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Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management

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

First meeting

Belgrade, 15–18 November 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Overview of activities under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for the period
2009-2011**

Compilation of reports of regional meeting held in 2011

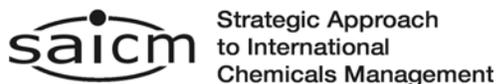
Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a compilation of the following reports from regional meeting held in 2011: Report of the African regional meeting held in Nairobi on 7 and 8 April, 2011; Report of the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting held in Panama City on 2 and 3 June 2011; Report of the Central and Eastern European regional meeting held in Lodz, Poland on 28 and 29 June 2011; and Report of the Asia-Pacific regional meeting held in Beijing on 8 and 9 September 2011. The reports have been compiled as agreed by the regional meetings and have not been formally edited.

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



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**Fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach
to International Chemicals Management**
Nairobi, 5, 7 and 8 April 2011

Report of the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

1. At its first session, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. By resolution I/1 on implementation arrangements, the Conference recommended that intersessional work on implementation of the Strategic Approach should be promoted through the holding of regional meetings. To date, African regional meetings have taken place in Cairo in September 2006; Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in July 2008; and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in January 2010. At the last-mentioned meeting, representatives called for the region to meet early in 2011 to prepare for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, to take place in Belgrade from 29 August to 2 September 2011, providing the basis for the current meeting, which was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 5, 7 and 8 April 2011.
2. The meeting and the accompanying workshop on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) were opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 April 2011, by Ms. Alice A. Kaudia, Environment Secretary, on behalf of Mr. Ali Mohamed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya. She underscored the important role of chemicals in sustainable development, describing the challenges faced and achievements made in Kenya in terms of making chemicals management more effective. In that regard, the Government's priorities included efforts to combat the illegal transit of hazardous materials, the need for a common approach to various environment-related agreements, linking health and environment initiatives and multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approaches. She encouraged the representatives to share their experiences and knowledge in the spirit of continuing to nurture and enhance strong partnerships.
3. Ms. Gabi Eigenmanns, Government of Switzerland, spoke of the strong engagement of the African region in international work on chemicals and her Government's honour to be associated with the launch of a second round of regional meetings in preparation for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
4. Mr. Rob Visser welcomed the representatives on behalf of UNITAR and expressed thanks for the opportunity to build upon awareness-raising discussions on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to identify possible next steps and approaches, thanking the Government of Switzerland for its support in that regard.
5. Mr. Wilfred Ndegwa, World Health Organization (WHO), welcomed the representatives on behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Jack, WHO Representative to Kenya, and spoke of the active support provided by WHO to the Strategic Approach and of the importance of health and environment joint actions in

implementing the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa. He described recent estimates of the burden of disease and the need to tackle chemicals of major public health concern.

6. Mr. David Kapindula, African regional focal point for the Strategic Approach and Co-Chair of the meeting, expressed his appreciation to the Governments of Kenya and Switzerland and to the secretariat for the organization of the meeting. He introduced Ms. Leonor Alvarado as the new coordinator of the Strategic Approach secretariat.

I. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

7. The representatives adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/RM/Afr.4/1 and the annotations to the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/RM/Afr.4/1/Add.1/Rev.1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.
4. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:
 - (a) Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach;
 - (b) Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes;
 - (c) Financial and technical resources for implementation;
 - (d) Emerging policy issues;
 - (e) Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation.
5. Health issues:
 - (a) Outcomes of the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa;
 - (b) Health sector strategy.
6. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations.
7. Illegal traffic.
8. Activities and budget of the secretariat.
9. Quick Start Programme:
 - (a) Status of approved projects and applications in the region;
 - (b) Preparations for an evaluation of the Quick Start Programme;
 - (c) Status of African representatives on the Executive Board.
10. Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the meeting.

B. Attendance

8. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

9. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization.

10. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Agenda, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ecological Restorations, Groupe pour la Promotion de la Flore et la Faune (GAPROFFA), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), iLima, International Trade Union Confederation/Africa, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Kitale Chemical Group of Organization, Kitale Youth Environmental, Mkokoteni Aid Development Organisation, Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), PAN Africa, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Kenya, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).

C. Election of officers

11. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Kapindula and Ms. Caroline Wamai (Kenya). Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi (South Africa) served as rapporteur.

II. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group

12. The representative of the secretariat, introducing the item, drew attention to document SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/11 on preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. She recalled that the Open-ended Working Group had been established by resolution II/6 of the Conference to ensure comprehensive and effective preparation of the sessions of the Conference. The Government of Serbia had confirmed its readiness to host the first meeting of the Working Group in Belgrade from 28 August to 2 September 2011, leaving ample time for preparation of the third session of the Conference, in July 2012. She noted that by resolution II/6 the Conference had reaffirmed the importance of full and effective participation by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Open-ended Working Group, and she urged donors to facilitate the attendance of delegates from eligible parties. Presenting information on the estimated costs of the meeting, she said that the secretariat had so far raised 50 per cent of the costs, and was continuing its efforts. Outlining the draft provisional agenda for the Working Group meeting, she stressed that opportunities remained to provide input into that agenda, including through the Strategic Approach website.

13. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

III. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

14. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to documents SAICM/RM/Afr.4/2, SAICM/RM/Afr.4/3 and SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/1. She recalled that, by its resolution II/2, the International Conference on Chemicals Management had encouraged regional focal points to continue to play a facilitative role within the regions and had requested them to report to the Conference at its third session on the outcomes of regional meetings and other regional activities during the intersessional period. She expressed the belief that the African region had been extremely active in that regard, and outlined the relevant activities that had taken place.

15. The regional focal point, speaking as Chair of the African Core Group, summarized the proceedings of the Group's sixth meeting, which had taken place on Monday, 4 April 2011. The Group had developed a number of draft resolutions that would be considered at the current meeting. The Group had also discussed, and made adjustments to, its workplan for 2010–2011, which included proposals for regional and subregional projects, an undertaking to comment on and update the regional action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in Africa and the preparation of guidance for the report by the regional focal point pursuant to resolution II/2 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Lastly, he drew attention to a number of events that had afforded an opportunity to raise awareness of activities relevant to Africa undertaken as part of the Strategic Approach.

A. Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach

16. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, at its second session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management had adopted a set of 20 indicators to be used by stakeholders when reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach; arrangements for the preparation of a baseline report; and arrangements for subsequent periodic reporting to the Conference (SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/2). The 20 indicators were organized into five categories according to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach: risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation, and illegal international traffic.

17. She said that the baseline report for 2006–2009 was being compiled using readily available information from a variety of sources, and involved extracting quantitative data from the information already provided, aligning the data with the indicators agreed upon by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, compiling a database of results, and aggregating data by regional groupings and by countries' developmental status. While the quality of the data varied greatly, and there was little or no information for some indicators, the exercise had yielded valuable baseline data and demonstrated the substantial efforts being made by many countries and organizations. The baseline report would be released for comment ahead of the Open-ended Working Group's first meeting. She recalled that the generation of estimates for the baseline report was not an exact science, and the results should be considered in that light.

18. In response to a question about the active participation of non-governmental organizations as an indicator of countries' commitment to implementing the Strategic Approach, she recalled the unique status of the Strategic Approach as a multisectoral, multi-stakeholder process involving a wide range of actors, who had expressed their commitment to the Strategic Approach and also committed themselves to providing information on the activities that they were undertaking to implement the programme. As a multi-stakeholder undertaking, the Strategic Approach welcomed reporting directly from non-governmental organizations, which helped to provide a global picture of the number and types of stakeholders within its community.

19. She then gave a presentation on the first progress report of the Strategic Approach, for which an online data collection tool had been developed. The tool consisted of an electronic questionnaire available on the secretariat website, using the five categories of indicators listed above. The emphasis was on gathering simple quantitative data using a tick-box format, although space was provided for narrative description if required. To use the tool it was necessary for the submitting governmental, non-governmental or intergovernmental organization first to register an official e-mail address. Only one African Government had to date completed its submission of data, and many had not yet registered. She urged all Governments to register and to complete their submissions by the deadline of 15 April 2011, so as to allow time for analysis before the Open-ended Working Group's first meeting.

20. In the ensuing discussion, one representative raised the problem of validating data within the short time frame and with limited resources. Regarding the credibility and transparency of the data, the representative of the secretariat said that many countries had a mechanism for consulting stakeholders before the national focal point submitted information, meaning that the information submitted would tend to reflect accurately what was happening at the national level. In addition, the data would be aggregated to provide an overall picture of the implementation of the Strategic Approach, rather than a concise picture at the national level. Another representative said that the national focal points had an important role to play in facilitating information exchange through collaboration with ministries and the private sector, among others.

21. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

B. Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes

22. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that an omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants had been adopted at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 24 February 2010. By those decisions, the conferences of the parties had requested the secretariats of the three conventions to develop for consideration in 2011 a proposal for cross-cutting and joint activities for possible inclusion in the programmes of work of the three

conventions for 2012–2013, taking into account when appropriate the Strategic Approach, and to prepare a report on other clearing-house mechanisms and similar mechanisms in the area of chemicals and wastes, especially the Strategic Approach clearing-house mechanism.

23. Furthermore, by its resolution II/7, the International Conference on Chemicals Management had welcomed the thematic focus on chemicals in the 2010–2011 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and had encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to participate in the Commission's work on chemicals, including through regional preparatory processes. The secretariat had facilitated activities in that regard. Noting that the nineteenth session of the Commission would be held in New York from 2 to 13 May 2011, she encouraged regional stakeholders to identify and take advantage of possible opportunities for strengthening participation.

24. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

C. Financial and technical resources for implementation

25. The representative of the secretariat gave a report on financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/3). A consultative process on financing options for work on the sound management of chemicals and wastes, initiated by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), had held three meetings, most recently in Pretoria, South Africa, on 10 and 11 January 2011. At that meeting, the Pretoria Road Map had been developed to increase and facilitate the flow of available capacity and resources adequately to support the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the global, regional and national levels. The following four complementary financing tracks for the sound management of chemicals had been discussed: mainstreaming sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes; involving industry, including through public-private partnerships and the use of economic instruments at the national and international levels; establishing a new trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; and introducing safe chemicals and wastes management as a new focal area, expanding the existing persistent organic pollutants focal area under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) or establishing a new trust fund under GEF. The secretariat was to prepare additional information on the tracks for discussion at the fourth meeting in the process, scheduled for May 2011.

26. The fifth replenishment of GEF, presented at its fourth Assembly in May 2010, had included the allocation of \$10 million to contribute to the overall objective of the Strategic Approach and another \$10 million to support projects to contribute to a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

27. She then outlined the status of financing for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and the Strategic Approach secretariat. As a dedicated financing initiative of the Overarching Policy Strategy, the Quick Start Programme had been a particular focus of donor support and developing-country expectations. To date, 117 projects in 95 countries valued at approximately \$24 million had been approved for support from the Trust Fund. Five more application rounds were anticipated before the Programme ended in 2013. In conclusion, she said that, while the secretariat continued to take every opportunity to seek funds and raise donors' awareness, competition for funds in the sector was fierce.

28. Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi, Co-Chair of the Pretoria meeting of the consultative process, gave a brief summary of that meeting.

29. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives spoke of the problems faced in finding dedicated and sustainable financing for chemicals management. One said that it was important for the African region to maintain the momentum of the Strategic Approach to facilitate the continuity of implementation projects following on from the enabling activities under the Quick Start Programme. A representative of a non-governmental organization expressed concern at the time lag that often occurred between the approval of a project and the actual transfer of funds for the project. The representative of the secretariat reiterated that it fell to the Implementation Committee of the Quick Start Programme to approve or reject projects, while the secretariat's role was to facilitate the functioning of the Programme by screening project proposals to ensure that all criteria were met and preparing a summary of proposals for the Committee. Various factors might delay disbursement of funding, including administrative or institutional arrangements. While the matter was largely beyond its control, the secretariat did recognize the concern, and it was one of the issues being examined during the Quick Start Programme evaluation exercise.

30. Responding to a query about sources of funding for the Quick Start Programme, the representative of the secretariat said that the Programme had largely been viewed as a mechanism for donor countries to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition with enabling

activities under the Strategic Approach. There was, however, an array of contributions, for example in kind contributions, which lay outside the Programme's Trust Fund.

31. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to a newly announced feature of the Quick Start Programme under which senior experts could be made available on a voluntary basis to assist with project implementation activities. A roster of senior experts would be maintained by the secretariat for possible deployment and their expenses would be covered by additional voluntary contributions raised specifically for that purpose. A representative of a chemicals industry organization said that the chemicals industry sector was strongly committed to the Strategic Approach, and would continue to provide investment and in kind resources to promote the safe handling of chemicals worldwide, including a contribution to the senior experts resource group.

32. One representative confirmed that the GEF focal area on persistent organic pollutants had indeed been expanded to include other chemicals financing. Another expressed concern that the measure might dilute funding for dealing with persistent organic pollutants.

33. There was some discussion of the role of African countries in chemicals management, with several representatives expressing the view that African Governments should be more proactive in providing their own additional funding for chemicals management, rather than depending solely on donors who might not be forthcoming. Some representatives stressed the importance of funding methods that lay outside the donor regime, including ecological taxation and the application of the polluter pays principle.

34. The representatives considered a draft resolution, developed at the African Core Group meeting on 4 April 2011, on the African regional position on financial considerations with regard to the Strategic Approach. The resolution was adopted as amended, and is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Emerging policy issues

35. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that there were two main aspects of the matter. The first concerned those emerging policy issues identified and discussed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management; the second concerned the nomination of emerging policy issues for consideration at future sessions of the Conference. Resolution II/4 of the Conference set out the work requested of the secretariat with regard to emerging policy issues, notably to implement, subject to resources, the procedures for receiving nominations of emerging policy issues from stakeholders, screening them for completeness and prioritizing and assessing them for future consideration and in relation to those emerging issues identified and discussed at the second session of the Conference, and to report on the progress made in the work to the Open-ended Working Group and to the Conference at its third session.

1. Past issues

36. She drew attention to document SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/4, on progress with regard to emerging policy issues considered in detail by the Conference at its second session and prioritization of new emerging policy issues for consideration; and document SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/8, on emerging policy issues nominated for consideration by the Conference at its third session. She said that at its second session the Conference had adopted omnibus resolution II/4 on emerging policy issues, with sections on lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. In addition, the Conference had adopted resolution II/5 on managing perfluorinated chemicals. The Conference had also invited the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other organizations to contribute in specific areas.

(a) Lead in paint

37. She said that the main participating organizations for lead in paint were UNEP and WHO. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints, endorsed by the Conference, had held its first meeting in Geneva from 26 to 28 May 2010, and progress had been made in identifying potential contributors to the Alliance's work. A side event held at the current meeting had provided an opportunity for discussing progress in that regard.

38. In the ensuing discussion, a participant representing a chemicals industry organization expressed industry support for the Alliance, adding that action to eliminate lead in paint required focused outreach in those countries where use continued in the absence of strict legislative and regulatory controls. For example, technology transfer, supported by the private sector, would help local industry in developing countries to understand how to formulate paint without lead.

39. The representatives considered a draft resolution, developed at the African Core Group meeting on 4 April 2011, on the elimination of lead in paint. The resolution was adopted as amended, and is set out in annex I to the present report.

(b) Chemicals in products

40. The representative of the secretariat said that the lead organization for chemicals in products was UNEP, and that progress had included the establishment of a steering group for a project on chemicals in products, the holding of a scoping meeting for a study of stakeholder needs in terms of information on chemicals in products (held in Geneva on 17 and 18 December 2009) and the conduct of four sector-specific case studies on building products, electronics, toys and textiles. A workshop on the project had taken place in Geneva from 16 to 18 March 2011 and a side event at the current meeting had provided a further opportunity for discussion.

41. Mr. B. Alo (Nigeria), the representative of the African region on the steering group, said that the workshop participants had considered the challenges faced in providing information on chemicals in products in developing countries, and had drafted a recommendation on development of an international framework to improve access to and availability of information on chemicals in products for presentation to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session. He noted the importance of ensuring that the informal sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, was fully informed of the properties of the chemicals that they were handling. He added, in response to a question about consumers' capacity to deal with the information provided by producers, that a major theme of the workshop had been identifying roles and responsibilities across the entire life cycle, from producers to consumers. It was critical for the project's success that producers were supportive and ready to disclose information.

42. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

(c) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

43. The representative of the secretariat said that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization was the lead participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals engaged in work on the issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. It had worked with the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to develop, plan and convene an international workshop on the issue in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011.

44. Mr. O. Osibanjo, the Chair of that workshop, gave a report on its proceedings. The participants had considered the three major aspects of the issue: upstream assemblage of components and production; midstream aspects, including health and safety in use of electronic products; and downstream disposal of electronic waste. He cautioned against referring to the entire issue as "electronic waste", which comprised only the downstream component of the life cycle. The matter of electronic waste was of particular importance to developing countries, which were a major recipient of that waste. It was essential to deal with the problem upstream by designing out potentially harmful technologies.

45. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that in Africa there was inadequate infrastructure to handle chemical components of electronic waste, which were often burned along with household waste, leading to the discharge of hazardous substances. The matter was relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to the Strategic Approach, and cross-cutting synergies were essential to combat the scourge. Another representative drew attention to current instruments and provisions on the matter, including the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices under the Stockholm Convention, which contained guidance on burning hazardous wastes. Several representatives noted the growing threat of electronic waste in developing countries compared to developed countries, with illegal dumping a significant contributory factor. It was challenging to devise appropriate national legislation and regulations applicable not only to end-of-life products but also to near-end-of-life products, which were increasingly being dumped in developing countries. One representative drew attention to the danger posed by counterfeit products, which were often manufactured using hazardous substances.

46. The representatives considered a draft resolution, developed at the African Core Group meeting on 4 April 2011, on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. They also considered a draft justification document for the inclusion of hazardous wastes within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. The resolution and the justification document were adopted as amended, and are set out in annexes I and II to the present report, respectively.

47. The representatives also agreed to forward the proposal to include hazardous wastes within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in the Global Plan of Action to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting for its consideration, in accordance with the rules of procedure for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach set out in annex II to the report of the second session of the Conference (SAICM/ICCM.2/15).

(d) Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

48. The representative of the secretariat indicated that the lead organizations for nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials were OECD and UNITAR. There were two main areas of progress: a series of awareness-raising workshops held in 2009 and 2010 to inform developing countries and countries with economies in transition about the potential applications of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, including pilot activities in Colombia, Nigeria and Thailand; and the preparation of a report by the Strategic Approach secretariat, to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting.

49. One representative reported on the outcomes of the UNITAR/OECD workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials held in Nairobi on 5 and 6 April 2011. The workshop participants had discussed and endorsed a proposal by Switzerland that activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials should be added to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. They had also proposed that a resolution should be prepared on the matter for consideration at the current meeting.

50. In the ensuing discussion, a representative of a chemicals industry organization said that industry was committed to producing, handling and using nanotechnological products in a responsible manner along their life cycle, and was an active stakeholder in the OECD programme to improve understanding of the issue. Industry-funded research was developing through the Long-Range Research Initiative. She also outlined progress on transparency about available information, evaluation and risk assessment of nanotechnologies, classification and labelling of nanomaterials, definition of nanomaterials and dissemination of information on safety and other aspects, including under the Global Product Stewardship Initiative of the International Council of Chemical Associations.

51. The representatives considered a draft resolution, developed at the African Core Group meeting on 4 April 2011, on the addition of activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action, and agreed that a document summarizing the outcomes of the workshop should be integrated into the draft resolution. The resolution was adopted as amended, and is set out in annex I to the present report.

(e) Perfluorinated chemicals

52. The representative of the secretariat said that OECD was the lead organization for managing perfluorinated chemicals. An OECD steering group on perfluorinated chemicals was taking forward the recommendations made by the Conference at its second session. Activities to increase knowledge and information dissemination on the matter included establishment of a web-based portal and the holding of a series of web-based seminars.

53. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

2. Future issues and nominations

54. The representative of the secretariat said that by resolution II/4 the Conference set out modalities for the consideration of emerging policy issues at its future sessions. Two issues had been identified for consideration at the Conference's third session: international cooperation to build awareness and understanding and promote actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals (nominated by UNEP); and environmentally persistent pharmaceuticals (nominated by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment). Further information and comments on the nominated issues were invited until 30 April 2011.

55. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed concern at the increasing production and use of chemicals in developing countries, which often lacked the capacity to manage them. There was a need for greater awareness-raising on handling, recycling and disposal, he said, welcoming the focus on that issue in the UNEP nomination on endocrine-disrupting chemicals. International support was needed for countries to make informed decisions and identify effective courses of action. Another representative called upon the Strategic Approach to lay greater emphasis on promoting the development and use of modern disposal systems.

56. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

E. Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation

57. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the secretariat had undertaken outreach activities with various organizations in accordance with the article of the Overarching Policy Strategy on promotion of information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation. A major tool in support of that function had been the development of an information clearing house, and the secretariat would be engaging expertise to assist the development of the mechanism further.

58. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

IV. Health issues

A. Outcomes of the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa

59. On behalf of the representative of WHO, the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the outcomes of the second meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held in Luanda from 23 to 26 November 2010 (SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/5). The Conference was organized jointly by UNEP and WHO, and brought together ministers of health and environment with the intention of sustaining the progress made at the first meeting of the Conference, held in Libreville from 26 to 29 August 2008. At the second meeting representatives had explored a number of themes related to the interconnection between health and the environment. The main outcomes of the meeting had been a joint statement on climate change and health by African ministers of health and the environment; a report on implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa; and the establishment of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance for the Implementation of the Libreville Declaration.

60. One main challenge identified at the second meeting had been sourcing sustainable financing and resources for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration. Significant opportunities existed, however, to leverage additional resources through a more coordinated multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement in the implementation of both the Libreville Declaration and the Strategic Approach, as there was considerable complementarity between the two agendas and a marked convergence of priorities with regard to chemicals management. The Strategic Approach had been represented at the second meeting by the African regional focal point and had conducted a side event to raise awareness of the Strategic Approach and to share lessons learned in the implementation of both the Strategic Approach and the Libreville Declaration. As a result of the deliberations at the second meeting, chemicals management was included among the top 10 health and environment priorities for the region. A third meeting of the Conference was planned for 2012.

61. In the ensuing discussion, in response to a question about the sector balance at the meeting, the representative of the secretariat said that it had been a joint health and environment initiative, meaning that the ministers of both sectors had been invited without preference to either. Several representatives described national initiatives to improve synergies between health and the environment, including through undertaking a situation analysis and needs assessment, as advocated by the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance. One representative said that Africa was a world leader in exploring strategic alliances between the health and environment sectors, with considerable benefits for chemicals management, and commended the approach to other regions. Another representative whose country had benefited from resources from the Quick Start Programme in undertaking its health and environment situation assessment and needs analysis drew attention to that source of funding for undertaking analyses in other countries in the region.

62. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

B. Health sector strategy

63. The representative of the secretariat gave an update on the development of a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, in accordance with resolution II/8 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/6 and SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/7). The draft strategy was developed by the Strategic Approach secretariat and further refined during a consultation in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 February 2010, and in other forums. The draft strategy aimed to raise awareness and to improve the capacity of health ministries and other stakeholders to manage chemicals, and was not intended to duplicate existing activities. Comments from stakeholders on the draft strategy had been positive overall, and further inputs could be made until the end of April 2011. The draft strategy would be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting.

64. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed support for the aim that the draft strategy would work with existing mechanisms, and summarized a range of relevant initiatives that the draft strategy might complement, such as integrated vector management. He also stressed the importance of giving due consideration within the strategy to innovative solutions to the problem of waste management. Lastly, he suggested that countries, when developing their situation analyses and needs assessments and their joint plans of action, should explore opportunities for making more efficient use of domestic resources through joint programming. Another representative said that health, just as other sectors, had to be made greener, for example in worker protection and disposal of waste.

65. The representative of the secretariat responded that the secretariat was working on giving linkages between health and the environment more emphasis in the strategy. The issue of greening the health sector had received considerable support, including from professionals within the sector and had been included in one of the activities in the draft strategy.

66. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

V. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations

67. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that by its resolution I/1 the International Conference on Chemicals Management had commended the Strategic Approach to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and had encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge it. In addition, signatories to the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, adopted at the first session of the Conference, had committed themselves to integrating the Strategic Approach into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations entities. She outlined some action that had been taken in that regard within UNEP and WHO, and invited further comment by representatives of relevant organizations.

68. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which aimed to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by boosting agricultural productivity in Africa in a sustainable manner. There were four main pillars to the Programme: land and water management, market access, food supply and hunger, and agricultural research. She said that opportunities existed for exploring linkages between the Programme and the Strategic Approach, and encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the Programme and to establish contact with the lead technical agency or contact person for each pillar.

69. The representative of UNITAR said that UNITAR had been the executing agency for 66 projects under the Quick Start Programme, 30 of them in Africa. The wide-ranging projects included the provision of assistance with the development of national profiles, building partnerships and setting up chemicals management databases. The national profile guidance document of UNITAR and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals was first published in 1996 and was being revised to cover additional matters, including the life-cycle approach and emergency preparedness and response. UNITAR had also developed guidance to assist countries in developing their implementation plans under the Strategic Approach. At its second session the International Conference on Chemicals Management had called for further development of the guidance, and the latest draft was available on the Strategic Approach website.

70. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that greater efforts should be made to expand the donor base and to involve a wider range of partners, mentioning for example the expertise and resources of the centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Another representative, commenting on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, said that a previous ambitious programme to increase agricultural output, the Green Revolution, had resulted in large stockpiles of agricultural chemicals in Africa. The representative of FAO responded that that was one of the reasons for the Programme's focus on a sustainable approach to agricultural development. Responding to a question about the criteria for the inclusion of new areas of intervention in national profile guidance documents, the representative of UNITAR said that the guidance was being updated to reflect the many developments since its initial formulation of the guidance in 1996, for example in the area of nanotechnology.

71. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

VI. Illegal traffic

72. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat gave an update on the secretariat's work on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products, and presented the secretariat's final report on

the matter (SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/9), which had been prepared pursuant to a request by the African Core Group at its fourth meeting, held in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009. Illegal traffic had been identified as a regional priority at the first African regional meeting, held in Cairo in September 2006, but there was a growing concern at the lack of action taken.

73. The representatives considered a draft resolution, developed by the African Core Group at its meeting on 4 April 2011, on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products. Many representatives commended the secretariat on its work in seeking to develop solutions to such a challenging issue. Several representatives outlined the problems faced in seeking to control illegal traffic, including lengthy, porous borders, weak national legislation and enforcement, inadequately trained Customs officers, lack of international cooperation, unclear packaging and labelling, and lack of cross-border harmonization of rules and regulations. Several mentioned the Green Customs Initiative as a promising way forward. One representative said that the international harmonization of rules and regulations hinged upon strong national legislation, and drew attention to international experience in combating harmful pesticides as an informative model. Another representative said that, even where strong national legislation existed, international harmonization could prove difficult as resources and priorities varied by country. A possible approach was to focus on key issues where some degree of convergence could be identified. One representative said that, given the prevalence of illegal traffic in Africa, it was important to be realistic, and focus on specific priority chemicals where some progress was feasible.

74. The resolution was adopted as amended and is set out in annex I to the present report.

VII. Activities and budget of the secretariat

75. The representative of the secretariat gave a report on the activities and budget of the secretariat, including funding needs for secretariat staffing, the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, regional meetings, the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The budget up to 2012 had been approved by the Conference at its second session. She gave an outline of the main activities under the Strategic Approach secretariat programme of work for 2010–2012, in accordance with the core mandate defined in the Overarching Policy Strategy. Lastly, she outlined the secretariat staffing structure for 2010-2012.

76. The representative of WHO said that WHO had funded a P-4 position in the secretariat since 2007, in line with the request from the Conference at its first session, but financial constraints had caused WHO to reduce that contribution to 60 per cent of the post during the current year. She requested that the secretariat's budget table should include this contribution from WHO, as that was important for fund-raising purposes.

77. The representatives, noting that adequate funding for the secretariat was crucial to the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the regions, and that some staffing positions within the secretariat had remained vacant for long periods, urged UNEP to make every effort to ensure that those positions were filled as quickly as possible.

78. The representatives took note of the report by the secretariat.

VIII. Quick Start Programme

A. Status of approved projects and applications in the region

79. The representative of the secretariat introduced the report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund (SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/10). The Programme, she recalled, had been set up in 2006 to support enabling activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and was financed through the Trust Fund and through bilateral, multilateral and other forms of cooperation. The Trust Fund was open to contributions until 2012 and could make disbursements until 2013. She outlined the strategic priority areas for funding under the Programme, and summarized contributions and approved projects for the nine rounds of funding completed to date. In total, 273 applications for funding from the Trust Fund had been received, of which 119 had been approved; for Africa, 82 applications had been submitted and 34 approved. Funding allocated to the African region totalled \$11.2 million. The deadline for applications under the tenth round of funding had closed, and those applications received were being processed by the secretariat for consideration by the Implementation Committee.

80. Several representatives urged the secretariat to be more proactive in ensuring that there was no delay in beginning a project once it had been approved, especially in situations in which the presence of intermediary executing agencies might create bottlenecks. The representative of the secretariat explained that the secretariat was well aware of the difficulty, but the matter was largely out of its hands, given that its primary role was as a facilitating agency. The secretariat could ensure that implementing agencies were aware of the necessary procedures, but those agencies were often subject to other factors that might result in delays to projects. She gave assurances that such matters were taken into account, and an extension could be granted so that countries were not penalized for the initial delay.

81. In response to a question as to whether, in a situation in which letters of support were delayed, funding for a project could be disbursed and the letters supplied later, she said that the letters were needed to indicate that a project had appropriate support within a country. Given that the demand for funding under the Programme typically outstripped the funds available, preference had to be given to those project applications that had satisfied all the requirements, though those that had not might receive approval conditional upon additional information being supplied.

82. Some representatives, noting that the final round of funding under the Quick Start Programme was limited to projects of six months or less, sought advice on the sort of project that might fit that criterion, and asked whether there was scope for more flexibility in the funding arrangements. The representative of the secretariat explained that the funding period had been decided by the Executive Board, given the imminent completion of the Programme. In response to a question as to whether a country that had already had several projects approved was at a disadvantage when submitting further projects, she said that the Implementation Committee considered each submission on its own merits, according to the criteria in place.

83. Answering a question about whether applications for projects aimed at tackling new and emerging issues that were not included in the Global Plan of Action would qualify for funding, she said that the Global Plan of Action was a guidance document designed to aid stakeholders in designing projects and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, and was not a specific document under which the Quick Start Programme worked. The Programme itself was specific in its scope, as it targeted enabling activities. That had been part of its success, as projects with a specific focus had more chance of achieving their objectives. The implication was that projects focused on enabling activities would qualify for funding, even if their scope lay outside the Global Plan of Action.

84. One representative proposed that the African regional group should develop a list of priority areas in which assistance was required, which would then be submitted to donors to assist them in targeting their funding. Another representative responded that most activities were driven by countries, and it was not clear which forum would generate such a list. The Co-Chair suggested that countries should propose priorities on the basis of the African regional action plan, which would soon be circulated to national focal points for their input into an update of the plan.

85. The representative of the secretariat said that the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme had approved the establishment of a senior expert research group, comprising volunteer experts in the chemicals field, liberating funds that might otherwise be allocated to expensive consultancies. The initiative would be launched in the near future.

B. Preparations for an evaluation of the Quick Start Programme

86. There was a discussion of some issues related to the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme that the Executive Board had been requested to undertake by resolution II/3 of the Conference. Responding to a question about the monitoring and evaluation of the projects completed under the Programme, the representative of the secretariat said that, while the secretariat recognized that sharing of experiences and best practices was desirable, it lacked the resources to undertake such analysis. The evaluation of the Programme mandated by the Conference at its second session, which should shed some light on the effectiveness of projects, had been delayed for the same reason. There were, however, opportunities to showcase some of the most successful projects, for example as side events at the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group or at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, depending on the availability of funding. The representatives approved that suggestion. One representative, expressing concern at the shortage of funding, said that such side events could serve a valuable purpose in mobilizing additional funding through demonstration of the success of projects undertaken. In response to a query about the types of activities funded, the representative of the secretariat expressed the hope that one of the outcomes of the evaluation would provide clarity in that regard.

87. Responding to a question about the implications of the final evaluation for the continuance of the Programme, she said that that issue was of great concern to all stakeholders in the Strategic Approach. There was considerable demand for a follow-up to the Programme, but lessons had to be drawn first from the implementation of the current programme. One representative suggested that donors could be approached for intermediary funding during any transitional phase following upon the conclusion of the Programme in 2013.

C. Status of African representatives on the Executive Board

88. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the issue of the status of African representation on the Executive Board had been discussed thoroughly at the African Core Group's sixth meeting. The representative of Burundi had not participated in recent Executive Board meetings, and the representative of Nigeria had been unable to attend the previous meeting as a result of visa difficulties. The matter was of great concern at a time when effective regional participation in the Executive Board's deliberations was crucial. Communication from the secretariat to the Burundian focal point had received no response. The African Core Group had proposed that the French-speaking countries should select an alternative country to Burundi, which would become operative should there be no communication from the relevant authorities in Burundi to the secretariat on the matter by the end of April 2011.

89. The representative of Burundi said that national action had already been taken to resolve the issue by replacing the incumbent representative. Lengthy discussion ensued on the options available to deal with the matter, including acceptance of the action taken by Burundi; the replacement of Burundi by another French-speaking country, whose representative would then attend the meetings; or designation of an alternative country whose representative would attend in the event of Burundi being unable to fulfil its obligations. Several representatives said that alternatives could easily suffer from the same difficulties besetting those initially selected, including obtaining a visa for travel.

90. A number of representatives pointed out that action could only be taken within the rules of procedure applicable to the election of the African members on the Executive Board. One representative noted that the rules of procedure said that, if a representative was unable to attend, an alternative from the same country should be nominated, subject to confirmation at the next session of the Conference. The representative of the secretariat said that nominations for membership of the Executive Board came from the regions, which therefore had the power to nominate alternatives from the same country.

91. The representatives decided that Burundi should continue as the French-speaking African member on the Executive Board, and endorsed the action proposed by the representative from Burundi that the Government of Burundi should communicate to the secretariat by official letter the name of the new representative from that country.

IX. Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

92. The representative of the secretariat said that the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was scheduled to take place in Geneva from 15 to 20 July 2012.

93. The representatives took note of the information.

X. Other matters

94. In response to a question, the representative of the secretariat said that terms of reference for regional focal points were adopted by the Conference at its second session.

95. One representative expressed concern that civil society organizations had been excluded from a side event at the current meeting hosted by an organization representing industry, which ran counter to the Strategic Approach's multi-stakeholder focus. The representative of the secretariat said that the secretariat strove to include all stakeholders, but had no involvement in side events other than offering the space and providing information. The representative of the organization involved expressed regret at the exclusion of non-governmental organizations, but explained that the aim of the side event had been to consult government representatives in advance of a capacity-building workshop that would take place in October 2011.

XI. Adoption of the report

96. The representative of the secretariat said that an advance copy of the report of the meeting would be available for comment on the secretariat website as soon as it was ready.

XII. Closure of the meeting

97. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 5.20 p.m. on Friday, 8 April 2011.

Annex I

Resolutions adopted at the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Financial considerations

We, the participants at the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Recalling paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,¹ which states that “the Strategic Approach should reflect national, regional and global efforts to advance the sound management of chemicals recognizing Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development” and that “the extent to which developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small-island developing States, and countries with economies in transition can make progress towards reaching the 2020 goal depends, in part, on the availability of financial resources”,

Recognizing that attaining the 2020 goals of the Strategic Approach hinges on securing sustainable financial resources and that sustainable financing is a major pillar of sound chemicals management,

Recognizing also the urgent need for a long-term sustainable financing solution subsequent to the end of the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme in 2013,

Hereby call upon:

(a) Donor countries to continue to make all efforts to mobilize existing and new predictable, sustainable and dedicated sources of financial support to provide additional resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in Africa;

(b) Donor countries to recognize that the needs of developing countries go beyond the resources available under the Quick Start Programme and that increased contributions are needed to meet those needs;

(c) Current donors to the Quick Start Programme to continue their commitments to ensure the effective implementation of current projects;

(d) The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session, supported by its Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting, to adopt a predictable, sustainable and dedicated financial mechanism for the Strategic Approach to attain the 2020 chemical safety goal set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,² held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002;

(e) The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session to adopt a successor to the Quick Start Programme with an expansive mandate that goes beyond the financing of early-stage enabling activities to encompass implementation activities;

(f) The Council of the Global Environment Facility to consider the creation of a window for a broader chemicals management focal area;

(g) The United Nations Environment Programme, through its continuing consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, to take cognizance of the needs of the Strategic Approach for predictable, sustainable and dedicated financial resources to realize the unparalleled benefits that African countries derive from the implementation of projects on chemicals and wastes, and to report on the progress of its work as input to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

(h) Intergovernmental organizations to provide and strengthen capacity within developing countries and countries with economies in transition to mainstream the sound management of chemicals into national development plans to ensure sustainable development;

¹ Report of the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annex II.

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

- (i) Development partners to prioritize sound chemicals management programmes within their national development support and aid programmes;
- (j) African Governments, through the appropriate ministries and departments, to allocate adequate budgetary resources and to consider adopting national economic instruments that can prioritize and help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management, including, as appropriate, economic instruments to internalize the external costs of chemicals;
- (k) African Governments to prioritize and develop initiatives similar to those in the agriculture and health sectors for the sound management of chemicals in all sectors, especially within industry, trade and mining, among others;
- (l) The private sector, including the chemicals industry, to give priority to partnerships to help provide financial, technical and in kind resources for strengthening initiatives and for developing new initiatives with stakeholders for the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- (m) Non-governmental organizations and foundations to provide additional funds for civil society to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- (n) The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session to ensure a sustainable and adequate funding mechanism for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action.

II. Recommendation on the addition of activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

We, the participants in the African regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, convened in Nairobi from 5 to 8 April 2011,

Having considered the proposal from the Government of Switzerland entitled “Complementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Global Plan of Action with the creation of a new work area and associated activities in relation to the environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials”,

1. *Recommend that:*
 - (a) Nanotechnologies and nanomaterials should be included in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach, together with a new work area related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials according to the table below. The work area should include activities:
 - (i) To support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in terms of technical, legal and institutional information-sharing and capacity-building for the management of nanomaterials;
 - (ii) To integrate the management of nanomaterials into current and projected chemicals management programmes;
 - (iii) To support the development of adequate risk management tools and mechanisms and to encourage the generation and sharing of hazard and risk data in relation to nanomaterials and nanotechnologies;
 - (b) Aspects related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials should also be considered, as appropriate, in existing work areas of the Global Plan of Action;
 - (c) The management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials should be included when updating national chemicals profiles;
2. *Also recommend that the African region submit information to be included in the report on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials called for by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in section E of its resolution II/4, which is to be presented to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session for consideration. Information should be included regarding developments and recommendations in terms of:*
 - (a) The critical role of strengthening capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for effective decision-making related to manufactured nanomaterials,

including developing the capacity for evaluating effectively the potential risks of nanomaterials, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women and older persons;

(b) The need for producers to provide appropriate information about the content of manufactured nanomaterials in order to inform consumers, especially in developing countries, about potential risks through product labelling and, as appropriate, websites and databases;

(c) The role of industry in safeguarding human and environmental health through a life-cycle approach, including continuous communication and awareness-raising activities within their responsible stewardship programmes on environmental and health and safety (occupational) aspects of manufactured nanomaterials, and workplace monitoring;

(d) The need to instigate further cooperative approaches between industry and stakeholders, especially consumers, in developing countries;

(e) The critical role of civil society in Africa and the need to strengthen its capacity to take part effectively in decision-making related to manufactured nanomaterials and nanotechnology;

(f) The rights of countries to accept or reject the import and use of manufactured nanomaterials to minimize their risks;

(g) The ethical and social risks and benefits of nanomaterials, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Propose* that a resolution be prepared on nanotechnologies and manufactured materials to be presented to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session. The resolution would include requests for:

(a) Development of guidance and training materials that can be used at the national level by stakeholders;

(b) Development of a regional cooperation strategy on questions related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials using the outcomes of pilot projects that incorporate nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in the general national frameworks for chemicals management;³

(c) The inclusion of activities related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in future funding arrangement for the Strategic Approach.

3 Such a strategy may include the mainstreaming of nanotechnology issues relevant to chemicals and waste policies, strategies and action plans, especially with regard to activities related to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

New work area on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to be included in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach

<i>Work area</i>	<i>New activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Target/Time frame</i>	<i>Indicators of progress</i>	<i>Implementation aspects</i>
Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	1. Increase understanding of the environmental health and safety implications through further information sharing, awareness-raising and research into manufactured nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions	2012–2015	Number of publicly available research papers and other information materials on hazards and risks significantly increase. All stakeholders are informed of risks and hazards of nanomaterials.	Coordination by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
	2. Support and increase funding for research into the health and safety implications of nanotechnologies	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions	2012–2020	Number of publicly available research paper on hazards and risks significantly increase.	
	3. Promote public and private sector partnerships for the environmentally sound management of nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Number of public-private partnerships signed.	
	4. Establish partnerships, giving priority consideration to financial support, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build scientific, technical, legal and regulatory policy expertise related to the risks of manufactured nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Number of partnerships established. Financial support mobilized.	
	5. Further refine and review existing guidance on the incorporation of nanomaterials and nanotechnologies into chemicals management programmes or strategies, identifying where gaps exist	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions	2012–2015	Nanomaterials are included in an increased number of chemicals management programmes. Number of guidelines reviewed and refined.	

