



International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International
Chemicals Management: emerging policy issues**

Submission by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in relation to phasing out the use of lead in paint

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the consideration of participants, a submission by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety on a proposed global partnership to promote the implementation of measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in relation to phasing out the use of lead in paint.
2. The proposal was prepared by an ad hoc working group of the Forum Standing Committee after it was decided at the sixth session of the Forum, held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008, that a global partnership to support the phasing out of lead in paint was essential, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Forum requested the terms of reference for the proposed global partnership be submitted to the Conference at its current session so that it could consider taking a decision to support concerted action to promote the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
3. The Conference may wish to note that the submission deals with an issue that is also one of the four emerging policy issues scheduled for detailed consideration under the present agenda item.
4. The submission is contained in the annex to the present note. It is being circulated as submitted and has not been formally edited.

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1

Annex



Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
Global Partnerships for Chemical Safety

Proposal
Submitted to the
International Conference on Chemicals Management
at its second session

Global Partnership to promote the implementation of the
measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg
Plan of Implementation of the
World Summit on Sustainable Development:
Phasing Out Use of Lead in Paints

Lead sponsors: Toxic Link on behalf of IPEN, Nigeria,
International Society of Doctors for the Environment,
Canadian Environmental Law Association, LEAD Group Incorporated, Germany,
National Center for Healthy Housing (U.S.A.), Trust For Lead Poisoning Prevention

Prepared by: Forum Standing Committee *ad hoc* Working Group

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Global Partnership to promote the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Phasing Out of Use of Lead in Paints

Introduction

The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum VI), adopted unanimously the Dakar Resolution for Eliminating Lead in Paints (Annex 1).¹ The Resolution recognizes that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in paragraph 57 calls for the phasing out of lead in paints and in other sources of human exposure, and calls for work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning. Forum VI decided that a global partnership to promote the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development is essential, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Forum VI further decided that such a partnership should be to support the phasing out of use of lead in paints. It requested the Forum Standing Committee to establish an ad hoc Working Group following the lead sponsor approach to prepare draft Terms of Reference for a global partnership to be submitted to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2) for it to consider taking a decision to support concerted action to promote the implementation of the measures contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development paragraph 57.

This document presents background information and a draft resolution, including draft terms of Reference for the Global Partnership, for consideration and adoption by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session (Annex 2).

1 See: Sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum (Forum VI) Final Report and meeting and room documents for plenary sessions on International Transport of Lead and Cadmium via trade: an international concern? and Substitution and Alternatives. (<http://www.who.int/ifcs/forums/six/en/index.html>)

WSSD Support for International Action on Lead

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) took two decisions to protect children's health from exposure to lead. Paragraph 56 (b) of the WSSD Plan of Implementation (POI) called for: "*Supporting the phasing out of lead in gasoline.*"

The other decision was paragraph 57. It states:

*"Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning."*²

At WSSD, the *Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles* was established to contribute to the implementation of WSSD POI paragraph 56, and to help developing countries eliminate lead from fuels.³ At a 2005 Partnership meeting held in Kenya, it was agreed that the partnership was on course to "phase out leaded gasoline by the end of 2008 worldwide."⁴ By 2007, there remained 17 countries (with a total population of 258 million) thought still to sell leaded gasoline for road use,⁵ and in some of these countries, the phase-out of leaded gasoline is underway. In 2006 high lead levels were found in three Asian countries with a population of about 2.5 billion. Since that time high levels of lead have been found in another nine countries where samples have been analyzed, with an additional population of over 600 million. These include countries in three continents, Africa, Asia and South America. The global campaign to eliminate lead from gasoline appears to be approaching success. This will make an important contribution in substantially reducing childhood lead exposure in many developing countries.

