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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management**

First meeting

Belgrade, 15–18 November 2011

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach: evaluation of and guidance
on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach**

Preparation for the evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach

Note by the secretariat

Executive summary

1. One function of the International Conference on Chemicals Management is to undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. Two of its tasks in that regard are “to receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and to disseminate information as appropriate” and “to evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary”.
2. At its second session the Conference decided that it would undertake its first formal evaluation of progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach at its third session. To that end it requested the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group a baseline estimates report for the period 2006–2008 and a first report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach during the period 2009–2011.
3. The present note provides a summary of work undertaken by the secretariat in preparing the baseline estimates report and the first progress report as requested by the Conference, together with an overview of the main findings of the reports to date. The baseline report itself is set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/1 and a preliminary version of the first progress report in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2. The data underlying the first preliminary progress report are presented in tabular form in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2/Add.1.

I. Background

4. One function of the International Conference on Chemicals Management is to undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. Two of its tasks in that regard are “to receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and to disseminate information as appropriate” and “to evaluate the implementation of the Strategic

* SAICM/OEWG.1/1/Rev.1.

Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary”.

5. To facilitate reporting by stakeholders and thereby facilitate its performance of its review function, the Conference at its second session adopted modalities for reporting by stakeholders and for the processing of reported information by the secretariat and the Conference.¹ Those modalities include:

(a) A set of 20 indicators (reproduced in the annex to the present note) for measuring progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach in the five areas set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy (risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation and illegal international traffic);

(b) Guidance for the secretariat on how to collect the data needed, including on the scope of the data needed for each indicator and a request that the secretariat should develop a simple electronic data collection tool;

(c) A request that the secretariat should prepare a baseline estimates report for the period 2006–2008 and a first progress report for the period 2009–2011 for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group;

(d) Formal evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by the Conference at its third session and thereafter at periodic intervals.

II. Work undertaken by the secretariat since the second session of the Conference

6. Pursuant to the request of the Conference at its second session the secretariat has prepared a baseline estimates report and a preliminary version of a first progress report. The baseline estimates report is set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/1 and the preliminary first progress report in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2. The data on which the first preliminary progress report is based are tabulated in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2/Add.1.

7. An overview of the findings of the baseline and the preliminary first progress report is provided herein to facilitate consideration of what steps are needed next to prepare for the first evaluation of progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach that will be made by the Conference at its third session.

A. Baseline report (2006–2008)

8. The secretariat has prepared a baseline estimates report for the period 2006–2008 using readily available sources of information and data, including information and reports provided by stakeholders in the course of regular reporting ahead of regional meetings and in preparation for the second session of the Conference; information held by the secretariat such as lists of Strategic Approach focal points, Strategic Approach meeting participant lists; information relating to the Quick Start Programme; documents prepared for the second session of the Conference, notably those on ratification and implementation of existing international instruments and programmes; and information from websites such as those maintained for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

9. The approach taken by the secretariat to the preparation of the baseline report was to extract any information from these sources that corresponded to the adopted indicators. The questionnaire developed for collecting information for the first periodic report was used to guide this work and ensure consistency. Information on whether a particular activity had been completed or was under way was tabulated for summation and numerical analysis using a spreadsheet.

10. The amount of available information considered in preparing the baseline report was considerable. Over the period 2006–2009, a total of 166 reports and questionnaires were submitted by 103 Governments, together with 42 reports and questionnaires by 15 intergovernmental organizations and 62 reports and questionnaires by 44 non-governmental organizations.

11. The main challenge of this exercise lay in translating the information provided in the qualitative reports submitted to the secretariat into data that could be used to populate the 20 indicators adopted. The information was diverse and rich in qualitative detail. Reducing it to a “yes” or “no”

¹ The modalities for reporting agreed by the Conference are set out in annex III of the report of the second session of the Conference (SAICM/ICCM.2/15).

answer for quantitative purposes proved to be a subjective task. The information tended to emphasize new activities in the reporting period, with less emphasis laid on the status of preexisting work.

