



SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/45



Distr.: General
10 May 2009

English and Arabic only

International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Evaluation of and guidance on implementation and review and update of the Strategic Approach

Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in Arab countries: submission by Egypt on behalf of the Arab countries

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in Arab countries, submitted by Egypt on behalf of the Arab countries. The report is being circulated as submitted, in English and Arabic only, without formal editing.

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

Annex

Report on the progress achieved in implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Arab Countries

First: Historical overview:

1. The Arab countries contributed positively in the SAICM development process, which started formally through a series of sessions of a Preparatory Committee “PrepComs” commencing in 2003, which was multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder in nature, involving representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and groups of stakeholders . The main outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) at its first session, which was held in Dubai in February 2006 were:
 - Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management
 - Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)
 - The Global Plan of Action (GPA)
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2. The Arab Countries played an important role in the preparatory process to set the general framework of SAICM by focusing light on all SAICM items not only its elements, which consequently led to the implementation of SAICM in its current status. The Arab countries, as well, had a positive contribution by adding capacity building and illegal international traffic to OPS objectives. Besides, the Arab countries called for a financial mechanism for SAICM implementation.
3. Egypt presented the Ministerial declaration to ICCM1 on behalf of the Arab countries, issued by The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) in its 17th session (December – 2005) which stressed a commitment to implement OPS and GPA. Egypt headed the international team which drafted Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management

Second: progress achieved in SAICM implementation:

The Arab countries were among the first countries to develop and implement SAICM through:

1. Presenting the initiative on sustainable development in the Arab Region to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002 and its adoption by the Arab Summit in 2004. It included strengthening Arab efforts to implement the sound management of chemicals.
2. The inclusion of the follow up of SAICM in the agenda of the Arab team responsible for the follow up of MEAs on chemicals and hazardous wastes. Its main outputs:
 - The establishment of SAICM Arab Coordination Unit on the international management of chemicals, and defining its terms of references.
 - The issuing of SAICM Arab implementation plan.
 - The issuing of SAICM implementation guidelines.
3. In most of the Arab countries, the national focal points have been nominated and national committees have been established including all relevant stakeholders (governments, private sectors, civil society, academia, scientific research... etc).
4. The implementation of several activities to promote the establishment of national cleaner production centers. Currently, there are national centers in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt,

- Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. The directors of these centers participate personally, in rotation, in the meetings of the joint committee on environment and development in the Arab region to present a report on the centers activities. Many efforts are currently in process through UNEP to establish a network among them to exchange experience and knowledge.
5. A draft Arab Strategy on sustainable production and consumption has been prepared and is currently under review by Arab countries experts in process for adoption.
 6. The continuation of the regional program for capacity building in issues related to environment and trade implemented in cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), ESCWA and UNEP ROWA.
 7. The adoption of an Arab guidelines list for environmental goods by The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) to be used in trade negotiations.
 8. The holding of several training workshops on SAICM related issues, i.e. workshop on GHS (Alexandria 2006, Jeddah 2008).
 9. The carrying out of a study on the degree of consistency of environmental legislations in Arab countries with the obligations of MEAs including those related to chemicals and hazardous wastes. It was adopted by The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) in the 19th session (Dec. 2007). CAMRE also adopted a guideline to develop and update legislation.
 10. The continuation of the regional program on Arab capacity building in safe management of hazardous wastes carried out by Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab countries.
 11. The development of a draft for an Arab Strategy on preventing illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes by Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab Countries currently under review by Arab countries experts in process for adoption.

Third: obstacles and challenges:

1. Lack of an international financial mechanism for SAICM implementation.
2. Lack of legislations and ways of enforcements.
3. Lack of commitments by developed countries to fulfill their obligations to transfer technologies to provide safe alternatives and capacity buildings.
4. Delay in establishing national committees and lack of coherence and synergies between existing national institutions related to SAICM and current processes. With regard to countries that established national committees, there is lack of participation of all related sectors and stakeholders.
5. Difficulties in SAICM implementation because of its wide range which include environmental, economic, social, health and labor aspects for chemical safety.
6. Disharmony and variation in the implementation of the MEAs and the impacts of that on the implementation process at the national, and the Arab regional level. (The unequal implementation of the current international policies).
7. Difficulty in obtaining information about many chemicals currently in use or there is no access to international database.
8. Lack of capacities for the sound management of chemicals in some Arab countries, on the national and sub-regional Arab level.
9. The inadequacy of reliable national resources (e.g. financial resources, technical accredited laboratories...etc.) in most Arab countries to deal with chemical safety issues, particularly, to bridge the widening gap between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries on the other.
10. Lack of access to safe alternatives and technologies which in turn help prevent the illegal international traffic in chemicals.
11. The insufficiency of mechanisms used to address the social and economic impacts of chemicals on human health, society and environment including liability, compensation and restitution of rights to their owners.

12. Inadequacy of knowledge based standards and objective scientific methods for evaluating chemicals risk effects on the human being and the environment on the Arab regional level.
13. The unavailability of complete and updated database for chemicals.

Fourth: next phase requirements to promote the strategic approach:

During the last three years of implementation, on the national, Arabic and international level, it was found that some gaps and obstacles prevented or delayed the progress. This requires developing and introducing new measures to help in implementing and pushing the strategic approach forward. Arab countries propose the following:

A. On the national and Arabic level:

1. Apply standards for environmental economic degradation resulting from unsafe use of chemicals.
2. Apply the principle of risk calculation, analysis and evaluation.
3. Find the suitable mechanisms to deal with environmental degradation resulting from unsafe use of chemicals.
4. Evaluate and accredit specialized laboratories.
5. Wider participation of stakeholders in the strategic approach implementation.
6. Provide intensive training on GHS
7. Update and activate laws and legislations to cope with related international agreements.
8. Prepare the integrated management strategy for chemicals and hazardous wastes.
9. Exchange experiences to promote the transfer of modern technologies and safe alternatives.
10. Strengthen the partnership principle in implementation between stakeholders,
11. Develop database and information systems for chemicals in use, easy to access, and that cover chemicals life cycle.