On the other hand, there has been less concerted international action aimed at helping to implement WSSD POI paragraph 57. Paints containing lead are still widely manufactured and sold for use in many countries of the developing world. It is thus very likely that most of the world's population lives in countries where domestic paints with high lead levels are readily available. It has long been known that paints containing lead can be a significant source of childhood lead exposure, especially when they are used to paint the interiors and exteriors of homes or schools, and when they are used to paint toys, furniture, playground equipment and other articles with which children come in contact. Moreover, paints containing lead are used in a variety of infrastructure (e. g., bridges), industrial (e. g., automobile parts), and marine (e. g., ships) applications. Other well-documented sources of human exposure to lead in addition to leaded gasoline and paints containing lead include food contamination, improper manufacturing and recycling of lead batteries, lead water pipes, lead-glazed ceramics,⁶ and some cosmetics and "folk remedies".⁷ There is also the problem of workplace contamination brought home on clothing and in cottage industries where the lead-using workplace is actually in or close to the home.

2 See: WSSD POI at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIChapter6.htm

3 See: <http://www.unep.org/pcfv/pdf/InfSheet.pdf>

4 See: <http://www.unep.org/pcfv/PDF/4GPM-report-final.pdf>

5 See: <http://www.lead.org.au/fs/fst27.html>

6 See: the *Background Document* for the WHO Europe's *Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health* at: <http://www.euro.who.int/document/eehc/ebakdoc07.pdf>

7 See: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00021165.htm>

SAICM: safer alternative products and partnerships

In the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector, assembled at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai from 4 to 6 February 2006, declare(d):

17. We will work towards closing the gaps and addressing the discrepancies in the capacity to achieve sustainable chemicals management between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the other by addressing the special needs of the latter and strengthening their capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives, through partnerships, technical support and financial assistance.⁸

The Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management adopted by ICCM includes the following objective:

I. IV. Objectives

A. Risk reduction

The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to risk reduction are:

....

(j) To promote and support the development and implementation of, and further innovation in, environmentally sound and safer alternatives, including cleaner production, informed substitution of chemicals of particular concern and non-chemical alternatives.

The establishment of a global partnership to promote the implementation of WSSD POI paragraph 57, focusing on the elimination of lead in paint, will support directly the implementation of SAICM and achievement of its objectives.

Background on Lead Exposure and Lead in Paint

Lead exposure is a well-known source of injury to human health, and particularly to the health of children and to workers in lead industries. Lead's poisonous properties have been recognized since ancient times. In the first century B.C., for example, the Roman architect, Vitruvius, spoke out against the use of lead pipes for conveying water saying that water "conveyed in lead must be injurious, because from it white lead is obtained, and this is said to be injurious to the human system." He also noted that "workers in lead, are of a pallid color for in casting lead, the fumes from it fixing on the different members, and daily burning them, destroy the vigor of the blood."⁹

Unfortunately, the health injuries caused by exposure to lead have continued into modern times and have, in many places, intensified with increases in the use of lead.

Leaded Gasoline and Lead-Based Paints In the 20th century, the major public health campaigns to protect children and workers from lead exposure have focused on tetra-ethyl lead additives in gasoline (petrol) and interior and exterior house paints containing lead. Concerns over worker exposure increased in the early part of the 20th century and focussed on industrial processes involving lead such as foundries, smelters and mining.¹⁰ The 1921 General Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted a

8 See: SAICM text at <http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=3&pageid=187&submenuheader=>

9 See: Lead Poisoning and Rome, from the Encyclopedia Romana, on the web at: http://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/wine/leadpoisoning.html

10 See: Exploring the Dangerous Trades: The Autobiography of Alice Hamilton, M.D. Northeastern University Press, 1985

Convention to restrict the use of white lead paints for interior use and gave countries six years to comply.¹¹ By 1940, twenty-four governments had formally agreed. However, the convention only addresses lead carbonate and sulfate paint formulations with a content above 2%, and exempts important sources of exposure including applications on building exteriors and pottery glazes.