12. Because of the large amount of information potentially available, the secretariat accorded priority to information from governmental sources. Baseline estimates were made for seven of the indicators adopted by the Conference: provision of information according to international standards (indicator 6); websites providing information to stakeholders (indicator 9); commitments to implement the Strategic Approach (indicator 10); multi-stakeholder coordination (indicator 11); implementation of key international chemicals priorities (indicator 12); identification of capacity-building needs (indicator 14) and projects supported by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (indicator 17) .

13. Given the above findings for governmental information and in the interests of time, the review of information from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations focused only on that needed for the above indicators. Consequently, baseline estimates were made for three of the seven indicators: commitments to implement the Strategic Approach (indicator 10); multi-stakeholder coordination (indicator 11); and projects supported by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (indicator 17).

14. Data and information pertaining to the remaining 13 indicators varied in quality and were not suitable for quantifying a reliable baseline estimate. The secretariat found no information suitable for the purpose of developing a baseline estimate for the following four indicators: use of agreed chemicals management tools (indicator 1); key categories of chemicals subject to risk management (indicator 2); communication on risks to vulnerable groups (indicator 7); and capacity-building projects supported by other sources (indicator 18).

15. The resulting baseline report, which is set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/1, is characterized predominantly by estimates of initial implementation activities, including many formal activities taken pursuant to the establishment of the Strategic Approach, such as designation of Strategic Approach focal points. Over the baseline period 166 Governments, including 85 per cent of States Members of the United Nations, submitted nominations of national focal points to the secretariat. In addition, 13 intergovernmental organizations and 57 non-governmental organizations nominated official focal points during the period. Those numbers represent 41 per cent and 36 per cent, respectively, of the intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that participated in regional meetings and the second session of the Conference.

16. Acknowledging the difficulty of assimilating and summarizing the available information about the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which are both numerous and highly varied in their missions and activities, the baseline report draws attention to reports that have been developed by specific stakeholders about their efforts to implement the Strategic Approach. These include the “Baseline estimate report for the UN Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management”² prepared by the International Council of Chemical Associations, the “Citizen’s Report: Global Outreach Campaign on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management”, prepared by the International POPs Elimination Network,³ and the regular reports prepared by the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

17. The report by the International Council of Chemical Associations discusses data from its Responsible Care Global Charter and Global Product Strategy in the context of the 20 reporting indicators adopted by the Conference. The Citizen’s Report does not specifically address the 20 indicators but describes the engagement of non-governmental organizations in various regions based on an extensive network of non-governmental organizations affiliated with the International POPs Elimination Network. The data presented in these reports are not compatible with the secretariat’s online data tool and therefore could not be quantified in terms of the adopted indicators; the reports nevertheless provide valuable supplementary information and additional insights into the diverse nature of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and their contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

B. Electronic data collection tool

18. The secretariat developed an online data collection tool in the form of a password-protected electronic questionnaire to facilitate the collection of information for the first progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Approach. In doing so it took into account the guidance provided by the Conference at its second session on the types of data to be collected for each indicator. The

2 www.icca-chem.org/ICCADocs/2010-06_ICCA_BaselineEstimateReport.pdf?epslanguage=en.

3 www.ipen.org/campaign/documents/education/citzreport_09.pdf.

questionnaire has six parts: one for each of the five subject areas of the Strategic Approach objectives plus an introduction to capture basic information about the organization completing the questionnaire.

19. Comments, with a deadline of 31 January 2011, were sought on the proposed questionnaire through the Strategic Approach website. The questionnaire was then revised and incorporated into an internet-based survey tool.⁴ To test how easy it was to use the tool, volunteers were invited to pilot test it. The comments received confirmed the suitability of the tool for data collection. A number of technical issues were addressed and the tool was enhanced as a result of the comments received. A copy of the electronic questionnaire used as the basis of the data collection tool is set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2.