B. On the International level:

1. An international sustainable financial mechanism should be adopted, characterized by its clearness; harmony and flexibility, to fill in the gaps in the implementation possibilities of the strategic approach in Arab countries. It should provide close opportunities for different countries to implement the strategic approach and provide new and renewable financial resources. All countries, specially developed countries, should be encouraged to provide financial support for the strategic approach implementation. See attached proposal by Arab countries for the mechanism in this concern (annex 1)
2. Encourage commitment by all countries, specially developed countries, to facilitate information dissemination and to provide the required expertise to enhance chemicals management with concessionary conditions to transfer updated technologies that use clean alternatives to the Arab countries.
3. Concentrate efforts at the next stage on the emergency issues throughout the chemical substance life cycle activities.
4. Include all related issues of chemicals management and what is carried on in the implementation of international environmental agreements (e.g. Rotterdam, Stockholm, Basel, Vienna... etc.) and what is being discussed concerning mercury, lead, cadmium and heavy materials within the strategic approach to support synergies between them and the strategic approach; while maintaining the harmony and agreed upon mechanisms for management matters without interference, see attached proposal by Arab countries (annex 2).
5. Provide local, regional and international programs for extended workshops which aim to raise stakeholders' perception (e.g. governments, private sector, civil society and NGOs) concerning the importance of improving chemicals management. Similar programs should also be provided to raise social awareness

about chemicals hazards to be implemented in cooperation with different civil society organizations.

6. Focus attention on all developments, conferences and meetings related to the strategic approach, locally, regionally and internationally through visual, written and audible media channels. The international information network can also be used for the same purpose to raise the awareness and knowledge of the society and the stockholders. Adequate, financial support should be provided for this purpose.
7. Develop the Global Plan of Action to be more flexible to permit updating and improvement. GPA should be suitable to countries' real needs and concerns according to their existing resources and internal circumstances.
8. Strengthen cooperation on the international level in research and technology transfer.
9. Provide financial resources to develop and establish specialized research centers on the local and regional level to fill the gap between developed and the developing countries.
10. Apply the pollutant pays principle.
11. Provide technical support for capacity building towards sound management of chemicals.
12. Enhance available resources to solve the chemical safety issues specially to fill the widening gap between the developed and developing countries.
13. Provide safe alternatives with easy access to and to that of safer technology, which would in turn help to prevent illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals.
14. Provide and improve available mechanisms to redress the social and economic effects of chemicals on human health and environment including liability, compensation and restitution of rights to their owners.

Fifth: Arab proposals concerning:

1. Economic instrument mechanism (Financial mechanism) to cover SAICM implementation

It is important to have a financial mechanism for SAICM implementation. The Arab coordination Unit for SAICM prepared a working paper titled "The economic instruments' mechanism to cover SAICM implementation (The financial mechanism)" in its 3rd meeting held at the headquarter of the League of Arab States 2- 3 Nov. 2008. It was adopted by CAMRE in its 20th session December 2008. (Annex 1)

Advantages of the recommended financial mechanism:

- a. Ensure the availability of a sustainable financial mechanism.
- b. Ensure the implementation of the goals of the strategic approach.
- c. Capacity building of developing countries in SAICM implementation.
- d. Reduce harm effects and prevent environmental degradation.
- e. Protect health specially children and women.
- f. Prevent illegal international traffic.

2. Mutual synergies and cooperation between MEAs on chemicals and SAICM:

ICCM stressed the importance of Synergies between relevant MEAs and SAICM implementation. The Arab coordination Unit for SAICM prepared in its 3rd meeting held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States 2- 3 Nov. 2008 a paper on "the synergies and cooperation between MEAs on chemicals and SAICM", (Annex 2). It aims to reach synergies and cooperation on the regional, sub-regional and national level to enhance the effective operational implementation of SAICM.

a. Elements of the paper:

1. MEAs on chemicals (table 1 - figure 1)

2. Chemicals life cycle (table 1 - figure 2)
 3. The technical scope of the MEAs.
- b. The advantages of Synergies:**
1. Achievement of sustainable development.
 2. Integration of the implementation process.
 3. No duplication.
 4. No variation in the implementation process
 5. Strengthen partnership among stakeholders
 6. Definition of priorities.
 7. Establishment and support of infrastructure.
 8. Provision of information and knowledge,
 9. Prevention of illegal international traffic,
 10. Definition of relevant issues between chemicals and trade.
 11. Filling the gaps.
 12. Activating and updating legislations.
 13. Capacity building.
 14. Chemicals risk reduction

Table 1: Relation between MEAs on chemicals and SAICM

MEA \ Item	POPs	Intensive hazardous chemicals	Ozone depleting substances	All chemicals substances and products
Production	Stockholm Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Montreal Protocol	SAICM
Trade	Stockholm Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Montreal Protocol	SAICM
Use	Stockholm Convention/ ILO Conventions	Rotterdam Convention/ ILO Conventions	Montreal Protocol/ ILO Conventions	SAICM
Wastes and their disposal	Basel Convention/ Stockholm Convention	Basel Convention/ Rotterdam Convention	Basel Convention	SAICM