Unfortunately, paints containing lead continued to be manufactured; in addition, starting in 1924, American gasoline distributors began adding lead to gasoline, despite resistance from public health advocates.¹² Global production and use of these products grew very rapidly in the quarter century following World War II.¹³ Alternatives to lead paint including zinc oxide and lithopone were commercially available from the early 1900s and captured ever-larger shares of the market for interior paints.¹⁴ In the 1930s, falling costs of manufacturing titanium dioxide pushed this superior pigment to the top rank. Paint manufacturers continued to offer a mix of zinc, lead, and titanium products in response to commodities prices and customer demands, but by the mid 1940s economic factors dictated that far less lead and more titanium dioxide was used in paints sold in the United States. In the U.S. the percentage of lead in paints began to decrease years before the government began regulating the use of lead in paints in the early 1970s.¹⁵ New US standards for lead in paint and consumer products, effective 14 August 2009, include any product designed or intended primarily for children 12 years of age or younger will be banned if it contains more than 300 parts per million total lead content by weight for any part of the product and the lead content standard for surface paint in furniture, toys and other children's products will be reduced from a maximum of 0.06 percent (600 ppm) lead by weight to a maximum of 0.009 percent (90 ppm) lead by weight.¹⁶ A similar pattern took place in European countries, too, before the general sale of leaded paint was prohibited in the European Union in 1989.¹⁷ In Australia, restrictions on the use of lead in paints for domestic application were initiated in the early part of the 20th century. The limit is now 600 ppm. In 2008 Australia enacted a regulation banning the use of fourteen (14) lead compounds in paints that were manufactured or imported for industrial use.¹⁸ South Africa passed legislation in 2008 restricting the use of lead in household paints to less than 600 ppm, effective in March 2009. Containers of paint for industrial use, where lead was still permitted, are required to have a label stating: “WARNING Contains Lead. Dried film of this paint may be harmful if eaten or chewed. •Do not apply on toys and other children's articles or interior or exterior surfaces of dwellings. •Keep out of reach of children.” Although in Thailand action to phase out paint containing lead was taken almost two decades ago in essentially a voluntary initiative by the paint industry, five of seven brands of paint recently sampled in Thailand contained lead levels as high as 30,000 ppm.^{19,20}

While many highly industrialised countries phased out the use of leaded gasoline and interior and exterior paints containing lead, paints with added lead are still commonly available in the developing world. In Russia interior paints containing lead are restricted by the legislation adopted in the USSR in 1929 and 1984 and later by the Russian Federation in 1991 and 1992.²¹ In 1991 Russia ratified the ILO White Lead

11 ILO continues seeking ratifications of this Convention, see: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C013>

12 David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz, “‘A Gift of God’ Am J Public Health. 1985 April; 75(4): 344–352.

13 U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Minerals Yearbook 1935-1989

14 Christian Warren, *Brush With Death: A Social History of Lead Poisoning*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000, pp. 44-83.

15 U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Minerals Yearbook 1935-1989

16 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (H.R. 4040) <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.04040>:

17 See: European Council Directive 89/677/EEC

18 Surface Coatings Australia, APMF Notes, November 2008 page 5

19 J. Rochow personal communication “highlighted at 1994 Global Dimensions of Lead Poisoning conference, convened by the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning”

20 S. Clark “Levels of Lead in Decorative Paints”, presented at The 12th Asian Paint Industry Council Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 6-7 November 2008, pp 98-112 of meeting document.

21 See: http://webknow.ru/ekologija_00167_6.html

(Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)²². Independent research has shown that paints containing lead, mainly exterior paints, can easily be found on the Russian market.²³ A recent study in China showed that 50% of new paint samples tested contain lead at levels equal to or exceeding 600 ppm. Despite a wide range in retail prices, there was no correlation between price and lead content among the 58 paint samples collected.²⁴ A similar study of new residential paints being sold in India indicates that 84% of enamel paints have lead levels that exceed 600 ppm.²⁵ However, one nationally distributed major brand that is available within the same price range as their competitors appears to have eliminated the use of lead pigment and other lead additives. This suggests that price should not be a deterrent for paint companies to shift to lead-free alternatives and still remain competitive.