C. Data collection and analysis for preparation of the preliminary report on progress (2009–2010)

20. Collection of data to be used in preparing the preliminary report on progress in implementing the Strategic Approach began on the Strategic Approach website on 4 March 2011. All official focal points were also contacted by e-mail and informed of the procedures and deadlines for submitting information. Use of the online tool was controlled through the use of a password and a registration system for confirming the credentials of respondents ensured a maximum of one response per organization.

21. Regular reminders were sent by e-mail to all those who had not registered and to all those who had registered but not yet submitted data. Regional focal points were kept informed about the progress in submission of data from the countries in their regions. Reports on progress were made at all Strategic Approach regional meetings held over the reporting period and specific questions and needs for assistance were discussed at those meetings. Although the online tool was available only in English, copies of the online questionnaires were also made available in French and Spanish for discussion at regional meetings and on the Strategic Approach website.

22. The secretariat originally set a deadline of 15 April 2011 for receipt of completed online questionnaires. As at 18 April 2011, however, over 130 stakeholders had registered to use the online tool but only 36 had submitted completed questionnaires. The secretariat accordingly extended the deadline to 9 May 2011.

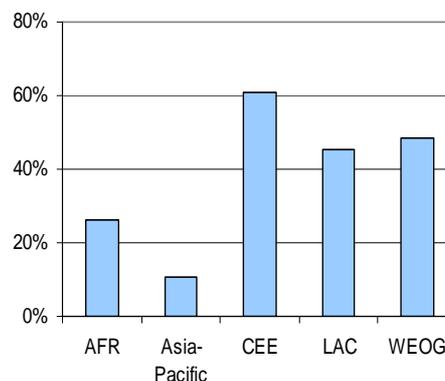
1. Number of responses using the electronic data collection tool

23. The online data collection process was extended again to 9 July 2011 to allow further time for the finalization of partially completed forms. Thus over an 18-week period submissions from 110 stakeholders were received. Of those, 79 per cent (87 stakeholders) were complete, with all six parts of the form submitted. Among Government respondents, 63 fully completed the forms and 15 partially completed them. A further 28 Governments registered but did not submit the form, while 88 Governments did not register, 34 of which, including 22 with no official focal points, could not be reached.

24. The overall response rate from Governments was 32 per cent. The Government response rate for each regional group is shown in figure 1. Two regional groups, the Asia and the Pacific and Africa, were underrepresented, with only 11 per cent and 26 per cent of countries, respectively, fully submitting data. Developing-country Governments comprise 55 per cent of all Governments responding but the categories of “other low income” and “lower middle income” were relatively underrepresented.

25. Among non-governmental organizations, 20 per cent of those with official contact points completed the online questionnaire. In the case of intergovernmental organizations the response rate was 42 per cent of those having official contact points, including 86 per cent of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. Some

Figure 1: Number of Government submitting full responses as a percentage of the relevant regional group



4 The internet survey tool “Datacol” was selected because of its use in a wide range of internet-related settings. The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications of the World Health Organization provided technical support for development and implementation of the tool.

non-governmental organizations appeared to be uncertain about whether they were intended to report on progress using the online tool; this may have contributed to their relatively low response rate.

26. Feedback on the use of the online data collection tool was generally positive, notwithstanding some initial technical problems with one of the forms and the need for some additional guidance for persons wishing to complete the form on behalf of official focal points and on how to print copies of submissions. Several Governmental respondents remarked that they had had insufficient time to consult stakeholders. From the perspective of the secretariat, the design of the tool with check-boxes and mandatory questions worked well and enabled a preliminary quantitative analysis to be made. The tool's optional free-text boxes for adding comments and further explanation were widely used. Judging by the responses received, a small number of questions might be improved; they are identified in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2. It is suggested that depending on the approach to the completion of the first progress report these questions might be omitted or revised.

