**Third meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach
and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Bangkok, Thailand, 1-4 October 2019

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Update on the Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, an update on the Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility project entitled, 'Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)'. The report presented in the annex has been developed by the SAICM Secretariat and has not been formally edited.

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* SAICM/IP.3/1

Annex
Update on the Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project

I.   Background

1. The Global Environment Facility Project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), "Chemicals Without Concern", aims to accelerate the adoption of national and value chain initiatives to control Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and contribute to the 2020 SAICM goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was formally approved by the GEF in August 2018.

2. There are three main components to the project:
    I.   Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint,
    II. Lifecycle management of chemicals present in products, and
    III. Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement.

3. The project is being implemented in over 40 countries over a 4-year period with the aim to present early project results at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) from 5-9 October 2020 in Bonn, Germany. The UN Environment GEF unit is the implementing agency and the SAICM Secretariat is the executing agency.

4. The project inception meeting held in January 2019 in Geneva, confirmed the first-year detailed budget and workplan. The first project Steering Committee was held by teleconference in March. Workplans and financial plans were duly endorsed.

5. In addition, a proposal for a medium size project was submitted to the GEF for review and CEO approval in October 2018. The project aims to stimulate and facilitate national action on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), through the development of pesticide risk reduction plans; and to develop a quantified baseline for environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs), including pharmaceutical endocrine endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and global policy guidance for low- and middle-income countries. This is a 2 million USD project to be implemented in 11 countries over a 4-year period. The HHP component will work with ten countries in two subregions (the Pacific and East Africa) and EDCs and EPPPs component will work with Uruguay. The UN Environment GEF unit is the proposed implementing agency and the SAICM Secretariat is the proposed executing agency. Other key project partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

II.   Component 1: Lead in paint

6. The Lead in Paint component promotes regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint. The project outcome is for at least 40 countries to legislate and implement legislation on lead paint; and for at least 35 small and medium paint manufacturing enterprises in seven countries to phase out lead from their production processes.

7. A total of 65 countries have confirmed their interest in the project and nominated focal points for lead in paint in Ministries of Environment and/or Health. Appendix I includes the list of participating countries.

8. Other key partners include: UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch, World Health Organization, The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), Secretariat of the Economic Organization of West African States (ECOWAS), US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), International Paint and Painting Ink Council (IPPIC).

9. Four regional lead paint workshops took place between the months of March-June 2019, marking initiation of project activities in the regions. The participants were the nominated national focal points for environment and health, together with project executing partners, and industry and civil society representative.

Lead paint regional workshop took place in the following dates:
- Central and Eastern Europe region regional workshop: 19-20 March 2019, Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- Latin American & the Caribbean regional workshop: 14-15 May 2019, Panama City, Panama;
- Africa regional workshop: 28-29 May 2019, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoir;
- Asia Pacific regional workshop: 12-13 June 2019, Bangkok, Thailand.

10. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were selected in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Jordan and China for industrial pilot tests on paint reformulation, using the technical guidelines developed by the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) in Serbia. Launching workshops were organized as part of the project. NCPC launching workshop dates include:
- NCPC Jordan Launching workshop: 31 March - 1 April, Amman, Jordan;
- NCPC Peru, Ecuador and Colombia Launching Workshop: 18-19 June, Lima, Peru;
- NCPC China Launching Workshop: 17-18 October, Beijing, China.

III. Component 2: Lifecycle management of chemicals present in products

11. The project's objective is to accelerate the adoption of measures by governments and value chains to track and control chemicals in supply chains for building products, electronics and toys. The component aims to create demand-led and market-based incentives for supply chains to act via public procurement and sustainable finance measures; develop quantitative life cycle assessment tools to compare chemical alternatives and avoid regrettable substitutions; and enhancing the ambition of and compliance with regulatory requirements on chemicals of concern.

12. Key partners include: National partners in Sri Lanka, Colombia and China, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment Resources and Markets Branch and USETox.

13. Since project inception, there has been a significant advance in the identification of chemicals of concern in the three sectors including identification of key product sub-sectors. Additionally, the summer school on "*Characterizing human toxicity and ecosystem toxicity with the scientific consensus model USEtox: Theory, practical application, and new research*" was successfully held in Singapore from 3-7 June 2019. The ten participants have successfully passed the course.

IV. Component 3: Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement

14. The SAICM knowledge management strategy was provided to OEWG3 as an information document: SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/28. SAICM stakeholders and project partners were given an opportunity to comment and provide input.

15. Significant progress has been made with project partners including the University of Cape Town (UCT), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3) on developing the knowledge management platform. UCT is providing knowledge management capacity building technical expertise and intellectual input on interactive discussion forums and establishing communities of practices. The SAICM knowledge management website will be launched before the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process (IP4) in March 2020.

16. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), through its SDG Knowledge Hub, is starting to publish news stories related to chemicals and health including chemicals of concern, lead in paint, chemicals management, and other activities related to the project at the following link: https://sdg.iisd.org/.

17. During OEWG3 in April 2019, as part of a side event hosted by UNEP, the SAICM Secretariat led a presentation of draft concepts for visual tool prototypes for managing, analyzing and visualizing data for SAICM implementation, Quick Start Programme database and Emerging Policy Issues information. Country profiles were additionally consulted during the SAICM Bureau meeting in July 2019. Visuals will be made public in the website when it is launched.

18. The independent evaluation of SAICM activities (2006-2015) concluded that "while the identification of EPIs are generally regarded as a major success of SAICM, it is apparent that the degree of progress was not uniform across the EPIs with no common means to measure progress." One element of the project is to develop an indicators mapping reviewing contributions of EPIs to indicators of progress developed by the Beyond 2020 Intersessional Process. An initial list can be found in Appendix II for stakeholder considerations.