Lead Exposure Reduces a Child's Intelligence While the initial public health concerns about paints containing lead and leaded gasoline were mainly focused on occupational exposures, starting in the early 1900s, health experts began to suspect that childhood lead exposure was a serious problem. By the mid-1900s, thousands of children developed lead encephalopathy, or brain swelling, each year; one in three of these children died. Some began to suspect that a proportion of children who survived overt lead poisoning experienced residual brain damage. This conjecture was controversial at first. Then, in 1979, a well-designed study by pediatrician and psychiatrist Herbert Needleman resolved the dispute by establishing a direct correlation between the lead content of a child's teeth and bad classroom behavior.²⁶ Follow-up studies on these same children 12 years later found that those who had the highest lead levels in their teeth as children continued to have school problems through their last year of high school including more school failures and reading disabilities, and lower class standing.²⁷

More recently, a 2000 study by Bruce Lanphear found that children's maths and reading scores showed reductions correlating to blood lead levels at concentrations as low as 2.5 µg/dl (micrograms per decilitre), or 25 µg/l (micrograms per litre).²⁸ A fact sheet published by the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region identifies lead as the single most important chemical toxicant for children. It notes that the effects are particularly severe during the child's first 2-3 years, and that these include: learning disabilities; attention deficits; disorders in a child's coordination, visual, spatial and language skills; and anemia.²⁹

In 2002, WHO *World Health Report* identified lead exposure as one of twenty leading selected risk factors contributing to the global burden of disease and stated that worldwide, 40% of children have blood lead levels above 5 µg/dl, and that 97% of the affected children live in developing regions.³⁰ This is an alarming and unacceptable level of exposure. To put it into context, since 1991, it has been policy in the United States that a public health intervention is needed when a child is found to have a blood-lead level above 10 µg/dl.³¹ The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which established this policy, clearly stated that

22 See: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratifce.pl?C013>

<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratifce.pl?C013>

23 See: <http://www.baugid.ru/2008/02/01/masljanye-materialy.html> and <http://prilog.ru/materialy/kraski.html>

24 Lin, G.Z., et al., Lead in housing paints: An exposure source still not taken seriously for children lead poisoning in China. *Environ. Res.* (2008), doi:10.1016/j.envres.2008.09.003

25 Kumar, A., Gottesfeld, P. Lead Contents in Household Paints in India, *Science of the Total Environment*; (2008) 407:333 – 337

26 *Lead Poisoning*, by Herbert Needleman, *Annual Review of Medicine* 2004, on the web at: http://www.rachel.org/files/document/Lead_Poisoning.pdf

27 See: Needleman cited above

28 Lanphear BP, Dietrich KN, Auinger P, Cox C. Cognitive deficits associated with blood lead levels <10 µg/dl in U.S. children and adolescents. *Public Health Reports* 2000;115:521-529

29 See: WHO Euro Region, *Study on environmental burden of disease in children: key findings*: <http://www.euro.who.int/document/mediacentre/fs0504e.pdf>

30 See: http://www.who.int/whr/2002/en/whr02_en.pdf

31 See: *Interpreting and Managing Blood Lead Levels <10 µg/dL in Children and Reducing Childhood Exposures to Lead* at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5608a1.htm>

10 µg /dl should not be seen as defining a threshold level for harmful effects.³² The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that IQ loss can be expected from blood lead levels as low as 5 µg/dl;³³ and some researchers call for action to be triggered when a child's blood level is above 2 µg/dl.³⁴

Lead Regulation and the Socio-Economics of Childhood Lead Exposure In the 1960s, before regulatory action was taken in the United States to control gasoline with lead additives and interior paints containing lead, 10%–20% of inner-city children had blood lead levels of over 40 µg /dl (micrograms per deciliter).³⁵ Then, as a result of regulatory action, by 1997 average lead blood level in U.S. children age 5 was reported to be 2.7 µg/dl.³⁶ Similar reductions have been reported in many developed countries, underlining that regulatory interventions can greatly reduce exposure. However, current U.S. childhood lead exposure may still be considered unacceptably high.