Figure 1: Relation between MEAs on chemicals and SAICM

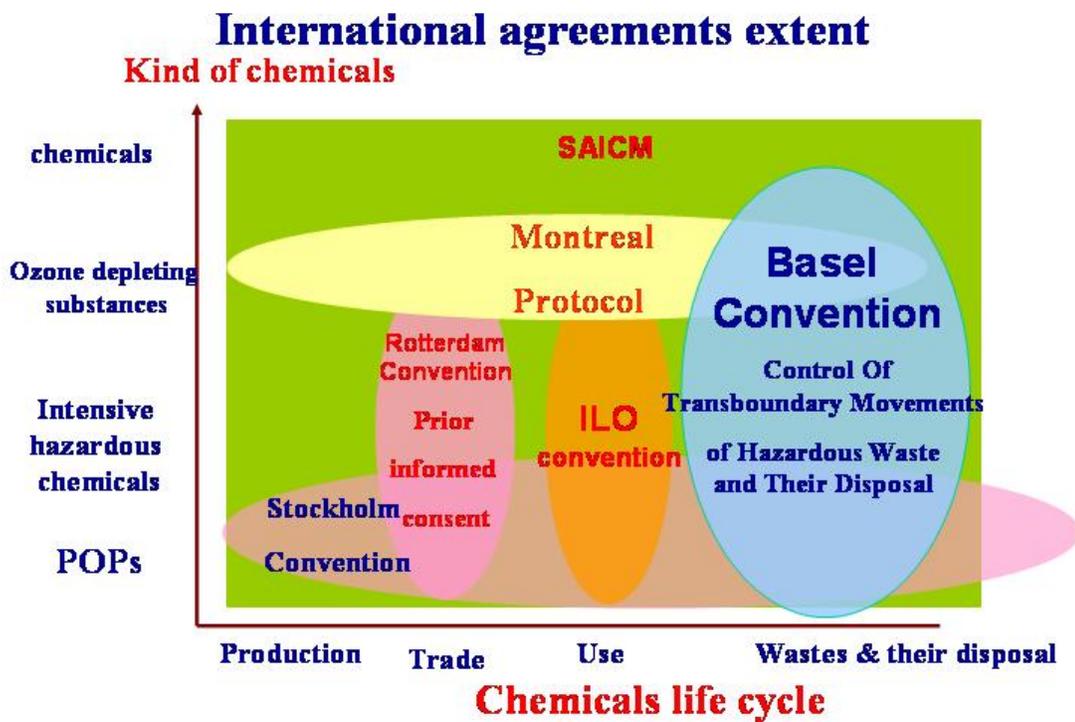
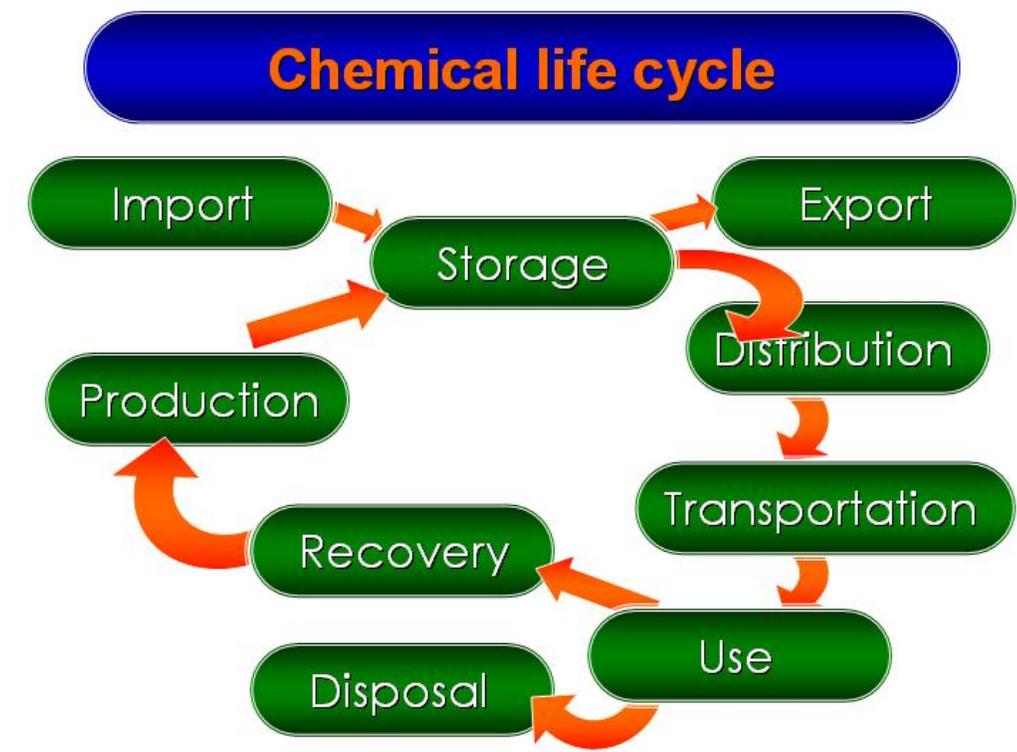


Figure 2: chemicals life cycle:



3. Procedures that could be taken concerning illegal international traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes in accordance with the 5th objective of SAICM

Arab countries showed interest in the procedures that could be taken to prevent illegal international traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes in accordance with SAICM 5th objective for the following:

- Possible entrance of severely hazardous chemicals without the availability of data on its use, handling or safe disposal.
- Possible entrance of restricted chemicals.
- Possible entrance of unknown wastes,

Therefore, The Arab Coordination Unit for SAICM made an analysis of the illegal international traffic process in chemicals, hazardous wastes and defined the procedures that could be taken, to prevent it ([Annex 3](#)).

Sixth: Arab Countries' opinions and comments concerning:

1. ICCM rules and procedures

The Arab Coordination Unit for SAICM reviewed the ICCM rules and procedures draft and proposes some amendments in this concern ([Annex 4](#))

2. Governmental temporary questionnaire concerning SAICM implementation notification

SAICM secretariat published a temporary questionnaire for governments to notify about SAICM implementation. It includes in the preamble the administrative topics, part one contains the coordination procedures undertaken on the national level, followed by the primary planning and finally, the progress achieved in accordance to the five objectives. The Arab Coordination Unit for SAICM proposes an amendment to this part to make the evaluation process more clear ([Annex 5](#)).

3. The emerging issues:

The emerging issues should deal with all activities that directly and effectively affect general health and the environment and the achievement of the 2020 general goal of SAICM, which states that by that date, chemicals should be produced with the minimum risk on human health and the environment. Risk assessment should be undertaken on a scientific base, taking into account costs, benefits and the availability of more effective and safe alternatives; in addition to minimizing risks from unintentional releases of chemicals which cause risks whose impacts on human health and the environment are hard to control; besides, bridging the gap in chemicals management between the developed countries on the one hand and developing countries on the other, as well as, facilitating the implementation of the conventions and current work areas; and targeting issues that are currently not dealt with. The emerging issues should deal with the life cycle of the chemical substances, (as shown in table 2) taking in to account the following:

1. Facing up, on the national level, to gap in the implementation of laws, current policies including fulfillment of commitments to international conventions.
2. Development of data base systems that depend on assessment and scientific rules, and the establishment of centers to collect and exchange information on the national, regional and international level.
3. The establishment of internationally accredited national labs.

Table (2)

Chemicals life cycle	Activities
Cleaner production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce chemicals in ways to minimize the intensive harmful impacts on human health and environment supported by risk assessment on a scientific base taking in to account costs, benefits and the availability of more effective and safe alternatives. - Transfer of technology and capacity building for more use of cleaner production and best available techniques in industry, according to chemicals life cycle. - Apply internationally recognized standards, tools and approaches concerning the environment, health and protection from chemicals, e.g. GHS, chemicals release and pollution transfer registers. - Advance the production of safe alternatives to minimize the production of harmful chemicals to health and the environment, e.g. high toxic pesticides. - Implement and comply with relevant MEAs, by preventing the production of substances listed under POPs and substances depleting the Ozone layer. - Provide all required scientific data on these substances.
Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use the best environmental practices to reduce hazardous wastes generated from use. - Minimize the unintentional release of chemicals that causes risks to human health and the environment based on risk assessment taking in to consideration the costs and benefits. - Prepare assessment and risk reduction studies. - Capacity building, education, training and information exchange concerning chemicals sound management for all stakeholders. - Minimize use of severely hazardous pesticides, - Implement the environmental conventions and ILO conventions No. 170, 174. - Establish data base.
Transport and storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment to the technical terms and standards, the precautionary regulations and the legislative procedures in the transport and storage stages. - Capacity building and training of personnel to improve required skills