<i>Work area</i>	<i>New activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Target/Time frame</i>	<i>Indicators of progress</i>	<i>Implementation aspects</i>
	6. Incorporate nanomaterials and nanotechnologies into national chemicals management programmes	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Nanomaterials are included in an increased number of chemicals management programmes.	
	7. Assess gaps in existing legal and institutional frameworks regarding issues specific to nanomaterials and nanotechnologies	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps.	
	8. Establish a national policy and institutional coordination plan	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps.	
	9. Enhance information-sharing on national and regional policy and regulatory initiatives	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	All stakeholders are informed of risks and hazards of nanomaterials. All relevant stakeholders have access to available relevant information.	
	10. Identify, strengthen and enforce legal and regulatory provisions for the environmentally sound management of wastes containing nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Relevant legislation or/and best practices are in place and implemented in all relevant sectors.	
	11. Develop legislation to protect workers and the public, covering the entire life cycle of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Relevant legislation is fully implemented in all relevant sectors.	
	12. Develop legislation to protect the public and the environment from the adverse effects of nanotechnology and manufactured nano materials	National Governments, industry and non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Number of pieces of legislation developed and in place.	Legislation to be developed through consultative process with all stakeholders

<i>Work area</i>	<i>New activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Target/Time frame</i>	<i>Indicators of progress</i>	<i>Implementation aspects</i>
	13. Establish a monitoring system for nanotechnologies and nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2020	Monitoring system for nanotechnologies and nanomaterials in place. Number of monitoring reports.	Institutional arrangements for monitoring nanotechnologies and materials at the national and international levels
	14. Develop, establish and promote harmonized standards on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2017	Standards developed and harmonized.	
	15. Promote the development of mandatory labelling schemes for nanotechnologies and nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Product labels developed.	
	16. Develop and promote a global certification scheme	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2020	Certification scheme developed.	
	17. Establish a national policy and institutional coordination plan regarding nanotechnologies and nanomaterials	National Governments, industry and non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	National policies, institutional coordination plans in place.	Interagency and multisectoral stakeholders committees created to assist in the development of national policies and institutional coordination plans
	18. Improve existing information management systems to include information specific to nanotechnologies and nanomaterials	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Material safety data sheets include relevant information on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. Databases developed.	

III. Resolution on the elimination of lead in paints

Whereas:

Paints containing lead, including decorative paints typically used in homes and schools for toys, children's furniture and costume jewellery, are widely available for sale and use in many African countries. Such paints are a significant source of childhood and occupational lead exposure;

(d) Childhood and occupational lead exposure increases lifelong violent behaviour, decreases intelligence as measured by intelligence quotient (IQ) scores, and also decreases school performance and educational achievement;

(e) Childhood lead exposure has been shown to decrease an individual's lifelong earnings and, on a societal scale, decrease workforce productivity, especially as high-technology and service sectors of the economy become increasingly important;

(f) Low-income populations are especially affected by lead exposure because poor nutrition increases lead absorption, thereby magnifying the impacts of lead exposure;

(g) The harm caused by lead exposure is extremely well documented, such that there is virtually unanimous agreement between health professionals and other experts that childhood and occupational lead exposure should be avoided and that decorative paints containing lead are an important source of such exposure;

(h) The World Health Organization has determined that there is no safe level of childhood lead exposure;

(i) The United Nations Environment Programme has recently noted the need for continued focus on reducing the risks posed by lead and cadmium;

(j) The economic and social costs of eliminating lead in paints, and the barriers to elimination, are minimal;

(k) Manufacturers currently producing decorative paints containing lead can easily reformulate their products and produce, at a similar price, non-lead paints with similar colours and performance characteristics;

(l) The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints has been established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, at the request of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, to promote the phasing out of the use of lead in paints as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The overall goal of this global initiative is to prevent children's exposure to lead via paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paints. The broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paints.

We, the participants at the African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Welcoming the formation of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and its current work,

Recognizing that more work needs to be done in connection with paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁴ particularly on phasing out lead in paints and in other sources of human exposure, in order to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead, and on strengthening monitoring and surveillance efforts and treatment of lead poisoning,

Recognizing also that Governments have recently requested the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Executive Director, to continue to promote and facilitate work in relation to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints, and activities on lead and cadmium at all levels, especially in developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and countries with economies in transition, including activities such as capacity-building and awareness-raising,

Recognizing further the successful elimination of lead in gasoline spearheaded by the United Nations Environment Programme Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles,

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Recalling decision 26/3 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, on chemicals and waste management, including section III of that decision, on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and section I, on lead and cadmium,

Welcoming efforts to enhance the engagement of the health sector and the development of environment and health linkages in response to the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa,

Taking note of the request from Governments at the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Executive Director of the Programme to initiate a partnership on lead and cadmium, and looking forward to the participation of relevant African stakeholders in that initiative,

Aware that the continued production, import and export, sale and use of decorative paints containing lead, especially for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure, are not consistent with the sound management of chemicals,

1. *Encourage* all African Governments, African civil society organizations and the private sector to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints throughout its focal areas of work, to undertake initiatives to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints to which lead pigments and other lead compounds have been added and to provide technical and financial assistance;

2. *Support* the initiative by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints to develop a proposal for submission to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session for an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, with an initial focus on the elimination of lead in paints, and encourages African Governments and civil society organizations to organize activities for that day of action in cooperation with the Global Alliance;

3. *Recognize* the importance of, and calls for the involvement of Governments in, the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint to facilitate the usefulness of awareness-raising materials and to enhance the effectiveness of actions;

4. *Invite* countries in the region implementing the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa to accord priority to actions on lead in paint and to invite the Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa to place the topic of eliminating lead in paints on the agenda of its third meeting;

5. *Urge* African Governments to inform their constituencies of the issues associated with this global initiative so they can be prepared for upcoming discussions during the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York from 2 to 13 May 2011, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012;

6. *Request* Governments and non-governmental organizations in the African region to develop and explore opportunities for creating or participating in global, regional, subregional or national projects or programmes that can assist or enable activities on the elimination of lead in paints in the region;

7. *Request* those involved in the Strategic Approach in Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector in the African region to prioritize actions to eliminate lead in paint in Strategic Approach implementation plans and their development of the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action and to cooperate with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints and others to help make available within the region information, advice and enabling resources, including:

- (a) Raising awareness of the health impacts of lead exposure;
- (b) Strengthening the capacity of the health sector regarding the management of lead poisoning, including treatment guidelines and the effectiveness of interventions;
- (c) Undertaking bio-monitoring and clinical studies of the effects of lead on human health, particularly children under the age of six;
- (d) Sampling paints on the national market for their lead content;
- (e) Enabling manufacturers to reformulate their paints to eliminate added lead pigments, lead-drying agents and other lead compounds without significantly increasing their costs or sacrificing their performance;

- (f) Raising consumer awareness of paints containing lead and their hazards, and creating consumer demand for alternatives;
- (g) Working with manufacturers to establish voluntary, third-party, independent paint certification and labelling programmes to enable consumers to identify paints on the market with no added lead;
- (h) Taking actions to deal with the legacy of old paint containing lead that is found in buildings;
- (i) Promulgating national laws and regulations to prohibit the manufacture, sale and use of paints containing lead, especially for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure, improving the labelling of products that might contain lead, and establishing adequate and appropriate enforcement mechanisms;

8. *Request* the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to convey the present resolution to participants at other regional meetings for their consideration before the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and also to raise the matter with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session.

IV. Illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products

We, the participants at the African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Recalling the discussions at the fourth meeting of the African Core Group, held in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009, and the subsequent recommendations on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products adopted at the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 28 and 29 January 2010;

Mindful of the continuing high priority accorded by the African region to the issue of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and the outstanding need for actions on this topic;

Welcoming the report prepared by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on illegal traffic, including a review of international instruments and frameworks, information on the extent and nature of illegal international traffic in Africa and an assessment of activities in Africa;⁵

Taking note of the gaps, challenges and recommendations referred to in that report;

Mindful of the need for financial resources to be made available for work to be undertaken;

1. *Invite* the secretariat to continue its work on illegal traffic and to continue to liaise and work with the Green Customs Initiative, the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme and other intergovernmental organizations in ensuring that the problems of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products are well addressed;

2. *Decide* to prioritize recommendations and establish timelines for their implementation as summarized in the following table.

Prioritization of recommendations on illegal traffic

<i>Priorities</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Financing</i>
<i>8.1 Training workshop for capacity-building</i>	Multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, intergovernmental organizations, Governments (labour, health, industry, environment), chambers of commerce, non-governmental organizations, municipalities, chemicals industry, waste managers, trade unions	Ministry of Environment	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme

5 SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/9.

<i>Priorities</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Financing</i>
<i>8.3 Awareness-raising and education</i>	Basel Convention regional centres, non-governmental organizations, written and audiovisual media, Governments (primary/adult education), communications, new information technology, environment, industry, research institutes, universities)	Ministry of Primary/Adult Education	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme
<i>8.2 Strategy for information exchange and knowledge management</i>	Multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Basel Convention regional centres, Strategic Approach, Government (Customs/tax collection, justice, labour, health, industry), civil society, private sector, research and institutions academic institutions	Ministry of Environment	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme
<i>8.4 Policy and regulatory framework review</i>	Governments (Customs/tax collection, justice, labour, health, industry), multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, Parliament, civil society, private sector	Ministry of Environment	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme
<i>8.7 Mainstreaming sound management of chemicals into development strategies</i>	Governments (planning, economy, finance, Customs/tax collection, justice, labour, health, industry, budget, environment), civil society, private sector	Ministry of Planning	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme
<i>8.6 Cooperation and coordination</i>	Multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, Basel Convention regional centres, Governments (labour, health, industry, foreign affairs environment), intergovernmental organizations, civil society, trade unions	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme
<i>8.8 Developing synergies at the international level</i>	Multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, Governments (labour, health, industry, foreign affairs, environment), intergovernmental organizations	Ministry of Environment	2011–2012	Quick Start Programme

V. Recommendations on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

We, the participants in the African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Nairobi from 5 to 8 April 2011,

Mindful that preventing harm to human health and the environment from inputs, products or wastes containing harmful substances, or that lead to the formation of harmful substances, is an important element in achieving the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

Recalling that the African region and Peru proposed hazardous chemicals in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products as an emerging policy issue to be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session;

Recalling also section D of resolution II/4, on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, which was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session;

Recalling further the recommendations on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products agreed upon by participants at the African regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 25 to 29 January 2010;

Welcoming the key messages from the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011,

1. *Call upon* the private sector to reduce the harmful impacts of electronic waste by:
 - (a) Prioritizing the prevention of pollution in policies and practices;
 - (b) Integrating green design criteria into product design, including greater durability of electronic products, decreased obsolescence, and concern for potentially enhanced exposures and vulnerabilities of workers, children, women and other vulnerable populations;
 - (c) Creating an inventory of materials and substances used in products and production and processes, and disclosing information, in an understandable form, on hazardous chemical and material ingredients across the supply chain;
 - (d) Developing lists of hazardous chemicals and materials for priority phase-out from production and products, using lists from Governments, global agreements, regional regulations, non-governmental organizations, and scientific statements of concern such as the San Antonio Statement on Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants;
 - (e) Including hazardous materials and substances of concern in phase-out lists that are, or contribute to the formation of substances that are, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, and those that are carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive or developmental toxins, neurotoxins, neurodevelopmental toxins, respiratory toxins, immunotoxins, organ system toxins or endocrine-disrupting compounds;
 - (f) Ensuring that contractors and subcontractors have the capacity to protect workers and the surrounding communities before transferring technologies to them;
 - (g) Developing and implementing extended producer responsibility, including free take-back programmes for electronic products in use in Africa;
2. *Encourage* all Governments:
 - (a) To ensure that environmentally unsound technologies and products that are prohibited or cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health are not transferred to other countries;
 - (b) To develop and implement laws for extended producer responsibility that provide a competitive advantage for those that minimize end-of-life costs and harm through manufacturer design;
 - (c) To develop and implement policies promoting the internalization of costs by producers throughout the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
 - (d) To promote the active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
 - (e) To develop, implement and rigorously enforce laws to ban the transboundary movement of electronic wastes from developed countries to African countries;
 - (f) To develop, implement and rigorously enforce laws to prohibit the use of prison or child labour for manufacturing or recycling electrical and electronic products;
 - (g) To ratify the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention, the International Labour Organization conventions, including the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155), and other relevant instruments, and transpose these into national laws and implement them;
3. Invite the World Customs Organization to create specific harmonized tariff codes for end-of-life electronic products and electronic waste fractions to assist countries better to track global flows of electronic wastes;
4. *Invite* the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization to intensify their collaboration with ministries of health and labour in identifying, examining and reporting patterns of disease associated with work in electrical and electronic industries and handling electronic waste;
5. *Invite* donors, including Governments and public and private organizations, to provide financial and in kind resources for:
 - (a) Assistance in cleaning up sites contaminated by handling of electronic waste;

(b) Capacity-building to promote the safety of workers in relevant sectors through training workshops, using technical guidelines already developed by the Basel Convention Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment and others, on repair and refurbishment, dismantling and disassembling, materials recovery and recycling of electrical and electronic products, including the identification of hazardous and toxic components in electrical and electronic equipment and of components that are recyclable;

(c) Research to explore best practices for safe recycling, including of those fractions that are currently not recycled or for which capacity is disappearing;

(d) Capacity-building for Customs authorities, port authorities, environmental protection regulatory organizations and agencies, and environmental police to improve enforcement against illegal trade in hazardous electronic waste, including fraudulent mischaracterization of wastes;

(e) Assistance in meeting the special needs of small island developing States;

6. *Encourage* African Governments:

(a) To develop procurement processes that give preference to electrical and electronic products that do not contain hazardous substances or materials of concern;

(b) To classify near-end-of-life or substandard electrical or electronic products as hazardous waste and control their import;

(c) To develop and implement laws that regulate imports of charitably donated electronic products so that imports only take place when the products are tested and labelled as fully functional, and the collection and environmentally sound management of products at end of life is provided for;

(d) To formulate and implement laws on pollutant release and transfer registries;

(e) To develop and implement policy frameworks to prevent further contamination of land, air and water from electronic waste recycling and disposal sites as a result of environmentally unsound practices, including open dumping, burning and crude chemical processing of electronic wastes;

(f) To identify and characterize sites contaminated by dumping and recycling of electronic wastes to help prioritize sites for clean-up and remediation;

7. *Request* the African Core Group:

(a) To explore opportunities to undertake demonstration projects on the electronic life cycle that can be proposed for possible funding by the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach, including at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

(b) To disseminate widely the key messages and other recommendations of the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011;

(c) To communicate the present resolution to the appropriate institutions and bodies;

8. *Invite* the Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa to place the topic of actions to reduce the harm caused by hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products on the agenda of its third meeting.

Annex II

Justification document for the inclusion of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: complementing the Global Plan of Action with the creation of a new work area and associated activities in relation to the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

1. The manufacture of electrical and electronic products (e-products) has increased dramatically over the past several decades and there are now billions of such products produced and consumed worldwide. Furthermore, the manufacture of electrical and electronic products relies on and uses thousands of chemicals and other materials, many of which are hazardous. Hazardous substances contained in consumer e-products include phthalates, heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, and mercury, and persistent organic pollutants such as brominated flame retardants, in addition to other carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive and developmental toxins, and endocrine-disrupting compounds.⁶
2. Another issue of concern is the paucity of data on hazardous substances throughout the life cycle of such products, and in particular those found in e-products and in the workplace and communities around extraction, production and disposal sites.⁷
3. Large-scale consumption of e-products has caused the massive production of e-waste. This has become a global crisis, but not only in terms of quantity. In addition, this crisis stems from the various hazardous substances contained within the e-products that, when improperly managed, especially in countries with economies in transition and developing countries, are released into the environment, thereby posing significant environmental and human health risks.
4. Hazardous substances in the life cycle of e-products were adopted as an emerging policy issue by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, in May 2009. The Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is, however, yet to take on this issue. The African region is proposing to include a new work area in the Global Plan of Action, including new activities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances in the life cycle of e-products, at the third session of the International Conference on Chemical Management, in 2012.
5. The proposed new work area includes the following activities to tackle upstream, midstream and downstream issues in the life cycle of e-products:
 - a. (a) Identify, collate and promote an international set of best practice resources for managing chemical information flows in e-products, including information on hazard and risk data for health and safety for humans and the environment;
 - b. (b) Compile and disseminate best practices in business organizational procedures for managing hazardous substances in e-products; and create guidance documents for interested parties and stakeholders that include chemical management systems; investments in green chemistry; prevention activities such waste minimization; in addition to capacity-building for the sound management of e-products;
 - c. (c) Compile, share and disseminate information on chemicals of concern to human health and/or the environment in e-products, including summaries of the hazard and toxicological data of these chemicals;
 - d. (d) Promote environmentally sound manufacturing through sustainable cleaner production and pollution prevention; in addition to the identification of tools and best practices that foster the design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution;
 - e. (e) Support policy, legal, technical and regulatory actions that promote hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in e-products;

6 SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/36.

7 SAICM/RM/Afr.4/INF/1, annex I, and SAICM/RM/LAC.2/3, annex C.

- f. (f) Formulate, promote and implement health-based exposure limits for workers that provide equal protection in the workplace and the community;
 - g. (g) Promote and implement integrated policies on environmentally sound management of e-waste, ensuring the involvement of relevant stakeholders.
6. These activities are described in further detail in the table below.
7. In relation to changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development calls for a renewed commitment, as set out in Agenda 21, to the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment; and to supporting developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes.
8. The present proposal document describes how the activities of the proposed work area are relevant to protecting human health and the environment and to meeting global, regional and national needs, priorities, objectives and goals. It will reflect international best practices and efficient means of implementation at the national or international level, as appropriate.

Background information, including the relevance of the activity to protecting human health and the environment

9. Document SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/36, which was prepared as background information to guide the discussions on the emerging policy issue of electronic waste and to provide a rationale for proposed cooperative actions at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management noted that there were a number of activities in the Global Plan of Action concerning waste management and illegal traffic but none specifically addressed the special problems of electronic waste and e-products.
10. The document underscores the fact that e-waste and e-products contain a myriad of toxic components and materials that can cause significant damage to the environment, human and animal health if crude recycling and disposal methods are used. The dumping of e-waste in any environment has negative health consequences such as the leaching of toxins (into the soil, air and groundwater) which may later enter the food chain. Medical experts have warned that exposure to these substances can cause damage to blood, nervous systems, DNA, immune systems and kidneys; can lead to respiratory and skin disorders and lung cancers; and can interfere with regulatory hormones and brain development (Osuagwu and Ikerionwu, 2010).
11. Various e-products have been confirmed as hazardous using the toxicity characterization leaching procedure (Musson and others, 2000; Li and others, 2006). The actual operation of several end-of-life processes for e-waste, such as landfills, incineration with municipal solid waste and mechanical recycling, results in the emission of heavy metals and organic pollutants to air, water and soil.

How the activity would contribute to achieving global, regional and national needs, priorities, objectives and goals

12. The Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach recognizes the importance of adopting a life-cycle approach to chemicals management and for adequate information at all stages of the life cycle, in chemicals in products and illegal international traffic. Paragraphs 13–15 and 18 of the Overarching Policy Strategy are particularly relevant.
13. Paragraph 13 sets out the 2020 goals of the Strategic Approach in terms of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle; and paragraph 14 emphasizes the need to minimize risks to human health and the environment and vulnerable groups subject to exposure to toxic chemicals throughout the life cycle of chemicals. Paragraph 15 aims to ensure that information on chemicals throughout their life cycle including where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly, adequate and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders; while paragraph 18 aims to prevent illegal international traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals, including products incorporating these chemicals, mixtures and compounds and wastes.
14. The overall objectives of the Strategic Approach, as set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy, include pollution prevention, risk reduction, capacity-building, knowledge and information sharing, governance, partnership and technical cooperation. The Global Plan of Action provides the platform that identifies work areas and associated activities that may be undertaken by stakeholders to

implement the objectives and goals in the Overarching Policy Strategy. The new work area proposed provides a road map to attain the Overarching Policy Strategy objectives in relation to hazardous substances in the life cycle of e-products.

15. Resolution II/4, on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products of the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to develop, plan and convene, within available resources, a workshop to consider issues in relation to electrical and electronic products based on a life-cycle approach. In planning the workshop the following objectives were considered important: reduction and eventual phase out of restricted or hazardous substances in e-products and e-waste; information needs about hazardous substances in e-products and e-waste along the product chain in their life cycle, development of technical guidance and capacity-building; governance; and awareness-raising and education. The new work area activities proposed for inclusion in the new Global Programme of Action relating to hazardous substances in the life cycle of e-products would support the realization of these objectives.

