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

First meeting

Belgrade, 15–18 November 2011

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 November 2011, at the Sava Centre in Belgrade.

Item 2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

2. The Working Group may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (SAICM/OEWG.1/1/Rev.1).

(b) Organization of work

3. The rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will apply mutatis mutandis to the proceedings of the Working Group. Accordingly, the presiding officer of the Working Group will be Mr. Ivan Eržen (Slovenia), President of the Conference. One of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Conference will act as rapporteur.

4. The Working Group may wish to meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day, subject to adjustment as necessary, and to establish small groups to discuss some agenda items in more detail.

Item 3. Setting priorities and meeting goals

5. Under this agenda item the President will report on his plans and general expectations for the meeting as set out in the scenario note (SAICM/OEWG.1/2). The Working Group's mandate set out in resolution II/6 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management includes considering the implementation, development and enhancement of the Strategic Approach. In addition, various specific matters were referred to the Working Group by the Conference at its second session to facilitate preparations for and decision-making at the third session of the Conference. The Working Group's functions have been summarized in document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/15 for ease of reference.

**Item 4. Overview of activities under the Strategic Approach to International
Chemicals Management for the period 2009–2011**

6. Under this agenda item the representative of the secretariat will report on the activities undertaken since the second session of the Conference to set the scene for the meeting. The Working Group may wish to take note of the information provided in the note on regional activities for the

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

period 2009–2011 (SAICM/OEWG.1/3). A compilation of the reports of the regional meetings held in 2011 (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/11) will also be available.

Item 5. Implementation of the Strategic Approach

7. This agenda item comprises three sub-items relating to the implementation, development and enhancement of the Strategic Approach: evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach; financial and technical resources for implementation; and new and emerging policy issues.

8. The main role of the International Conference on Chemicals Management as set out in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach consists of undertaking periodic reviews of the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Some of its functions include receiving reports from relevant stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach; evaluating the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target¹ and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary; working to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available for implementation; evaluating the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach; and focusing attention and calling for action on emerging policy issues as they arise.

9. Under this agenda item the Working Group may wish to consider the information provided on the progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including the development of the first evaluation report on progress for the consideration of the Conference at its third session and proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach; evaluate the performance of the Strategic Approach; and consider progress on the implementation of resolutions II/4 on emerging policy issues and II/5 on management of perfluorinated chemicals and its transition to safer alternatives. The Working Group may also, in accordance with its functions set out resolution II/6, wish to review the progress since the second session of the Conference and develop recommendations in the form of draft resolutions for the consideration of and possible adoption by the Conference at its third session, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

10. The Working Group may also wish to take into account the outcomes of the regional meetings mentioned above in order to have a better understanding of the views expressed by the participants at those meetings on each of the preceding sub-items. In addition, it will have before it the report of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/10) for information.

(a) Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach

(i) Reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach

11. At its second session the Conference adopted modalities for reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, which are set out in annex III to the report of the second session. These modalities included 20 indicators to be used in the reporting of progress that reflect the subject areas of the Overarching Policy Strategy: risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building and technical cooperation and illegal international traffic. At its second session the Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a baseline estimates report for the period 2006–2008, an electronic tool to collect data from stakeholders and a first progress report for the period 2009–2011 for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group.

12. The representative of the secretariat will present a summary of the work undertaken since the second session of the Conference (SAICM/OEWG.1/4), a baseline report for the period 2006–2008 (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/1) and a summary of the data collected from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations using an electronic data collection tool for the period 2009–2010 (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2 and SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/2/Add.1, respectively). Information on progress in implementing the Strategic Approach provided by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/3) will also be available.

13. The Working Group may wish to discuss the work undertaken to date and encourage those stakeholders who have not yet done so to provide information for inclusion in the first progress report and guidance to the secretariat to enable the completion of the report. The Working Group may also wish to provide guidance on any adjustments to the online data collection tool, the period to be

1 The term “2020 target” refers to the aim set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

covered by the first progress report and any possible need for targets or other means for facilitating the evaluation of progress by the Conference. The Working Group may wish to request the secretariat to develop a proposal for the conduct of the evaluation to be undertaken by the Conference at its third session.