Chemicals life cycle	Activities
	to support the strategic approach implementation in the transport and storage stage through an integrated package of chemical safety requirements.
Import and export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen national and regional mechanisms, and implementation that support existing MEAs that contain provisions preventing illegal traffic. - Cooperation to prevent illegal international traffic in hazardous, toxic restricted and banned chemicals including products containing these substances and their compounds. - Strengthen information sharing and enhance the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the national and regional levels for the prevention and control of illegal international traffic. - Commitment to implement the prior informed consent in relevant MEAs. - Take measures on the national, regional and international levels to prevent illegal traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes in accordance with effective international conventions related to the transboundary movements of chemicals and hazardous wastes. - Provide training on the inter-relation between chemicals and the environment, including improving negotiation skills and encouraging cooperation among MEAs secretariats to develop programs of chemicals' trade rules and regulations to enhance understating among governments, international institutions and stakeholders. - Strengthen national labs and improve technology transfer, capacity building and training to establish accredited labs on the national and regional Arab levels to contribute to the prevention, discover and control of illegal international traffic, in addition, to enhance building trust in chemicals sound management on the national level to help to protect health and the environment.
Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize hazardous wastes generation with regard to amount and toxicity; and ensure environmental sound management, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes. - Improve environmental sound recovery and recycle of hazardous substances and wastes. - Ensure the ability of national institutional frameworks to prevent illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes. - Restrict and rehabilitate contaminated sites. - Implement related international environmental agreements.

Annex (1)

**Economic instrument mechanism (financial
mechanism)
to cover SAICM expenses**

Economic instrument mechanism (financial mechanism) to cover SAICM expenses

First, Preface:

Lack of financial resources is a main obstacle that faces the implementation of agreed upon activities of SAICM and relevant MEAs. Lack of financial resources hinders the execution of required activities for implementation, follow up and assessment. Obstacles to international finance and the lack of a reliable regional mechanism call for a necessity to find a national/regional mechanism to assist and contribute in implementing those activities.

Recognizing the necessity to define new resources and financial mechanisms to ensure the implementation of SAICM and the achievement of goals set in paragraph 23 of the plan implementation of the World Summit of Sustainable Development, SAICM process should imply an explicit commitment by all stakeholders to advance this task.

Therefore the Arab countries worked to include the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in their national strategies to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Second, Definition of Economic instruments:

Economic instruments are the most effective environmental and political instruments. They are a group of financial instruments and means used to protect the environment; because of their effect on the expenses and expenditures of investment projects as well as the price of final products. They also affect the behavior of economic institutions through changing the financial incentives to enhance the effective management cost of natural and environmental resources.

Some economic definitions of sustainable development focus on the ideal management of natural resources by emphasizing on "acquiring the maximum limit of the advantages of economic development, with condition of protecting the services of natural resources and their quality".

Other economic definitions focus on the idea that "the use of resources today should not decrease the real income in the future ". This definition relies on the idea that "current decisions should not harm the capabilities of protecting or enhancing living standards in the future. This means that our economic systems should be managed in such a way so that we should live on the profit of our resources and we should keep and enhance the substantive assets".

Third, Guiding principles of the financial mechanism:

Because of the varying nature of environmental objectives and variety of applied financial mechanism, there are some standards and practices used for the assessment of environmental financial mechanism that national governments should consider in case of developing proposals for financial instruments. The following principles should be considered to improve the regulatory framework to implement SAICM objectives:

1. Neutrality, objectivity and independence.
2. Justice.
3. Certainty, simplicity, cost reduction.
4. Harmonization with other financial legislations and governmental commitments.
5. Political support.
6. Risk management:
 - Chemicals management should be built on the study and evaluation of risk.
 - Decisions should be based on controlled scientific assessment of potential risk.
 - Chemicals management should be sound to avoid unexpected risks.
 - Risk management procedures should be capable of protecting the population and the environment.
 - Risk assessment decisions should be upgraded.
 - Analysis of utility/ expenses should affect risk management decisions.

7. Information systems

- Chemicals information systems should be developed through the establishment of databases.
- The system should provide database to display chemicals, fast and accurate, in order to evaluate the need of additional data for work priorities and to increase confidence in risk evaluation.
- Decisions of risk evaluation or the collection and display of any additional information should be based on specific evaluations based on an accredited scientific institution.

8. Information exchange:

- Create an international/ regional/ sub-regional network for chemicals information exchange.
- Supply the system with all available and accessible information.
- Use all available information (either from consumer or producer) in chemicals management decisions and make it available to the public.
- The system should provide all information and data to relevant stakeholders and the public and should assure the balance between the display of information to the public and the legal protection of information.
- Information and available data concerning risk management should be displayed and made available to the public.

9. Participation:

- The system should support the responsibilities of every party through evaluating the extend of instruction observation.
- Disseminate information between trade businesses related to chemicals to enable the producer and the consumer to evaluate and manage risk and provide the suitable information.
- Support cooperation between producers, distributors and users to ensure the development, use and application of available information on chemicals.
- The system should provide a base to encourage producers, distributors and users to take the required procedures for the safe use of chemicals.
- Parties in case of danger on human being from the use of a certain chemical, product should reduce risks as available. In case of failing, they have the right to prevent using, or selling the product.

Fourth, Performance criteria

The efficiency of the financial mechanism should be evaluated taking into consideration the following:

1. The extent of the mechanism response and that of the authorized structure responsible for operating the mechanism, to the outcomes of ICCM.
2. The transparency of the acceptance process for financial support.
3. The simplicity, flexibility and quickness of procedures to obtain finance.
4. The safeguard of adequate and sustainable resources.
5. The level of stakeholders' participation.
6. Verification of the balanced form of support to SAICM objectives.

Fifth, Institutional structure:

National focal point for SAICM

Sixth, Principles for the economic instruments resources (financial mechanism):

- A clear international strategy for resources' mobilization relying on separate fund or sharing with existing funds in addition to countries' contributions based on United Nations schedule contribution.
- New and additional.
- Existing and potential/ define priorities/ distribution.
- More effective and efficient use of existing fund resources.

Seventh, Economic instruments resources:

- Financial mechanism.
- Product taxes.
- Collecting upon service.
- Compensation.
- Subsidiaries and emissions permits (market's permissions)
- Trade permits.
- Others.

Eighth, Indicators:

- Adequacy
- Sustainability.
- Feasibility.
- Equity.

Ninth, Implementation procedures:

- To make SAICM significance, it should be an approach that fosters international efforts in general and Arab efforts in particular to advance the sound management of chemicals. The approach should include adequate economic instruments (financial resources), involving new and additional resources to strengthen capabilities and capacities entrusted with the implementation of the Strategic Approach in Arab Countries. Recommended financial arrangements for the Strategic Approach include:
 - a. **Measures at the national level to support financing the objectives of the Strategic Approach:**
 - (1) Integrating the Strategic Approach objectives in the government budget.
 - (2) Governments should assess current laws, policies and regulations to identify changes that are needed to advance the implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives, including clarifying the financial obligations of producers and users of chemicals products related to the sound management of chemicals.
 - (3) Governments should assess and adopt additional economic instruments on the national level to advance the incorporation of the costs of the sound chemicals management in their related industries.
 - (4) Governments should study the possibility of using economic instruments, whether on the international and global levels to advance internalizing the costs of sound chemicals management and their relevant activities within related industries currently undertaken by national governments.
 - b. **Enhancing the financial participation of industrial sectors in the implementation of the strategic approach objectives:**
 - (1) Invite industrial sectors to review and strengthen current voluntary industrial initiatives to be in accordance with the level of the great challenges associated with the implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives.

