

**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

Distr.: General
23 January 2009

English only

**Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

Nairobi, 16–20 February 2009

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: state of the environment

**Report on activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the
Sound Management of Chemicals and its participating organizations
to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals
Management**

Note by the Executive Director

The annex to the present note contains information on the endeavours of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The document is being submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of Governing Council decision 24/3 of 9 February 2005 and is an updated version of document UNEP/GCSS.X/INF/7, distributed at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in February 2008.

The annex is being circulated as received and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/GC.25/1.

Annex

Report on activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and its participating organizations to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

1. The IOMC was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The members consist of 7 organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, two observer organizations are also participating in the IOMC: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

2. The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organizations' international chemicals programmes. It promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment. The vision statement of IOMC is to be the preeminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development of ensuring that, by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

3. The IOMC has in the past carried out a number of successful joint activities that support the SAICM goal such as:

- Supporting Establishment and implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), in the area of health and environmental hazards (www.oecd.org/env/classify; www.unitar.org/cwg/specialised/ghs.htm);
- Addressing the problems of obsolete/unwanted pesticides in Africa (through the “Africa Stockpiles Programme), by building capacity in countries for prevention, management and disposal of obsolete pesticides (www.africastockpiles.org);
- Supporting countries to implement the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, through the Secretariat provided jointly by FAO and UNEP in Rome and Geneva (www.pic.int);
- Assessing existing chemicals, through sharing the burden of information gathering, testing, assessment of High Production Volume Chemicals among OECD countries and identifying the needs for further work on such chemicals (www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals);
- Developing guidance on, and promotion of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and Release Estimation Techniques (RETs) (www.oecd.org/env/prtr www.unitar.org/cwg/specialised/prtr.html); and
- Supporting countries to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Substances (POPs) and to develop their National Implementation Plan (NIPs) (www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips).

IOMC and SAICM development

4. IOMC was a co-convener, together with UNEP and the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemicals Safety (IFCS), of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai in 2006 that adopted SAICM. During three Preparatory Committee meetings, IOMC actively contributed to the development of the three core texts of SAICM: the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) and the Global Plan of Action (GPA) and IOMC submitted a number of information documents presenting the position of IOMC on a number of issues such as:

- Development of a strategy for capacity-building in the context of SAICM;
- Ways of monitoring progress in the implementation of SAICM, including proposed criteria for a SAICM oversight body;
- Information sources and exchange on capacity-building for chemicals;
- Performance of secretariat functions in support of implementation of SAICM; and
- Preparation of a Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Material of IOMC Participating Organizations Relevant to National Implementation of SAICM.

5. During the ICCM, the nine Executive Heads of agencies cooperating in the IOMC issued a Joint Statement about their participation in the implementation of the SAICM and affirmed IOMCs:

- Commitment to work together to strengthen the sound management of chemicals;
- Contribution to the achievement of SAICM within the mandates and in accordance with decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations;
- Commitment to promote coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals;
- Cooperation to ensure the most effective use of the organizations human, technical and financial resources;
- Exploiting the synergies between our organizations and other organizations;
- Commitment to strengthening the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate fully in SAICM;
- Undertaking together with other multilateral, regional and bilateral agencies, and within the resources at our disposal and support technical assistance and investment activities to assist countries in the establishment and implementation of appropriate programmes for the sound management of chemicals; and
- Support country efforts at national, regional and international levels as appropriate.

IOMC's joint support for implementation of SAICM

6. Ongoing activities on chemicals within the participating and observer organizations of the IOMC support the main goal of SAICM as specified in the OPS. IOMC plays a key role as executing agencies for the implementation of government-mandated priorities agreed for SAICM. The GPA lists nearly 220 activities that have as an Actor one or more IOMC organizations.