2. Approach to the data analysis

27. The secretariat explored a number of approaches to the analysis of the data obtained using the online tool. In all cases the responses were aligned directly with the indicators so that the resulting data could be correlated readily. The data are stored in a database that allows them to be aggregated in a number of ways. For the preliminary analysis the data were initially aggregated for all stakeholders for each indicator and subsequently disaggregated for presentation by type of stakeholder, i.e., (Government (including further sorting by regional group and development status), intergovernmental organization and non-governmental organization).

28. For most of the indicators respondents could identify activities being implemented by ticking boxes. The total number of times each box was ticked therefore equals the total number of respondents implementing the activity relating to that box, and the total number of respondents implementing the activities relating to each indicator can then be summed and expressed as a range from the highest to the lowest. As a respondent may tick more than one box, it is possible to calculate the average number of relevant activities being undertaken and the number of respondents carrying out more than a specified number of activities to give an estimate of the breadth of activities being undertaken.

III. Overview of the main findings of the two reports on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach

29. The present summary provides an overview of a quantitative preliminary analysis of the data collected from respondents engaged in implementation of the Strategic Approach. It is based primarily on the results of the online data collection for 2009 and 2010 because this is the most complete set of quantitative information on all the adopted indicators. Although the respondents are drawn from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, all data used in the present summary have been aggregated and where necessary pooled to show a simple range of responses for each indicator. More detailed information on the results is provided in documents SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/1, SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2 and SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2/Add.1. The 20 indicators adopted by the Conference at its second session are set out in the annex to the present note for reference purposes.

30. Although the overview and more detailed preliminary reports focus on quantitative data, the importance of summarizing qualitative information provided, including that obtained through the online data collection tool and from any supplementary reports from stakeholders, is firmly acknowledged as an essential part of any evaluation of progress. Qualitative information will be incorporated into the report to be prepared for the third session of the Conference.

31. Figure 1 shows the quantitative results obtained. For each indicator the number of countries and organizations undertaking relevant activities is estimated as a percentage range. The estimates therefore represent the range of positive responses to questions about a number of relevant activities that contribute to the attainment of each of the adopted indicators. For example, in the case of indicator 2, the number of countries (and organizations) with mechanisms to address key categories of chemicals, a range of between 25 per cent and 79 per cent is shown, depending on the category of chemical under consideration.

32. The greater detail made available in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2 provides an important documentary source of the level and types of chemicals management activities being undertaken, disaggregated by type of stakeholder, regional group and stage of economic development. Such a detailed approach is particularly useful given that the Strategic Approach is a voluntary multisectoral and multi-stakeholder framework in which a number of different but related activities will all contribute to the achievement of the goal of ensuring that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced

in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on health and the environment. This detailed information is considered by the secretariat to be a strength of the work to date as it is the first time that much of this information has been made available in a comparative format. This information will also facilitate discussions about the implementation of the Strategic Approach by regional groups ahead of the evaluation to be made at the third session of the Conference.

33. Overall data are available for comparison between the baseline and preliminary first progress reports for only 7 of the 20 indicators and even those data are only comparable for one or two activities. Greatly simplified, this limited comparison shows either similar levels of implementation between the periods 2006–2008 and 2009–2010 or small increases. One exception is the completion of Strategic Approach implementation plans, which shows a 100 per cent increase. The provision of additional information needed to complete the preliminary report, particularly by some regional groups and developmental groups, would facilitate refinement of the analysis. Disaggregation of the results by type of stakeholder may also be expected to strengthen the overall analysis, particularly for Governments, additional indicators and data collection may be needed, however, to accomplish that for non-governmental and intergovernmental stakeholders.

34. In addition to the simple numerical estimates given in figure 2 a number of observations are made in the following paragraphs regarding the indicators pertaining to the Strategic Approach subject areas of risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation and illegal international traffic.

