in the region may wish to replicate.

Capacity-building and technical cooperation

32. Data collected from the 2009-2010 progress report shows that the CEE region has a varied record in terms of securing funding compared to the other recipient-dominated regions. For example, CEE is the region with the highest percentage of countries attracting bilateral funding and from other sources outside of those specified. On the other hand, CEE has received less support from more “high profile” sources, such as GEF, the World Bank and UN agencies. It is possible that the nature of EU accession affects the funding that is pursued, with accession assistance covering projects that may otherwise fall under a GEF or World Bank project.

33. A number of regional implementing centers and national cleaner production centres participated in the September 2013 CEE regional meeting, including: the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) Slovakia, the National Cleaner Production Centre in Macedonia (NCPC-MK) that is part of the UNIDO – UNEP global Programme for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP), the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX) (Masaryk University Brno), the Serbian Cleaner Production Centre that is part of UNIDO network of National Cleaner Production Centres. RECETOX provided a lunch-time presentation on services offered by their facility in the Czech Republic that could contribute to supporting sound chemicals management in the region, and the Cleaner Production Centre of Serbia presented information on their experiences with chemical leasing.

34. The WHO workshop in Bonn, October 2012, emphasised the need to develop networks of experts, share knowledge across countries and seek project funding for multi-country projects.

35. Finally at the CEE SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, participants noted two basic elements related to sound management of chemicals for capacity building and technical cooperation: (i) access to programmes to train specialists (risk assessment, risk management, customs control, medical examiners, inspectors, laboratory staff) as well as education on chemical safety directed to children; and (ii) awareness and education materials for the general public.

36. In terms of access to programmes to train specialists, the region noted some limited achievements in this area including the availability of university programmes and curricula in some countries; and on-line programmes by WCO, BRS Convention secretariats, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO, including specific Basel Convention training programs for customs and environmental experts. The region also highlighted a number of gaps such as the lack of training programmes, lack of unified programmes and harmonized methodologies, lack of model training and procedures for inspectors. In addition, the region noted there is limited national ownership as well as language issues.

37. With respect to awareness and education materials for the general public, the region highlighted a major achievement being the ECHA Risk Communication Network. The network provides an instrumental arena for the exchange of experience and best practice in risk communication, acquaints national representatives with academic research and operational practices, and raises awareness on the various prerequisites for such communication, such as the need for public authorities to gain the trust of their societies through routine communication on their day-to-day activities. The regional also noted that awareness and education materials have been developed within the implemented projects (QSP, GEF, EU etc.) and other national contributions. Overall, additional actions were encouraged by civil society organizations, government, academia and media to enhance efforts in this area.

Illegal International traffic

38. Overall, the data from the 2009-2010 showed that the CEE region reported significant presence of certain mechanisms related to illegal trafficking, including public information and awareness on levels and cases of illegal trade and remedial actions undertaken, and monitoring of international traffic in hazardous chemicals.

39. The data within the region shows stronger commitment to mechanisms from the candidate and EU countries. The candidate countries may in particular be interested in illegal trafficking given they are located on the periphery of the EU and may be considered transit points into the EU zone. By contrast, EU members away from the periphery may not have the incentive to focus on illegal traffic. While the non-EU reporting countries are strong on monitoring of international traffic in hazardous chemicals and cooperation and/legal agreements with neighbouring countries, possible areas to focus

on could be; public information, communication, and implementation of national legislation preventing illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals.

Concluding remarks and general recommendations

40. Progress has been made in the region towards the SAICM 2020 goal. The information collected during the 2009-2010 period indicates significant efforts that the region has made in implementing SAICM activities, particularly in the areas of Illegal International Traffic, GHS, Labelling Standards, and Waste Stream and Hazardous Waste Management. The information has also pointed to a few gaps, specifically in terms of risk reduction, with low usage of IOMC tools and the development of new tools and guidance.