7. IOMC has specifically addressed the issue of coordination of participating organizations (POs) activities relating to SAICM implementation and has established mechanisms for sharing information. For example, at each bi-annual IOMC meeting, POs discuss and coordinate their new activities supporting SAICM implementation. In this respect, each PO has agreed to prepare (and regularly update) papers listing these SAICM-related activities. These papers are posted on each PO website and links are being established between the POs websites and the SAICM page of the IOMC website www.who.int/iomc/saicm/. POs have also nominated focal points for SAICM to facilitate contacts and exchanges about SAICM-related issues, in particular with the SAICM Secretariat.

8. IOMC will continue to update its Inventory of Activities. This Inventory was originally structured according to the objectives of Agenda 21, Chapter 19 of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. After the adoption of SAICM, the IOMC Inventory has been restructured to follow the 5 main areas of objectives in the OPS: Risk Reduction, Knowledge and Information, Governance, Capacity Building and Illegal International Traffic. The IOMC Inventory provides the title of each activity, the name of the IOMC Participating Organization responsible for funding, any partners

involved in the implementation, programme area, outputs of project, duration of activity, resources allocated, geographical coverage and the relevant contact point. The IOMC Inventory is available on www.who.int/iomc/events/en

9. Based on Resolution 4 adopted by the ICCM, Organizations of IOMC and UNDP have formed a Trust Fund Implementation Committee for projects financed by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund administered by UNEP. The Trust Fund Implementation Committee is responsible for appraisal and approval of projects submitted for funding under the Trust Fund. The committee has so far had 4 meetings and approved 40 projects. IOMC organizations are currently assisting countries in undertaking projects and are developing other ones that they propose to initiate under the SAICM Quick Start Programme.

10. During regional meetings for SAICM implementation, IOMC participating organizations are doing on-the-spot coordination and are sharing the responsibility for participating in various regional groups such as African Core Group for SAICM implementation in which WHO participates. IOMC also participates in the Canada-led Steering Committee that aims at developing of a SAICM reporting mechanism.

11. The IOMC has developed a number of SAICM-related documents such as an "IOMC source guide for SAICM implementation", listing materials available from IOMC organizations on chemicals management available on http://www.who.int/iomc/saicm/resource_guide.pdf and a Guidance for "Developing a Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation" available on www.unitar.org/cwg/publications/cw/inp/SAICM_Capacity_Assessment_APR2007edition_IOMC.pdf. The IOMC is also currently updating its SAICM Strategy for capacity building.

Specific support from IOMC participating organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

12. In November 2006, SAICM was endorsed by the 131st Session of the FAO Council. It agreed on the importance of SAICM in assisting countries to meet the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. FAO Council recognized that the successful implementation of SAICM depended on smooth interdisciplinary cooperation at national, regional and UN-level, and it stressed the need for the agricultural sector to be fully involved in the SAICM process.

13. The *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* (the Code of Conduct) was considered by the FAO Council as an important element of the SAICM process. In view of the broad range of activities identified through the Global Plan of Action, FAO's Governing Bodies provided guidance to the Organization to focus on risk reduction, including the progressive ban on highly hazardous pesticides, promoting good agricultural practices, ensuring environmentally sound disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, and capacity building in establishing national and regional laboratories.

14. In April 2007, at the 20th Session of the Committee on Agriculture – the advisory body of the FAO Agricultural Department - FAO published an information document, “New Initiative for Pesticide Risk Reduction” (available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/011/j9387e.pdf>). This international initiative was welcomed by the members of the Committee, and ever since FAO has given increased priority to work on the progressive banning of highly hazardous (highly toxic) pesticides as an important contribution to reduce risks associated with the use of pesticides.