16. In addition, four regional meetings were organized by the Strategic Approach secretariat during 2009 and 2010 in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, at which participants discussed the issue of hazardous substances in e-products and provided clarification about country needs in those regions and expectations about the outcome of the international workshop. Much emphasis was laid on the issue of green design, the phasing-out, where feasible, of harmful substances in e-products, the need to protect workers' health throughout the life cycle of e-products and the need for capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

17. The new work area that Africa propose to include in the Global Plan of Action is designed to support the fulfilment of the needs, priorities and goals as adopted by the participants at the above-mentioned regional meetings.

Ways in which the activity reflects the best practices and will be effective

18. The activities included in the proposed new work area aim to facilitate the adoption and sharing of international best practices, information sharing and exchange on hazard and risk data; institutional and regulatory voluntary initiatives, for example exposure and monitoring; health surveillance and disease prevention to ensure the protection of workers during the manufacture, use and disposal of e-products.

Means of implementation at the global, regional or national level

19. Some of the activities proposed, including strengthening existing chemical management mechanisms to include hazardous substances in e-products, promoting public-private partnership, developing information or labelling schemes on hazardous substances in e-products based on international best practices, capacity-building within the life cycle and developing pilot projects, could provide means of implementation at the national level. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation could be means of implementation at the regional or global level.

Proposal for inclusion of new activities under a new work area relating to hazardous substances in the life cycle of e-products

Work area	New activity	Actors	Target time	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
E-products green design	Compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health or the environment in e-products	National Governments, European Union, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Strategic Approach, industry, non-governmental organizations, Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, Solving the e-Waste Problem, UNIDO, academic institutions	2012–2015	Database and information freely available on hazards and risks on chemicals in e-products	IOMC coordination Create coordination committees at the national level and networks (national, regional and global) involving all key stakeholders
	Promote public and private partnerships for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances in e-products	National Governments, European Union, industry, non-governmental organizations, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, Solving the e-Waste Problem, UNIDO, academic institutions	2012–2015	Number of partnerships established Number of projects undertaken	Establish or use existing private-public partnership initiatives Global, regional and national networks involving all key stakeholders
	Assess and fill gaps in existing policies, legal and institutional framework addressing design of e-products	National Governments, European Union, non-governmental organizations, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, UNIDO, academic institutions	2012–2015	Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps in green e-products design and number of illegal shipments of end-of-life equipment stopped Number of countries with relevant policies, laws, regulations and guidelines	Inter-agency and multi-stakeholder committees created
	Identify tools and best practices that advance design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution	National Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, UNIDO, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, academic institutions	2012–2015	Number of green design tools identified Best practices guidance	IOMC National, regional and global coordination

Work area	New activity	Actors	Target time	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
	Promote harmonization of policies and regulations that support hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in e-products,	National and regional Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions	2015	Number of policies and laws harmonized	National, regional and global coordination
Environmentally sound manufacturing	Promote sustainable production and pollution prevention	National Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, UNIDO, UNITAR, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention regional centres, cleaner production centres	2012–2015	Pollution prevention tools in place Level of compliance with international best practices Awareness material Pollution monitoring schemes in place	Infrastructure Technical capacity
	Prioritize reduction of exposure; eliminate or substitute the most hazardous substances of concern ⁸ and production processes	National Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, UNIDO, WHO, ILO, UNITAR, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention	2012–2015	Number of substitutes /alternatives produced and effective Health status of workers and local communities	Infrastructure for production of alternatives Technical capacity
	Conduct research and development on safer chemicals substitutes and safer production processes and environmentally sound management of e-waste	National Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, UNIDO, UNITAR, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, World bank, academic institutions	2012–2015	Research outputs	Provision of assistance including training and equipment
	Formulate, promote and implement health-based exposure limits for workers that provide equal protection in the workplace and the community	National Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, ILO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, World Bank	2012–2015	Number of operational health related standards developed	Standard setting and licensing Exposure monitoring Availability of occupational health information

⁸ Substances of concern include those that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic and/or those that are carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive or developmental toxins, neurotoxins, neurodevelopmental toxins, respiratory toxins, immunotoxins, organ system toxins, and/or endocrine-disrupting compounds.

Work area	New activity	Actors	Target time	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
Environmentally sound management of e-waste	Assess gaps in existing policy, legal and institutional framework, including control of transboundary movement and illegal traffic	National and regional Governments, Basel Convention, UNIDO, industry, non-governmental organizations, European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement	2012–2015	Number of policies/laws/regulations developed and enforced Number of illegal traffic shipments stopped	Technical capacity Multi-stakeholder participation
	Establish voluntary approaches Extended producer responsibility- e-products take-back schemes	National Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, consumer associations	2012–2015	Number of take-back schemes End-of-life products	Infrastructure including regulations
					Infrastructure Technical capacity
	Conduct pilot projects on environmentally sound management of e-waste	National and regional Governments, UNIDO, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, Solving the e-Waste Problem, Basel Convention regional centres, industry, academic institutions	2012–2015	Number 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 in end-of-life e-products. Number of pilot projects Number of project reports	Training tools Provision of assistance including training and equipment
Awareness-raising	Promote awareness, information, education and communication for all relevant stakeholders along the supply chain	National Governments, UNIDO, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, Solving the e-Waste Problem, Basel Convention regional centres, industry, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations	2012–2015	Amount of awareness, information, education and communication materials produced Level of awareness among stakeholders	Infrastructure for dissemination of information

**Third Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on the
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**
Panama, 2-3 June 2011

**Report of the third Latin American and Caribbean Regional
Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals
Management**

I. Opening

1. The third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was held at the Radisson Summit Hotel, Panama, on 2 and 3 June 2011. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 2 June 2011 by Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), chair of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. Opening statements were made by Ms. Margarita Astralaga, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and Ms. Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator of the SAICM secretariat.

2. Ms. Astralaga welcomed the participants to Panama and voiced her thanks to the Government of Spain and to various members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) for their support in preparing the current meeting as well as the preceding United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. Sound management of chemicals as a prerequisite to sustainable development had been highlighted for many years. The twenty-sixth session of the UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in February 2011 had highlighted harmful substances and hazardous wastes in its 2012-2013 biennial programme of work and budget as part of a wider United Nations efforts to lessen the environmental and health impacts of harmful substances and hazardous waste. She noted six main activity areas including the promotion of chemical safety within a coherent life cycle approach and addressing emerging issues of concern related to chemicals and hazardous wastes.

3. She said implementation of the Strategic Approach was a top priority for the region and that UNEP was promoting chemical safety by providing policy advice, technical guidance and capacity building at the regional level. She highlighted the outcome of the meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama in 2010 in which there was a specific Decision (Decision 7) on the priorities of the region in the area of Chemical management. She said it was important to demonstrate the linkage between health and development and harmonized sound management of chemicals with non-governmental organizations and the private sector as well as increased efforts in public awareness-raising. She concluded by noting the need to work with all partners at the international, regional and national levels, and to bring global policies to regional, sub-regional and national relevance that would result in demonstrable impacts for current and future generations.

4. Ms. Guthrie welcomed Ms. Alvarado as newly appointed coordinator of the SAICM secretariat and acknowledged the support provided by UNITAR for holding the meeting.

II. Organizational matters

5. Ms. Guthrie served as chair of the meeting and Ms. Lillian Corra (International Society of Doctors for the Environment) agreed to serve as rapporteur.

A. Adoption of the Agenda

6. A request was made to include a sub-item under agenda item 4 to introduce the ISDE documents related to health issues. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the draft agenda as set out in SAICM/RM/LAC.3/1 and as amended in plenary.

B. Organization of work

7. Participants agreed to meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday 2 June and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday 3 June.

C. Attendance

8. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following countries: Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Cost Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

9. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations: Central American Commission on Environment and Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

10. Representatives from non governmental organizations included Alter Vida (Centre for Study and Training for Ecodevelopment) Uruguay, APROMAC (Environmental Protection Association) Brazil, Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Centre for Analyses on Toxics and their Alternatives (CAATA), Cleaner Production Centre/University of Panama, International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Uruguay, ReLans (Red Latinoamericana de Nanotecnología & Sociedad), Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and University of Panama.

III. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group

11. Introducing the agenda item the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/1 on the update on preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. She noted that despite financial challenges, it had been important to hold a second round of meetings to follow-up further on progress of implementation of the resolutions from the second session of the Conference. She said the meetings would continue and maintain impetus to ensure good preparation for the Open-ended Working Group. She expressed her appreciation to UNITAR for assistance afforded to convene regional meetings, which, she said, was a strong signal of the collaboration between member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the SAICM secretariat. The Open-ended Working Group would consider the implementation, development and enhancement of the Strategic Approach, identify priority issues and might prepare draft decisions or resolution for possible adoption at the third session of the Conference. The meeting dates had to be changed due to scheduling conflicts with other major events as well as lack of resources, and would now be held from 15-18 November 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia, still providing sufficient time to prepare for the Conference in mid-2012. Currently only 50 per cent of the estimated budget for the meeting was available.

12. Informal consultations with the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group had been held in the margins of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2011 at which time a provisional agenda for its first meeting had been agreed. A formal meeting would take place on 9 and

10 June 2011 in Ljubljana, Slovenia at which time the provisional agenda would be agreed to and other issues related to the preparations of the Open-ended Working Group decided.

13. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management is currently scheduled from 15-20 July 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. Again, the dates had to be changed to accommodate changes in the scheduling of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20).

14. The meeting took note of the information provided by the secretariat.

IV. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

A. Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach

15. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to documents SAICM/RM/LAC.3/2, SAICM/RM/LAC.3/3 and SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/2. Referring to the latter document she said it contained two proposals for additions to the Global Plan of Action, one from Switzerland on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and one from the African region on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products. She noted that a preliminary exchange of information had taken place at the International Workshop on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products that had been convened jointly by the Basel Convention, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Stockholm Convention in March 2011 in Vienna. Comments on the two new proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action could be sent to the proponents of the issues, which would be discussed at the Open-ended Working Group.

16. In the ensuing discussion participants suggested amendments or additions to the activities proposed including increasing the timelines to complete activities and addressing the re-use of second-hand electronic equipment. The meeting agreed to establish a contact group chaired by Ms. Teresita Romero Torres (Mexico) to discuss the proposal on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and a contact group chaired by Mr. Mario Abo Balanza (Cuba) to discuss the proposal on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products to further discuss the proposals.

17. The meeting adopted two resolutions resulting from the deliberations during the contact group and as amended by plenary. The resolution on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials is attached to the current report as Annex A and the resolution on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products is attached as Annex B.

18. The Chair provided an update on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the Regional Coordinating Committee that had taken place on Monday, 31 May 2011 in Panama, noting that relevant issues would be discussed under respective agenda items of the current meeting. She noted in particular that the amendments to the workplan had been endorsed and two additional members Panama and Uruguay had been welcomed to the Coordinating Committee. A further member from the Caribbean sub-region would be nominated. As a result of the departure of Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez from UNEP's regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean, there was currently no chemical coordinator on the Committee. Ms. Agnes Soares (PAHO) would serve as the technical advisor on health related matters to the Coordinating Committee.

B. Progress with reporting under the Strategic Approach

19. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/9 on the preparation of reports on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, which, she said, would serve to monitor progress in the implementation of SAICM. She recalled that an electronic tool for reporting using 20 indicators was in place. A baseline report was being prepared for the period 2006-2008 and a preliminary progress report for the period 2009-2012. Formal evaluation of the progress would be undertaken by the Conference at its third session. As of 18 April 2011, over 130 SAICM stakeholders had registered to use the electronic tool and 36 had fully submitted their responses. For the Latin American and Caribbean region 14 Governments had registered but only 4 full responses had been received. A simplified process for obtaining passwords to use the electronic tool had been put in place and the deadline for completing the

questionnaire extended to 9 May 2011. However stakeholders were encouraged to continue to submit completed questionnaires.

20. The representative of the secretariat responded to concerns regarding access to questionnaires that had been submitted, how the data would be aggregated given countries of the region were not homogenous in their level of development and avoiding duplication of information when questionnaires were received from multiple stakeholders of a given country. She noted that WHO had been assisting the secretariat with technical help on the development of the electronic tool and a procedure to allow entry into the system to view or work on archived submissions would be examined. She said the analysis of the data collected would be done according to the guidelines provided by the Conference at its second session and would also take into consideration developmental status of countries within the region. She said that duplication of information provided was not a major concern since there is a distinction between the questions to be answered by each type of stakeholder. The goal was to obtain information on whether activities were being undertaken in the country under the five objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

V. Health Issues

A. Health sector strategy

21. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to documents SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/6 and SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/7 containing respectively a status of the work on the health strategy and the draft strategy and outlined the continued commitment of WHO to the development of the health strategy, in particular through decisions of the World Health Assembly and staffing assistance. She noted that the draft strategy had been circulated for comments, would be revised taking into account the few comments received and submitted to the Open-ended Working Group for its consideration.

22. In the ensuing discussion, all participants who took the floor stressed the importance of linking the health sector with SAICM implementation activities. A number of representatives addressed the need to integrate health sector efforts as part of the multisectoral contribution to SAICM implementation and the need to be actively engaging at a national level to promote and achieve this. The representative of PAHO noted that, annually, a major portion of global burden of disease was attributable to environmental exposure of selected chemicals. It was suggested that issues of concern to include in the health strategy could be submitted through PAHO and similarly brought to the attention of the forums of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas.

23. Several participants suggested that WHO establish close communication with national governmental health authorities in the Latin American and the Caribbean region to promote the Strategic Approach at the national level. It was noted that many countries in the region recognized the need for the inclusion of chemicals in national development plans and many initiatives were currently being undertaken. The promotion that WHO could make with health authorities would hence exert a positive influence on decision makers in the health sector to collaborate with SAICM including strategies on health and environment national policies, thus contributing to the health strategy driven internationally by SAICM. An example was provided of a World Bank funded project to strengthen the public health sector in Argentina and national activities under health and environmental management that cover safe handling of pesticides, pesticide residues, hazardous wastes and wastes from medical establishments.

24. The representative of the UNEP office for Latin America and the Caribbean provided information on the meetings of the Health and Environment Ministers of America stressing the need to take into account suggested priorities for the region and noting the importance attached to the costs of inaction. One representative suggested that the WHO regional office for the Americas should be regularly informed of activities related to the Strategic Approach to foster closer cooperation between that office and SAICM activities in the region and to promote PAHO as an implementing agency in regional projects of the Quick Start Programme. The representative of PAHO outlined several activities currently underway that linked health and the environment. One representative suggested that an indicator that would demonstrate the success of the involvement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach should be developed.

25. The meeting agreed to establish a contact group chaired by Ms. Maria Ines Esquivel (Panama) to draft a resolution related to the SAICM health sector strategy.

26. The meeting adopted a resolution on the health sector strategy resulting from the deliberations during the contact group and as amended by plenary. The resolution is attached to the current report as Annex C.

B. Status of the designation of health contact points

27. The Chair informed the meeting of the status of designation of health sector contact point who would collaborate in the work to implement the Strategic Approach. PAHO had been requested to assist in the designation of the contact points. Currently health sector contact points had been designated for Argentina, Brazil, Belize, Chile, Nicaragua, St Kitts and Nevis and Uruguay. Countries who had not done so were encouraged to designate their health sector contact points.

VI. Financial and technical resources for implementation

A. Quick Start Programme

28. Introducing the sub-agenda item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/10 on the report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund and gave a detailed account of the background and current status of the Quick Start Programme. She noted that in the past 11 rounds there had been 315 proposals, 271 of which had been reviewed by the Quick Start Programme Implementation Committee and 143 projects approved for a total of 30 million dollars. She recalled the maximum time for implementation was 24 months but noted that delays had occurred due to administrative and institutional hindrances. She recalled that currently the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme was underway that would look at the governance, institutional arrangements, effectiveness and impact of the programme. She recalled that the Trust Fund of the Quick Start Programme would be opened to receive contributions by donors until the third session of the Conference, currently scheduled for July 2012, and disbursement of funds be extended until December 2013. She noted that there was need to determine how to proceed with financing the implementation of SAICM thereafter. She said it was time to look for other sources of funding and not always rely on the same donor countries for contributions. The current round of Quick Start Programme applications would end on 26 August 2011 and early submission was encouraged to allow time for the applications to be screened and provide feedback to applicants if necessary.

29. All representatives who took the floor applauded the Quick Start Programme noting the unique way in which it had provided resources to enable countries to implement sound management of chemicals activities. Recalling that the Programme would end in mid-2012 some representatives urged for a successor to the programme that would have the same characteristics in terms of accessibility to funds and be aimed at implementation activities not just enabling ones. They stressed the need to continue the impetus of the Quick Start Programme and to identify an alternate means to finance activities with a view to reaching the 2020 goal notwithstanding other financial options being discussed. One representative said that countries of the region should also, when possible, contribute to the financial resources of the Strategic Approach.

30. In response to a request for clarification, the representative of the secretariat said that the Programme Business plan had a target of 40 million US dollars until the end of 2011. To date approximately 31 million dollars had been raised. Disbursement of funds would terminate in 2013 and a new process has not been discussed nor identified to ensure continuity. Given the global financial crises, fundraising for SAICM has been challenging and it is hoped that for next year the financial situation would improve. One representative said there was need for an efficient and effective secretariat and it was important that it was correctly and sufficiently staffed.

31. The meeting took note of the information provided and requested the bureau member attending the bureau meeting in Slovenia in June 2011 to bring to the attention of that meeting the region's concerns regarding the staffing issues facing the secretariat.

B. Financial matters

32. Introducing the sub-agenda item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes initiated by the Executive Director of UNEP and provided a summary on the current status of the consultation. The Bureau member representing the Latin American and the Caribbean region, who had been present at the 4th meeting of the Consultative process held in New York in May 2011, reported that four tracks for financing options had been developed that would better serve financing of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as SAICM and the negotiation process for an international legally binding instrument on mercury. He said four tracks had been proposed for discussion: mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes; public-private partnerships; a dedicated trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol; and a new focal area under the Global Environmental Facility.

33. The meeting agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile) to draft a resolution on financial matters.

34. The meeting adopted a resolution on financial matters resulting from the deliberations during the contact group and as amended by plenary. The resolution is attached to the current report as Annex D.

VII. Emerging policy issues

35. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/4, SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/5 and SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/12 containing a progress report on emerging policy issues addressed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, nominations for new emerging policy issues and the report of the International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011 that had been attended by the representative from Cuba. She recalled that Resolution II/4 of the Conference provided for concerted action on emerging policy issues and resolution II/5 on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. The Conference had also agreed on a procedure for future nominations. The secretariat would prepare a progress report on all issues for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference at its third session.

36. She went on to summarize the current status of each of the issues. She concluded by noting that at the African regional meeting in April 2011, the group had prepared resolutions on lead in paint, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. In addition hazardous substances and nanotechnology had been proposed as new activity areas in the Global Plan of Action as described under agenda item 4 (a) above. Awareness raising workshops had been held in different regions on nanotechnology, including a two-day workshop prior to the current meeting organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research under the auspices of the Government of Switzerland. A report was being prepared on the issue with special relevance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on which comments were still welcome.

37. With regard to perfluorinated chemicals that were not currently covered under any multilateral environmental agreement, a web-based portal was being established and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development was soon to make publically available a survey on those chemicals. Web-based seminars were also being conducted. Resources permitting a workshop on the issue would be held prior to the proposed SAICM regional meeting for Asia and the Pacific tentatively scheduled for September 2011.

38. Two new emerging policy issues had been nominated: International cooperation to build awareness and understanding and promote action on endocrine disrupting chemicals by UNEP and Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants by ISDE (International Society of Doctors for the Environment).

39. The two resolutions agreed at the African regional meeting, as well as any outcomes of the current meeting would be carried to the Central and Eastern European regional meeting that would take place in Lodz, Poland from 27-29 June 2011.

40. The representative of St Vincent and the Grenadines informed the meeting of progress made on the issue of chemicals in products during a side event held on Tuesday, 31 May. Another side event to

the regional meeting provided participants with information on progress on the emerging issue lead in paint. The chair informed the meeting of a letter received from UNEP Chemicals inviting the region to nominate a government representative to join a steering group on perfluorinated chemicals. She said the steering group would include representatives from non-governmental organizations and from industry.

41. The meeting agreed to request the contact group discussing nanotechnology to also discuss issues related to lead in paint.

42. The meeting adopted a resolution on lead in paint resulting from the deliberations during the contact group and as amended by plenary. The resolution is attached to the current report as Annex E.