41. A number of proposed possible actions were identified at the Regional SAICM Priority Setting Workshop for the CEE Region held in September 2013 for further consideration of the region. Attached in the Annex to this report is a list of the proposed possible actions identified by the region, specific to the 12 basic elements for sound management of chemicals commonly identified across the SAICM regions.

42. Furthermore as an outcome of the CEE 2013 Regional Priority Setting Workshop, the region identified six areas of greatest priority in moving forward:

- a) Poison control centers;
- b) Management of industrial accidents, including those having transboundary effects;
- c) Implementation of international chemicals conventions;
- d) Multi-stakeholder engagement;
- e) Use of Globally Harmonized System of Classification;
- f) Training of specialists.

43. General efforts to promote uptake of and broaden successful initiatives must be increased, particularly in priority areas. The tools developed, knowledge gained and lessons learned under the relevant QSP Trust Fund projects as well as other experiences need to be identified and further utilized to support the implementation of SAICM and to integrate and strengthen chemicals management governance across all relevant sectors of society.

44. Despite significant efforts made by the region in the last years towards the SAICM 2020 goal, CEE would caution against concentrating too much on the retrospective approach. To meet the 2020 goal more prospective actions are needed.

45. SAICM has a vital role in strengthen chemicals management in at international, regional and national levels. In this regard, we see SAICM as a important mechanism to support further synergies between its work, synergies process between the BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention on Mercury as well as with the Executive Director of UNEP's consultative process on further enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster. However we also see the need for clarification of the role of SAICM at international, regional and national levels, and examinations its interaction with other chemicals and wastes initiatives, frameworks and instruments.

46. As many other voluntary initiatives, SAICM faces a fairly substantial challenge to continue to find the resources needed to support countries to implement activities. In terms of resources for country and stakeholder support, SAICM had good success with relatively modest funds in its Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund: between 2006 to March 2014, however, the QSP is winding down and SAICM activities will now be finance from more broadly focused "special programme," and self-standing chemicals and wastes focal area under GEF. In view to this new possibilities of financing projects in the sector of chemicals and waste area there is a need to provide complex and compiled information of how parties may apply for it and for what types of activities can be supported.

ANNEX: Listing of Possible Proposed Regional Actions	
Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Regional Actions for Consideration Proposed at the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshop in Central and Eastern Europe, September 2013
i. Legal Frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage EU accession countries to apply SAICM principles in order to accelerate chemical management implementation. b) Support, for translation of GHS into national languages (if possible).
ii. National, sub-regional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop advance training and tools (i.e laboratory, procedures) to upgrade control systems. b) Promote cooperation between enforcement authorities of different countries. c) Capacity building for control/inspectorates – for enforcement (i.e. in line REACH, biocides). Specific training needs to be incorporated into traditional curricula for medicine or into career plans of certain specialists i.e. custom officers, workshop on poison centres. d) Prepare an integrated and tailored package for specific experts, such as inspectors etc.. Efforts should focus on extracting available elements from different organizations and not developing new materials.
iii. Implementation of relevant international conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote synergy of SAICM with BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention, including for streamlining reporting. b) Encourage countries to engage in relevant reporting exercises. c) Support implementation – capacity needs support (sometimes), sometimes raise budget, technical support in BAT implementation and laboratory capacity is still needed, data collection and management. d) Support the GPA action of elimination of asbestos through using the Parma Declaration, where methodology is available to develop action plans and introductory situation plans.
iv. Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among all relevant stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High Priority - Create or enhance institutional arrangements to promote sound management of chemicals at the national level. b) Replace NGOs focal point with a multistakeholder civil society organization focal point to promote wider engagement. c) Ministries to work more with academia. d) Encourage engagement of civil society and NGOs.