(ii) Addition of activities to the Global Plan of Action

14. The International Conference on Chemicals Management agreed at its second session on a procedure to include new activities in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach and to consider at its third session a proposal for inclusion of activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. The Working Group will have before it a document submitted by the Government of Switzerland justifying the inclusion of a new work area and activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in the Global Plan of Action and related background information (SAICM/OEWG.1/8 and SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/14).

15. A proposal to add activities to the Global Plan of Action on the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment was made by the participants at the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach. The detailed justification document for this second proposal is also provided in document SAICM/OEWG.1/8. The Working Group may wish to consider whether to recommend the inclusion of this proposal on the provisional agenda of the third session of the Conference.

16. The Working Group may wish to note that progress on the implementation of resolution II/4 on emerging policy issues will be discussed under agenda item 5 (c) (i) and that the report on options for future action on hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (SAICM/OEWG.1/11) and the report on progress in nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (SAICM/OEWG.1/12) also provide relevant information on matters related to these two emerging policy issues.

(b) Financial and technical resources for implementation

17. Under this sub-item, the Working Group may wish to direct the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the outcomes of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, the twelfth special session of the UNEP Governing Council and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development with an analysis of their implications for the financial needs of the Strategic Approach, for consideration by the Conference at its third session with a view to the possible adoption of a decision on financial and technical resources.

(i) Update on the Quick Start Programme

18. By its resolution II/3, on financial and technical resources for implementation, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Quick Start Programme and report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation. Accordingly, the Executive Board approved terms of reference for a midterm review of the Programme at its fifth meeting, in 2010, and considered the findings of the review developed by two independent consultants at its sixth meeting, on 13 and 14 September 2011. Document SAICM/OEWG.1/5 provides an update on the Quick Start Programme, including relevant information about its operation.

19. The Working Group will also have before it an update on the implementation of the Programme, including the status of approved Quick Start Programme projects (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/12). Progress on a midterm evaluation and recent developments concerning financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach will be described.

20. The Working Group may wish to take note of the information provided in documents SAICM/OEWG.1/5 and SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/12 on the status of the Quick Start Programme and recommend that the Conference adopt a new draft resolution to amend the requirements of resolutions I/4 and II/3 to ensure that financial commitments for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects are permitted until November 2013 and that disbursement of funds can continue until all the activities under the projects in the portfolio have been completed.

21. Taking into consideration that the demand for funding remains high, and that there are still 30 countries that have not received funding from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, the Open-ended Working Group may also wish to invite additional contributions to the Trust Fund.

(ii) Financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach

22. By its resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach, the International Conference on Chemicals Management reaffirmed that achieving the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy for the sound management of chemicals throughout

their life cycle by 2020 depended in part on the financing of diverse actions at all levels and on enhanced synergies and the complementarity of the multiple financial arrangements foreseen in the Strategic Approach for its implementation. It further recognized the need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible funding for activities in support of the sound management of chemicals and the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Strategic Approach, and set out a number of actions to be taken to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources were available for implementation.

23. The Working Group will have before it an update on financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/OEWG.1/6). It may wish to consider the information provided with regard to the implementation of resolution II/3, by which the Conference invited all relevant financial institutions to strengthen their support for activities contributing to the achievement of the Strategic Approach objectives.

24. The document also highlights the most recent developments in the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes management launched by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in recognition of the need for adequate resources in the field of chemicals and wastes management. The final meeting in the consultative process was held in Bangkok on 6 and 7 October 2011. An oral update will be presented to the Working Group on the outcome of the meeting and the next steps in the process, and an information document containing the outcome document will be made available (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/17).

25. The Working Group may also wish to consider resolutions on financial considerations adopted by the participants at the fourth African and the third Latin American and Caribbean regional meetings on the Strategic Approach (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/11).