- (2) Invite industrial sectors to develop new voluntary industrial initiatives meaningful and appropriate in timing to implement the Strategic Approach objectives.
 - (3) Invite industrial sectors to provide financial contributions to implement the Strategic Approach objectives with focus on the projects activities that correspond with corporate social and environmental responsibilities.
- c. Integration of the Strategic Approach objectives into the multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes:
- (1) Arab countries should prioritize the Strategic Approach objectives in the national policies' documents that influence the development assistance programmes and national budgeting processes.
 - (2) Donor countries should provide adequate financial and technical assistance to support Arab countries' efforts to integrate the Strategic Approach objectives within applied national policies.
 - (3) Donor countries should include the Strategic Approach as one of the important elements of their programmes of assistance.
 - (4) Invite international financial institutions, regional and international governmental organizations to prioritize the Strategic Approach objectives within their programmes.
- d. Make more effective use of existing multilateral funding sources and rely on them:
- (1) Invite the Global Environmental Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol to use their existing activities to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives.
 - (2) Donor Countries should work on supporting adequate and sustainable processes to renew existing fund resources, (Quick Start Programme).
 - (3) Invite donor countries of GEF to establish a communication area for chemicals and/or any additional programme activities that are meaningful, adequate and sustainable to finance priorities in recipient countries that implement the Strategic Approach objectives.
 - (4) Invite international financing institutions and regional and international governmental organizations to work with donor countries to strengthen the existing financial instruments and procedures that could support the funding of the emerging needs in Arab countries and establish new ones for the implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives.
- e. Create an international cooperative trust fund to support the implementation of the strategic Approach objectives :
- (1) Governments should provide obligatory contribution, to this fund on the principal of common but differentiated responsibilities.
 - (2) Invite industrial sectors to pay contributions to the trust fund.
 - (3) Invite GEF and the World Bank to start facilitating the design and establishment of the trust fund in cooperation with donor countries, taking into account, the characteristics of the Strategic Approach and its institutional arrangements.
 - (4) Invite other international financial institutions and international governmental organizations to support this trust fund.
- f. Ensure that management method of the Strategic Approach financial arrangements are in harmony with the institutional arrangements of the Strategic Approach.
- g. support capabilities and build effective capacities within the Strategic Approach secretariat that is able to raise resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

Tenth, The importance of economic instruments:

- Ensure and assert the implementation of the Strategic Approach and the sustainability of the achievements of its objectives on all levels, moreover, strengthen opportunities to reduce the negative effects in dealing with chemicals use and consequently protecting human health and environment.
- The importance of the economic instruments is evident when they aim to obligate the pollutant to pay, thus, they could be used to minimize the pollution from industrial investment projects causing toxic emissions, by relating these instruments to emissions levels, in addition to the joint responsibilities of polluters to pay liability for services rendered to the authority responsible for environmental protection.
- The amount of revenues depends on activities polluting the environment. The more effective the implementation on the pollutant is, the more effective are the environmental economic instruments and the more they could fulfill their role in protecting the environment.
- Two main questions should be considered to reach the environmental objectives through the financial mechanism:
 - a. Could the financial mechanism procedure face the environmental issues?
 - b. Is the financial mechanism procedure the best way to face the environmental issues?

Eleventh, Organizational procedures:

The governments should provide some other organizational procedures to face the negative environmental issues and to encourage safe use and disposal of chemicals these include:

- Environmental laws, i.e. producer responsibility and the prohibition of some chemicals, specially those classified as intensive toxic chemicals and listed in the International Register for Toxic Chemicals.
- Information systems that include companies' classification, labeling, and companies' permit certification according to their environmental performance.
- Voluntary agreements and industrial initiatives, between industry and government to achieve the sound management of chemicals.

Annex (2)

**Synergies and cooperation between relevant
international conventions on chemicals and
the Strategic Approach**

Synergies and cooperation between relevant international conventions on chemicals and the Strategic Approach

(a). Overview:

Synergies and cooperation between SAICM and the relevant international conventions on chemicals on the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

(b). Objective:

This paper aims to discuss the nature of synergies and cooperation on the regional, sub-regional and national levels to improve the efficiency of SAICM implementation through avoiding repetition of efforts and enhancing coordination in the implementation process.

(c). Why synergies?

1. The main target of synergies and cooperation is to create an enabling environment for the good implementation of SAICM to achieve sustainable development.
2. Targets include:
 - (a). Synergies between spheres of action and SAICM activities.
 - (b). Synergies between national, regional and sub-regional implementation plans.
 - (c). Synergies between SAICM and other relevant international initiatives on chemicals.
 - (d). Synergies between activities in related sectors e.g. health and environment.

(d). Conventions on chemicals include:

1. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
 2. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
 3. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
 4. Vienna Convention to protect Ozone Layer and its supplementary agreement; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
 5. ILO 170 Convention on safety use of chemicals at work
 6. ILO 174 “Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents”.
- The implementation of the sound management of chemicals in developing countries is in essence an obscure matter; this is because the required human resources, as well as the technical experts and the infrastructure exceed the technical and financial capabilities of developing countries. SAICM negotiations concluded by a clear road map that could be used by relevant authorities, such as the relevant governmental authorities, IGOs, NGOs and United Nations relevant organizations, to start enhancing current efforts to reach the sound management of chemicals. This challenge is considered a part of the implementation process.
 - SAICM implementation requires commitment, political leadership and availability of resources and capacities, in addition, to developing cooperation and coordination between implementing officials and different sectors such as agriculture, environment, finance, health, industry and business. There is also a necessity to develop cooperation among regions and between regions, as well as, on the national level for the effective implementation of SAICM.