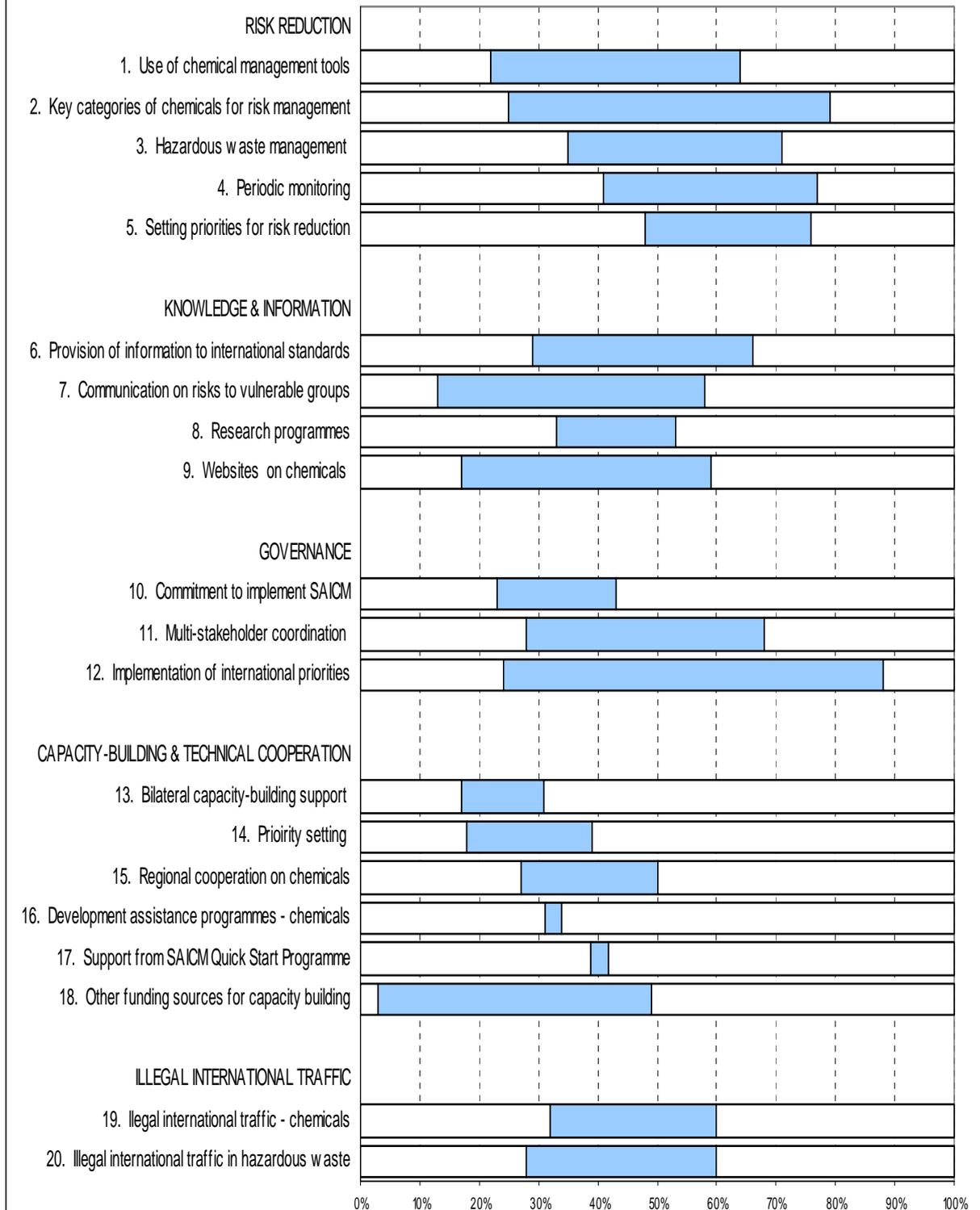
A. Risk reduction

35. There are five indicators for the subject area of risk reduction: the use of chemicals management tools; mechanisms to address key categories of chemicals; hazardous waste management; monitoring of chemicals-related impacts; and the setting of priorities for risk reduction. Maximum positive responses for the indicators in this subject area ranged from 64 to 79 per cent for all indicators in this category, making it the subject area with the highest number of positive responses overall. The responses show a wide variation in the activities undertaken, particularly with regard to the number of respondents subjecting key categories of chemicals to risk management, with 79 per cent doing so for pesticides but only 23 per cent doing so for chemicals with wide dispersive uses. The fewest positive responses in this category were given for activities relating to use of chemical management tools and specifically the publication of new tools or guidance materials for risk management, for which the lowest positive response was 22 per cent. Data collected on use of chemical management tools also include estimates for use of selected tools and guidance materials of participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, which had a much higher overall positive response rate of up to 64 per cent. No baseline information was available for any of the indicators in this category for comparative purposes.

B. Knowledge and information

36. There are four indicators relevant to the Overarching Policy Strategy category of knowledge and information: provision of information according to international standards, communication to vulnerable groups, research programmes; and the availability of websites for chemicals safety information. Maximum positive responses for the indicators in this area ranged from 53 per cent to 66 per cent among all stakeholders, an overall response rate that was somewhat lower than that for risk reduction.

Figure 2: Overview of range of all stakeholder responses given for 20 indicators in the preliminary report of progress in SAICM implementation (2009-2010)



37. The highest levels of reported activity relate to information provision through labelling and chemical safety websites. While communication to the general public was also common, a comparatively lower level of activity was reported for other vulnerable groups, notably the elderly and indigenous groups. Similarly, while websites for chemical safety information were reported frequently, one of the least reported activities related to information on chemical alternatives being available through websites. Information on conformity with the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals was reported to be available by between 29 per cent and 41 per cent of respondents, depending on the type of chemical, a figure comparable to the 33 per cent estimated in the baseline report.