15. FAO participated in SAICM Regional and Sub-regional meetings in Egypt (for Arabic/Near East countries), in Bangkok (for Asian-Pacific countries) and in the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting in Spain. It has been nominated as the IOMC contact point for the Asian-Pacific region should a Regional Core Group be established. A specific SAICM page on FAO's website was created to provide information on FAO's documentation and publications of direct relevance to SAICM and its implementation (<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Code/SAICM.htm>)

16. Addressing highly hazardous pesticides is currently the focus of FAO's work on risk reduction. Various mechanisms and instruments exist within the work and activities of the FAO Plant Protection Service to address highly hazardous pesticides, internationally, regionally and nationally:

- The Code of Conduct, with its focus on risk reduction, promotes the use of less toxic pesticide formulations (Article 5); it recommends the avoidance of pesticides whose handling and application require the use of personal protective equipment that is uncomfortable, expensive or not readily available, especially for small-scale users in tropical climates (Article 3); and it advises prohibition of the importation, sale and purchase of highly toxic and hazardous products (Article 7). At its First Session in October 2007, the Joint FAO/WHO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management defined the group of highly hazardous pesticides (<http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pesticid/Manage/HTP.htm>) and proposed that FAO and WHO jointly prepare a list of this group of pesticides.
- The Rotterdam Convention, with Secretariat jointly provided by FAO and UNEP, provides an early warning system for countries on the potential dangers of highly hazardous pesticides by sharing information on national bans or severe restrictions and information on human poisoning and environmental damage. Through the PIC procedure, countries are empowered to make their own informed decisions on the use and import of pesticides and prevent export of unwanted pesticides. The Convention assists countries to prevent problems associated with highly hazardous pesticides before they emerge (www.pic.int).
- The regional Africa Stockpile Programme (ASP) functions currently as the world-wide model for disposal of such highly hazardous pesticide stocks, and links disposal with preventive measures. FAO provides the technical leadership for this multi-stakeholder programme which is of an exemplary nature as it consists of donor agencies (World Bank and GEF), the private sector (CropLife International) and civil society (NGOs) as well as FAO.

- Through support for national IPM programmes and policies in developing countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, FAO has contributed to maintaining increases in agricultural production especially in crops that are often thought to be dependent on high pesticide usage, such as cotton, rice and vegetables, even after banning the use of highly hazardous pesticides.

17. International instruments and approaches, such as the Code of Conduct, the Rotterdam Convention, the Global IPM facility, ASP and SAICM, provide a good framework and a sound basis for partnerships with other organizations, including the pesticide industry and NGOs. The replacement of highly hazardous pesticides with less hazardous plant protection systems would be an essential part of the work of FAO. By these means, FAO would assist countries in reducing the risks of highly hazardous pesticides and provide guidance on other groups of chemicals, hence contributing significantly to SAICM implementation for the sound management of chemicals.

The International Labour Organization (ILO)

18. The ILO Governing Body endorsed the SAICM at its 297th Session (November 2006) and approved the follow-up activities proposed by the Office to implement SAICM objectives. This included active involvement by the ILO in the operations of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee, as well as supporting ILO-related activities in the SAICM's Global Plan of Action.

19. The ILO's main contribution to SAICM implementation focus on assisting member States to implement firstly, the main ILO chemicals-related Conventions, namely the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174). With these two Conventions in mind, regional workshops are planned for the Arab States this October (2007).

20. Secondly, implementation by member States of the Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) remains a priority, as well as an important SAICM objective. The ILO, in collaboration with UNITAR, will continue to work through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the GHS. A full list of activities may be found the GHS Sub-Committee website at <http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/ac10c4/UN-SCEGHS-13-inf11e.pdf>

21. Furthermore, from 10-13 December 2007, the ILO will be holding Meeting of Experts to Examine Instruments, Knowledge, Advocacy, Technical Cooperation and International Collaboration as Tools with a view to Developing a Policy Framework for Hazardous Substances. ILO action the field of chemicals will be discussed and roadmap will be adopted for the ILO's future work in the area of hazardous substances. The fulfilment of SAICM objectives will feature prominently in the discussions.

