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Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation

Additional submission by the International Council of Chemical Associations on modalities for reporting

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, an additional submission by the International Council of Chemical Associations containing the results of pilot testing of the indicators proposed in document SAICM/ICCM.2/3, a correlation of these proposed indicators with the Council's Responsible Care and Global Product Strategy indicators and an introduction to a concept for a performance report for the global chemical industry. The submission, contained in the annex to the present note, is being circulated as submitted and has not been formally edited.

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1

Annex



SAICM Modalities of Reporting

Concept Paper for Chemical Industry Reporting

Provided by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)

Summary

The SAICM stakeholders, composed of governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are expected to meet the SAICM goal "... by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to a minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment ...". ICCA will achieve its commitments to SAICM through a voluntary strategy. An ICCA concept for SAICM reporting is provided based on correlating ICCA indicators from the Responsible Care® Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy to the proposed SAICM indicators endorsed by the International Project Steering Committee. Using available 2007 Responsible Care data an initial Pilot Testing has been conducted to permit assessment of the workability of the concept. This paper provides an overview of the ICCA reporting concept. This information will be presented in greater detail for discussion at ICCM-2.

Background

International Conferences on Chemicals Management (ICCM) have been scheduled to undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) until 2020 in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. The Open-Ended Legal and Technical Working Group (OELTWG) addressed the issue of reporting in Rome (October, 2008), taking into account the results of a project sponsored by the Government of Canada including the pilot testing by several stakeholders including ICCA, concluding that a simplified system was needed and that a reconstituted International Project Steering Committee (IPSC) with guidance from the SAICM Secretariat should define a proposal for consideration at ICCM-2. The proposal, based on the 5 Key Elements of the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) with 20 specific indicators, was endorsed by the IPSC in December, 2008 and is outlined in the document SAICM/ICCM.2/3.

The ICCA strategy which was committed to at ICCM-1 in Dubai, 2006, namely the establishment of the Responsible Care Global Charter (RCGC) and the Global Product Strategy (GPS), has been the basis for elaborating a concept for reporting by the global chemical industry for consideration at the OELTWG in Rome. Time constraints limited any overall in-depth discussions at that time, however, the meeting's high-level conclusion concerning reducing complexity could be applied to the ICCA proposal. Hence, following the IPSC endorsement of the path forward, a significant simplification and realignment of the ICCA concept was undertaken to reinforce the commitment of the global chemical industry to a credible reporting system to demonstrate their progress and improvement in the sound management of chemicals through the implementation of SAICM.

Concept

The ICCA Responsible Care programme was launched in 1985 and with a performance data base which has been collected since 1998, considerable experience already exists in data collection and analysis related to the global manufacture and distribution of chemicals. ICCA through its national and regional

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associations and their member companies has committed to collect additional data from 2008 onwards covering the key elements of the Global Product Strategy. The ICCA concept incorporates the guidance that "indicators have been selected taking into account the likely availability of data and ease of data collection" to avoid duplication of effort and additional cost burden.

The concept embraces the proposed Implementation Status (Not Planned [NP], In Development [ID], Completed [C], or Updating [U]) of the original Canadian sponsored project as a technique to assess the stage of implementation in a more quantitative way. As a result of the proposed concept ICCA, using the input from the national associations to the Responsible Care and GPS annual survey, can provide at a global, UN Regional or country level a statistical representation of the status of SAICM implementation for the 20 indicators provisionally endorsed by the IPSC. The expectation is that tracking the status of implementation according to the proposed indicators covering the OPS, at least in line with future ICCMs in 2012, 2015 and 2018 and against the 2020 SAICM completion date, will provide a credible reporting of progress and improvement which can be easily graphically presented. ICCA is committed to provide a public annual report from 2010 based on 2009 data.

Correlation of SAICM Indicators with Responsible Care and Global Product Strategy indicators

Following the initial ICCA proposal submitted to the OELTWG and acknowledging the meeting conclusion for a simplified approach, the RCGC and GPS indicators (approximately 150) were prioritized by industry experts to a more manageable 52 ICCA indicators. Good examples of these indicators are "Emergency Response", "Safe Transport and distribution", "Organization actively implements a product stewardship programme", "Greenhouse gas emissions", "Sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides emissions" etc. A comprehensive correlation of the 20 SAICM indicators, taking into account the guidance under "notes on data to be collected" (Annex of document SAICM/ICCM.2/3) and the 52 ICCA indicators was completed by industry experts and compiled into a spreadsheet with the appropriate algorithms. Population of the relevant ICCA indicators with the RCGC/GPS at a national level provides a country profile vis-à-vis the 20 SAICM indicators. Agglomeration of the country profiles within a UN Region provides a regional profile and agglomeration of all UN Regions provides a global profile.

