

Decision adopted on 6 February 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 4-6 February 2006

I/4 Quick Start Programme

The Conference,

Having incorporated financial considerations within the text of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, including a Quick Start Programme supporting initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives,

1. *Welcomes* the prompt launching of the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
2. *Decides* to establish a Quick Start Programme for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives building upon the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;
3. *Also decides* that the objective of the Quick Start Programme is to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition;
4. *Calls for* the Quick Start Programme to include a United Nations Environment Programme trust fund and multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation;
5. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to contribute to the Programme;
6. *Adopts* the strategic priorities and institutional arrangements for the Quick Start Programme as set out in appendix I to the present resolution;
7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a voluntary, time-limited Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to provide seed-money to support the objectives of the Programme in accordance with the terms of reference set out in appendix II to the present resolution;
8. *Also invites* Governments in a position to do so, regional economic integration organizations, the private sector including industry, foundations and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to contribute to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund;
9. *Invites* the representatives of participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the United Nations Development Programme to form a Trust Fund Implementation Committee for projects financed by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund;

10. *Decides* to establish the Quick Start Programme Executive Board, consisting of two government representatives of each of the United Nations regions and all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the Programme;

11. *Requests* the Strategic Approach secretariat to facilitate meetings of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee and the Quick Start Programme Executive Board;

12. *Decides* that, at each session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, two national Government representatives of each United Nations region will be appointed to the Quick Start Programme Executive Board for the intersessional period;

13. *Welcomes* the contributions to the Programme already offered by Belgium, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Appendix I

Strategic approach to international chemicals management: strategic priorities and institutional arrangements for the Quick Start Programme

A. Objective

1. Building upon the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the objective of the Quick Start Programme is to support activities to enable initial capacity-building and implementation in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition consistent with their national priorities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives as set out in section IV of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

B. Overall approach

2. The Quick Start Programme for the Strategic Approach will take fully into account the characteristics of the Strategic Approach process and its institutional arrangements. It will build upon the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and facilitate environmentally sound chemicals management. The Programme should help to identify and pave the way for activities that can be assisted by the private sector, including industry, and other non-governmental organizations and through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, for example technical assistance and the sharing of knowledge and experience. The programme will seek to enhance synergies with processes initiated under relevant chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements. While aimed primarily at the country level, the Programme should allow for, and encourage, regional and global approaches.

C. Strategic priorities for the Quick Start Programme

3. The Quick Start Programme should mobilize resources for national priority initial enabling activities in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the Overarching Policy Strategy, in particular:

(a) Development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management;

(b) Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives;

(c) Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Strategic Approach by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities.

4. Further operational guidance on these strategic priorities will be provided by the Executive Board as required.

D. Financial resources to support the Programme's activities

5. The Programme will invite bilateral and multilateral public and private cooperation and national government financing. It will benefit from a voluntary, time-limited Quick Start Programme Trust Fund administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

E. Programme implementation

6. Activities financed through bilateral and multilateral cooperation will be implemented in accordance with the arrangements made by participants in that cooperation.

7. Activities financed by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund will be implemented in accordance with the project management arrangements approved by the Trust Fund Implementation Committee.

F. Governance and reporting

8. The Executive Board will have two co-chairs, one from the regional representatives and one from the donors, elected annually, and will develop and adopt its rules of procedure and will be supported by the Strategic Approach secretariat. The Executive Board will take its decisions by consensus, pending the adoption of its rules of procedure.

9. The Executive Board will meet annually, back to back with another relevant meeting, to review progress under the Programme on the basis of reports from the Trust Fund Implementation Committee and Programme participants, as well as other relevant information provided to them on implementation of the programme.

10. Reports presented to the Executive Board will be made publicly available by the Strategic Approach secretariat.

11. The Executive Board will provide operational guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the Quick Start Programme and advise on other relevant matters as required.

12. The Executive Board will report to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second and third sessions on the implementation of the Quick Start Programme.

Appendix II

Terms of reference

Quick Start Programme Trust Fund of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

A. Administering organization

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme is invited to establish and manage the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The Strategic Approach secretariat will provide administrative support to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. This Trust Fund shall be separate from the existing Trust Fund used for the expenses of the Strategic Approach secretariat and the inter-governmental process.

B. Objective

2. The Quick Start Programme Trust Fund will provide seed money to support the objective and strategic priorities of the Programme.

C. Time limit

3. The Quick Start Programme Trust Fund will be open to receive voluntary contributions for five years from the date it is established by the Executive Director. Funds may be disbursed for a maximum of seven years from that date.

D. Sources of financing

4. Contributions shall be encouraged from Governments, regional economic integration organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

E. Eligibility rules

5. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be eligible for support. Approval of projects meeting the objectives outlined in section IV of the Overarching Policy Strategy will take into account geographic and sectoral balance considerations and pay particular attention to urgent needs and the requirements of least developed countries and small island developing States.

6. Project proposals may be presented by Strategic Approach participating Governments that have endorsed or given other appropriate formal recognition of and support for the Strategic Approach, through the relevant Governments. Project proposals must contain full justification for the amount sought.

7. On an exceptional basis and having regard to the resources and administrative capacity available, representatives of civil society networks participating in the Strategic Approach

shall also be eligible to present project proposals, subject to endorsement by the countries hosting the projects.

8. Quick Start Programme Trust Fund allocations should be limited to \$50,000-\$250,000 per project proposal, including administration fees not to exceed 13 per cent of a project's value.

F. Project assessment and approval

9. The participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the United Nations Development Programme may provide technical assistance in the development of project proposals, upon request by project proponents.

10. Project proposals will be country-driven and will be submitted to the Strategic Approach secretariat and screened for completeness and eligibility.

11. Screened projects will be submitted by the Strategic Approach secretariat to the Trust Fund Implementation Committee for appraisal and approval.

12. Independent monitoring and evaluation and reporting on project implementation to the Trust Fund Implementation Committee will be the responsibility of project proponents.

G. Guidance by the Executive Board

13. The regional representatives and those donors of the Executive Board who have contributed to the Trust Fund will meet during the annual meeting of the Executive Board to consider the operation of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. They will review reports from the Trust Fund Implementation Committee on project execution and from the Executive Director of UNEP on the financial resources and administration of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and provide guidance and take decisions thereon.

14. The Executive Board will report to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second and third sessions on the operations of the Trust Fund.

H. Accounts and audit

15. The accounts and financial management of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations. Accounts for the Trust Fund shall be presented to the Executive Board as soon as possible after the financial period is closed and shall also be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management.