ANNEX: Listing of Possible Proposed Regional Actions	
Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Regional Actions for Consideration Proposed at the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshop in Central and Eastern Europe, September 2013
v. Collection and systems for sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support to consumers may be important – in relation to the products. b) Prevent generation of hazardous waste by applying more efficient technologies. c) Encourage engagement of civil society and NGOs. d) Specific training needs to be incorporated into traditional curricula for medicine or into career plans of certain specialists i.e. custom officers. e) Prepare an integrated and tailored package for specific experts, such as inspectors etc.. Efforts should focus on extracting available elements from different organizations and not developing new materials. f) Awareness raising projects and campaign involving general public on topics of sound management and use of chemicals
vi. Industry participation and responsibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Engage industry more effectively. b) Intensify efforts and move hierarchy to prevention side.
vii. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Follow-up to the regional Moldova workshop and UNITAR questionnaire. b) Promote intersectoral cooperation at the regional level. c) Promote countries accessing the EU to transpose the EU legislation.
viii. Inclusion of chemicals in national budgeting processes and development plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Draw on lessons learned in the region to support other countries (FYR Macedonia), including make available examples of integration of sound chemicals management in every relevant sector.
ix. Chemical risk assessment through use of best practices.	Trainings in the field of risk assessment are needed.
x. Capacity to deal with chemical accidents, including poisonings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish centres where there are no centres or there is no access to centres. b) Deliver a workshop to strengthen capacity for Poison Control Centres in the region. c) Promote access to poison information for the public. d) Establish sufficient system to assemble information collected by Poison control centers. e) Build capacity to provide training/assistance to get/adopt integrated approach, lots of institutions need to be involved. f) Enhance implementing activities with UNECE. g) Link work to Special Rapporteur on Human Rights with respect to chemicals and wastes as well as to international health regulations and declarations.
xi. Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.	Creating scientific and technical capacity for monitoring exposure of vulnerable populations to hazardous chemicals.

SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL CHALLENGES FOR THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION

A. Purpose

1. This summary has been developed to reflect on successes of the Strategic Approach in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region and to identify specific challenges in moving forward towards the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach. It is based on existing documentation and outcomes of the fourth LAC Regional SAICM Meeting, held in August 2013.
2. It is a contribution to the development of the Overall Orientation and Guidance towards achieving the SAICM 2020 goal.

B. Regional Background Summary

Background	
Regional meetings conducted 2012-2014	<p>SAICM meetings:</p> <p>Fourth Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean on SAICM (Mexico City, 19 to 22 August 2013).</p> <p>Other chemical related meetings:</p> <p>First and second workshops on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for the implementation and enforcement of the Stockholm Convention (First: Mexico City, from 2 to 4 December 2013) (Second: Mexico City, October 2014). The goal is to bring a proposal for a regional monitoring network to apply for GEF funds.</p> <p>Sub -regional workshop for countries in South America to support the early ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Brasilia, from 2 to 5 September 2014).</p>
Regional coordination mechanisms employed	<p>Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Committee.</p> <p>Other: Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
Regional coordination mechanisms meetings conducted 2012-2014	23 August 2013
Status update on regional implementation plans	<p>The Regional Action Plan was adopted at the 4th Regional Meeting of SAICM and priorities were set for the short term.</p> <p>Countries in the region are implementing activities that contribute to meeting the objectives of the overarching policy strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development / strengthening of legal framework on chemicals. • Development of inventories / screening of chemicals (Chile, Peru, Mexico). • Implementation of GEF projects with public-private partnerships. • Development of regional survey on the status of highly hazardous pesticides according to the FAO - WHO criteria. • Implementation of pollutant release and transfer registries. • Development of agreements between customs and environmental authorities to improve the transfer of information about chemicals that are imported and exported from the country (Chile) . • Coordination committees / working groups with stakeholders involved in the management of chemical substances • Regional / national managing contaminated sites workshops.