- SAICM represents opportunities and challenges. There are many opportunities for governments to create relations as the national implementation requires coordination on the sectoral level (agriculture, environment, finance, health, industry and business). Chemicals management is a main component of the wider national efforts component to perform environmental protection and achieve sustainable agricultural and industrial sustainable development. Governments could also use SAICM as a tool to reach a balance between the legal and commercial interests to minimize unintentional impacts of trade impediments to provide markets and information on risk assessment, to improve quality, in addition to fixed technical regulations and compliance to international obligations.
- For some countries, there are opportunities to improve competitiveness in chemical industries, increase chemicals net profit and attract investment. There is also an opportunity to support industrial initiatives jointly with governments and other relevant authorities.
- For chemicals industries there is an opportunity to improve general confidence in safety management of chemicals and attract attention to their competence to update and contribute to the social welfare on the international level.
- Relevant international organization should support the activities and communicate with developing countries in suitable ways to study and consider their needs.
- Great efforts have been made on the international level to implement SAICM. All relevant parties that contributed in SAICM negotiations have opportunities and responsibilities to effectively implement SAICM.
- There are 5 main strategic approaches that could be studied:
 - (1) Integrate efforts to build national capacities on different levels (local authorities, regions and central governments), and within different social levels (agricultural producers, population groups, high economics officials and government agencies...etc.) to implement relevant conventions on chemicals. For example required labs to control chemicals covered by the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, could be used as well, to cover chemicals under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. In cases where the required equipment for the purposes of a certain convention is available, officers in charge of another convention can provide additional equipment for other components to raise national capacities.
 - (2) Integrate relevant SAICM concerns in planning processes for different sectors of the national economy.
 - (3) Revise programmes and current projects to include requirements for the implementation of chemicals conventions.
 - (4) Explore other opportunities to strengthen relations and coordination between work areas and SAICM activities.
 - (5) Strengthen cooperation efforts to improve relations between governments, NGOs and the private sector.

(e). Fields that require relations:

On the national level:

1. Encourage ratification and implementation of different conventions on chemicals, specially, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
2. Strengthen the integrated multi-sectoral approach for SAICM implementation.
3. Encourage consultation and coordination between chemicals conventions focal points and SAICM focal points on the national and regional levels.
4. Encourage the formation of multi-sectors committee to be responsible for the management of the implementation process of the conventions and SAICM.

5. Develop joint implementation projects for the important activities of more than one convention, i.e. capacity building, raising awareness, legal and political studies.
6. Coordinate the projects carried out in cooperation with different IGOs.
7. Harmonize and coordinate chemicals management legislations on the national level.
8. Integrate chemicals conventions and SAICM implementation in national programmes and strive to take integrated procedures.
9. Establishment of joint infrastructure notably in databases and laboratory abilities.
10. Ensure the integration of chemicals management issues within the national development and poverty reduction strategies.
11. Explore opportunities to link SAICM activities with national investment strategies that aim to develop chemicals industries in a sustainable manner and to improve relations between optional industrial initiatives and SAICM in partnership with other relative authorities.

On the regional level:

1. Encourage Arab countries that have not yet ratified, to ratify chemicals conventions, especially Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions and Montreal Protocol.
2. Encourage consultation between chemicals conventions focal points and SAICM focal points.
3. Encourage cooperation between developed and developing countries in the implementation of the chemicals conventions and SAICM.
4. Strengthen sub-regional cooperation and the exchange of expertise in chemicals management within the framework in SAICM implementation and other chemicals initiatives that include chemicals conventions.
5. Strengthen joint initiatives between the chemical conventions regional centers specially with regard to information exchange and capacity building.
6. Develop regional programmes to implement chemicals conventions and work area of SAICM on the regional and sub-regional levels.
7. Activate the Arab Coordination Unit's mechanism to enhance SAICM implementation process and Synergies with and between chemicals conventions.
8. Joint establishment of infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals including databases.

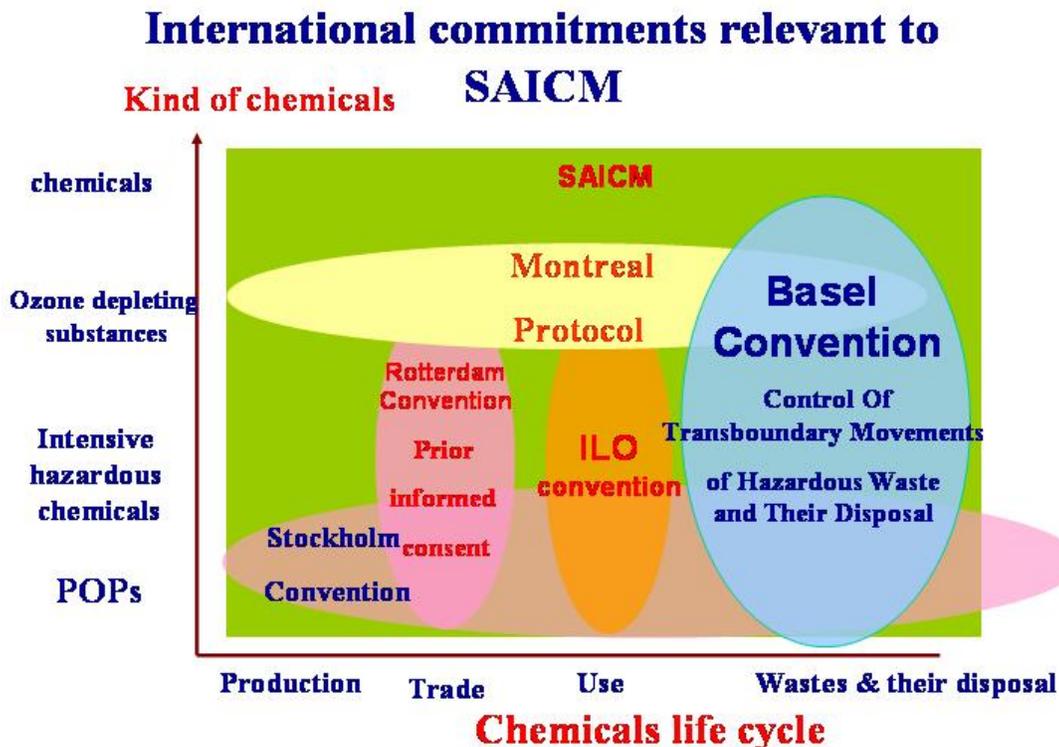
The relation between SAICM and other chemicals conventions

SAICM	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention	Basel Convention	Vienna Convention/ Montreal Protocol	ILO conventions
Establish and strengthen infrastructure and national institutions for effective implementation	Establish and strengthen infrastructure and national institutions for effective implementation	Establish and strengthen infrastructure and national institutions for effective implementation	Strengthen national infrastructure	Establish and strengthen infrastructure and national institutions for effective implementation	Establish and strengthen infrastructure and national institutions for effective implementation
Knowledge and information	Exchange information and reports	Exchange information and reports	Exchange information and reports	Exchange information and reports	Exchange information and reports
Capacity building and technical support	Technical support to develop infrastructure and chemicals management	Technical support to develop and support capacities to implement the convention	Technology transfer for sound management of chemicals wastes	Technical support to develop and support capacities to implement the convention	Technical support to develop and support capacities to implement the convention
Risk reduction	Risk assessment to include chemicals listed in the convention Use relevant guideline documents to decisions	Research, development, observation and cooperation adequately	Research, development, observation and cooperation adequately	Research, development, observation and cooperation adequately	Research, development, observation and cooperation adequately
Financial resources		Financial resources and mechanisms (temporary financial mechanism)	Financial resources (continuous finance)	Financial resources (continuous finance)	
Prevent illegal traffic	Ensure that listed chemicals are included in the national strategies that control import / export	Ensure that listed chemicals are included in the national strategies that control import / export	Ensure that listed chemicals are included in the national strategies that control import / export	Ensure that listed chemicals are included in the national strategies that control import / export	

International commitments relevant to SAICM

Convention	Entry into force
Vienna Convention	22/9/1988
Montreal Protocol	1/1/1989
Basel Convention	5/5/1992
Stockholm Convention	17/5/2004
Rotterdam Convention	24/2/2004

SAICM and the relevant international conventions cover together the management aspects during the life cycle of the chemical substances starting from its production till its safe disposal.