VIII. Regional Implementation Plan

43. Mr. Mario Yarto, who was engaged to assist the region in developing the regional implementation plan, introduced a draft matrix that would assist in the ensuing discussion of the structure and content of the Plan. Representative took the floor to make suggestions on what could be included in the plan such as input from specific communities, regional centres, non-governmental organizations and other regional entities. Further suggestions included proposals for strengthening of non-governmental organizations participation in the work of the Strategic Approach, addressing emerging issues at the regional level, determining the effect of growing populations on the environment and inclusion of successful experiences in chemicals management. Some participants noted concern on how to determine priorities and to ensure that all countries were meeting their chemical safety goals to a similar standard. It was suggested that the regional priorities developed at the first meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean region in Panama and further discussed at the second meeting in Jamaica could be reviewed and included in the regional implementation plan as necessary. It was also suggested that the regional implementation plan take into account Decision 7 on chemicals of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the Latin American and Caribbean region held in Panama in April 2010 as well as the Global Environmental Outlook 3 for Latin America and the Caribbean. An additional regional implementation plan that would be of use was that of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) that referred to nine actions covering all activities related to chemical issues in eight countries. It was suggested the CCAD could undertake an assessment of the implementation of that plan prior to the Open-ended Working Group.

44. It was suggested that Mr. Yarto contact members of the Regional Coordinating Committee to obtain the necessary information. Several representatives noted the short time for provision of information and preparation of the implementation plan. It was agreed that information would be sent to Mr. Yarto by 17 June to enable him to complete his desk study by end July. Information could be sent through the sub-regional focal points or the secretariat.

IX. Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

45. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF.1 and said the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had been planned from 28 May to 1 June 2012. The dates had been revised in view of the dates of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development also being held in 2012. Currently the Conference was scheduled from 15 to 20 July 2012. As no other offers to host the Conference had been received to date the Conference would be held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva.

X. Other matters

A. Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes

46. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF.11 describing synergies in the chemicals and waste clusters. She gave a detailed report on progress made in implementing the decisions on synergies taken at the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Bali Indonesia in February 2010, in particular the establishment of a joint head of the

secretariats of the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP part of the Rotterdam convention and noted references to SAICM within the decision.

47. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that while reporting cycles were different for the conventions and SAICM, the Open-ended Working Group could examine possibilities for synergies between reporting arrangements.

48. The meeting took note of the information provided.

B. Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation

49. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat noted relevant activities being undertaken in other international forums in relation to SAICM. She noted that 2011 was the International Year of Chemicals and recalled that at the 26th session of the UNEP Governing Council in February 2011 the Conference had been invited to keep in mind issues related to cadmium and lead and how levels of those chemicals could be reduced.

50. It was suggested that Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres could be encouraged to assist in dissemination of SAICM related information to all focal points in the region. Additionally, UNEP Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean (ROLAC) could be requested to explore options to assist in that task in a similar manner to the intranet developed by ROLAC to prepare for the mercury negotiations.

51. The meeting took note of the information provided.

C. Information clearing house of the Strategic Approach

52. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to discussions that had been held under implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes in the chemicals arena. She noted that an area for collaboration with the joint secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would be to have an agreement for technical assistance in the development of the information clearing house.

53. Several representatives stressed the value of having a single portal for information exchange on chemicals related issues. That would not only ensure savings in resources but improve the flow of information.

54. The meeting agreed to request the secretariat to dialogue with the joint head of the secretariats of the three conventions to explore options on how the joint services could assist the SAICM secretariat in the development of its information clearing house. It was stressed that such an agreement would be restricted to technical assistance only and that the information within the clearing house would be under the ownership of the SAICM secretariat. The secretariat was invited to provide information on the outcome of those discussions to regional focal points who would then inform national focal points.

55. The meeting agreed that the regional representative on the bureau would bring the matter to the attention of the bureau and request a decision thereon.

D. Activities and budget of the secretariat

56. The representative of the secretariat provided a summary of the activities and budget of the secretariat and an update on current funding needs. The secretariat was preparing for the final two regional meetings, the Open-ended Working Group, the third session of the Conference and for meetings of the Bureau. She noted that the reporting tool had been developed, an analysis done of the reports received and the baseline report being prepared. The Quick Start Programme guidelines were regularly reviewed by the Implementation Committee and with UNITAR a review of national implementation plans was undertaken and guidance given to stakeholders. She acknowledged the support provided by intergovernmental organizations and described the relationship with member organizations of the IOMC as well as with other entities. She also noted that information side events on the Strategic Approach had taken place at the 18th and 19th meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

57. The Quick Start Programme Executive Board had met 5 times and preparations were underway for the sixth meeting. The Implementation Committee had met 11 times and the 12th meeting was being organized. The terms of reference of the Quick Start Programme evaluation had been approved and the evaluation was being finalized.

58. She concluded by noting that the budget had not changed. Currently there were funds available to support the operation of the secretariat; however efforts to fill the vacancy for a second P2 position had to be suspended in order to release funds to hire temporary help to ensure continuity. There were three positions for which staffing actions had begun and selection of incumbents was expected towards the end of the year.

E. Preparations for Rio+20

59. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that the Rio + 20 conference would be held in 2012. That conference would provide an opportunity to review Agenda 21 and progress made toward reaching the 2020 goal of safe use of chemicals. To date there had been little information on how chemicals would be incorporated into the Rio+20 programme. She urged countries to ensure that Strategic Approach was taken on board especially through regional preparatory meetings. Raising its profile, she said, would increase opportunities for capacity building and technical assistance to implement chemicals management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. She said the potential to include chemicals management was there given that green economy and sustainable management were the main issues.

60. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that the issue might be discussed at the forthcoming Bureau meeting to ensure the Strategic Approach received the necessary visibility. The representative of ROLAC informed the meeting that a gathering of national focal points of the region would take place in September affording an opportunity to raise the matter. In response to a request to include SAICM issues in the draft documents being prepared for Rio + 20, the representative of ROLAC said the drafts were being developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with support from regional agencies. Those drafts would be reviewed at the regional meeting in September at which time comments could be made.

61. The meeting requested the secretariat to contact ECLAC to determine if any input could be made to the documents being prepared for the September regional meeting on Rio+20.

XII. Adoption of the Report

62. The meeting adopted a summary report based on which the secretariat, working with the rapporteur would finalize the report of the meeting.

XIV. Closure of the meeting

63. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 4.40 p.m. on Friday 2 June.

ANNEX A

Resolution adopted at the Third Latin American and Caribbean Region Meeting on the addition of activities on Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

We, the participants in the GRULAC regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Panama City, Panama, from 2 to 3 June 2011,

Mindful of the overarching goal articulated in Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

Recalling the Dakar Statement on Manufactured Nanomaterials adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its sixth session, held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008;

Further recalling resolution II/4 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management at its second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, as well as the resolution on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials adopted by the SAICM GRULAC regional meeting convened in Kingston, Jamaica, from 8 to 9 March 2010;

Taking into account the recommendations included in Annex II of the Fourth African Regional Meeting report on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management related to the addition of activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Nairobi 5-8 April 2011. (LAC3/INF4/);

Considering the special needs that Latin American and Caribbean countries and other developing countries and countries with economies in transition may have in dealing with manufactured nanomaterials and wastes containing such materials;

Concerned that production and use of nanomaterials in many countries is increasing rapidly despite the lack of adequate data on human health and environmental risks and any national legal/regulatory or a comprehensive global policy framework;

Recognizing the potential benefits, new opportunities, as well as hazards and risks posed by nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

Mindful of the ethical and social implications of manufactured nanomaterials, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Recommend the strengthening of capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for effective decision-making related to manufactured nanomaterials, including developing the capacity for evaluating effectively the potential risks of manufactured nanomaterials, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women and older persons;

Recommend the development of further cooperative approaches between government, industry and stakeholders, including, academy, consumers, worker's organizations and citizens' groups on environmental health, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

Encourage the development of occupational health and safety programs and measures in relation to manufactured nanomaterials in consultation with workers and their representatives;

Encourage the development of public and environmental health program and measures in relation to manufactured nanomaterials with a multistakeholders participation;

Establish a multistakeholder expert committee to further research on manufactured nanomaterials to minimize risks on public and occupational health , and environment;

Require that producers provide appropriate information about the content of manufactured nanomaterials in order to inform authorities and consumers, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, about potential risks through product registration and labelling and, as appropriate, websites and databases;

Require that wastes containing manufactured nanomaterials are not transferred to countries that lack the capacity to adequately manage them;

Recognize the rights of countries to accept or reject the import and use of manufactured nanomaterials and products containing them to minimize their risks;

Invite countries and organizations to establish partnerships, with consideration of financial support, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build scientific, technical, legal, and regulatory capacity related to the risks of manufactured nanomaterials;

Recognize the critical role of organized civil society in the region and call for initiatives to strengthen its capacity to take part effectively in decision-making related to manufactured nanomaterials and nanotechnology;

Encourage countries to set up and enforce legal provisions to ensure safe practices with regard to scientific research, production, use, transport and disposal of manufactured nanomaterials;

Encourage intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to consider how they may assist governments to implement these recommendations;

Recommend that the report called for in resolution II/4 E be presented as a discussion draft to the OEWG, in order to collect further input from countries and stakeholders in the region, and that the final report, be prepared for ICCM3 pursuant to an inclusive and transparent procedure;

Support the inclusion of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials related activities in the GPA, in particular:

- To support developing countries and countries with economies in transition with scientific, technical, legal and institutional information sharing and capacity-building for the management of manufactured nanomaterials;
- To integrate the management of manufactured nanomaterials into current and projected public policies and legal/regulatory framework and chemicals management programmes;
- To support the development of adequate risk management tools and mechanisms and encourage the generation, sharing, dissemination of hazard and risk data in relation to manufactured nanomaterials.

Call for a Resolution to be prepared on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to be presented at ICCM3, including recommendations for:

- The development of national assessments on manufactured nanomaterials;
- The development of guidance and training materials based on a precautionary approach which can be used in the countries by governments and stakeholders;

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- The development of a regulatory framework based on a precautionary approach in relation to public and occupational health as well as environment through the lifecycle of manufactured nanomaterials;
 - The inclusion of activities related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in future funding arrangements for SAICM;
 - The development of specific customs codes for manufactured nanomaterials;
 - The development of harmonized international classification systems for manufactured nanomaterials such as CAS number and pictograms;
 - The development of specific technical recommendations for the environmental sound disposal of manufactured nanomaterials waste with the participation of the Basel Convention considering the hazardous characteristics and the establishment of a specific category of these wastes;
 - The application of the Extended Producer Responsibility throughout the life cycle of manufactured nanomaterials.

Having considered the proposal from the Government of Switzerland entitled “Complementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Global Plan of Action with the creation of a new work area and associated activities in relation to the environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials” we presented the following revised table:

Proposal of activities to be included as a new area on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Work Area	New Activity	Actors	Target/Time frame	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	1. Elaborate guidance on the development of national baseline document	National governments, international organizations, IOMC, industry, NGOs, Academia, other interested groups	2012 - 2015	Guidance is in place Number of countries using the guidance Number of countries using the guidance	
	2. Development of national baseline document	National governments, international organizations, IOMC, industry, NGOs, Academia, other interested groups	2012-2015	Number of national baseline documents developed Number of national baseline documents developed	
	3. Increase the understanding of the environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of manufactured nanomaterials through further research	National governments, international organizations, IOMC, industry, NGOs, Trade unions, Academia	2012 - 2018	Number of publicly available research papers on hazards and risks, significantly increased in all regions	Research capacity Establish a multistakeholder expert committee to further research on nanomaterials and encourage dissemination of all relevant information
	4. Increase the understanding of the environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications of manufactured nanomaterials through awareness raising and capacity building, by information sharing and dissemination of relevant information	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, Trade Unions, Academia	2012 - 2020	All stakeholders, particularly workers and consumers, are informed of risks and hazards of nanomaterials Number of national and regional workshops on nanomaterials	Information on manufactured nanomaterials Communication tools
	5. Support and where feasible, increase funding for research on the environmental, public and occupational health and safety	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations,	2012 – 2020	Number of publicly available research papers on hazards and risks, significantly increase.	Financial assistance

Work Area	New Activity	Actors	Target/Time frame	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
	implications of nanotechnologies	industry, NGOs, Academia		<p>Increased allocation of national budget towards research on nanotechnologies.</p> <p>Number of funding opportunities available to promote nanotechnology research</p> <p>Ratio of approved projects versus proposed projects</p>	
	6. Promote the establishment of public and private sector partnerships for the environmentally sound management of manufactured nanomaterials with adequate financial support, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build scientific, technical, legal, and regulatory capacity to address the associated risks.	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, Academia	2012 – 2018	Number of public/private partnerships established	
	7. Identify and increase access to, and - adapt and further refine where necessary, internationally recognized existing guidance on incorporation of nano in national chemicals management programs, and identify where gaps exist.	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012 – 2015	<p>Nanomaterials are included in increasing number of chemical management programs</p> <p>Increased access to existing guidance available</p>	
	8. Incorporate nano-specific issues in national chemicals management programs	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012 – 2015	Nano-specific issues are included in increasing number of chemical management programs in place	
	9. Identify and address existing gaps and needs in legal and institutional framework	National governments, Intergovernmental and	2012 – 2015	Reports and actions taken to address regulatory and	

Work Area	New Activity	Actors	Target/Time frame	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
	addressing nano specific issues. Establish national policy and institutional coordination plan.	international organizations, industry, NGOs, Academia		institutional gaps; Guidance on identification of gaps adapted and implemented	
	10. Enhance information sharing on national, and regional policy and regulatory initiatives	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012 – 2015	All stakeholders are informed of risks and hazards of nanomaterials. All relevant stakeholders have access to available relevant information Global portal for information sharing established	IOMC
	11. Identify, strengthen and enforce legal provisions for the environmentally sound management of waste containing nanomaterials	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, Basel Convention	2012 – 2015	Relevant legislation or/and best practices are in place and implemented in all relevant sectors.	
	12. Create or update existing legislation to protect workers and the public, covering the entire spectrum of work situations in which manufactured nanomaterials are handled	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, Trade Unions	2012 – 2015	Number of relevant legislation is fully implemented in all relevant sectors.	IOMC
	13. Adoption of technical guidelines and consensus standards on manufactured nanomaterials	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012 – 2017	Standards are developed. Technical guidelines are promoted and adopted.	
	14. Incorporate nano labeling criteria into GHS	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012 – 2015	Criteria for labeling of Nano are developed and incorporated into the GHS.	Regional economic integration organizations, WTO, WCO, ECOSOC
	15. Develop a voluntary certification scheme	National governments, Intergovernmental and	2012-2020	Certification scheme is developed.	

Work Area	New Activity	Actors	Target/Time frame	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
		international organizations, industry, NGOs			
	16. Develop national registration schemes for products containing manufactured nanomaterials	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012-2020	Registration schemes in place	
	17. Improve existing information management systems to include nano specific information	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012 – 2015	MSDS includes relevant nano information. Databases are developed and accessible to all stakeholders	
	18. Promote extended responsibility of the producer throughout the life cycle of manufactured nanomaterials	National governments, Intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012-2015	Number of countries who have extended producer responsibility schemes (mandatory or voluntary)	

ANNEX B

Resolution on the management of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

We, the participants in the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Panama City on 2 and 3 June 2011,

Mindful that preventing harm to human health and the environment from inputs, products or wastes containing harmful substances, or that lead to the formation of harmful substances, is an important element in *achieving* the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Mindful also that hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products were adopted as an emerging policy issue at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

Mindful further that the *participants* at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted resolution II/4 D, on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

Mindful that a resolution on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products was adopted at the second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held in Kingston in 2010,

Recalling the recommendations of the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in *Vienna* from 29 to 31 March 2011,

1. *Call for* the implementation of management instruments at the international level, including:
 - (a) Development of designs to reduce and/or eliminate hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products;
 - (b) Transparent information on the presence of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
 - (c) Substitutes that reduce risks to health and the environment;
 - (d) Development of green purchasing strategies;
 - (e) Implementation of extended producer responsibility;
 - (f) Strategies and actions in cases in which disposal is not possible or when no substitutes are available;
2. *Encourage* the private sector:
 - (a) To implement eco-design criteria for electrical and electronic products;
 - (b) To foster sustainable development by seeking to prevent pollution through the use of cleaner production techniques;
 - (c) To minimize risks to the health of workers exposed to hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
 - (d) To provide and maintain public access to information on hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products and the risks that such substances pose to human health and the environment;

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- (e) To monitor and control, on a permanent basis, occupational and environmental conditions;
 - (f) To implement extended producer responsibility;
3. *Encourage Governments:*
- (a) To develop and implement management instruments that take into account extended producer responsibility;
 - (b) To prepare and put in place pollutant release and transfer registers;
 - (c) To develop green purchasing strategies;
 - (d) To regulate the import of new and used electric and electronic products, including donations;
 - (e) To develop and put in place public policies pertaining to the environmentally sound management of electric and electronic products;
 - (f) To identify and characterize sites contaminated by the dumping and recycling of electronic waste, so as to apportion responsibility;
 - (g) To promote the active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the management of hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
 - (h) To ratify the conventions and other instruments related to the international chemicals agenda;
4. *Urge donors, Governments and public and private organizations to provide technical assistance and financial resources:*
- (a) To meet the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
 - (b) To support the environmentally sound management of contaminated sites;
 - (c) To create and strengthen national capacity for the environmentally sound management of electric and electronic products;
5. *Invite the World Customs Organization to create specific harmonized tariff codes for end-of-life electronic products and electronic waste fractions to assist countries better to track global flows of electronic wastes;*
6. *Invite the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization to intensify their collaboration with Governments in identifying, preventing and controlling health risks associated with the life cycle of electrical and electronic wastes.*
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ANNEX C

Resolution on the strategy for the incorporation of the health sector into the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management process, adopted at the third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting

We, the participants in the third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held in Panama City on 2 and 3 June 2011,

To reaffirm the provisions of the Kingston resolution of 2010 adopted at the second meeting,

To stress the importance of strengthening actions to implement the health strategy proposed by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

To encourage the participation of the health sector and to incorporate the topic of chemical safety into public health strategies, given the significant disease burden that it causes for our countries,

To stress that in our region specific chemical safety issues are tackled in various ways and in various levels of detail, given the differences in development between countries,

To propose that cooperation between parties be strengthened by joint work and training for health and environment officials, in addition to those from other areas directly involved, such as the agriculture sector, so as to define the issues requiring immediate attention and action,

To prioritize matters related to acute poisoning caused by chemicals (pesticides) by strengthening epidemiological surveillance of poisoning in order to have an overview of the cases, the chemicals responsible and the economic and productive burden that this involves for the region,

To improve training for health professionals and others involved in chemicals management in the region in order to have balanced knowledge and to promote the development of tools and strategies for decision-making, to encourage action and to prepare the region to take on chemical safety problems,

To request that efforts continue for the designation of contact points in the health sector and to support such contact points financially so that they may participate in meetings,

To urge the Pan-American Health Organization/Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization to step up its efforts and to apply its skills to implement the chemicals agenda in its workplans by providing technical support and intensifying the search for financing for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

To suggest to the secretariat that it identify and present successful cases of intersectoral cooperation in tackling problems, such as the DDT-free anti-malaria initiative, the elimination of high-risk pesticides in Central America or other examples of a multisectoral approach being taken to high-impact problems relating to chemical safety or public health in the region, and also that it identify non-traditional sources of financing,

To propose that consideration be given to the development of an indicator of the integration of the health sector into the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

To recommend that the existing successful experiences in the Latin American and Caribbean region, including the production of the Global Environment Outlook report, be taken into account as they could be useful to the process; and also to include the work undertaken and described in the document issued by the health and environment ministers of the Americas in which they set the priorities in terms of chemical safety, given that those priorities are a significant starting point for the promotion of actions and for compliance with the strategy to strengthen the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

ANNEX D

Financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Participants in the Third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management held in Panama City, 2-3 June 2011

Recalling the acknowledgement in the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management that the extent to which developing countries, particularly small-island developing States, can make progress towards reaching the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 depends, in part, on the availability of financial resources provided by the private sector and bilateral, multilateral and global agencies or donors;

Further recalling resolution II/3 adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, in which the Conference 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;

Noting decision SS.XI/7 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, which requested the continuation of the process and called for its outcomes to be brought to the attention of relevant bodies including the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

Also noting the outcomes of the 4 consultative sessions on financing options on chemicals and wastes which identified the four tracks outlined in the Pretoria Road Map;

Further noting the 10 million dollar allocation from the GEF Fifth Replenishment for select work areas outlined in the SAICM Global Plan of Action and emerging policy issues;

Recognizing that the Quick Start Programme under the SAICM will end in 2013, which has proved beneficial to countries within the region in undertaking initial enabling activities in relation to their national chemical safety programmes.

