
**Fifth meeting of the Quick Start Programme
Executive Board**
Geneva
29-30 June 2010
Adoption of the report of the fifth meeting of the Board

Report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

1. In resolution I/4 adopted at its first session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) decided to establish a Quick Start Programme (QSP) to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was requested to establish a voluntary, time-limited trust fund to provide seed money to support QSP objectives in accordance with resolution I/4.

2. Resolution I/4 also established the QSP 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. The Board reviews progress under the QSP on the basis of reports from the Trust Fund Implementation Committee* and other QSP participants, and provides operational guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the QSP. The first meeting of the Executive Board was held on 26 and 27 April 2006 in Geneva. The second meeting of the Board was held on 23 and 24 April 2007, the third meeting was held on 6 and 7 May 2008 and the fourth meeting took place on 23 and 24 April 2009.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The fifth meeting of the Board was held at International Environment House in Geneva, Switzerland, on 29 and 30 June 2010. The meeting was opened by Mr. Matthew Gubb, coordinator of the SAICM secretariat, who welcomed the representatives.

* The QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee comprises representatives of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The participating organizations of IOMC are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

II. Organizational matters

A. Organization of work

4. The Board agreed to meet from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Board adjourned the full Board meeting to hold the separate meeting of the Executive Board's Committee on the QSP Trust Fund composed of regional representative and trust fund donors from 10:30 a.m to 1 p.m. on 29 June 2010 as indicated in the annotated agenda SAICM/EB.5/1/Add.1/Rev.1. The morning of 30 June 2010 was set aside for presentations on completed trust fund projects

B. Attendance

5. The meeting was attended by the following Government representatives of the four United Nations regions:

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| Asia-Pacific: | Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms. Pornpimon Chareonsong (Thailand) |
| Central and Eastern Europe: | Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia) Mr. Marin Kocov (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) |
| Latin America and the Caribbean: | Mr. Jeffrey A. Headley (Barbados) Ms. Tamara E. Soto Tillerio (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) |
| Western European and others: | Ms. Gabi Eigenmann (Switzerland) |

6. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following QSP trust fund donors: the Governments of France, Germany, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and the European Commission.

7. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following contributors to the non-trust fund QSP: Japan, the Dow Chemical Company, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), and International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE).

8. Three regional representatives, Mr. Adolphe Nahayo (Burundi), Dr. Oludayo Olusegun Dada (Nigeria), and Mr. Kari Puurunen (Finland) sent their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

C. Election of officers

9. The participants agreed that Mr. Jeffrey A. Headley (Barbados) from the group of Government representatives of the United Nations regions and Ms. Susan Gardner (United States of America) from the group of donors would co-chair the meeting.

D. Adoption of the agenda

10. The representatives adopted the following agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional annotated agenda set out in documents SAICM/EB.5/1/Rev.1 and SAICM/EB.5/1/Add.1/Rev.1

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Re-election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Status of the Quick Start Programme:
 - (a) Quick Start Programme Trust Fund;
 - (b) Non-trust fund Quick Start Programme.
4. Report of the Executive Board's Committee on the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
5. Further development of operational guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the Quick Start Programme.
6. Further consideration of the Quick Start Programme business plan.
7. Mid-term review of the Quick Start Programme
8. Other matters.
9. Next meeting.
10. Closure of the meeting.

III. Status of the Quick Start Programme

A. Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

11. The meeting took note of the presentation made by the secretariat on the financial and administrative situation of the QSP Trust Fund and the status of implementation of projects approved in the first eight rounds, as outlined in documents SAICM/EB.5/2/Rev.1 and SAICM/EB.5/3/Rev.1.

12. The Executive Board noted the relatively low level of funding received for 2010 and welcomed advice that there had been indications of further contributions from several donors. Thus, a large proportion of trust fund contributions may be received in the second half of the year 2010.

13. The Board took note of the Board's Committee on the Trust Fund's discussion on assessing the quality of project reporting. It further noted that in 2010 the Trust Fund Implementation Committee would review monitoring and evaluation reports relating to completed projects and that the upcoming mid-term evaluation of the QSP would also assess the quality of project outcomes.

14. The Board welcomed the session on the second day of the meeting in which a number of participants, including the regional representatives and executing agencies involved in the implementation of projects funded by the QSP trust fund presented their projects, highlighting results, impacts, achievements and lessons learned from their implementation.

B. Non-trust fund Quick Start Programme

15. The secretariat reported on the status of non-trust fund contributions to the QSP, including 18 updated and new declarations of non-trust fund contributions. The declarations submitted by the United States, BASF and ICCA received no objections from the Board and can be considered as qualified as non-trust fund contributions to the QSP.

16. One donor representative sought information on why some others chose not to contribute to the QSP via the Trust Fund. Industry representatives explained the difficulties faced by companies in contributing to trust funds rather than specific projects.

IV. Report of the Executive Board's committee on the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

17. In accordance with ICCM resolution I/4 and rule 29 of the Executive Board's rules of procedure, a committee, composed of the Government representatives of the four United Nations regions and the representatives of trust fund donors, met to consider the operation of the trust fund. The committee was chaired by Ms. Susan Gardner (United States of America). The committee considered agenda items 3 (a), 4, 5, 6, and 7. The outcomes of the committee's discussions are reflected in the present report under relevant agenda items.

