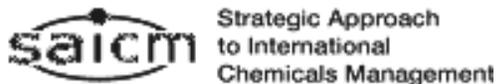




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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management
First meeting
Belgrade, 15–18 November 2011
Item 3 of the provisional agenda *
Setting priorities and meeting goals**

Summary of the functions of the Open-ended Working Group

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for ease of reference, excerpts from the report of the meeting of the second session of the Conference relevant to the functions of the Open-ended Working Group on different issues related to implementation of the Strategic Approach. For versions other than English, participants may wish to refer to document SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/10 available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

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

Annex

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT: SUMMARY OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP

A. Resolution II/6 : Establishment of an open-ended working group

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to ensure the comprehensive and effective preparation of the sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

1. *Establishes* an open-ended working group as a subsidiary body subject to confirmation at the third session of the Conference;

2. *Decides* that the Open-ended Working Group shall consider the implementation, development and enhancement of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, including by:

(a) Reviewing and prioritizing proposals for emerging policy issues in preparation of the next session of the Conference;

(b) Continuing discussion on work on emerging policy issues;

(c) Considering proposals for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action;

(d) Considering initiatives that are being undertaken and addressing progress and gaps in achieving the goal that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

(e) Considering the outcomes of regional meetings;

(f) Identifying priority issues for consideration for inclusion in the agendas of the sessions of the Conference;

(g) Undertaking such other activities as the Conference may direct;

3. *Also decides* that the Open-ended Working Group may prepare draft decisions or resolutions for possible adoption by the Conference;

4. *Further decides* that the Open-ended Working Group shall meet once, in the year prior to the sessions of the Conference, if possible back to back with other related meetings;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of full and effective participation by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Open-ended Working Group and urges those in a position to do so to make contributions to defray the travel costs of eligible participants;

6. *Decides* that the Bureau of the Conference shall serve as the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group.

B. Activities directed by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session.

i. Progress on emerging policy issues considered in detail by the Conference

- II/4 General - paragraph 3: [The Conference] *Also requests* the secretariat to report on the progress made with the work on emerging policy issues to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the Conference at its third session.
- II/4 B Lead in paint - paragraph 5: [The Conference] *Invites* the global partnership to report on progress to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.
- II/4 C Chemicals in products - paragraph 10: [The Conference] *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to report on the project and its outcomes to the Open-ended Working

Group at its first meeting and to the Conference at its third session for consideration and possible decision on cooperative actions.

- II/4 D Hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products - paragraph 1: [The Conference] *Invites* 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. The workshop would seek to identify and assess where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal,and would develop a series of options and recommendations for future work, through existing mechanisms to the extent possible, *which would be provided at the intersessional meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session for its consideration and possible cooperative actions*;
- II/4 E Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials - paragraph 9: [The Conference] *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to develop a report that focuses on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials including, in particular, issues of relevance to developing countries and economies in transition, and to make the report available to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session;

ii. Inclusion of (new) emerging policy issues on the provisional agenda of the Conference

Annex of resolution II/4, paragraph 11: The Open-ended Working Group will consider the regional inputs and other information to assess the proposals, taking into account the criteria outlined in paragraph 2 (b) above. It should propose a limited number of priority emerging policy issues to the Conference for its consideration. Those issues will be submitted for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the next session of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

iii. Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

- II/5 paragraph 5: [The Conference] *Invites* the stewardship programmes to submit a report on progress, consider comments, and invite further actions at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

iv. Inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach

- Annex II Procedure for the inclusion of new activities, paragraph 5 (f): The Open-ended Working Group will consider the priority lists developed pursuant to paragraph 5 (c) above and assess the proposals contained therein, taking into account the criteria in paragraph 5 (g) below. The proposal would be presented to the meeting by the stakeholder(s), who will provide justification of their proposal. The Open-ended Working Group will select a limited number of proposals to be forwarded to the Conference;
- Paragraph (g): The Open-ended Working Group will take into account, as appropriate, the following criteria:
 - (i) Relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy;
 - (ii) Extent to which the issue identified in the proposal has adverse effects on human health and the environment;
 - (iii) Magnitude of the problem identified;
 - (iv) Costs and benefits of the proposed activity;
 - (v) Potential to contribute to participants' implementation of the Strategic Approach or to building their capacity;
 - (vi) Potential impact on the Strategic Approach secretariat budget and Quick Start Programme resources;
 - (vii) Consistency with and complementarity to existing international policy or agreements;

v. Reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation

- Annex III on Modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation, paragraph d)
Preparation of reports: To invite the secretariat to consider comments by the Open-ended Working Group and make any necessary adjustments to the data collection tool;