Background	
Regional delivery centres used in the region (regional centres, academic institutions)	<p>Basel and Stockholm regional centres are key actors in the implementation of various projects at the regional level.</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, Brazil</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, Mexico</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, Panama</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, Uruguay</p> <p>Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region in Argentina</p> <p>Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central America Sub-region including Mexico in El Salvador</p> <p>Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and Caribbean Region in Uruguay</p>

C. *Overarching perspective on SAICM progress in the LAC region*

3. SAICM is viewed as important to the region. Most recently in March 2014, the Ministers of the LAC region reaffirmed this in agreeing to nine decisions and adopted the Los Cabos Declaration at the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean in Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Decision 4, entitled *Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste*, includes a specific segment on SAICM, recommending "to the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management that its focus at this time should be on a comprehensive assessment of the achievements by governments and other stakeholders of the 2020 target with a view to identifying and addressing any remaining challenges". Other references to promote the coordinated implementation of the chemicals agenda, including SAICM, and its financing, were also included in the Decision.

4. For the 2009-2010 SAICM reporting cycle, the LAC region had a relatively higher level of Strategic Approach reporting from amongst all of the regions with 19 completed submissions out of 33. This was a 18% higher reporting rate than the global average. Unfortunately, the LAC reporting rate decreased from 19 to 14 for the 2011-2013¹⁴ reporting period. While the reporting data is used extensively throughout this report, it should be noted that overall reporting on progress in implementing SAICM is weak at the global level and that other available data is serving to supplement what has been collected through SAICM reporting.

5. The information collected during the period 2009-2010 indicates some progress in the region has been made, particularly in the areas of governance and capacity building. The information also pointed to gaps in risk reduction, particularly in the areas of control of hazardous substances, the implementation of legislation regulating electronic waste and the development of messages directed at vulnerable groups.

6. The Quick Start Programme has contributed substantially to building and strengthening capacity in the region to advance sound chemicals management towards achieving the 2020 goal. This has been done through concrete activities supporting basic sound chemicals management principles with a good implementation overall. From rounds one to 12, the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee approved 44 projects in the Latin American and Caribbean region to undertake capacity building activities in 28 countries, including 12 small island developing states¹⁵. As of April 2013, 19 projects have completed their activities, 19 are underway (some of them with delays as compared to the initially agreed work plans), five are yet to initiate their activities since legal arrangements have only recently been signed or are still to be signed; and one was suspended.

7. The table below provides a general overview of the reported progress at the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013 towards a list of basic elements of sound management of chemicals. It provides a sense of how SAICM progress is viewed collectively by the national focal points and other participating stakeholders. The document elaborates further details on regional progress,

¹⁴ At the time of writing this report, data from 2011-2013 was available but not aggregated and analysed.

¹⁵ One of which is also a Least Developed Country.

based on the outcomes of the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013 as well as available documentation and information.

General overview of the outcomes of the LAC Regional Priority Setting Workshop¹⁶

Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Noted level of progress in the LAC Region ¹	Level of priority in moving forward 2015-2020.
i. Legal Frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals	**	
ii. National, sub-regional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms.	*	
iii. Implementation of relevant international conventions.	*	
iv. Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among all relevant stakeholders.	**Multi-stakeholder engagement:	High level of priority noted for multi-stakeholder engagement.
v. Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach.	* access to information, collection, management and sharing of information	
vi. Industry participation and responsibility.	*use of economic instruments	
vii. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.	*	
viii. Inclusion of chemicals in national budgeting processes and development plans .	*	High priority action
ix. Chemical risk assessment through use of best practices.	No comment noted	
x. Capacity to deal with chemical accidents, including poisonings.	*poison control centres	
xii. Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.	*	

¹ Level of progress noted collectively by participants at regional meetings:

*** significant, **some, *limited, -none

8. The ministers of the LAC region agreed on nine decisions and adopted the Los Cabos Declaration during the nineteenth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Los Cabos, Mexico, from 12-14 March 2014). Decision 4, entitled *Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste*, includes a specific segment on SAICM, recommending to the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management that its focus should be on a comprehensive assessment of the achievements by governments and other stakeholders of the 2020 target with a view to identifying and addressing any remaining challenges. Other references to promote the coordinated implementation of the chemicals agenda, including SAICM, and its financing, were also included in the Decision. Ministers also requested UNEP to support governments within the region in the development of work programmes to foster the sound management of chemicals and waste, ensuring synergies with existing processes and initiatives.