26. The Working Group may wish to take note of two side events on initiatives linked to the implementation of resolution II/3. On Wednesday, 16 November 2011, a side event sponsored by the World Health Organization and UNEP is planned on the cost of inaction and the burden of disease caused by unsound management of chemicals. On Friday, 18 November, a side event sponsored by the Global Environment Facility will be held on the outcomes of a recent study on emerging chemicals management issues in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

27. Considering that the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be held after the twelfth special session of the Governing Council and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which the financing options for the chemicals and wastes agenda are expected to be discussed, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to request the Executive Director of UNEP to include in his report on the outcomes of the consultative process to the Governing Council of UNEP at its twelfth special session a discussion of how those outcomes bear on the financing needs of the Strategic Approach. It may also wish to request the secretariat to develop for consideration by the Conference at its third session a summary report on the progress and outcomes of the consultative process and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and their relevance to financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

(c) New and emerging policy issues

28. The Conference adopted resolutions II/4 and II/5, on emerging policy issues and managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, respectively. The annex to resolution II/4 sets out the processes that the Conference agreed to use for considering emerging policy issues at future sessions.

29. The Working Group will be requested to consider three aspects: progress in relation to each of the emerging policy issues considered in detail at the second session of the Conference, in order to continue the discussions on work undertaken and to address specific actions requested by the Conference at that session; progress in managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives; and two newly nominated emerging policy issues for possible inclusion on the agenda of the third session of the Conference. On the basis of this information, the Working Group may wish to develop recommendations in the form of draft resolutions for the consideration of and possible adoption by the Conference at its third session in order to prioritize and update the Strategic Approach as necessary to advance towards the 2020 goal.

(i) Emerging policy issues

30. One of the functions of the Conference, as set out in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy, is to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action. In this regard, at its second session the Conference considered in detail four emerging policy issues – lead in paint, chemicals in products,

hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials – and called for appropriate actions on each issue in resolution II/4.

31. The Working Group will have before it an overview of progress on each emerging issue and managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (SAICM/OEWG.1/7). Documents pertaining to each specific issue – lead in paint (SAICM/OEWG.1/9), chemicals in products (SAICM/OEWG.1/10), hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products (SAICM/OEWG.1/11) and nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (SAICM/OEWG.1/12) – will also be available, providing detailed reports on progress on each emerging policy issue. The documents have been prepared by the relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

32. The Working Group will also have before it documents providing additional detailed information on the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/4) and chemicals in products (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/5 and SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/6), the report of the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/7) and a report on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/8).

33. In addition to its functions mentioned above, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to review progress made on each emerging policy issue; consider recommendations for continuing cooperative action on each emerging policy issue as necessary; and prepare a draft omnibus resolution for further consideration by the Conference at its third session.

(ii) Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

34. As mentioned above, at its second session the Conference also considered in detail the need to manage perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives and adopted resolution II/5 calling for action in that regard. The Working Group may wish to consider the progress report on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives prepared by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which provides details on the implementation of resolution II/5 (SAICM/OEWG.1/13).

35. The Working Group may wish to review progress made on work on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives; consider information submitted by OECD and provide feedback to it on the terms of reference of the global perfluorinated chemicals group established to replace the OECD perfluorinated chemicals steering group, in particular on proposed work for 2011–2012; and submit nominations for members of the global perfluorinated chemicals group.

(iii) Nominated new emerging policy issues

36. In accordance with the procedure for considering emerging policy issues set out in the annex to resolution II/4, two issues have been nominated for consideration by the Conference at its third session: international cooperation to promote awareness, understanding and action in respect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants.

37. The Working Group will have before it a summary of the nominations for new emerging policy issues submitted to the secretariat (SAICM/OEWG.1/14) and the nominations as submitted by the proponents of the two proposals, UNEP and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/9).