A 2002 study by Philip Landrigan and others investigated the socio-economic impacts of lead exposure in U. S. children. It estimated the cumulative reduction in childhood intelligence associated with current levels of lead exposure and correlated this to reduction in a child's lifetime earning potential. The study concluded that the economic losses that can be attributed to the current U.S. level of childhood lead exposure amount to \$43.4 billion per year.³⁷ To offset this burden, the U.S. maintains programs to reduce lead exposure in children including the removal of paints containing lead from homes painted with these paints 35 or more years ago.

To our knowledge, no similar studies have been conducted to quantify the socio-economic costs of childhood lead exposure in developing countries; however, since childhood lead exposure in many developing countries is generally much higher than in the U.S., it is reasonable to assume that it represents a major socio-economic burden and is an important impediment to achieving national sustainable development objectives. Widespread childhood lead exposure undermines educational achievement and reduces the productivity of the workforce. Therefore, public health interventions that can significantly reduce childhood lead exposure can make an important contribution to achieving sustainable development objectives including the Millennium Development Goals.³⁸

Proposal that ICCM Establish a Global Partnership to Implement Paragraph 57 of the WSSD POI, focusing on the phasing out of use of lead in paints

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development called for action to support the phase-out of lead in gasoline and to phase out lead in paints and in other sources of human exposure (as referenced above). The partnership that was formed during WSSD to promote clean fuels and vehicles has been very effective. On the other hand, no international partnership was created to support the implementation of paragraph 57 whose objectives are to phase out lead in paints and other sources and to strengthen monitoring, and surveillance and treating of lead poisoning.

32 See reference above

33 See: http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/en/leadebd2.pdf

34 See: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16889836>

35 See: Needleman cited above

36 See: Philip Landrigan and others, *Environmental Pollutants and Disease in American Children*: <http://www.ehponline.org/members/2002/110p721-728landrigan/EHP110p721PDF.PDF>

37 See Landrigan above

38 A methodology that can be used for relating lead regulations to the MDG can be found in the United Nations Development Program's *Toolkit for Incorporating the Sound Management of Chemicals in MDG-based Policies and Plans* at: <http://www.undp.org/chemicals/Documents/UNDP%20toolkit%20-%20Mainstreaming%20the%20Sound%20Management%20of%20Chemicals%205B1%5D.pdf>

International trade in lead and in paints containing lead contributes to the widespread availability of paints containing lead in many countries. Furthermore, most highly industrial countries have already mandated the phase out of lead from paints and its substitution with less hazardous pigments. The Global Partnership will promote similar mandates in countries where paints containing lead are still widely used.

ICCM is invited to consider the establishment under its auspices of a global partnership to promote the implementation of WSSD POI paragraph 57 to support the phasing out of use of lead in paints. The ICCM is requested to consider the draft resolution in Annex 2.

Annex 1

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
Sixth Session – Forum VI Final Report

IFCS/FORUM-VI/07w
10 October 2008
Executive Summary

Dakar Resolution for Eliminating Lead in Paints

The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum VI),

Having met in Dakar, at the invitation of the Government of Senegal, from 15-19 September 2008,

Recognising that lead in paints poses serious risks to human health and the environment, and especially to the health of children,

Taking into account that most children exposed to lead live in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recognising that household paints sold in developing countries contain lead,

Aware that safer and affordable alternatives already exist for lead in paints,

Affirming that many consumers, especially in developing countries, are unaware of the dangers posed by lead in paints,

Noting that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development paragraph 56 (b) supports the phasing out of lead in gasoline,

Applauding the important work of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) in its implementation of paragraph 56 (b) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Further noting that much progress has been made toward achieving a global phase out of lead in automotive fuels,

Recognising that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in paragraph 57 also calls for the phasing out of lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, and calls for work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning,

1. *Decides* that a global partnership to promote the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development is essential, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
2. *Further decides* that such a partnership should be to support the phasing out of lead in lead-based paints;
3. *Requests* the Forum Standing Committee to establish an ad hoc Working Group following the lead sponsor approach to prepare draft Terms of Reference for a global partnership to be submitted to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2) for it to consider taking a decision to support concerted action to promote the implementation of the measures contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development paragraph 57;
4. *Invites* the Governing Bodies of relevant intergovernmental organisations including UNEP and WHO to support and participate in such an initiative;
5. *Invites* the UNEP Governing Council at its 25th session to consider providing support for such concerted action.