¹⁶ This is a compilation of the input from participants at the regional meeting to provide a general overview. It does not represent a comprehensive analysis of stakeholder views.

D. *Progress towards the Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives*

Risk Reduction

9. A number of the QSP Trust Fund projects implemented in the region have addressed aspects of risk reduction, including: promoting the implementation of agreed chemicals management tools, setting priorities for risk reduction, creating legislation on hazardous waste and monitoring data.

10. LAC respondents in the 2009-2010 progress report show a higher percentage of both usage of FAO pesticides code of conduct and publication of new tools and guidance to reduce risks from obsolete chemicals or pesticides in comparison to all other regions. These are indicators that the region has positively implemented and is well on its way to a better chemical risk reduction management path. This is a positive finding considering not only that the region's employment and GDP have always been highly supported by agriculture¹⁷, but further because of the region's important position as a net food exporter.

11. The 2009-2010 progress report also showed that the region had a lower percentage of countries utilizing other IOMC chemicals management tools. Significantly lower percentage of countries in the region use WHO Air Quality Guideline as compared to the rest of the world. This is relevant since the Pan American Health Organization found that more than 100 million people in Latin American cities are exposed to levels of air pollution that exceed the recommended standards, and the WHO Global Burden of Disease Report showed that 35,000 annual premature deaths and 276,000 disability-adjusted life years are attributed to outdoor air pollution in Latin America.¹⁸

12. For the 2009-2010 reporting period, LAC has reported a significantly lower percentage of countries prioritizing endocrine, immuno or neurotoxics, and consumer products chemicals. This may be an area where further improvements could be undertaken to minimize risks to human health. This finding is worth highlighting in the context of the existing infrastructure for dealing with poisonings from toxic substances. The database of poison control centres from WHO Records indicates that 15 out of 33 countries in the region have at least one poison control centre.¹⁹

13. The LAC Region adopted a resolution at its Regional Meeting in 2013 relating to EDCs. The EDC resolution reinforces the ICCM3 resolution on EDCs. Amongst other things, it invites UNEP and WHO, subject to availability of resources, to: (i) develop a report on EDCs with regional input that is targeted to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and (ii) recommend a robust series of awareness-raising activities on EDCs to take place.

14. The 2009-2010 report highlights the LAC region has the lowest percentage of countries with legislation for the three different parts of the hazardous waste management cycle (prevention and reduction, collection and interim storage, and disposal) as compared to the world overall. Since the Chemicals, Cement, and Petroleum industries drive the economies of 21 countries in the LAC region²⁰ legislation for all different streams of the hazardous waste management cycle is very relevant for the region. The 2009-2010 reporting also illustrates that the LAC region is the region with the lowest percentage of countries holding legislations for the strategic management of plastics, mobile phones, POPs contaminated waste, dioxin-related substances and pesticide contaminated waste. More attention could be focused to regulating pesticide contaminated waste since 13 countries in the region have agriculture as a significant economy driver (i.e. agriculture contributes more than 10% to the GDP).

15. At the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the main actions identified for risk reduction include to update legal frameworks based on current gaps, strengthen implementation of existing regulations, raise awareness of decision makers, and expand and strengthen the network of poison control centres.