38. The annex to resolution II/4 sets out the functions of the Working Group in respect of nominated new emerging policy issues, according to which it is to consider the inclusion of nominations for new emerging policy issues on the provisional agenda of the Conference and, to that end, to assess the proposals taking into account regional inputs and other information. If so agreed by the Working Group, the issues will be submitted for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the third session of the Conference in accordance with its rules of procedure. The Working Group may wish to review the two issues and consider possible cooperative actions on each issue as appropriate, propose one or both of the issues for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the third session of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference and request the secretariat to prepare a summary report on one or both of the issues included on the agenda for the third session of the Conference in cooperation with the proponent of the issue, taking into account any recommendations made by the Open-ended Working Group. Should either issue not be proposed for further consideration, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider other ways to focus attention on it.

Item 6. Health sector strategy

39. By its resolution II/8, on health aspects of the sound management of chemicals, the Conference invited the secretariat to develop, in consultation with the World Health Organization, a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation for consideration at the third session of the Conference. The Working Group will have before it the proposed health sector strategy developed by the secretariat taking into account, among other things, the outcomes of a consultation held in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 February 2010, submissions received through the Strategic Approach website and the discussions and resolutions from regional meetings held since the second session of the Conference (SAICM/OEWG.1/15).

40. The Working Group may wish to consider the proposed health sector strategy and recommend that at its third session the Conference adopt the strategy as a supplement to the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach. It may also wish to consider next steps, including the development of two or three case studies and specific targets and indicators for implementation of the proposed strategy for consideration at the third session of the Conference.

Item 7. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

41. The Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its second meeting, held in Ljubljana in June 2011, expressed concern about the need to have collective input from Strategic Approach stakeholders into the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development so as to ensure that chemicals received due consideration in the outcomes of the meeting. Recognizing that the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group would afford a unique opportunity to discuss a collective strategy for participation in the preparatory process, the Bureau requested the secretariat to include the present item on the agenda of the meeting.

42. By its resolution II/7, on the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Conference referred to the inclusion of chemicals in the thematic cluster for consideration by the Commission in its 2010–2011 cycle and encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to participate in the Commission's work on chemicals, including through regional preparatory processes. During the regional meetings that followed the second session of the Conference, Strategic Approach stakeholders showed interest in regional preparatory processes for the eighteenth session of the Commission, including regional implementation meetings and a learning centre (seminar) that was held as part of the formal session. The Commission's nineteenth session was held in New York from 2 to 13 May 2011 and included a learning centre and a partnerships event, both of which featured the Strategic Approach. The Working Group may wish to reflect on discussions on chemicals held as part of this session to identify any further opportunities for strengthening participation.

43. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (known informally as "Rio + 20") will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4 to 6 June 2012 and will mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, and the tenth anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Working Group will have before it information on the preparations for the Conference (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/13), including its themes (a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development) and key messages that could be used to assist countries in providing input into their national and regional consultation processes to ensure that the participants at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognize the importance of sound chemicals management for sustainable development. The Working Group may wish to share information and views on preparations for the Conference at the regional level and any opportunities that may exist for strategically highlighting progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the work of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, particularly given the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach.

Item 8. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2013–2015

44. The Working Group will have before it a report by the Secretariat on its activities during the period 2009–2011 and the proposed programme of work and budget of the Secretariat for the period 2013–2015 (SAICM/OEWG.1/17). It may wish to take note of the information and consider the possible action suggested therein.

Item 9: Preparations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

45. Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides for the third session of the Conference to be held in 2012 unless otherwise decided by the Conference. The Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 of the Conference call for sessions of the Conference, where appropriate, to be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the multisectoral nature of the Strategic Approach.

46. The Working Group will have before it a note by the secretariat on preparations for the third session of the Conference (SAICM/OEWG.1/18). It may wish to take note of the information provided and comment on and suggest changes to the draft provisional agenda for the Conference before its finalization by the Bureau of the Conference.

Item 10. Other matters

47. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider other matters raised in the course of the meeting.

Item 11. Adoption of the report

48. The Working Group will be invited to consider and adopt the report on the work of its first meeting as prepared by the Rapporteur. The report, containing text relating to the proceedings in the plenary sessions up to the afternoon of Thursday, 17 November 2011, will be presented for consideration and approval by the Working Group on Friday, 18 November.

Item 12. Closure of the session

49. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by the President by 6 p.m. on Friday, 18 November 2011.