1. *Reaffirm* the importance attached by the Latin American and Caribbean region to the provision of the financial and technical assistance needed to enable countries of the region to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and achieve the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020;
2. *Requests* the OEWG1 to consider the financial mechanism that will be the successor to the QSP, for possible adoption at ICCM3. In discussing the mechanism, the Group should take into account, inter alia, the following elements:
 - a) The Fund should serve developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with priority given to SIDS and LDCs;
 - b) The scope of the financial mechanism should be expanded to include implementation type activities in line with the SAICM OPS objectives;
 - c) Contributions to the mechanism should aim at new and additional resources with a view to maintain such contributions until the end of 2020;
 - d) The mechanism should be under the guidance of SAICM Stakeholders;
 - e) The performance of the mechanism should be reported at every ICCM;
 - f) The governance arrangements for the mechanism should be independent, accountable and exercise transparency in its work.
3. *Calls upon* all SAICM stakeholders, where possible, to contribute to the new financial mechanism to allow countries to achieve the JPOI 2020 target.
4. *Requests* the OEWG to consider the development of a strategy to broaden the donor base, including industry, in financing SAICM activities at the national, regional and global levels;

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5. *Calls upon* the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of WHO to further promote the international chemicals agenda with the international financial institutions, including regional development banks;
 6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of WHO, as recommended in the QSP Business Plan, to create a Resource Mobilization Officer post, based in Geneva, as adopted by Decision SAICM/ICCM.2/15;
 7. *Also requests* the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of WHO, to urgently fill all existing vacant positions within the SAICM Secretariat, including a Communications Officer post, as adopted in Decision SAICM/ICCM.2/15, to increase the Secretariat's efficiency in serving its stakeholders
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ANNEX E

Resolution adopted at the Third Latin American and Caribbean Region Meeting on elimination of lead in paints

We, the participants in the GRULAC regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Panama City, Panama, from 2 to 3 June 2011,

Taking into account the recommendations included in Annex II of the Fourth African Regional Meeting report on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management related to elimination of Lead in paints Nairobi 5-8 April 2011 (LAC3/INF4).

Whereas:

- (a) Paints containing lead, including decorative paints typically used in homes and schools for toys, children's furniture and costume jewelry, are widely available for sale and use in many Latin America and Caribbean countries. Such paints are a significant source of childhood and occupational lead exposure;
- (b) Childhood and occupational lead exposure increases lifelong violent behavior, decreases intelligence as measured by intelligence quotient (IQ) scores, and also decreases school performance and educational achievement;
- (c) Childhood lead exposure has been shown to decrease an individual's lifelong earnings and, on a societal scale, decrease workforce productivity, especially as high-technology and service sectors of the economy become increasingly important;
- (d) Low-income populations are especially affected by lead exposure because poor nutrition increases lead absorption, thereby magnifying the impacts of lead exposure;
- (e) The harm caused by lead exposure is extremely well documented, such that there is virtually unanimous agreement between health professionals and other experts that childhood and occupational lead exposure should be avoided and that decorative paints containing lead are an important source of such exposure;
- (f) The World Health Organization has determined that there is no safe level of childhood lead exposure;
- (g) The United Nations Environmental Programme has recently noted the need for continued focus on reducing the risks posed by lead and cadmium;
- (h) The economic and social costs of eliminating lead in paints, and the barriers to elimination, are minimal;
- (i) Manufacturers currently producing decorative paints containing lead can easily reformulate their products and produce, at a similar price, non-lead paints with similar colours and performance characteristics;
- (j) The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints has been established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, at the request of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, to promote the phasing out of the use of lead in paints as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The overall goal of this global initiative is to prevent children's exposure to lead via paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paints. The broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paints.

We, the participants at the Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Welcoming the formation of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and its current work,

Recognizing the fact that some countries within the region have eliminated lead in paint and in products, especially children products and encourage those countries, which have not yet done so to do so.

Latin America and Caribbean Region to restrict the use of lead in toys and control lead in paints,

Recognizing that more work needs to be done in connection with paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,ⁱ particularly on phasing out lead in paints and in other sources of human exposure, in order to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead, and on strengthening monitoring and surveillance efforts and treatment of lead poisoning,

Recognizing also that Governments have recently requested the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Executive Director, to continue to promote and facilitate work in relation to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints, and activities on lead and cadmium at all levels, especially in developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and countries with economies in transition, including activities such as capacity-building and awareness-raising,

Recognizing further the successful elimination of lead in gasoline spearheaded by the United Nations Environment Programme Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles,

Recalling decision 26/3 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, on chemicals and waste management, including section III of that decision, on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and section I, on lead and cadmium,

Taking note of the request from Governments at the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Executive Director of the Programme to initiate a partnership on lead and cadmium, and looking forward to the participation of relevant Latin America and Caribbean stakeholders in that initiative,

Aware that the continued production, import and export, sale and use of decorative paints containing lead, especially for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure, are not consistent with the sound management of chemicals,

1. *Encourage* all Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in the Latin America and Caribbean region to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints throughout its focal areas of work, to undertake initiatives to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints to which lead pigments and other lead compounds have been added and to provide technical and financial assistance;
2. *Support* the initiative by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints to develop a proposal for submission to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session to establish an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, with an initial focus on the elimination of lead in paints, and encourages Governments, industry and civil society organizations in the region to organize activities for that day of action in cooperation with the Global Alliance;
3. *Recognize* the importance of, and calls for the involvement of Governments in, the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints to create and facilitate awareness-raising materials and to enhance the effectiveness of actions;
4. *Recommend* the PAHO to enhance the engagement of the Health Sector and the development of environment and health linkages in the involvement of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints as well as other relevant lead uses.
5. *Urge* Latin America and the Caribbean Governments to inform their constituencies of the issues associated with this global initiative so they can be prepared for upcoming discussions during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012;
6. *Request* Governments and non-governmental organizations in the Latin America and Caribbean region to develop and explore opportunities for creating and participating in global, regional, subregional or national projects or programmes that can assist or enable activities on the elimination of lead in paints in the region;
7. *Request* those involved in the Strategic Approach in Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector in the Latin America and Caribbean region to prioritize actions to eliminate lead in paint in Strategic Approach implementation plans and their development of the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action and to cooperate with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints and others to help make available within the region information, advice and enabling resources, including:

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- (a) Raising awareness of the health impacts of lead exposure;
 - (b) Strengthening the capacity of the health sector regarding the management of lead poisoning, including treatment guidelines and the effectiveness of interventions;
 - (c) Undertaking biomonitoring and clinical studies of the effects of lead on human health, particularly children under the age of six;
 - (d) Sampling paints on the national market for their lead content;
 - (e) Enabling manufacturers to reformulate their paints to eliminate added lead pigments, lead-drying agents and other lead compounds with cost effective measures;
 - (f) Raising consumer awareness of paints containing lead and their hazards, and creating consumer demand for alternatives;
 - (g) Working with manufacturers to establish voluntary, third-party, independent paint certification and labelling programmes to enable consumers to identify paints on the market with no added lead;
 - (f) Taking actions to deal with the legacy of old paint containing lead that is found in buildings;
 - (g) Promulgating national laws and regulations to prohibit import, manufacture, sale and use of paints containing lead, especially for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure, improving the registration and labelling of products with lead additive, and establishing adequate and appropriate enforcement mechanisms;
8. Request the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to convey the present resolution to participants at other regional meetings for their consideration before the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.



**Fourth Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting
on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**
Lodz, Poland, 27–29 June 2011
Item II Adoption of the Report

Draft report of the fourth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Opening

The fourth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was held at the Bureau for Chemical Substances and Preparations, 30/34 Dowborczyków Street, Lodz, Poland on 28-29 June 2011. The meeting was held back to back with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) workshop on Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials (27-28 June 2011).

Mr. Jerzy Majka, Inspector for Chemical Substances and Preparations, Bureau for Chemical Substances and Preparations, and Central and Eastern Europe SAICM Regional Focal Point, opened the session and welcomed the participants.

Ms. Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator of the Strategic Approach secretariat, thanked the Government of Poland for its generosity and help in organizing this meeting, and the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland for providing funding for the two back-to-back meetings.

Mr. Piotr Dabrowski, Deputy Director, Department for Public Health, Ministry of Health of the Government of Poland, highlighted the importance of the topics discussed for his Ministry. He also pointed to the crucial role of regional cooperation for advancing the goal of the Strategic Approach, as well as the special role Poland can play in this process.

Organizational matters

Attendance

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: International Labour Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Arnika Association, Eco-Accord, Center for Environmental Solutions, Center for International Environmental Law, European Chemical Industry Council, Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association, International POPs Elimination Network.

Election of officers

Mr. Michal Andrijewski, Ms Lindita Tafaj and Mr. Marin Kocov were elected co-chairs of the meeting, each for a half day respectively.

Mr. Eugeniy Lobanov agreed to serve as rapporteur.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended on the basis of the draft agenda set forth in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/1. Only minor amendments were made with regard to the discussions to be included in the agenda item 10. Other matters.

Preparation for the first Open-ended Working Group

Participants had before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/1, providing information on the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group and the provisional agenda for its first meeting, to be held in Belgrade from 15 to 18 November 2011. The secretariat of the Strategic Approach briefly presented the ongoing preparation steps for this meeting. In particular, the role of regional meetings in shaping the agenda for the Open-ended Working Group was stressed. The draft provisional agenda for the Open-ended Working Group was also briefly introduced, highlighting the efforts made to focus on the substance and to facilitate the flow of discussions.

In the following discussions, the possibility to shorten the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to three instead of four days was raised as a way to increase efficiencies. However, clarification was made that this issue had been discussed by the Executive Bureau as part of the review of the three scenarios provided for consideration by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and that the Bureau had decided that it is more important to ensure that the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group achieve their goal and ensure adequate preparation of the delegations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The meeting had therefore been shortened to four days instead of the five days initially scheduled, and the secretariat was requested to find other ways of increasing efficiencies in the organization of these upcoming events. In addition, the need to focus the discussions only on substantive issues was highlighted several times. It was also stressed that only short substantive documents would be accepted as meeting documents.

Several documents developed under the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and to be submitted for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group were introduced, including in particular the IOMC Toolbox, which organizes a selection of different products developed by organizations of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in order to assist countries in implementation of the Strategic Approach. It was mentioned that the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals will meet shortly to decide which of the participating organizations will be attending the Open-ended Working Group, while all participating organizations are expected to attend the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Participants had before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/2, which contains the preliminary report of the third Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Lodz on 9 and 10 December 2009. Participants adopted the report without further changes.

The representative of the secretariat presented an overview of Strategic Approach meetings that have taken place since the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009. These included a first completed round of regional meetings held between 2009 and 2010, as well as two regional meetings in Nairobi and in Panama City held in 2011, meetings of the regional coordinating groups, two teleconferences and a meeting of the Bureau, the fifth meeting of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme, and three meetings of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee.

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

The Regional Focal Point for Central and Eastern Europe provided an update on the regional activities undertaken. In particular, the organization of regional consultations and participation in several awareness raising activities on a regular basis was highlighted. In addition, the assistance provided by

the Regional Focal Point in testing the on-line reporting tool developed by the secretariat and collecting information for the evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Approach was also discussed.

It was noted that while possibilities and resources of the Regional Focal Points are limited, a key role can be played by informing and reminding National Focal Points about reporting deadlines, as well as assisting them in arrangements for participation in regional meetings. However, it was also mentioned that in some cases, the intervention of UNEP might be more relevant. The participation of the Regional Focal Point in several events was highlighted, including in particular the regional representation in the nineteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development, and the speech made on behalf of Regional Focal Points, especially insisting on the role of the Global Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals in linking preventive chemicals management with facilitation of international trade.

Finally, it was mentioned that the meeting of the Regional Coordinating Group, initially planned just before the current regional meeting, had been scheduled to take place just before the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in November. The possibility of teleconferences to be held in preparation of the meeting of the Regional Coordinating Group was mentioned, and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach offered to facilitate these teleconferences if required.

Inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action

At its second session, the Conference adopted a procedure for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. In accordance with this procedure, stakeholders wishing to propose additional activities for inclusion are to prepare a justification document and conduct regional consultations as appropriate.

Participants examined two proposals for inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action. The first one introduced by the Government of Switzerland to add nanotechnologies and nanomaterials as a new work area in the Global Plan of Action and the second introduced by the African region to include hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products as a new work area. Both proposals were contained in documents SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/3, and SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/3 respectively.

With regard to the latter, it was mentioned that the Strategic Approach is the most relevant framework to address the life cycle of electrical and electronic products as it allows tackling upstream, midstream and downstream issues. The meeting took note of the two proposals.

The fact that the proposal submitted by the Government of Switzerland had been discussed and amended during the UNITAR workshop on Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials, and that any discussion should therefore be based on the amended version, was highlighted. It was agreed that this proposal would be dealt with under agenda item 4.d on Emerging policy issues.

Reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach

At its second session, the Conference adopted a set of 20 indicators to be used by all stakeholders in regularly reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach; the Conference also set out arrangements for the preparation of a baseline report for the period 2006–2008; and arrangements for subsequent periodic reporting to the Conference beginning at its third session, in 2012, with the consideration of the first progress report for 2009–2011.

The secretariat is preparing a draft of the baseline report presenting information on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach over the period 2006–2008, based on information provided in the course of regular reporting for regional meetings and at the second session of the Conference by over 100 Governments and 60 organizations. In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Conference at its second session, comments on the baseline report will be invited at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. An electronic reporting tool in the form of a password-protected electronic questionnaire has been completed following a period of feedback from stakeholders. The information collected by this means will be included in the first progress report on implementation of the Strategic Approach (2009–2011).

The Open-ended Working Group will consider any necessary adjustments to the electronic reporting tool. Additional information will be solicited at the end of 2011 to complete the first progress report (2009–2011). A formal evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, taking into account the baseline and first progress reports will be submitted to the Conference at its third session.

Participants had before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/4 on the preparation of reports on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The secretariat of the Strategic Approach presented an overview of the data submitted by stakeholders using the electronic reporting tool. In this

presentation, it was stressed that the countries' names will not appear in the final reporting and that the data will be aggregated by region, development status and types of stakeholder. This will avoid the misrepresentation due to the regional presentation of data from countries at various levels of development within regions. It was also mentioned that, among others, various activities from the health sector are not represented in the reporting indicators while they clearly contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, and that the quantitative picture provided by these indicators should therefore be considered as one type of measure, completed by more in-depth, qualitative evaluations made during the Strategic Approach regional meetings. Additionally, the methodological issues raised by the development of the baseline report based on information collected before the development of the reporting indicators was acknowledged, and it was mentioned that the possibility to use the first progress report as a baseline would be discussed by the Open-ended Working Group. Another key issue to be discussed by the Open-ended Working Group is the timeframe and arrangements for collecting the 2011 reporting data.

In the ensuing discussions, the role of the Regional Focal Point for stimulating submissions by countries and increasing the response rate was stressed. In addition, the difficulties for governments to print and archive their submission were highlighted as an important issue to be solved. In this regard, it was mentioned that countries can request copies of their submissions to the secretariat of the Strategic Approach. It was also suggested that awareness of countries on the 2011 data collection should be raised during the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and that given the limited timeframe, this reporting should maybe be limited to the indicators for which sufficient comparable data is available.

With regard to the questions on the tools used for implementing the Strategic Approach, it was mentioned that countries might consider only answering positively if the specific tool proposed was used and indicate the reasons for using other tools as comments. While not directly relevant for the countries themselves, it was stated that these questions provide valuable information on which tools are more useful to countries.

Finally, it was stated that while reporting through this tool might be time and resource consuming, it has also shown that it provides a good opportunity to stimulate inter-sectoral cooperation and information exchange, and that it should also be seen as an opportunity to establish inter-sectoral connections, therefore contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Another way to stimulate inter-sectoral coordination in the broad framework of the Strategic Approach was mentioned, consisting of the organization of a meeting where different sectors would present their achievements and successes in implementing the Sound Management of Chemicals.

Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes

At the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 24 February 2010, Parties adopted omnibus decisions on enhancing cooperation between the three conventions. By those decisions, the conferences of the parties requested, among other things, the secretariats of the three conventions to develop for consideration in 2011 a proposal for cross-cutting and joint activities for possible inclusion in the programmes of work of the three conventions for 2012–2013, taking into account when appropriate the Strategic Approach, and to prepare a report on other clearing-house mechanisms and similar mechanisms in the area of chemicals and wastes, especially the Strategic Approach clearing-house mechanism. An update on the activities undertaken pursuant to the omnibus decisions was considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fifth meeting, held from 25 to 29 April 2011 in Geneva.

Participants had before them these decisions in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/5.

Financial and technical resources for implementation

By its resolution II/3, on financial and technical resources for implementation, the Conference set out a number of measures to secure the long-term, sustainable financing of Strategic Approach implementation. By the same resolution, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Quick Start Programme, report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation (see agenda item 8) and make recommendations in the light of its findings for the consideration of the Conference at its third session. It also invited all stakeholders to assess and report to the secretariat on the steps that they were taking to implement the Strategic Approach financial arrangements and requested the secretariat to compile and synthesize those reports for consideration by the Conference at its third session.

A strategy on sound chemicals management for the fifth replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility was considered by its Council in November 2010. A consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes management was also launched by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in recognition of the need for adequate resources in the field of chemicals and wastes management. The secretariat of the Strategic Approach has not been invited to participate directly in the consultative process and the implications for the consideration of financial issues at the third session of the Conference have not yet been determined.

Participants had before them a resolution on financial considerations adopted by the participants at the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach (document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/1), and an update on financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/6).

In the following discussions, participants highlighted that financial considerations include both the international funding, and the national funding for chemicals management. With regard to the international financing, it was mentioned that the donor base for the Quick Start Programme should be broadened. It was stated that relatively smaller, symbolic contributions could be made from a broader donor base including non-traditional donors as this would show the commitment of countries and facilitate the inclusion of the Strategic Approach on the governments' agenda. The relevance and efficiency of the Quick Start Programme mechanism was highlighted, stressing that this should be built on for increasing funding for the sound management of chemicals, while developing a new mechanism would most probably require more resources for an uncertain result.

Noting that the same financing issues have been discussed in the region since 2006, the need to seriously consider economic instruments, Public Private Partnerships, and establishing good cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce was highlighted, as the private sector is potentially an important source of financing for chemicals management. While difficult, it was mentioned that successful examples where governments could attract funds from the private sector exist. Among others, the certification of private sector training sessions, especially in case of occasional funding.

Participants commented on the challenges for national governments to receive funding from Industry, requiring in many cases changes to national legislation. In this regard, the draft Guidance on the Development of Legal and Institutional Infrastructures and Measures for Recovering Costs of National Administration for Sound Management of Chemicals (LIRA-Guidance) developed by the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme was brought to the attention of the country representatives. The risks related to private sector donations were brought forward and the relevance of fees highlighted. It was mentioned that such consideration should be made of enacting these fees in a framework chemicals management law, though it was recognized that it might be politically unfeasible. The opportunity to reexamine the entire tax structure was mentioned, as well as the fact that not only the chemicals industry should be targeted but also downstream industries.

The point was also made that seed money would in any case be needed for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It was proposed that some activities might be added to the Global Plan of Action. In addition, inter-governmental coordination as a basis for national activities was mentioned as another option to reduce the costs of implementing the sound management of chemicals. The lack of awareness of the various sources of funding available and of the ways to access them was also pointed out, suggesting that a proposal should be made to develop capacity-building activities to assist countries in this regard.

Emerging policy issues

Participants had before them four draft resolutions introduced at the meeting for the consideration of the Region and subsequent adoption if appropriate on Nanotechnologies and nanomaterials, chemicals in products, lead in paint and hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electric and electronic products. Since these proposals were introduced at the meeting, there was a concern that not enough time had been allowed to study the proposals. The ensuing discussions pointed to the challenge for members of the European Union to support any resolution that has not been previously endorsed by the European Union. The secretariat of the Strategic Approach suggested a discussion on a suitable procedure allowing for the region to maintain cohesion while recognizing that European Union member states are not able to take a position on the different issues discussed until they have been agreed upon within the European Union. The participants agreed that further discussions have to be carried out at a higher instance to ensure that this region finds a suitable working arrangement. For the purpose of this meeting, participants agreed that resolutions would be a matter of consideration for the Open-ended Working Group and the region agreed that the spirit of any further discussion should be included in the report.

Issues considered in detail by the International Conference of Chemicals Management at its second session

By its resolution II/4, on emerging policy issues, the Conference provided for concerted action on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, lead in paint, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and chemicals in products, while resolution II/5 pertains to managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives.

An update on progress on those issues, including resolutions from recent regional meetings, was provided in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/7. In addition, the report of an international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011 was contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/9.

With regard to the proposal on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, one participant mentioned that the time to review the proposal was not sufficient to take position. Another participant indicated that the proposal as presented was not agreeable and would have to be redeveloped, and called for the development of an internationally agreed definition of nanomaterials, internationally accepted guidelines for testing of nanomaterials, an internationally agreed hazards and risk assessment methodology, an internationally agreed strategy and conception of nanomaterials. He also requested the addition of language on the need for financial assistance for Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition. Nevertheless, the participants agreed to add the matrix of the proposal made by the Government of Switzerland as it was amended by the group during the UNITAR workshop on Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials as an annex to this report, with the recognition that members of the European Union are not able to express an opinion until the European Union has been consulted. In addition, participants in general agreed that the proposal from the Government of Switzerland should be further discussed in the Open-ended Working Group, and that the Strategic Approach is an appropriate forum to discuss nanotechnologies.