C. Governance

38. Three indicators are relevant to the Overarching Policy Strategy category of governance: commitment to implement the Strategic Approach; multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms; and implementation of key international chemicals priorities. Positive responses ranged from 43 per cent to 88 per cent. The highest positive response was obtained for implementation of the relevant instruments of the United Nations Environment Programme, with 88 per cent of respondents saying that they had mechanisms for implementing the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The preliminary report goes beyond the eight instruments covered in the baseline report to provide information on 21 relevant chemical instruments and conventions, with a consequent broader range of implementation rates.

39. The number of positive responses relating to commitment to implement the Strategic Approach was between 23 per cent and 43 per cent, a reflection of the types of activities included in the questionnaire. Lists maintained by the secretariat already showed that nomination of a Strategic Approach focal point was achieved by 85 per cent of Governments during the baseline reporting period and 89 per cent by the end of 2010. For intergovernmental organizations, the number of official focal points has remained static since the baseline period and the number of focal points for non-governmental organizations has increased from 57 to 76, or 35 per cent.

40. To supplement what is known about focal points, information was collected on other expressions of commitment to the Strategic Approach. Thus, 43 per cent of respondents reported inclusion of information about progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach in their annual reports, and 26 per cent reported publication of a Strategic Approach implementation plan, up from 13 per cent in the baseline report. Only 48 per cent of Governments reported the use of multi-stakeholder committees, a decrease from 77 per cent in the baseline report. This unexpected drop may be explained by the fact that many multi-stakeholder committees reported in the baseline period predated the establishment of the Strategic Approach and had not been established specifically to coordinate on Strategic Approach matters, and 70 per cent of respondents gave positive responses to a separate question on the use of multi-stakeholder committees to coordinate chemical matters more generally. Both the baseline and the first progress reports therefore show a comparative abundance of multi-stakeholder committees that deal with chemicals management but are not focused solely on matters relating to the Strategic Approach.