Annex 2

Draft resolution submitted by an *ad hoc* working group of the Forum Standing Committee of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for possible consideration and adoption by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session

Global Partnership to promote the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Phasing Out of Use of Lead in Paints

The Conference,

Considering the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) decisions to protect children's health from exposure to lead in Paragraph 57 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation (POI) called for: “Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning,”

Acknowledging the Dakar Resolution for Eliminating Lead in Paints adopted by the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

Recognizing the progress being made towards achieving a global phase out of lead in automotive fuels by the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles;

Recalling our commitment made in Dubai to work towards closing the gaps and addressing the discrepancies in the capacity to achieve sustainable chemicals management between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the other by addressing the special needs of the latter and strengthening their capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives, through partnerships, technical support and financial assistance.

Further recalling the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy objective “to promote and support the development and implementation of, and further innovation in, environmentally sound and safer alternatives, including cleaner production, informed substitution of chemicals of particular concern and non-chemical alternatives”;

1. **Agrees** that a global partnership to support concerted action to promote the phasing out of use of lead in paints will be an important contribution to the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development paragraph 57 and to the Strategic Approach;
2. **Decides** to establish a Global Partnership to promote Phasing Out of Use of Lead in Paints under the auspices of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and to adopt as a basis for its work the terms of reference as given in the annex;
3. **Encourages** governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other international organizations, industry or business organizations, non-governmental/civil society organizations and academic institutions to participate in the Global Partnership;
4. **Recognizes** that achieving the goals and objectives of the Global Partnership will require sufficient human, financial and in-kind resources, urges all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide such resources on a

voluntary basis.

5. **Requests** the Strategic Approach secretariat, within available resources, to service the Global Partnership;
6. **Invites** the Global Partnership to report on progress in its work to future sessions of the Conference.

Annex to Draft resolution submitted by an *ad hoc working group* of the Forum Standing Committee of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for possible consideration and adoption by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session

Terms of Reference

Global Partnership to promote the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Phasing Out of Use of Lead in Paints

The Terms of Reference that follow are for a *Global Partnership to Phase-Out Use of Lead in Paints* to support implementation of paragraph 57 of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation (POI)³⁹, which states:

“Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.”

The Global Partnership is established under the auspices of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM).

1. Overall Goal

The overall Goal of the partnership is to promote the implementation of Paragraph 57 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation through the prevention of children's exposure to lead via paints containing lead.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Global Partnership are to phase-out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and the eventual elimination of risks from paint containing lead which contribute to childhood lead exposure.

Specific objectives are:

- To raise awareness of government authorities and regulators, private industry, manufacturers, consumers, and health care providers on the toxicity of lead in paints and the availability of technically superior and safer alternatives;
- To catalyse the design and implementation of appropriate prevention-based programmes to reduce and eliminate risks from the use of lead in paint;
- To provide assistance to paint manufacturers that still produce and market paints containing lead to enable them to phase-out lead from their paints;
- To promote the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to restrict the manufacture, import, sale and use of paints containing lead for applications likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure;
- Promote international third-party certification of new paint products to help consumers recognize paint and coatings without added lead; and
- To provide guidance and promote assistance to identify and reduce potential lead exposure in and around housing, childcare facilities and schools in which paint containing lead is present.

39 WSSD POI at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIChapter6.htm

Members of Partnership

The Global Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the overall goal of phasing out the use of lead in paints.

The Global Partnership is open to any government, regional economic integration organization, intergovernmental organization, international, regional or national organization, industry or business organization, non-governmental/civil society organization or academic institution that supports the Partnership goal. It is open also to any other entity or an individual who agrees to work towards the goal of the Partnership.