¹⁷<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:20445375~menuPK:1308541~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html>

¹⁸<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/LACEXT/0,,contentMDK:21219289~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:258554,00.html>

¹⁹ Poison Control Centre – WHO Records <http://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/centre/en/>

²⁰ The World Bank Economic Data <http://datacatalog.worldbank.org> and CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

16. The LAC Region adopted a second resolution at its Regional Meeting in 2013 relating to highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). The resolution on HHPs invites the FAO to develop an information paper on safer alternatives to HHPs that is targeted to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It also encourages countries to perform surveys of HHPs and recommends that the respective coordination committees utilize the HHPs surveys to present successful cases of inter-sectoral cooperation in tackling HHPs phase-outs. The resolution also encourages the development of an on-line clearinghouse of HHPs registrations, restrictions, and prohibitions in the respective regions. Related to this, the region noted through its priority setting exercise that a great deal of information and experiences are shared through the Coordinating Body of the Pesticides Control Board in the Caribbean, and this could serve as a model for the rest of the LAC region.

Knowledge and Information

17. At the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the main actions identified in the priority actions table include the gaps focussed mainly on lack of awareness, information and cooperation, with actions proposed such as development of mechanism for enhanced information sharing, awareness raising for stakeholders, dissemination of guidance materials, and an assessment of regional capabilities.

18. According to the 2009-2010 report on SAICM implementation, the LAC region has significantly lower percentages of countries with labeling standards for both production and disposal of chemicals compared to the rest of the world. This might be of concern since the Chemicals, Cement, and Petroleum industries are economy drivers in 21 LAC countries.

19. Specifically for GHS, the LAC region has the lowest percentages of countries with the GHS for dangerous goods, industrial chemical, pesticides, and consumer products in comparison to the world overall. Some progress is being made in this area through QSP Trust Fund projects in Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico.

20. Related QSP Trust Fund Projects in the region have focused on the promotion of the labelling of chemicals according to internationally harmonized standards; communication of information on risks; scientific research and sharing of information. Some web-sites that have been developed or enhanced as a result of QSP funding include: <http://www2.unitar.org/cwm/nphomepage/index.html> (National chemicals profiles); <http://www.epd.gov.bb/category.cfm?category=1> (implementation of GHS in Barbados); and www.inti.gob.ar/basilea/mercurio.htm (household mercury sources in Argentina).

21. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Responsible Care Program helps industry to operate safely, profitably and with care for future generations. Through the sharing of information and a rigorous system of checklists, performance indicators and verification procedures, Responsible Care enables the industry to demonstrate how its health, safety and environmental performance has improved over the years, and to develop policies for further improvement. Responsible Care is currently active in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Governance

22. The fact that 31 of the 33 within the LAC region have nominated SAICM National Focal Points indicates a high level of commitment towards SAICM. The highest proportion of national focal points comes from the ministries of environment. There is limited cross-sectoral representation in a regional context, remaining SAICM National Focal Points are represented by foreign affairs (four), health (one), agriculture (one) and labour (one, having joint responsibility with environment).

23. According to the 2009-2010 report on progress, the LAC region has the highest percentage of countries that have established a committee to coordinate SAICM matters compared to the world overall.

24. Most of the countries in the LAC region have ratified the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions. Bahamas, Barbados, and Saint Lucia have not ratified the Rotterdam convention. Grenada and Haiti have not ratified any of the three conventions. These figures imply commitment to the major international chemicals conventions.

25. Using the regional SAICM meeting as a platform, Mexico expressed a renewed national commitment to SAICM implementation culminating in the "National Voluntary Agreement for Comprehensive Management of Chemical substances" with the participation of industry, civil society, academia and government for its implementation. The National Voluntary Agreement is

an initiative through which all actors responsible for the management of chemicals identify commitments for the comprehensive management of chemicals. The Agreements aims to achieve risk reduction of chemicals throughout their life cycle through commitment from all key stakeholders of civil society, academia, business and government. In order to promote this initiative, there have been eight subregional meetings, held from April 11 to May 26, 2014, in which 578 people attended workshops, it currently has 78 commitment letters signed, submitted by institutions, organizations, chambers, offices, etc. of the four representative sectors of society, establishing 658 shared commitments to undertake in the short, medium and long term.