Pilot Testing using available 2007 Responsible Care Data

Once the correlation had been established for the simplified concept as discussed above, pilot testing was conducted based on the available 2007 Responsible Care data from the 53 participating national associations. In order to differentiate the status of implementation of SAICM on a global basis it was hypothesized that compiling the data by United Nations (UN) Regions, namely Africa, Asia Pacific, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, and Western European & Other Groups (WEOG), could demonstrate some meaningful differences and drive effective action. The initial overview, while clearly not complete because GPS data will only be available from 2008 onwards, does allow for initial conclusions that this approach will be a workable tool for measuring progress and, just as important, a decision tool for defining future actions to target and accelerate further improvements.

Performance Report for the Global Chemical Industry

The performance report against the 20 SAICM indicators is demonstrated in the table below at the global level, achieved through the correlation with the global chemical industry data currently measured. The data is from the pilot testing using 2007 Responsible Care input, which historically has only 3 of the proposed 4 implementation status categories, however, this aspect will be upgraded for 2008 data collection during 2009 as well as including the GPS data for the first time. Graphic representation of these data will permit easy visual communication of the similarities and differences that are inherent in the data set by, for example, the 20 SAICM indicators individually, by UN Regions and by country. Targeted

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actions can be defined for driving continuous improvement and performance tracked effectively over time. Significantly more data is available and will be utilized to further demonstrate the concept during ICCM-2.

UN REGION: GLOBAL					
Implementation Status Profile Official SAICM Indicators		N P	ID	C	U
		Risk reduction			
1	Number of countries (and organizations) having mechanisms in place for determining the chemicals used in their countries and for setting priorities for risk reduction.	29%	19%	52%	0%
2	Number of countries with national legislation addressing key categories of chemicals.	31%	57%	12%	0%
3	Number of countries (and organizations) implementing agreed chemicals management tools.	21%	31%	48%	0%
4	Number of countries (organizations) engaged in activities which result in comparable monitoring data on selected environmental pollutants and human health priority substances.	18%	24%	58%	0%
5	Number of countries (organizations) with adequate hazardous waste management arrangements.	2%	50%	48%	0%
Knowledge and information					
6	Number of countries (and organizations) actively working to improve the provision of information according to internationally harmonized standards.	24%	27%	49%	0%
7	Number of countries (and organizations) which have specific strategies in place for communicating information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups.	22%	26%	52%	0%
8	Number of countries (and organizations) with research programmes addressing safer alternatives and cleaner production technology.	5%	21%	74%	0%
9	Number of countries (and organizations) with a website where national partners can gain access to information about the sound management of chemicals.	17%	33%	49%	0%
Governance					
10	Number of countries (and organizations) which have expressed commitment to SAICM implementation through national policies and/or programmes.	14%	26%	59%	0%
11	Number of countries (and organizations) with a national coordinating mechanism in place for chemicals management.	26%	29%	45%	0%
	Number of countries (and organizations) with national policies and legislation in place to implement key international chemicals priorities.	20%	0%	80%	0%
13	Number of countries (organizations) with plan of action for SAICM implementation.	19%	39%	42%	0%

Capacity-building and technical cooperation					
14	Number of countries (and organizations) providing resources (financial and in-kind) to assist capacity building or technical cooperation with other countries.	26%	29%	45%	0%
15	Number of countries (and organizations) which have identified and prioritized their national capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals.	20%	0%	80%	0%
16	Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in regional cooperation on issues relating to chemicals management.	23%	27%	49%	0%
17	Number of countries where chemicals management is included in overseas development assistance programming.	25%	27%	48%	0%
18	Number of countries with capacity-building projects supported by the SAICM QSP Trust Fund	Correlates available	to GPS from	Indicators 2008	only onwards
19	Number of countries making applications to other sources of funding.	Correlates available	to GPS from	Indicators 2008	only onwards
Illegal international traffic					
20	Number of countries having legislation to prevent traffic in toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals.	22%	27%	51%	0%

Further elaboration at ICCM-2

During ICCM-2 in Geneva in May, 2009, a side event is planned to present the concept in more detail, demonstrate the pilot testing and discuss the potential of broader application for other stakeholders.