1. Conventions work area

- a. Basel Convention covers hazardous wastes.
- b. Rotterdam Convention covers 27 pesticides and specific components in other types in addition to 14 types of industrial chemicals.
- c. Stockholm Convention covers 9 types of pesticides, 3 industrial chemicals and secondary products.
- d. Evaluation and organization of available and new chemicals (Rotterdam, Stockholm).
- e. Import and export regulations (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm).
- f. Wastes management (Basel, Stockholm).
- g. Risk information exchange (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm).
- h. Alternatives (Stockholm).
- i. Emissions in environment (Stockholm).
- j. Montreal Protocol covers Ozone depleting substances.
- k. ILO Conventions cover all chemicals used in labor environment.
- l.

12. Available chemicals:

- a. Rotterdam Convention recommends taking final organizational procedures for restricted or severely banned chemicals.

- b. Stockholm Convention excludes some chemicals from production, use, import/ export
- c. Basel Convention
 - 1. Implements prior informed consent for hazardous wastes .
 - 2. Prohibits hazardous wastes export from developed countries to developing countries.
 - 3. Prohibits hazardous wastes imports by ratifying "the BAN amendment". Ratification supports its entry to force.
 - 4. Strict requirements for illegal international traffic.
- d. Rotterdam Convention
 - 1. Obligatory prior informed consent.
 - 2. Based on optional database.
 - 3. Uses guidelines documents to help implement decisions.
 - 4. Enhances capacities to prevent undesired import and avoid future storage of obsolete pesticides.
- e. Stockholm Convention
 - 1. Prohibits export/ import of POPs.
 - 2. Encourages environmentally sound disposal.
- f. Montreal Protocol aims to protect the Ozone Layer by reducing and preventing human universal emissions of Ozone depleting substances.
 - 1. The protocol defines for some chemicals that parties should control their annual production and consumption according to identified quantities on the national level.

13. Wastes management

- a. Basel Convention
 - 1. Strengthen environmental sound management: "take all scientific procedures to reduce hazardous wastes production and the strict control of their storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycle, refresh and final disposal that aim finally to protect human health and environment".
 - 2. Reduce waste production and take steady steps to facilitate disposals according to their particular capacities.
 - 3. Strengthen the sound management of hazardous wastes.
- b. Stockholm Convention
 - 1. Develop POPs wastes identification and environmentally sound management strategies.
 - 2. Dispose of wastes that contain POPs.
 - 3. Prevent the formulations of POPs wastes.
 - 4. Strengthen BAT and BEP.

14. Exchange information about risks

Dissemination and exchange of information about hazardous substances and hazardous wastes between convention secretariat, relevant authorities and the public.

15. Alternatives

- (a). Stockholm Convention encourages the exchange of information and research on POPs alternatives.
- (b). Montreal Protocol requires the use of alternatives Ozone depleting substances according to a timetable for the final disposal of Ozone depleting substances.

16. Technical Support

- (a). Basel Convention technical support trust fund.
- (b). Rotterdam Convention admit the need of technical support.

- (c). Stockholm Convention "financial mechanism".
- (d). Montreal Protocol trust fund.

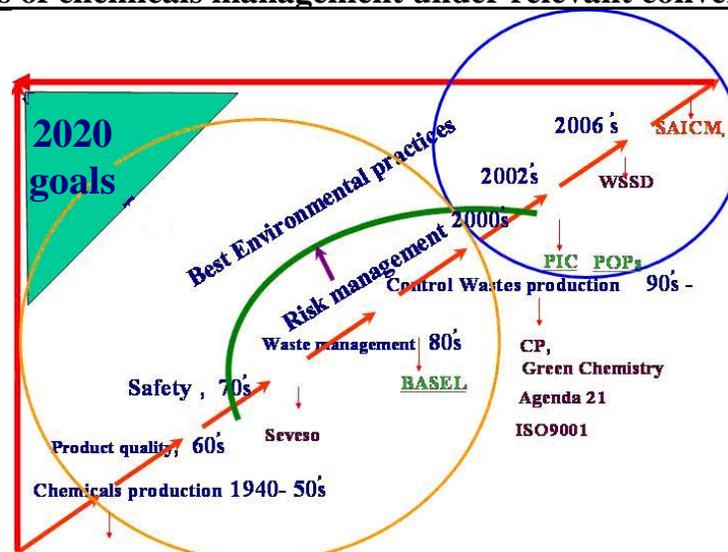
17. Training and technology transfer for regional centers:

- (a). Basel Convention centers already exists.
- (b). Nominated Stockholm Convention centers.
- (c). Regional networks to support the implementation of Montreal Protocol.

18. Commitment requirements:

- (a). Insert SAICM objectives in the integrated management of chemicals substances and hazardous wastes on the national and regional levels.
- (b). Identify real priorities in wastes and chemicals management
- (c). Establish a multicultural national coordination team and develop its organizational structure and operational procedures.
- (d). Draft a regional implementation plan with a time frame.
- (e). Strengthen legislative structure by filling gaps and overcoming weak points.
- (f). Develop strategies to enhance coordination and cooperation.
- (g). Develop procedures and approaches to prevent illegal traffic in hazardous substances and wastes.
- (h). Develop national strategy.
- (i). Consult with major relevant authorities and NGOs on the national and regional levels.
- (j). Develop partnership with the private sector, industry and business for SAICM implementation.

(f). Progress of chemicals management under relevant conventions



Annex (3)

**Required procedures to prevent illegal international
traffic in chemicals and wastes and measures that
should be taken accordingly**

Required procedures to prevent illegal international traffic in chemicals and wastes, and Measures that should be taken accordingly:

Arab countries highly are concerned with the procedures that should be taken to prevent illegal international traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes according to the Strategic Approach fifth objective because of the following:

- The possible entry of severely hazardous chemicals without any information on the use, handling or safe disposal.
- The possible entry of banned chemicals.
- The possible entry of wastes with unknown components.