D. Capacity-building and technical cooperation

41. Six indicators are relevant to capacity-building and technical cooperation: bilateral resources to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation; identification and prioritization of capacity-building needs; regional cooperation; developmental assistance; projects supported by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund; and other sources of funding for capacity-building and technical cooperation. Bilateral technical assistance was reported by 31 per cent of respondents and bilateral financial support by 17 per cent of respondents. In addition, 39 per cent of respondents reported completing and updating national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants with fewer reporting completing and updating other kinds of plans to identify and prioritize needs. Depending on the subject of the cooperation and the particular focus of the cooperation, a range of between 27 per cent and 50 per cent of respondents reported on regional cooperation on chemical safety. Development assistance plans incorporating chemical safety were reported by 32 per cent of respondents. Quick Start Programme assistance was provided for 59 countries. Regarding financial support for capacity-building from sources other than the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, 4 per cent of respondents reported receiving it through multilateral conventions and 44 per cent reported that support through the United Nations was important. Baseline comparisons were only possible for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and completion or updating of Strategic Approach implementation plans; in both cases increases were reported, with a 100 per cent increase in the number of Strategic Approach implementation plans being reported.

E. **Illegal international traffic**

42. Illegal international traffic questions focused on obtaining information on activities to prevent illegal international traffic in chemicals and in hazardous wastes. Responses received were of a similar range overall, with about 60 per cent of respondents reporting activities such as legislation and communication of information on movements out of a country and 30 per cent reporting activities relating to public awareness. No baseline information was available on indicators for this section of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

V. **Completion of the work on reporting in preparation for the third session of the Conference**

43. As noted above, at its second session the Conference agreed to undertake a formal evaluation of progress at its third session and requested the secretariat to facilitate that evaluation by preparing a progress report for the period 2009–2011. The report set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2 is a preliminary version of that progress report, covering two of the three years, 2009 and 2010. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider the work undertaken to date with a view to providing guidance to the secretariat on the completion of the first progress report and the format for presenting it to Conference at its third session.

44. The time needed to collect additional data for 2011 is an important consideration. The secretariat is of the view that at least six months will be needed to collect and analyse the data. Additional time would be required for preparation of a final report in the six official United Nations languages. A number of respondents have indicated that they need more time to collect data, noting that a period of 18 weeks was provided to collect the data for the present report. If data collection were to resume in January 2012 a report could be ready no earlier than July 2012. Undoubtedly having information on the progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach available in advance of this time would be beneficial to the conduct of the evaluation as it would enable stakeholders, particularly in regional groups, to discuss the results collectively in preparation for the formal evaluation that would be made by the Conference.

45. Undertaking an additional round of data collection for 2011 would require all those who submitted information for the present report to submit an additional online form for 2011 data. The online tool has a feature, not yet activated, which can allow respondents to edit or otherwise modify any previously submitted answers. Based on the experience with the present data collection this would be useful for those respondents who had insufficient time fully to submit answers to all parts of the form or those wishing to add contextual information to their answers. Using this feature to report complete data for 2011 is not considered feasible at this stage, however, particularly if there are to be any changes in the questions to be used for data collection.

46. Over 100 Governments have yet to submit reporting information on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and every effort should be made to obtain data from other Strategic Approach stakeholders. It is most likely that these missing respondents would benefit from further outreach and assistance in submitting data; if resources are limited the secretariat may need to prioritize such outreach and assistance rather than begin a fresh round of reporting for 2011 that would apply to all stakeholders, including those that have already submitted information for 2009 and 2010.

47. Lastly, further consideration is needed of how the Conference might evaluate the progress made in implementation of the Strategic Approach. The current preliminary reporting work has confirmed the feasibility of collecting information and data from a wide range of stakeholders and has shown a number of approaches to investigating trends and reporting on the range of activities being undertaken in respect of each indicator. These descriptive results can provide a good picture of the activities being undertaken on each indicator, which is considered to be in keeping with the voluntary nature of the Strategic Approach. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider how this information might be used to contribute to the evaluation to be made by Conference at its third session, particularly in respect of evaluating progress towards achieving the goal of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that, by 2020, chemicals are produced or used in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Approaches that the Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider include:

(a) *Comparison of the results with a nominal baseline:* The work undertaken to date has shown that this is possible for a limited number of the 20 indicators. In other cases the results shown in the first progress report might provide a surrogate baseline measure for subsequent evaluations;

(b) *Comparison based on a period monitoring progress:* After the third session of the Conference only one further session is foreseen before 2020, in 2015. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider the timing and length of the reporting period leading up to the 2015 session. Adopting a two-year monitoring cycle rather than a three-year cycle and starting with the current reporting for 2009–2010, would maximize the number of evaluations that could be carried out by the Conference and allow results to be widely discussed in the periods between sessions of the Conference;

(c) *Comparison against a target:* None of the indicators thus far agreed by the Conference includes a target for achievement of the 2020 goal. Some possible targets exist for selected indicators in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. For example, activity number 165 in the Plan includes the target that by 2010 all countries will have in place multisectoral mechanisms for developing national profiles and plans of action. The reporting for 2009–2010 shows that more than 70 per cent of countries already have such mechanisms. It may be possible to develop targets for other indicators using the 2009–2010 data as a guide, together with other elements of the Global Plan of Action as appropriate.

VI. Possible actions for the Open-ended Working Group

48. Taking into account the work undertaken by the secretariat to date, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to complete preparations for the third session of the Conference to undertake a formal evaluation of progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Open-ended Working Group may wish:

(a) To encourage those stakeholders that have not yet reported on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach for 2009–2010 to do so using the secretariat's online tool so that progress for all regions and countries in differing stages of economic development are represented in the data collected for evaluation of progress;

(b) To provide comments and guidance to the secretariat, including in respect of any necessary adjustments of the online tool;

(c) To request the secretariat to complete a first report on progress based on data available for 2009–2010 and to elaborate a number of possible targets to assist with the evaluation of progress in achievement of the 2020 goal, taking into account results from the current preliminary reporting work and targets in the Global Plan of Action, as appropriate;

(d) To recommend to the International Conference on Chemicals Management that data on progress be collected periodically in two-year cycles and that the next report on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach cover the period 2011–2012.

Annex

List of indicators for reporting progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach

The following 20 indicators were adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, in May 2009, along with guidance on the type of data to be collected from stakeholders. They are reproduced here from annex III of the report of that session, without the guidance.

A. Risk reduction

1. Number of countries (and organizations) implementing agreed chemicals management tools.
2. Number of countries (and organizations) with mechanisms to address key categories of chemicals.
3. Number of countries (and organizations) with hazardous waste management arrangements.
4. Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in activities that result in monitoring data on selected environmental and human health priority substances.
5. Number of countries (and organizations) having mechanisms in place for setting priorities for risk reduction.

B. Knowledge and information

6. Number of countries (and organizations) providing information according to internationally harmonized standards.
7. Number of countries (and organizations) that have specific strategies in place for communicating information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups.
8. Number of countries (and organizations) with research programmes.
9. Number of countries (and organizations) with websites that provide information to stakeholders.

C. Governance

10. Number of countries (and organizations) that have committed themselves to implementation of the Strategic Approach.
11. Number of countries (and organizations) with multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism.
12. Number of countries (and organizations) with mechanisms to implement key international chemicals priorities.

D. Capacity-building and technical cooperation

13. Number of countries (and organizations) providing resources (financial and in kind) to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation with other countries.
14. Number of countries (and organizations) that have identified and prioritized their capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals.
15. Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in regional cooperation on issues relating to the sound management of chemicals.
16. Number of countries where development assistance programmes that include the sound management of chemicals.
17. Number of countries (and organizations) with projects supported by the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.
18. Number of countries (and organizations) with sound management of chemicals projects supported by other sources of funding (not Quick Start Programme funding).

E. Illegal international traffic

19. Number of countries having mechanisms to prevent illegal traffic in toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals individually.

20. Number of countries having mechanisms to prevent illegal traffic in hazardous waste.