26. At the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the main actions priority actions identified include to develop national chemical safety policies and include chemicals management in sustainable development plans, and to strengthen multi-stakeholder fora. The need for a regional-level methodology for periodic updating of harmonized and comparable information was also highlighted.

27. With respect to international cooperation, participants at the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013 noted a lack of involvement of WHO / PAHO in SAICM implementation in the region.

28. Related Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects completed and underway in the region have focused on strengthening the national commitment to SAICM implementation by supporting the development of a national policy on SAICM implementation, supporting the development/strengthening of a national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for sound management of chemicals, and promoting the development of mechanisms to implement key international chemicals priorities through the development of legislation for the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago for example, a methodology for gaps and needs analysis in the implementation of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions was developed in the framework of the project that may be applicable to other countries, particularly in the sub-region.

29. In addition, Belize has experience under a Quick Start Programme Trust Fund with mainstreaming and the sound management of chemicals at the national level. This experience should be reviewed in light of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, and its replicability in other countries in the region should be considered.

Capacity-building and technical cooperation

30. Data collected from the 2009-2010 progress report shows that the LAC region has the highest percentage of countries supported by various funding sources, which include the UN or UN agencies, GEF, the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol, Regional Development Bank, Regional Cooperation Organization and the private sector. It has been suggested that the region may wish to share information on the different funding mechanisms being used by countries in the region that could be complementary to the existing mechanisms supporting sound management of chemicals activities.

31. At the LAC SAICM Regional Meeting in 2013, the region highlighted that sustainable financing is a basic element of sound management of chemicals, noting the importance of obtaining commitment from regional development banks and bilateral donors to fund projects and activities for chemical safety. Furthermore, the participants indicated a lack of technical training and lack of specialists in chemical toxicologists, amongst others, with the proposed action in moving forward being to make greater use of information technology to facilitate and promote uptake of training.

32. Sustainlabour (the International Labour Foundation for Sustainable Development) has utilized support from the QSP Trust Fund to implement two projects targeted at workers in Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. In undertaking these projects, they have undertaken outreach to 65,000 individuals and trained over 1200 workers to act from a variety of sectors. They have shared knowledge of sectoral chemical risks (agriculture, plastics, waste management, mining, metallurgy, paper, aquaculture, etc.); raised awareness with workers and trained them to participate in preventive policies, and the monitoring and enforcement of regulations; strengthened trade union capacities in both occupational health and environmental pollution measures; and opened and broadened dialogue on this issue with governments, employers, academia and other stakeholders in the region. This project is unique in this region and has demonstrated significant outreach in the labour sector.

Illegal International traffic

33. Overall, the data from the 2009-2010 report showed a significantly high percentage of countries in the LAC region reporting that they did not have the necessary mechanisms to prevent illegal trafficking in comparison to other regions. This could be directly linked to the significantly lower percentage of countries with an implementation of national legislation and cooperation or legal agreements with neighboring countries preventing illegal traffic as compared to the rest of the world. This could be a potential area for improvement in moving forward.

34. Furthermore at the LAC Regional Meeting in 2013, the region identified the following gaps with respect to customs control: (i) lack of identification, development and production of regional instruments for customs and intercommunication; and (ii) limited exchange of experiences and development of limited regional approach/strategy for the control of illegal traffic.

E. Concluding remarks and general recommendations

35. The information collected during the 2009-2010 reporting period indicates some progress in the region has been made, particularly in the areas of governance and capacity building. The information has also pointed to gaps in risk reduction, particularly in the areas of control of hazardous substances, the implementation of legislation regulating electronic waste and the development of messages directed at vulnerable groups.

36. A number of proposed possible actions were identified at the Regional SAICM Priority Setting Workshop for the LAC Region and the LAC Regional Coordinating Group meeting held in August 2013 for further consideration of the region. Attached in the Annex to this report is a list of the proposed possible actions identified by the region, specific to the 12 basic elements for sound management of chemicals commonly identified across the SAICM regions.