With regard to the proposal on Chemicals in Products, participants considered this issue as important for the region in terms of general systems of chemicals management, in particular regarding chemicals of high concern. Participants welcomed the work done on chemicals in products so far and recognized the need for continued work in this area. They supported further discussion on the issue at the Open-ended Working Group. One participant indicated support for disclosure of information on hazardous substances to support consumers' decision making, while respecting the right for confidentiality of companies.

With regard to the proposed resolution for the elimination of lead in paints, the introductory presentation of the resolution highlighted the importance of childhood and occupational exposure to paints containing lead for the region, especially for the more vulnerable low-income populations; the support to the Global Alliance to Eliminate lead in paints established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization; the support for the development of a proposal for submission to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management that it initiates an international lead poisoning prevention day of action with an initial focus on elimination of lead in paints; and the request for more involvement of intergovernmental organizations. In the ensuing discussions, one participant recognized that lead in paint is a persistent problem for the region and as such supported the content of the resolution calling for further actions to be taken. Another participant welcomed the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints and the leading role of the World Health Organization on this initiative, and further supported the actions contained in the draft resolution presented.

With regard to hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, the presenter indicated that this draft resolution defers from the resolution from the African region in that it puts emphasis on the role of the health sector; further invited the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization to take on specific actions coming out of the recommendations outlined in the report from the Vienna workshop; and highlighted the importance of considering the life cycle of these products. The representative of International Labour Organization acknowledged that they had been asked to conduct work on this issue and to report to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He added that as a representative of the Inter-organization Programme for Sound Management of Chemicals he would convey the message to the World Health Organization for further involvement in this issue. Participants welcomed the outcomes of the Vienna workshop, took note of the recommendations coming out the African regional meeting, and recognized that this issue is an important part of chemicals management. Participants also supported further work by more actors, including engagement by the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization. One participant raised concern that this proposal differed from the proposal presented by

the African region in that it calls for disclosure of all chemicals contained in products instead of focusing on hazardous substances, and that this would not be acceptable as it would violate industry confidentiality rights.

New proposals for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session

At its second session, the Conference adopted as an annex to resolution II/4 the processes that it wished to use for considering emerging policy issues at future sessions. A call for nominations of emerging policy issues for consideration by the Conference at its third session was conducted over the 18-month period ending on 18 November 2010. In accordance with the processes established by the Conference, stakeholders were invited to submit comments and relevant information on the proposed issues to the secretariat by 30 April 2011.

Participants had before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/8, which provides information on the two emerging issues that have been nominated for possible consideration at the third session, namely, international cooperation to build awareness and understanding and to promote actions on endocrine disrupting chemicals, submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme, and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, submitted by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment.

Participants begun discussions on the regional priority accorded to the issues ahead of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group where it will be decided whether to add new emerging policy issues onto the agenda for the third session of the Conference for detailed consideration. One participant questioned the value of adding other new emerging issues given the financing situation and suggested to focus on finding solutions for existing issues.

Several participants recognized the importance of and expressed support for further discussion on the proposal to build awareness and understanding and to promote actions on endocrine disrupting chemicals. One participant raised the concern that the current proposal is too vague and confusing and should be refined and improved. It was mentioned that given the low level of resources, discussions on the issue of endocrine disrupters should be prioritized compared to discussions on the other proposal.

Some participants mentioned concerns with regard to the proposal on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. These concerns were especially related to the question on whether or not such issues fall within the scope of the Strategic Approach given the footnote indicating that “The Strategic Approach does not cover products to the extent that the health and environmental aspects of the safety of the chemicals and products are regulated by a domestic food or pharmaceutical authority or arrangement.” (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Overarching Policy Strategy, p.11) In this regard, it was proposed that the secretariat of the Strategic Approach considers initiating the development of a procedure to address issues due to other chemicals than “industrial and agricultural chemicals” as part of the Strategic Approach. The clarification was made that the proposal intends to address the impacts of chemical substances in pharmaceuticals and not the pharmaceuticals themselves, and so that the proposal could fit within the scope of the Strategic Approach. One participant suggested that more information would be needed on the environmental health effects of pharmaceuticals. Finally, one participant proposed to consider this proposal in light of the Health sector strategy.

Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation

By its resolution I/1, the Conference commended the Strategic Approach to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the Strategic Approach with a view to incorporating its objectives into their programmes of work within their mandates and to report thereon to the Conference.

At its sixty-third session held in Geneva from 17 to 21 May 2010, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA 63.25, on improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management, and resolution WHA 63.26, on improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals. Progress in the implementation of these resolutions was considered by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization at its 128th session, held in Geneva from 17 to 25 January 2011. At its twenty-sixth session, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted decision 26/3 in which it stressed the importance of its implementation and further development, and welcomed efforts to enhance the engagement of the health sector in its implementation. By its decision 26/3, on chemicals and waste management, the Governing Council invited the Conference to take into account, at its third session, the information provided in the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium and to consider how the risks from those metals should be reduced at the national, regional and global levels.

In its paragraph 24, the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that the functions of the Conference include “to promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation”. The secretariat also provided an update on the current status of the information clearing-house. Among the many important aspects of the secretariat’s work have been the establishment of the Strategic Approach information clearing house and the engagement of scientific organizations in support of Strategic Approach implementation. The secretariat has undertaken outreach and awareness-raising efforts with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and with organizations that have networks of national associations, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Union of Toxicology. The 2011 International Year of Chemistry provides additional opportunities for such cooperation.

A consultant working with the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme presented the activities of the Branch’s Mainstreaming Programme as part of the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The representative from Poland presented the activities of Poland related to the implementation of the Strategic Approach. In particular, three projects on support provided for the development of systems for the sound management of chemicals to facilitate integration with the European Union in Georgia, Armenia and Moldova as part of the Polish Development Aid Assistance, including the establishment of a help desk. As well, the representative from the Center for Environmental Solutions provided an update on nine projects implemented by this organization since the third regional meeting for Central and Eastern Europe.

Health sector strategy

By its resolution II/8, on health aspects of the sound management of chemicals, the Conference invited the Strategic Approach 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.

A draft strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation has been developed by the secretariat taking into account, among other things, the outcomes of a consultation on the development of a strategy held in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 February 2010. The draft strategy has been available for comment on the Strategic Approach website since November 2010. Participants had before them the draft strategy in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/10, and an update on the comments received by the secretariat in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/11.

In the discussion, general support was expressed by several participants for the proposed health sector strategy. One participant mentioned that the element on occupational health could be strengthened, and that it would be helpful to connect the strategy to emerging policy issues (such as the proposal to address environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants). Another participant suggested the inclusion of training programmes on chemicals management should be included in the proposal. Another participant proposed to add the function of the health sector to inform the population of the health risks due to chemicals, and the completion of health care services such as the establishment of poison centers including the role of the World Health Organization in this regard in the activities and actions of the proposed strategy. It was also noted that while discussions on the involvement of the health sector in the Sound Management of Chemicals had already been discussed in the context of the International Health Regulations, the Strategic Approach is also a relevant forum to address this issue.

Cooperation with intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development

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 it encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to participate in the Commission’s work on chemicals, including through regional preparatory processes.

The nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York from 2 to 13 May 2011 and included a learning centre and a partnerships event that both featured the Strategic Approach. It also discussed the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (known informally as “Rio + 20”) that will be held in Brazil from 4 to 6 June 2012. Participants had before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/12, which provides information on the preparations for the Conference.

In the following discussions, one participant expressed concern that chemicals management is not part of the agenda of the Conference of Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and suggested that the secretariat of the Strategic Approach tries to have the sound management of chemicals considered as a theme of the conference. One participant expressed support to the initiative of the secretariat to send letters to the Strategic Approach Focal Points to encourage them to participate actively in the preparation of the Conference on Sustainable Development. One representative expressed a strong disappointment with the outcome of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development as no decisions have been made.

Activities and budget of the secretariat

The representative of the secretariat provided an update on the financial situation, including for secretariat staffing, the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, regional meetings, the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the Conference.

Participants agreed to the proposal of the Chair to jointly discuss agenda items VII and VIII. The discussions in this regard are reported under agenda item VIII.b.

Quick Start Programme

Status of approved projects and applications in the region

The document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/13 provided an update on the status of approved Quick Start Programme projects, including a list of approved projects in the Central and Eastern European region.

As participants agreed to jointly discuss agenda items VII and VIII, items VIII.a. and VIII.b. were also merged.

Progress with the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme

By its resolution II/3, on financial and technical resources for implementation, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Programme and report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation. The terms of reference for the evaluation, developed by the Executive Board at its fifth meeting, were provided in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/10.

The representative of the secretariat provided an update on preparations for the evaluation, the recommendations of which will be submitted for consideration by the Conference at its third session. A preliminary report may be available for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group.

In the following discussions, several participants highlighted that the important catalytic role the Quick Start Programme has played should be reflected in the evaluation. To this end, some participants suggested that the secretariat of the Strategic Approach provides an estimation of the amount of financial and in-kind co-financing for the projects of the Quick Start Programme in the evaluation report as it would contribute to the demonstration of the value of the Programme. The representative of the secretariat mentioned that accessing such information is difficult because co-financing is not a requirement of the Quick Start Programme, but that the secretariat is currently working to manage this information as there are indications that the average amount of co-financing is probably significant. Some participants stressed that the report should if possible be presented at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group as the issue of financing is certainly the most pressing one to be discussed.

Several participants highlighted that the Quick Start Programme is a very cost-effective and efficient mechanism and that efforts for revitalizing financing for the sound management of chemicals should build on it rather than establishing a new mechanism. One participant proposed that a description of the special features of the Programme, including the Trust Fund, be included in the evaluation report. Another participant suggested that a comparison of the operating costs of the Quick Start Programme with the operating costs of other major international environmental funds be included to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme.

One participant also highlighted that the Programme has been developed with the participation of qualified and devoted experts, and that this should be shown in the evaluation report as it provides an argument for upgrading the Programme. The representative of the secretariat clarified that funding has been received to support the senior expert group for the Quick Start Programme – including senior experts in the field voluntarily providing technical assistance for the development and implementation of projects.

Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that, where appropriate, sessions of the Conference should be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the Strategic Approach's multisectoral nature. At its second session, the Conference decided to delegate responsibility to the Bureau to take a decision on the venue and date of its third session.

Preliminary arrangements were originally made by the secretariat for the third session to be held in Geneva from 28 May to 1 June 2012, during the week preceding the 101st session of the International Labour Conference. The dates have been revised, however to 15–20 July 2012, in view of changes to the dates of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also to be held in 2012.

Participants had before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/1, which provides an update on preparations for the third session. As this issue had been discussed in agenda item III., participants agreed to skip agenda item IX.

Other matters

The representative from Czech Republic made an announcement for the second Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting as a preparation for the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the development of a legally-binding instrument for the sound management of mercury, to be held from October 5 to 6 in Brno, Czech Republic.

The Regional Focal Point called for more representatives from Central and Eastern Europe to participate in the Steering Committee to be established on Perfluorocarbons, as up to five representatives from this region can participate. He also mentioned that he could request an extension of the deadline for submission of the candidates in order to organize another regional consultation in this regard. The representative of the secretariat of the Strategic Approach encouraged participants to participate and highlighted that the Steering Committee would be the main vehicle to discuss regional concerns related to Perfluorocarbons.

Adoption of the report

Due to time constraints, only the proceedings of agenda item IV.d.i. were presented to the participants during the meeting. Participants expressed a general agreement with these proceedings, with only minor amendments. It was agreed that the meeting report would be finalized by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in collaboration with the rapporteur and the co-chairs.

Closure of the meeting

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 June 2011.



**Third Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**
Beijing, 08-09 September 2011

Report of the Third Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Opening

64. The third Asia-Pacific regional meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 08 September 2011 by Ms. Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator, secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), at the Concordia Hotel, Beijing. She welcomed the participants and expressed her thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting the meeting.

65. The meeting heard opening statements from Mr. Li Xinmin, Director General, Zhang Lei, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, Mr. Manuranjan Hota SAICM regional focal point, Mr. Mukundan Pillay, World Health Organization regional office for Asia Pacific, Mr. Zhang Shigang, UNEP office in Beijing, and Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu, representative of the Asia-Pacific region on the bureau of the international Conference of Chemicals Management.

66. Mr. Li welcomed the participants on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China. He noted that China had always attached importance to environmental management of chemicals. In recent years, China had undertaken much work on legislation, policy, measures and supervision related to chemicals. The Ministry of Environmental Protection was drawing up its twelfth Five-Year Plan for control and prevention of the environmental risk of chemicals. China was planning and determining steps and a strategy for comprehensive environmental management of chemicals from the macroscopic strategic level. He noted the progress made by China in various aspects of sound management of chemicals and added that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management fully reflected the determination from different countries, which were committed to improve the adverse impact of chemicals on human beings and the environment. On this point, the UN and UNEP have played important roles. China is a developing country, with a huge amount of production, usage, import and export of chemicals. Like other developing countries in Asia-Pacific region, China faces huge difficulties and challenges on chemicals sound management and implementation SAICM.

67. Mr. Hota thanked the government of China for hosting the meeting and noted that the meeting assembled governmental, non-governmental and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to sound management of chemicals. The challenge facing the meeting was to discuss these issues from the regional context to contribute to deliberations at the global level. He recalled that the region included 56 countries and, as regional focal point, he was doing his utmost to be a catalyst and facilitate collaboration at the regional level.

68. On behalf of the WHO China Country Office and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Mr. Pillay thanked the Government of China for hosting the meeting. He said WHO continued

to be an active supporter of SAICM and through resolutions of the World Health Assembly urged its Member States to take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety and to participate fully in national, regional and international efforts to implement SAICM. He noted that the SAICM regionally group for Asia and the Pacific incorporated Member States from 4 WHO regions – South East Asia, Western Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean and some parts of the European region. He supported the efforts to strengthen regional coordination through the establishment of a regional coordination group and welcomed the possibility of connection WHO regional offices with SAICM sub-regional activities.

69. He noted the important outreach made by the WHO South-East Asia Region on the need for increased attention to chemical safety issues in the implementation of International Health Regulations. That Regional Office had hosted a workshop in Thailand at which chemical safety priorities in the sub-region were discussed. Representatives of ministries of health, as well as SAICM national focal points were invited to the workshop. He stressed the importance of strengthening the engagement of the health sector in SAICM implementation and welcomed the renewed attention to eliminate lead in paint. He called for increased commitment of Governments to that issue particularly given there was no safe level of exposure and looked forward to finalizing plans for an International Day of Action to Prevent Lead Poisoning.

70. Mr. Zhang welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Government of China and the ministries of foreign affairs and environment for facilitating the holding of the meeting. He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the SAICM national focal point and the Ministry of Environmental Protection was the national window for UNEP activities, which demonstrated cooperation at the national level in the field of environment.

71. He said with rapid economic growth, chemicals were developing into an international topic and the sound management of chemicals and pollution control was gaining importance globally, especially in developing countries. Increasing amounts of pollution accidents were being recorded in recent years and illegal trade in hazardous wastes often ended up in developing countries. Developing countries were exposed to harmful risks due to lack of capacity to deal with those issues hence sound management of chemicals was being placed on the national agenda of many countries in the region. He noted that control of harmful substances was one of the six priorities of UNEP the others being climate change, ecosystem management, environment governance, resources efficiency and disaster and conflicts. UNEP was addressing harmful substances and hazardous wastes as a cross-cutting issue and was also facilitating access to information on toxic chemicals, providing policy advice, technical guidance and capacity building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. He recalled that UNEP was hosting the secretariats of many multilateral environmental agreements and served as the trustee for the Trust Fund of the Quick Start Programme. He recognized the significant workload facing the meeting and said it was an important occasion for national experts to share experiences and ideas on chemicals management. He concluded by reaffirming UNEP's commitment to countries of the region in their efforts on sound management of chemicals in partnerships with all stakeholders.

72. Mr. Hayamizu also expressed his gratitude to the Government of China for hosting the meeting. He said there were a lot of chemical issues being addressed by SAICM that were not only traditional concerns but also new emerging ones such as nanotechnology. He said a lot of work was needed to reach the 2020 goal of safe use of chemicals and looked forward to contributing to the discussions and stressed his commitment to participation in the Bureau of the Conference. He noted that the Asia-Pacific region was a complex one given the number and variety of countries, which included small-island developing states, as well as the different levels of development. In that regard it was important to have regional discussions to reach a common understanding on regional priorities.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

73. The meeting elected Mr. Manuranjan Hota (India) regional focal point for the Asia-Pacific region and Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu (Japan) Asia-Pacific member of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to serve as co-chairs of the meeting. Ms. Imogen Ingram (IPEN) agreed to serve as rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

74. The agenda, as set out in SAICM/AP.3/1 was adopted with one amendment to discuss agenda item 4 before agenda item 3 to provide time for sub-regional groups to discuss nominations to the proposed Asia Pacific regional coordination group.

C. Organization of work

75. The meeting agreed to meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday 8 September and Friday 9 September.

D. Attendance

76. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, United States of America, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Yemen.

77. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following intergovernmental organizations: Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP Chemicals, UNEP China Office, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and World Health Organization.

78. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academia and research institutes: Association of International Chemical Manufacturers, Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development, Centre for International Environmental Law, Environment and Social Development Organizations, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Global Village of Beijing, Greener Beijing, Greenpeace China, International POPs Elimination Network, Island Sustainability Alliance CiS INC, Japan Chemical Industry Association and Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

III. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group

79. Introducing the agenda item the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/LAC.3/INF/1 on the update on preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. She noted that despite financial challenges, it had been important to hold a second round of meetings to follow-up further on progress of implementation of the resolutions from the second session of the Conference. She said the meetings would continue and maintain impetus to ensure good preparation for the Open-ended Working Group. She expressed her appreciation to UNITAR for assistance afforded to convene regional meetings, which, she said, was a strong signal of the collaboration between member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the SAICM secretariat. The Open-ended Working Group would consider the implementation, development and enhancement of the Strategic Approach, identify priority issues and might prepare draft decisions or resolution for possible adoption at the third session of the Conference. The meeting dates had to be changed due to scheduling conflicts with other major events as well as lack of resources, and would now be held from 15-18 November 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia, still providing sufficient time to prepare for the Conference in mid-2012. Currently only 50 per cent of the estimated budget for the meeting was available. She noted that there would be time reserved for regional consultations and a technical briefing on the day preceding the first day of the Working Group.

80. Informal consultations with the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group had been held in the margins of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2011 at which time a provisional agenda for its first meeting had been agreed. A formal meeting would take place on 9 and 10 June 2011 in Ljubljana, Slovenia at which time the provisional agenda would be agreed to and other issues related to the preparations of the Open-ended Working Group decided.

81. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management is currently scheduled from 15-20 July 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. Again, the dates had to be changed to accommodate changes in the scheduling of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20).

82. The meeting took note of the information provided by the secretariat.

IV. Regional coordinating mechanism

83. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/2 containing the terms of reference of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinating Group that had been agreed at the second meeting of the Asia-Pacific Region.

84. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that, at that same meeting, the region had been divided into sub-regions for some of which representatives had already been identified. Given the vastness of the region several participants emphasized the need for increased coordination and the benefit a Regional Coordinating Group would bring to a strong voice from the region. Since the second meeting the following representatives had been nominated for the sub-regions: South-East Asia – Philippines; West Asia – Jordan and Yemen, one representative from a public interest civil society group – Mr. Manny Calonzo (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives); and one representative from a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals – the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

85. In addition, according to the terms of reference, the Regional Coordinating Group included the Asia-Pacific regional focal point for SAICM – Mr. Hota (India), the Asia-Pacific regional representative on the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management – Mr. Hayamizu (Japan) and the two Asia-Pacific Government regional representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board – Iran and Thailand.

86. Following sub-regional discussions additional members were nominated for Pacific Islands – Kiribati and Palau, South Asia – Bhutan and South-east Asia – Indonesia as the representatives. No nominations had yet been received for the sub-region of Central Asia, or from representatives of industry and labour civil society groups, or a key regional organization. The North-East Asia sub-region was finalizing discussions and would submit their nomination by 26 September 2011.

87. The meeting took note of the new nominations and encouraged speedy nomination of the remaining members.

V. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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

(i) Inter-sessional meetings

88. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/2, update on regional meetings and SAICM/RM/AP.3/3, report of the second Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on SAICM, held in Beijing from 23 to 27 November 2009. She made a detailed presentation on the meetings that had taken place since the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including a first full round of regional meetings followed by a second round to prepare for the Open-ended Working Group. She also recalled meetings of the Bureau of the Conference, the Quick Start programme Executive Board and the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee.