The Arab coordination Unit for SAICM undertook analysis of the process of illegal traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes and the procedures that should be taken in this concern.

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
Chemicals and hazardous wastes	Ratification of international conventions / amendment, updating and enforcement of national legislations	Adoption Amendment Updating Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate and implement of the international conventions - Enforce national legislations - Include national policies within legislations 	National government/ private sector/ civil society
	Enforcement	Implementation of Conventions and national legislation Provide the infrastructure, safe wastes disposal	Establish a national committee including all stakeholders, civil society and private sector.	National government, related authorities
		Reduce wastes production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National implementation plans reflecting the need for safe disposal of wastes - Providing the required financial resources. 	

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop the administrative/ legal framework for enforcement. - Capacity buildings and raising awareness. - Training programs for related authorities (judges, legal affairs dep., inspectors....etc.) 	
	<p>Raising awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a national plan to raise awareness. - Include the plan in the national policies. <p>Use all media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of industrial sectors, environmental NGOs and civil society about restrictions on the production process and the potential negative effects on public health and environment, as stated to the related international conventions and national legislations - Studies on the magnitude of the Problems. 	<p>National government/ local authorities/ environmental NGOs/ private sector/ civil society</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratification of international conventions - Amendment of national legislations. - Development of national/ regional plan for safe transport of chemical substances/ prevent illegal transport of hazardous substances and wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratification - Amendment updating execution of national legislation - Develop national plan - Define needs and transport channels for hazardous substances and 	<p>Create national committee, plan implementation adoption</p>	<p>National government/ private sector/ civil society</p>

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
		wastes - Define duration periods of transport		
	Enforcement	Attentive system to update information on how to put the labeling	Establish an institutional body including relevant ministries and authorities.	National government / local authorities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop administrative framework to achieve adequate enforcement - Political and legal management. - Training the responsible on performing enforcement with regard to legal restrictions, - Capacity building of customs officers to deal with illegal traffic in a suitable way. 	
	Awareness		Raise awareness of industrial sectors and transportation agencies on legal prohibitions in the production process as stated in international conventions and national legislations	National government / local authorities/ private sectors.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide required guidelines, - Use all possibilities of media, - Organize training and informing workshops for all related authorities 	Ministries of Media/ visual, audible and readable media
	Information exchange	Provide databases for	Support information exchange processes between officials responsible	National focal point

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
		information	for the enforcement process.	
Import and export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratification and implementation of international conventions - Execute national regulations, - Apply PIC procedures and GHS system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply PIC/ GHS/ - Provide accredited labs. - Provide guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a national committee including all stakeholders. - Provide accredited labs. - Issue lists of banned and highly restricted chemical and hazardous wastes. 	Customs, related ministries, police officers
			Enforce laws and international conventions, activate green customs initiative.	
			Provide an administrative framework for adequate enforcement that include the establishment of a national enforcement committee (regional and sub-regional) to coordinate national activities and deal with gaps.	Governments/ regional organizations/national authorities and focal points
	Information exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database Information exchange - Network training 	Provide a mechanism working as an information network for illegal activities and smuggling	Governments/ regional organizations/national authorities
			Information and experiences exchange on the regional and international levels	
			Support action and partnership between regional networks and related authorities to face illegal international traffic	
	Train customs officers to enhance enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt Green Customs initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide technical support - Training of customs officers and responsible for legal restrictions. 	Governments/ regional organizations/national authorities/ NGOs

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold training workshops - Capacity building - legislations enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on how to use risk markers at borders 	
			Exchange information and experiences	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use booklets and guidelines by customs officers and environmental inspectors - Disseminate information and increase awareness of the availability of these booklet. 	
	Raise awareness of decision makers/ and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue guidelines - Make awareness programs - Involvement of media staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of decision and policy makers on the potential negative effects of illegal entrance of chemicals and hazardous wastes on environment and public health. 	Ministry of Media, media channels, related authorities, customs officers.
			Raise awareness and participation of society, NGOs and consumers concerning the negative effects of the illegal entry of chemicals and wastes on environment and public health	
			Use media channels to Raise awareness	
			Raise awareness of national authorities concerning different projects cited on the customs website	
			Raise awareness concerning WCO,	

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
			Interpol and related international conventions.	
			Include the raising awareness process concerning the illegal entry of chemicals and hazardous wastes in projects related to the implementation of relevant international conventions,	
Use / disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratification and implementation of international conventions , regional and bilateral conventions - Enforcement of national legislations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide infrastructure and safe disposal - Technology transfer - Capacity building 	Establish a national committee including related authorities.	National government.
	Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of database - Capacity building - legislations enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue a suitable action plan - Provide the required finance - participation of stakeholders 	National government
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and raising the awareness of decision makers, civil society and customs officers 	Use guidelines for customs officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement an integrated awareness plan - Hold awareness and training workshops. 	Local authorities/ private sector/ environmental NGOs
			Train officers on the negative effects of illegal import of chemicals and encourage the use of alternatives.	
			Raise awareness of policy and decision makers about the negative effects on	

Elements	Issues related to banned/ restricted wastes	Requirements	Specified procedures	Main authorities responsible for implementation
			health and environment and the other consequences due to illegal entry of chemicals and hazardous wastes	
			Raise awareness of civil society , inspectors and consumers concerning the negative effects of the illegal entry of chemicals and hazardous wastes on health and environment	
	Information exchange	The need for more information on technology	Encourage customs and environmental officers to use booklets and guidelines disseminate information on their availability to increase awareness.	National government / local authorities
			Inform the consumer about alternatives and technologies for use and disposal	

Annex (4)

**The Arab Coordination Unit of SAICM proposes the following
Amendment to rules of procedures of ICCM**

First:

With regards to paragraphs between brackets:

1. Rule 2 paragraph d cancel the word "relevant".
2. Rule 16 paragraph e cancel the word "if necessary":
3. Item 23 (bis)

Stress the establishment of subregional networks

Second:

Add a paragraph in the seventh about the tasks of the bureau as follows:

- the bureau has to carry out the following tasks:
 1. Assist in the implementation of the conference decisions.
 2. Assist in the preparations for the conference sessions.
 3. Give advice to the secretariat between conference sessions.
 4. Preserve sustainable communication with the regional groups and stakeholders group.

Annex (5)

The Arab Coordination Unit of SAICM proposes adding the following table to the tentative questionnaire to governments on reporting on SAICM implementation

Progress achieved in the implementation of SAICM									
Areas of work	Activities	Actors	Objective/ time frame	Progress indicators	Component of implementation	State of implementation	Cost	Programs and projects	Benefits from QSP