37. General efforts to promote uptake of and broaden successful initiatives must be increased, particularly in priority areas. The tools developed, knowledge gained and lessons learned under the relevant QSP Trust Fund projects as well as other experiences need to be identified and further utilized to support the implementation of SAICM and to integrate and strengthen chemicals management governance across all relevant sectors of society.

ANNEX: Listing of Proposed Regional Actions	
Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Regional Actions for Implementation Proposed at the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshop in LAC, August 2013, and the related LAC Coordinating Committee meeting
i. Legal Frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop, review and update legal frameworks following an integrated approach, and tailored to national circumstances, from an analysis of current gaps in national legislation, using information already available on the network of regional centres. b) Strengthen the implementation of the regulatory framework. c) Raise awareness of decision makers when necessary.
ii. National, sub-regional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms.	Capacity building for control/inspectorates – for enforcement
iii. Implementation of related international conventions.	Awareness raising of the political and decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders at all governmental levels, where necessary.
iv. Strong institutional frameworks, including coordination mechanisms among all relevant stakeholders.	Create or enhance institutional arrangements to promote sound management of chemicals at the national level.
v. Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop and disseminate guidance materials and best practices information on the establishment of effective mechanisms to manage and share information at the national and regional levels. Consideration should be given to the special circumstances and limitations experienced by small island developing states (SIDS) in information management and sharing on chemicals and their management. b) Develop and disseminate a list of available sources of information from stakeholders. Recommend to relevant international organizations about the need to update the information. The regional model provided by the Coordinating Body of the Pesticides Control Board in the Caribbean through which a great deal of information is shared was suggested as a possible template for other chemicals. c) Encourage engagement of industry, communities and NGOs in the sharing of information pertaining to chemicals and their sound management throughout their life cycles. d) Build an understanding existing hubs and databases containing information on the dangers of chemicals and the means through which such hubs and databases may be accessed.
vi. Industry participation and responsibility.	Use economic instruments to internalize environmental and public health costs into the lifecycle of chemicals.
vii. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Awareness raising activities and information dissemination about the GHS and its applicability at the national level, geared towards key stakeholders in the region. b) Special consideration should be given to practical use of the GHS in the areas of customs and border control and trade.
viii. Inclusion of chemicals in national budgeting processes and development plans.	Draw on lessons learned in the region to support other countries.
ix. Chemical risk assessment through use of best practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Potential course of action, to be adapted based on national circumstances and capacities: Inventory; Risk assessment of chemicals; Registration. b) Promote capacity building at all levels (south-south cooperation activities).

ANNEX: Listing of Proposed Regional Actions	
Common Basic Elements of Sound Chemicals Management identified through the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshops	Regional Actions for Implementation Proposed at the SAICM Regional Priority Setting Workshop in LAC, August 2013, and the related LAC Coordinating Committee meeting
	c) PAHO to develop and provide list of indicators to support identification, recording and reporting of environmental health indicators related to chemical safety issues.
x. Capacity to deal with chemical accidents, including poisonings.	Create and strengthen poison control centres, including laboratory capacity and the promotion of networking.
xi. Monitoring and assessing of the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.	<p>a) Undertake an assessment of regional capabilities and needs for monitoring and research into chemical usage and impacts on human and environmental health.</p> <p>b) Develop an international or regional guidance document containing a core suite of priority chemicals and monitoring parameters to aid in the effective monitoring and research into chemical usage and the impacts on human and environmental health. The suite of chemicals and parameters for monitoring provided should be presented on a tiered basis according to level of relevance and availability of data and national capacity. .</p> <p>c) Strengthen capacities of and collaboration between existing regional and sub-regional networks and institutions involved in the monitoring and research of chemical usage and impacts. Such regional networks include the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, the University of the West Indies, and other regional and sub-regional bodies currently executing such work throughout LAC.</p>