Participation will be encouraged from the following groups:

- Representatives of national governments including those
 - that have already phased-out the use of lead in paints in their countries and are willing to share experiences and provide help to those who are now prepared to do so;
 - where paints containing lead are still available on the market;
- Representatives of relevant Intergovernmental Organizations (such as WHO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR);
- Representatives of the lead industry and paint industry,
- Representatives of international and/or national companies that manufacture paints; and possibly of their relevant trade organizations;
- International and national medical and public health organizations;
- Academics with expertise in relevant fields;
- Representatives of international and national NGOs that work on environmental health issues and that have experience with public outreach and awareness campaigns and/or with implementation of prevention programmes at the community or national levels.;

Guidance for a working definition of lead paint

The following criteria are used as a working basis for defining “lead paint”:

- the term "lead paint" includes paints, varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or coatings used for any purposes;
- lead is added to the paint, varnish, lacquer, stain, enamel, glaze, primer or coating;
- the total lead concentration is defined on a weight percentage of the total non-volatile portion of the product or in the weight of the dried paint film.

Activities

Partnership activities may include:

- Preparation and dissemination of information materials in national languages to raise awareness about the presence of lead in the paints in a country’s market, and about how this can harm public health. Since the ingestion of lead-containing dust is a major source of lead exposure for children, awareness efforts should include the promotion of warnings on all cans of paint stating that lead dust is toxic and that precautions need to be taken in preparing previously painted surfaces for repainting to minimize exposures to lead dust that may be created. Audiences include the general public, the national public health and medical communities, companies that manufacture, import and/or sell paints, downstream user of the paints, retailers, marketers, and relevant government officials.

- Provide information on substitution and alternatives for lead in paint and support the transfer of technology to do this, working with existing efforts to establish web based portals for information on substitution, alternatives, tools and processes;
- Reviewing the scientific literature and existing national standards as a basis for preparing a guidance document that can be used by governments wishing to establish national regulatory frameworks governing the total lead content of paints;
- Preparation of guidelines for establishing national standards to specify the total lead content of paints, including importation controls; developing a process to establish a recognized, internationally accepted standard that governments may wish to use in the development of national regulatory frameworks governing the total lead content of paints, including contamination levels, that are nationally manufactured, imported, sold or used;
- Providing guidance for the effective enforcement of these national frameworks;
- Providing guidance for the coordinated development and implementation of appropriate prevention programmes for reducing and eliminating risks from paints containing lead with the possibility of translation into UN languages;
- Monitoring continued manufacture, export, import, sale and use of paints containing lead for applications likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure; and
- Publishing a newsletter providing information on work undertaken by members and progress towards achieving the goal and objectives of the partnership with the possibility of translation into UN languages.

Activities will be developed and implemented following the lead sponsor approach. The lead sponsor(s) for each activity in collaboration with interested partners will prepare a work plan, time line, budget and fund raising plan.

The Partnership will develop and implement a monitoring mechanism for tracking progress on activities undertaken through and by the partnership.

Means of Work

The Global Partnership will undertake its work primarily through electronic communication mechanisms. Opportunities in conjunction with SAICM Regional Meetings and international, regional and national meetings on chemical management will be utilized.

The Global Partnership will be supported by the SAICM Secretariat. Subject to the availability of resources, the SAICM Secretariat will:

- provide administrative and secretariat support;
- facilitate information exchange via the SAICM Clearinghouse services;
- help bring new partners to participate in the Global Partnership, as appropriate; and
- facilitate reporting on progress of the Global Partnership to ICCM.

A chairperson will be designated from among members to facilitate the overall coordination of the Global Partnership.

Resources

Each entity or individual, upon becoming a member of the Global Partnership, will commit to contribute resources (financial or in-kind) or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities. Members will work to identify potential relevant funders, government donors or other institutional donors with an interest in providing resources to for the partnership activities.

A budget and fund raising plan will be prepared for each activity by the lead sponsor(s) and interested partners. Countries and organizations in a position to do so are encouraged to provide the identified resources needs. Submission of project activity proposals to the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund will be pursued.