V. Further development of operational guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the Quick Start Programme

18. The Executive Board had before it document SAICM/EB.5/4/Rev.1, setting out issues for possible consideration in the further development of operational guidance for the QSP. The secretariat introduced the document noting that the issues include the Board's consideration of the representation on the QSP Executive Board, earmarking of contributions to the QSP Trust Fund, and the possible reconsideration of countries' eligibility quotas for trust fund projects.

19. In relation to the representation on the Board of donors and contributors which have not made a contribution to the QSP since the second session of the ICCM, the Board took note of the discussion of the Committee on the QSP Trust Fund. The Committee agreed that notwithstanding the Board's rules of procedure all interested donors and contributors should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Board. Non-current donors attending meetings could be treated as observers in relation to the decision-making. The secretariat confirmed that meetings of the Executive Board are considered public, hence the possibility of attendance in an observer capacity.

20. With regard to the earmarking of contributions to the QSP Trust Fund the Board concluded that all contributions are welcomed. However, donors should be encouraged to avoid earmarking where possible, particularly for contributions of less than USD 250,000 to allow flexibility in the allocation of resources to the QSP trust fund projects and with due regard to the QSP strategic priorities agreed by the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

21. On the issue of eligibility, the Board agreed that in the light of the number of countries which had already benefited from QSP trust fund projects, the slowing rate of applications from the remaining eligible countries and the interest of many countries in undertaking additional projects, greater flexibility was warranted. The Board considered that countries which had already used their current quota of projects should be allowed to apply for additional projects, on the understanding that priority should be given to applications from countries that had not yet used their current quotas.

22. Taking account of this increased flexibility, the Board agreed that the following criteria as adopted by the Board at its third meeting held on 6 and 7 May 2008 in Geneva should continue to apply by the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee when appraising the QSP trust fund projects:

- i) Give priority to countries which have not previously had support from the QSP Trust Fund;
- ii) Take into account whether there had been satisfactory reports on earlier projects involving repeat countries;
- iii) Avoid duplication of projects and ensure coverage of different QSP strategic priorities;
- iv) Avoid an excessive allocation of resources to individual countries; and
- v) Observe the usual requirements for geographical and sectoral balance.

23. The Board took note of the view of a contributor that supplementary criteria should be developed for countries applying for additional project(s) to the QSP Trust Fund.

VI. Further consideration of the Quick Start Programme business plan

24. The Board had before it document SAICM/EB.5/5/Rev.1, a report on the implementation of the QSP business plan, providing information on progress against the business plan strategies and targets and additional information on QSP trust fund applications and approved projects over eight rounds.

25. The Board noted the discussion of the committee about the desirability of including indicators as to the quality of QSP projects but agreed that a qualitative assessment should be undertaken primarily through the upcoming mid-term evaluation of the QSP rather than the business plan.

26. The Board agreed on the proposed updates for sections 3.2.2 and 3.3.3 of the Strategic action plan of the business plan. These included additional information on the contributions to the QSP Trust Fund received by 2009 against the fundraising targets. Furthermore, a new target of five additional Government donors to join the QSP Trust Fund by ICCM3 was approved by the Board. The target of five non-governmental donors to contribute to the Trust Fund was carried forward. The Board agreed to replace the fully-achieved indicator relating to repeat contributions by a new indicator calling for fairer burden-sharing among donors by ICCM3.

VII. Mid-term review of the Quick Start Programme

27. The secretariat representative introduced document SAICM/EB.5/7/Rev.1, draft of terms of reference for evaluation of the QSP.

28. The Board discussed the proposed terms of reference and made a number of suggestions to adjust the document, including clarification on the scope of the evaluation, i. e. QSP Trust Fund and the non-trust fund QSP, additional provisions related to indicators, field missions, and vulnerable population groups. Another suggestion was related to avoidance of references in the document that could be construed as implying a follow-on programme to the QSP.

29. Following the accommodation of proposed changes, the Board adopted document SAICM/EB.5/7/Rev.1 on Evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, which will be posted on the SAICM website.

30. The Board acknowledged the challenges in implementing the evaluation of the QSP and agreed to allow flexibility to the secretariat in performing this task, for example should insufficient funds be available to undertake all aspects of the review.

VIII. Other matters

31. The secretariat representative introduced document SAICM/EB.5/8/Rev.1, SAICM senior experts scheme. The Board considered the concept of a senior expert scheme presented by the secretariat. The Board welcomed it as a valuable proposal that would assist with the implementation of QSP projects. The Board agreed to establish a steering committee to provide guidance in the operation of the senior expert scheme. The Board adopted terms of references for the steering committee as contained in annex to the document SAICM/EB.5/8/Rev.1 with proposed changes to the paragraph 2(a), (c), and (d). The Board encouraged SAICM stakeholders to offer funding and other support for the operation of the senior expert scheme on a pilot basis.

32. The Board acknowledged valuable contribution to the work of the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee by Mr Robert Visser (OECD) who had served as a chair of the Committee since its establishment.

33. The Board noted with appreciation the consultation held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 4 to 5 February 2010 on the development of a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in SAICM and further encouraged multi-sectoral dialogue.

IX. Next meeting

34. The Board suggested scheduling in the first half of 2011 with exact dates to be suggested in early 2011, taking into account the dates of major international chemicals meetings and the availability of the QSP mid-term evaluation.

X. Closure of the meeting

35. The meeting was closed at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday 30 June 2010.
