



Dear Sir or Madam,

It is with great pleasure that the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization are jointly distributing the enclosed publication which presents the official texts of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). We would like to thank the Governments of Germany and Sweden for financing the publication and to acknowledge the special contributions made by Minister Mariano Arana Sanchez of Uruguay and Ambassador Viveka Bohn of Sweden in presiding over the adoption of SAICM in Dubai in February 2006.

SAICM is a landmark in international cooperation to protect human health and the environment. It provides a policy framework to guide efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that, by 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. Further information on SAICM can be found at www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

We take this opportunity to draw your attention to the fact that the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be held in Geneva in May 2009, immediately before the Sixty-second World Health Assembly. This timing is intended to underscore the important linkages between the environment and human health, which are particularly evident in the area of chemicals management.

The Conference will enable stakeholders in governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society from all relevant sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour, to evaluate the implementation of SAICM. This will involve reviewing progress against the 2020 target and updating the approach in the light of emerging issues. The Conference will reflect on the significant achievements made in the first three years of operation of SAICM, including the engagement of regional groups and the establishment of the Quick Start Programme to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing SAICM.

We are pleased to present the enclosed publication for your attention and welcome your engagement during 2008 in preparations for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

Yours faithfully,

Achim Steiner
Executive Director
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Director-General
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