89. The meeting took note of the information provided.

(ii) Reporting on implementation of strategic approach

90. Introducing the sub-item the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/3 on Preparation of secretariat reports on progress in the implementation of the SAICM. She recalled the process developed since the second session of the Conference at which a set of 20 indicators had been adopted against which stakeholders could measure progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach. The first step was a baseline report for the period 2006-2008 currently being finalized by the Secretariat drawing on information provided by stakeholders and that

would be submitted to the Open-ended Working Group for its consideration. An electronic reporting tool had also been developed to solicit specific information for each of the indicators. The information collected through the electronic reporting tool would be included in a first progress report on implementation of the Strategic Approach covering 2009-2011. The electronic tool itself would be considered by the Open-ended Working Group to determine if any adjustment was necessary. Additional information would be collected at the end of 2011 to complete the first progress report. An evaluation of progress in implementing SAICM would be presented for consideration to the third session of the Conference.

91. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that while less attention might have been given to reporting under the voluntary framework of SAICM it constituted the best platform to collect all information and analyze it to manage any process on sound management of chemicals. There was a call for increased efforts from all stakeholders in the region that had so far provided limited data. Some participants highlighted technical difficulties faced when using the electronic tool and the need for additional time to prepare reports. The representative of the secretariat welcomed feedback on how to improve the electronic reporting process and said that submissions could still be made. She also noted that while that process was one way of providing data, regional meetings were also instrumental in providing information. In addition, regional implementation plans were also useful to obtain an indication of regional concerns and priorities. It was also noted that reporting not only demonstrated achievements in Strategic Approach implementation but also identified gaps and needs for informed discussions on resource requirements. Public interest non-governmental organizations noted their intent to prepare a report on SAICM implementation for the third session of the Conference. In response to a request for clarification the representative of the secretariat said that other regions had prepared a coordinated response through a meeting of their regional coordinating mechanisms just prior to the regional meetings. It was suggested that the second and third reports of the Asia-Pacific regional meetings be submitted for to the Conference for its consideration.

(b) Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes

92. Introducing the sub-item the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/4 on synergies in the chemicals and waste clusters. He noted the omnibus decisions⁹ adopted by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions¹⁰ at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions held in Bali, Indonesia from 22 to 24 February 2010. Among other matters the secretariat of the three conventions were requested to develop a proposal for cross-cutting and joint activities for possible inclusion in the programmes of work of the three conventions for 2012-2013, taking into account when appropriate, inter alia, the Strategic Approach, and to prepare a report on other clearing house mechanisms and similar mechanisms in the are of chemicals and wastes, especially the SAICM clearing house mechanism.

93. Participants agreed that it would be useful to use the joint services for the clearing-house mechanism as stakeholders could then visit a single site for information on various aspects of sound management of chemicals. The representative of the secretariat added that initial discussions on that issue had already taken place and that an information officer would be recruited who would manage the information related to SAICM while the IT aspect could, perhaps, be managed by the joint services unit of the conventions secretariats.

(c) Financial and technical resources for implementation and the Quick Start Programme

94. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/5 on financial and technical resources for implementation. She recalled that resolution II/3 of the Conference had set out a number of measures to secure the long-term, sustainable financing of Strategic Approach implementation directed at all stakeholders. She also made a detailed presentation on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes management launched by the Executive Director of UNEP at which four tracks for financing options had been

⁹ BC.Ex-1/1 Omnibus decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention; RC.Ex-1/1 Omnibus decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; SC.Ex-1/1 Omnibus decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

¹⁰ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

developed that would better serve financing of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as SAICM and the negotiation process for an international legally binding instrument on mercury. The four tracks proposed for discussion were: mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes; public-private partnerships; a dedicated trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol; and a new focal area under the Global Environmental Facility.

95. The representative of the secretariat also drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/6 providing an update on the Quick Start Programme. She noted the status of approved Quick Start Programme projects including a list of approved projects in the Asia-Pacific region. She recalled that resolution II/3 had also called on the Quick Start Executive Board to evaluate the Programme and report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation. The review was currently being finalized and, in accordance with the aforementioned resolution, the Board would draw on the review to develop recommendations for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the Conference.

96. In the ensuing discussion several participants requested clarification on different aspects of the Quick Start Programme including the maximum funding that could be allocated given the Programme was reaching the end of its mandate, the identification of institutes or bodies that could assist in the execution of projects, the number of projects that could be submitted by a single country and the possibility to resubmit a project that had been refused on first application. The representative of the secretariat clarified that the total amount of funding allocated depended on the type of project submitted and that the link to the limited time left for the Programme would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Board. She noted the usefulness of using executing agencies to provide technical assistance and to facilitate the channelling of fund. She said that a project could be resubmitted only if it had not been rejected outright as not being in line with the priorities and objective of the Programme. The resubmitted project might have to be restructured according to recommendations provided. Participants also raised concern over the termination of the Quick Start Programme and suggested that the tenure of its funding might be extended so that the momentum gained be further broadened to other countries who have so far not benefitted from the Quick Start Programme.

97. The small donor base currently in place to finance the secretariat was noted and other non-traditional donors, including industry donors, were urged to come forward to provide added assistance. The gap in meeting the target for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund for 2011 also raised concern, as did the current gap in resources necessary to hold the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

(d) Emerging policy issues

(i) Progress on decisions on emerging policy issues and PFCs as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session

98. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/7 containing a report on progress with regard to emerging policy issues considered in detail by the Conference at its second session and prioritization of new emerging policy issues for consideration and SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/8 and containing the report of the International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011. She recalled that Resolution II/4 of the Conference provided for concerted action on emerging policy issues and resolution II/5 on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. The Conference had also agreed on a procedure for future nominations. The secretariat would prepare a progress report on all issues for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference at its third session.

99. She went on to summarize the current status of each of the issues concluding that at the African regional meeting in April 2011, resolutions were developed on lead in paint, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. Similarly, a resolution on lead in paint had been adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting. In addition hazardous substances and nanotechnology have been proposed as new activity areas in the Global Plan of Action at the African regional meeting and endorsed at the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting. Awareness raising workshops had been held in different regions on nanotechnology, including a two-day workshop prior to the current meeting organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research under the auspices of the

Government of Switzerland. A report was being prepared on the issue with special relevance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on which comments were still welcome. The Chemicals in Products project was led and facilitated by UNEP Chemicals who would report on the project implementation and recommendations for cooperative action at the forthcoming Open-ended Working Group. A side event on the activities, findings and draft recommendations from the project was organized in connection with the regional meeting and was well attended. Also, previous regional meetings had heard a summary presentation of the process followed to implement the project and / or had a side event to further explain and gain feedback to the project.

100. In the ensuing discussion, all participants acknowledged the importance of the four emerging policy issues and support for activities on those issues was stressed.

101. The representative of WHO describe the continuing work on lead in paint currently being undertaken in partnership with UNEP. A report on the issue in general and on the establishment and progress made by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint would be submitted to the Open-ended Working Group for its consideration. He said there was a greater commitment needed, in particular on the part of Governments to eliminate lead in paint as a priority. The Global Alliance had developed a business plan with a goal to eliminate the risks posed by lead in paint by 2018. Acknowledging that lead paint was still used in many regions, the Global Alliance was also requesting that, at its third session, the Conference endorse the establishment of an international day of action to prevent lead poisoning.

102. The meeting agreed that elimination of lead in paint was an important goal for the Asia-Pacific region and it was suggested that regional recommendations on the matter should be presented to the Open-ended Working Group.

103. The meeting acknowledged the OECD work on nanotechnology. In order for a wider benefit to be obtained from that work it was suggested that OECD be given a clear mandate, as an outreach activity under SAICM, to make available the results of their activities on nanotechnology globally such that non-member countries and the wider SAICM stakeholder groups could profit from knowledge obtained. Caution was urged in suggesting the development of a regulatory framework on nanotechnology. It was suggested that options for regulations should carefully be discussed when only limited knowledge has been obtained.

104. The meeting also agreed that hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products was an emerging policy issue of great relevance and importance in the Asia-Pacific region due to concerns over the use of harmful substances, worker health and safety, and end of life issues, particularly in small island developing states. The region noted that Cambodia, China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the International Workshop on this topic in Vienna.

105. Draft recommendations/resolutions had been submitted on the four emerging issues from several countries and non-governmental organizations for consideration at the meeting. However, a few participants were not yet ready to adopt recommendations on the issues at the current meeting citing lack of time and information for their consideration, and they suggested that recommendations/resolutions should be prepared and discussed after the outcome of the activities had been reported and discussed at the meeting.

106. The meeting agreed that participants consider the proposed draft recommendations/resolutions and make comments by 26 September and that, if a draft was agreed with a minor revision, the revised draft would be confirmed by the participants and the agreed recommendations/resolutions would be submitted to the Open-Ended Working Group as an information document. Other issues could be discussed at the regional meeting to be held immediately before the Open Ended Working Group and, if agreed, a conference room paper could be developed thereon.

107. The meeting addressed the emerging policy issues also nominated for inclusion in the global plan of action. The discussion on that issue is reflected under sub-agenda item 5 (e) below.

108. With regard to perfluorinated chemicals that were not currently covered under any multilateral environmental agreement, a web-based portal was being established and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development was soon to make publically available a survey on those chemicals.

Web-based seminars were also being conducted. A steering group had been created for which 5 representatives from the region should be nominated.

- The representative of UNEP informed the meeting that the UNEP/OECD Workshop on perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) took place on Monday 5 September. He highlighted the identified future activities and issues to address from that meeting, including:
 - a synthesis paper of PFC-related information resources should be prepared;
 - the possible extension of the OECD survey on PFCs to bring in reporting from the companies who have not yet participated;
 - the needs to evaluate the costs and benefits of eliminating PFCs;
 - the issue for countries not producing or applying PFCs being principally related to imported articles / products containing PFCs and the subsequent need for a means to identify such items; and
 - that it would be beneficial to provide examples of regulatory models which have been applied to PFCs (for example in OECD countries).

109. Specifically with reference to the representation of the region in the Global PFC Group and the activities of the Group it was noted that the group is still in formation. UNEP Chemicals will circulate terms of reference to SAICM focal points for nominations, which should be made to the SAICM regional focal point by end-September

(ii) New proposals for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session

110. Introducing the sub-item the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/9 containing proposals nominated for consideration by the Conference at its third session. He recalled that, at its second session, the Conference adopted as an annex to resolution II/4, the process that should be followed for considering emerging policy issues at future sessions. Those processes were to be facilitated by the secretariat and to provide for the participation of all stakeholders. The call for nominations was conducted over an 18-month period ending on 18 November 2010. Prior to the conference the Open-ended Working Group will consider the proposed nominations, which are International cooperation to build awareness and understanding and promote action on endocrine disrupting chemicals proposed by UNEP and Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants proposed by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment. Comments had been invited and received from stakeholders until May 2011.

111. In the ensuing discussion several participants expressed support for the inclusion of endocrine disrupting chemicals as an emerging policy issues of concern. It was noted that chemicals with endocrine disrupting properties were found in fish, toys, textiles and effluents from many industries in Southeast Asia. Although production and use was increasing in developing countries risk management capacity was limited.

112. The representative of Japan informed the meeting on the development in 2010 of an extended policy on further action on endocrine disruption chemicals. The policy would consider establishing methods for evaluating the risk caused by those chemicals and Japan would address issues of international cooperation within an international framework of OECD and bilateral relations. While supporting the nomination of endocrine disrupting chemicals as a new emerging policy issues she said it should not create an excessive burden to countries with limited resources or capacity to deal with such issues. She said there was less priority to address environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants.

113. The representative of WHO reported on the ongoing programme of chemical risk assessment and risk assessment methodology work relevant to endocrine disrupting chemicals. He said the proposal aimed to build on, but not duplicate the WHO activity. WHO and UNEP were also currently developing an update of the 2002 International Programme on Chemical Safety (WHO/UNEP) Global State of the Science of Endocrine Disruptors. The timeline for the update will ensure the document is available before the third session of the Conference. He said it would be essential that future international work on takes into account the conclusions and recommendations of the IPCS report, and provides a springboard for multi-sectoral action to address any issues identified.

114. Concerning environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants he said the proposal was not clear on whether it is intending to address drinking water and/or surface water. WHO has recently published (July 2011) an evidence-based review on the issue of pharmaceuticals in drinking water and developed a related fact sheet. Current evidence suggested that typical concentrations of pharmaceuticals found in drinking water were more than 1000-fold lower than the minimum therapeutic dose, indicating a significant margin of exposure in relation to human health. WHO was not reviewing potential environmental impacts of pharmaceuticals present in the environment.

115. The meeting endorsed the two new proposals for consideration at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group giving priority to the proposal on endocrine disrupting chemicals.

(e) Proposed additions to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Global Plan of Action

116. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/10 on proposed addition to the Global Plan of Action. He recalled that, at its second session, the Conference had agreed to consider adding nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials as a new work area and related activities to the Global Plan of Action. The Government of Switzerland had subsequently provided a justification document for the proposed actions taking into account consultation following the second session of the Conference. An additional proposal for including hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products was developed at the fourth African regional meeting in April 2011. Both proposals were reviewed, commented on and endorsed by the third regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean.

117. In the ensuing discussion participants supported the proposed additions to the Global Plan of Action. Some participants requested clarification of the relationship between adding the two issues to the Global Plan of Action and their current status as emerging policy issues. It was noted that at present there were already 33 work areas with 273 associated activities in the Global Plan of Action. There was concern that if the issues were added to the Global Plan of Action they might warrant less interest and generate fewer activities than currently as emerging policy issues. The Open-ended Working Group was urged to consider the difference between an issue within the Global Plan of Action and one that remained an emerging policy issue as well when an issue stopped being an emergency policy issue. Additionally it might consider how to address those work areas and associated activities currently in the Global Plan of Action. It was also noted that it was easier to obtain targeted resources for emerging policy issues than might be to obtain funding for activities for the Global Plan of Action.

118. The meeting expressed support for the addition of both proposals to the Global Plan of Action. The meeting also acknowledged the outcomes of the preceding workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials and noted that further discussions could take place on the issue at the Open-ended Working Group.

(f) Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation

119. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat made a detailed presentation on the issue, drawing attention to recent decisions at the international level. He also noted that the secretariat had engaged scientific organizations in support of Strategic Approach implementation, outreach and awareness-raising efforts with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and with organizations that have networks of national associations, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Union of Toxicology.

120. The meeting took note of the information provided.

VI. Health sector strategy

121. Introducing the item the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/11 on an update on the development of the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of SAICM. She noted that the health sector had been working for a long time on chemicals and needed to work with the SAICM umbrella to collaborate further. Representatives from Bahrain and Thailand had participated in the consultation on the development of a draft health sector strategy that had taken place in February 2010. Comments on the draft strategy had been received until November 2010. A revised strategy had been developed on

how better to involve the health sector in SAICM implementation. Finally it was noted that participants at the regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean had developed a resolution on the health sector strategy.

122. In the ensuing discussion strengthening the engagement of the health sector was recognized as being consistent with the multisectoral nature of SAICM. It was suggested that SAICM focal points could be assisted to more formally coordinate with the health sector and that there should be more involvements from the occupational health sector through engagement of health sector or trade union officials. That would be particularly relevant for linking emerging policy issues to the health sector such as for the lead in paint issue or exposure during manufacture of electronic products. Some participants stressed the need for increased coordination between different ministries at the national level and increased awareness raising on the links between health and environment at the local level.

123. The meeting took note of the information provided.

VII. Regional and sub-regional exchange of information

124. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the importance of regional meetings and coordinating mechanisms to enable stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to implementation of SAICM and to development of regional positions on key issues. She also noted that the Conference, at its second session, had encouraged regions and sub-regions, where appropriate, to identify common priorities, develop regional implementation plans and consider sub-regional approaches and projects, including projects that could be supported under the Quick Start Programme.

125. The representative of Japan informed the meeting of a continuing dialogue between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on sound management of chemicals. She said the Fifth Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management among the three countries was held in November 2007 organized by the Japan Ministry of Environment. During the workshop segment of the Dialogue participants had actively discussed and recognized common understanding that the three countries should take action on to facilitate the harmonious implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The three countries had previously agreed on a procedure to exchange information on chemicals management including lists of laws, regulations and related documents of each country that would be posted on respective countries' Government websites.

VIII. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

126. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/12 on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) that would be held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Rio+20 Conference would provide an opportunity to review Agenda 21 and progress made toward reaching the 2020 goal that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effect on human health and the environment. To date there had been little information on how chemicals would be incorporated into the Rio+20 programme. She said that no agreement had been reached at discussion at the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development but it was encouraging that SAICM had often been mentioned and its merits highlighted. She urged countries to ensure that Strategic Approach was taken on board especially through regional preparatory meetings. She said there should be recognition of the importance of sound management of chemicals a commitment to invest in the process.

127. In the ensuing discussion it was stressed that given the 2020 goal from the World Summit on Sustainable Development it was important that discussions at Rio+20 should also include SAICM. While recognizing the tight schedule for the preparation of the Rio+20 Conference it was suggested that the secretariat could prepare a format that would facilitate governments to lend their support to SAICM at those discussions. The representative of the secretariat noted that a document would be prepared for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group that included key messages linking SAICM, the 2020 goal and the Rio+20 Conference.

128. The meeting took note of the information provided.

IX. Activities and budget of the secretariat

129. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/6 on the report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund and gave a detailed account of the background and current status of the Quick Start Programme. She noted that in the past 11 rounds there had been 315 proposals, 271 of which had been reviewed by the Quick Start Programme Implementation Committee and 143 projects approved for a total of 30 million dollars. She recalled the maximum time for implementation was 24 months but noted that delays had occurred due to administrative and institutional hindrances. She recalled that currently the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme was underway that would look at the governance, institutional arrangements, effectiveness and impact of the programme. She recalled that the Trust Fund of the Quick Start Programme would be opened to receive contributions by donors until the third session of the Conference, currently scheduled for July 2012, and disbursement of funds be extended until December 2013. She noted that there was need to determine how to proceed with financing the implementation of SAICM thereafter. She said it was time to look for other sources of funding and not always rely on the same donor countries for contributions. The current round of Quick Start Programme applications would end on 26 August 2011 and early submission was encouraged to allow time for the applications to be screened and provide feedback to applicants if necessary.

130. Several participants provided information on their experience with applying to the Quick Start Programme and the projects being undertaken. In response to a request for clarification the representative of the secretariat provided details on the process for application to the Trust Fund. One representative requested information on how extensions for delays in implementing projects could be obtained. The representative of the secretariat also explained the limitations on the number of projects per country and the need to have non-governmental organizations involved to ensure multistakeholder balance as well as regional balance.

131. In response to a question on what would happen to the Programme after 2015, the representative of the secretariat responded that was still to be determined. She said the Trust Fund had been set up for 5 year but another means of resources was bilateral funding. Not many projects had yet been undertaken with non-Trust Fund resources. The continuation of the Programme depended on its mid-term evaluation. She also noted the complexity that was inherent in the multistakeholder nature of SAICM. Many countries had requested extensions to complete their projects due to delays at the administrative level, signing of agreements between executing agencies and applicants, amendments to government policy or other changes. The Quick Start Programme Implementation Committee being aware of the situation had often granted extensions to 36 months, in particular if there was no increase in budget.

132. She noted the importance of regular independent reporting on the progress of implementation of Quick Start Programme projects and especially of the final report once the project was completed. She also reiterated the importance of having endorsement for the project with letters of support from different sectors or ministries that would be involved in the project and to have a non-governmental organization focal point in place.

133. The meeting took note of the information provided.

134. Under the agenda item the representative of the secretariat also provided an update on the core mandate and funding needs including for the secretariat staffing, regional meetings, the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the Conference.

X. Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

135. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/AP.3/INF/13 and said the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had initially been planned from 28 May to 1 June 2012. The dates had been revised in view of the dates of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development also being held in June 2012. Currently the Conference was scheduled from 15 to 20 July 2012 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva. She said the secretariat had also made a tentative reservation for the Conference to be held from 17-21 September 2012 at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi in view of the lower cost of convening the meeting at that location.

136. In response to a request for clarification the representative of the secretariat said all efforts would be made to ensure participation of a two-member delegation for funded participants but that would depend on the resources available for travel and daily subsistence allowance which made up the largest portion of the Conference budget.

137. The meeting took note of the information provided.

XII. Other matters

138. One participant expressed disappointment at the level of participation at the meeting. Another participant suggested that a clearer mandate and preparation of the meeting would have resulted in a more active discussion. In addition it was noted that given the variety of countries in the region more discussion was probably needed to reach common understandings than in other regions. In that regard the urgency and importance of establishing a regional coordinating group, in particular to prepare for forthcoming meetings was stressed. Several participants voiced their appreciation for efforts of non-governmental organizations as partners to achieve the goals of SAICM. All participants who took the floor expressed their gratitude to the Government of China for hosting the meeting.

XIII. Adoption of the report

139. The meeting adopted a summary report based on which the secretariat, working with the rapporteur would finalize the report of the meeting.

XIV. Closure of the meeting

140. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 1.50 p.m. on Friday 9 September.

ⁱ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.