Appendix I: Countries that have confirmed their interest in the lead component of the project

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Armenia
3. Azerbaijan
4. Belarus
5. Belize
6. Benin
7. Plurinational State of Bolivia
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Brazil
10. Burkina Faso
11. Burundi
12. Cambodia
13. Cape Verde
14. China
15. Colombia
16. Côte d'Ivoire
17. Ecuador
18. El Salvador
19. Ethiopia
20. Eswatini
21. Fiji
22. Gabon
23. The Gambia
24. Georgia
25. Ghana
26. Guatemala
27. Guinea
28. Guinea-Bissau
29. Haiti
30. Honduras
31. Israel
32. Jamaica
33. Jordan
34. Kazakhstan
35. Kyrgyzstan
36. Lao People's Democratic Republic
37. Lebanon
38. Liberia
39. Madagascar
40. Malaysia
41. Mali
42. Mauritius
43. Mexico
44. Moldova
45. Mongolia
46. Mozambique
47. Niger
48. Nigeria
49. Pakistan
50. Republic of Palau
51. Panama
52. Peru
53. Rwanda
54. Senegal
55. Sierra Leone
56. St. Lucia
57. Tajikistan
58. Suriname
59. Togo
60. Tunisia
61. Uganda
62. Ukraine
63. Uzbekistan
64. Vietnam
65. Zambia

Appendix II: Draft list of possible indicators for emerging policy issues (EPIs)

Possible EPI indicators	Currently status of tracking	Considerations
A. Information sharing on chemicals across the lifecycle (knowledge management)		
1. Platform(s) / navigator(s) available to access data and information.		Need to understand the effectiveness of any platform / navigator (perhaps through a survey)
2. Comprehensive data and information available for xx chemical; xx chemical group.		
3. Web-site visitors (based on targeted communication strategy).		Need to understand the effectiveness of any platform / navigator (perhaps through a survey)
4. No. of active members of KM communities of practice and users accessing information.	GEF project outcome indicator	
5. No. of scientific knowledge resources shared with policy makers on EPIs and SDGs.	GEF project outcome indicator	
6. No. of intra-sectoral partnerships/networks with collaborative mechanisms in place, a programme of work, and reporting/evaluating their achievements.	Each partnership/network will have its own aims, and 'success' (i.e. resources mobilised, information shared) will need to be evaluated in relation to its programme of work.	
B. Promotion of related regulatory and policy measures		
Lead in paint		
1. No. of countries with adopted legislation on legal limits to LiP.	GEF project outcome indicator	
2. No. of paint manufacturers making pledges to switch to lead free production.	GEF project outcome indicator	
3. No. of registered awareness raising events for lead paint awareness week.	GEF project outcome indicator	
HHPs		
4. No. of countries restricting HHP use through implementing pesticide risk reduction plans (e.g., professional users only or requirement for personal protective equipment (PPE)).	GEF Project (MSP) outcome indicator	
5. No. of countries with regulators and key stakeholders trained to identify HHPs.	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
6. No. of countries with completed field surveys on use of HHPs.	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
7. No. of national pesticide risk reduction plans completed.	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
8. No. of pesticide registrations withdrawn.	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
9. No. of governments with the proper infrastructure for licensing certification and labelling of pesticides.	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.	
10. No. of global reviews on alternatives to HHP disseminated to SAICM stakeholders.	GEF Project (MSP) outcome indicator	
C. Chemicals in products related EPIs		
1. No. of governments and value chain actors tracking and managing chemicals of concern in products.	GEF project outcome indicator	
2. No. of stakeholders who have extended producer responsibility schemes in place (voluntary or mandatory).		
3. No. of certification/ labelling/ standard schemes developed (e.g., lead in paint, nano).	Lead in paint impact indicator: amount of lead pigment used per year (company level). Could also be aggregated per country.	
4. No. of manufacturers applying extended producer responsibility schemes.		
5. No. of training and promotion of use of tools.	GEF project output indicator	
6. Amount of hazardous substances in consumer products.		

Substances in the lifecycle of Hazardous electronics		
7. No. of informal sector persons successfully trained in the environmentally sound management of waste; sustainable collection and dismantling of end-of-life e-products; and the control of illegal traffic.		
8. No. of supply chain actors that disclose information on hazardous chemical ingredients across supply chain.		
9. No. of green design tools identified.		
10. No. of green electrical and electronic product procurement initiatives undertaken.		
11. No. of pollution monitoring schemes in place.		
12. No. of take-back schemes implemented.		
13. No. of database and information freely available on hazards and risks on hazardous chemicals in e-products (e.g., Occupational health information and exposure monitoring available).		
14. Hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products regulated.		
15. No. of policies, laws and regulation developed and enforced.		
D. Issues with emerging scientific evidence (EDCs, EPPPs, PFOS, Nano)		
All		
1. No. of studies quantifying EPI levels in developing countries.	GEF Project (MSP) outcome indicator	
2. No. of global toolkits and modules published (e.g., EDCs, EPPPs).	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
3. No. of lifecycle assessments (LCA) identifying hot spots in manufacturing process.	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
4. No. of studies published on emissions from pharmaceutical manufacturers (e.g., EDCs).	GEF Project (MSP) output indicator	
PFOS		
5. No. of studies on available alternatives of the replacement of certain fluorinated compounds, where possible, by non-fluorinated alternatives and different technologies.		
6. No. of countries that are part of OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group.		
7. No. of industry voluntary agreements to phase out production of PFOA and PFOS- related chemicals.		
8. No. of PFOS related environmental standards developed.		
9. No. or % of countries ratified to Stockholm Convention. New POPs: PFOA and PFOS.		
10. No. or % of countries implementing Stockholm Convention. New POPs: PFOA and PFOS.		