22. The Meeting of Experts reiterated the importance of the ILO's Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), as the basis for the sound management of hazardous substances at the workplace, as recognised at ICCM1. It supported the many international initiatives and different instruments dealing with these matters, but acknowledged that in spite of many efforts, the level of ratification of, and knowledge about, these instruments remained low. The Meeting therefore focused on a plan of action to increase awareness of the subjects and means to harmonize and simplify the existing instruments to the benefit of all stakeholders. In particular, SAICM was considered as a very helpful instrument to cope with these issues, and it could be an important element in a future plan of action.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

23. OECD's Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology endorsed a Statement of support for the SAICM objectives in February 2007

(www.oecd.org/env/ehs). In addition, at Resolution of the OECD Council on Implementation of SAICM was adopted by the Council on 28th March 2008, and welcomed by OECD Environment Ministers at their Meeting in April 2008. This Resolution acknowledges the role of OECD in the implementation of the SAICM objectives and calls for the Organisation to be more explicitly involved in supporting capacity building aspects of chemicals management, primarily by making the outputs of the OECD Chemicals Programme as accessible, relevant and useful as possible to non-members and other stakeholders, distributing them widely and free of charge. It also calls on OECD to assist its member countries in their efforts to implement SAICM and to continue to work toward this goal with its IOMC partners.

24. The recently endorsed 2009- 2012 programme of work for the Chemicals Programme will make the implementation of the SAICM objectives, as set out in the OPS, an integral part of its work, in particular through work on those elements of the GPS for which OECD is an actor. The structure of the work programme also reflects OECD's support of SAICM objectives.

25. Some specific examples of SAICM-related activities in OECD already available are the global portal on hazard data, the eChem Portal, the (Q)SAR application toolbox, the harmonized templates for study reporting, etc. All of the products of the Chemicals Programme, including the OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, are available for downloading free of charge from www.oecd.org/env/ehs.

United Nations Environment Programme

26. See document UNEP/GC.25/5 where UNEP activities to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management are described.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Endorsement of SAICM

27. UNIDO formally recognized SAICM at the 12th session of the General Conference by adopting Decision GC12/Dec. 17 – Item 15 on the 7th of December 2007 upon the recommendation of the Industrial Development Board Decision (IDB.33/Dec. 7) based on an information note by the Secretariat (IDB.33/20).

28. The General Conference document GC.12/INF 4, issued on 21 December 2007, states that:

(a) Took note of the information provided in document IDB.33/20;

(b) Also took note of Board decision IDB.33/Dec.7;

(c) Endorsed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;

(d) Supported the participation of UNIDO in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

29. The document of the decision and resolution of the General Conference can be found at the organization site: <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=o74286>

Activities to implement SAICM in UNIDO

30. UNIDO's efforts in the area of implementation of the sound management of chemicals are undertaken within the *Green Industries Initiative*, which targets any industry that has committed to reducing the various environmental impacts of its processes and products, and is actually doing so on a continuous basis.

31. The UNIDO Green Industries Initiative focuses on promoting greater efficiency in the use of resources by industries to take advantage of cost reductions, better image, less Technical Barriers to Trade, and which would have as indirect effects:

(a) the more efficient use of scarce, expensive natural resources, which would free up capital for more job-creating investments and would ameliorate balances of trade, and

(b) the creation of new enterprises (and so new jobs) in the environmental services sector to assist "main-line" industries to be more efficient and clean.

32. More specifically, UNIDO is implementing a number of programmes that promote clean technologies and/or the preventive approach: the National Cleaner Production Centres Programme, the Montreal Protocol Programme, the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) approach, Chemical Leasing, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) based on the implementation of a Triple-Bottom Line (TBL) approach, Environmental Management Systems (EMS), the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), sector-specific programmes for the reduction of process wastes and pollution from the leather and textile sectors as well as other sectors, and so on.

33. The *Cleaner Production Programme* is currently active in 37 developing and transition countries where Cleaner Production Centres were established. Its involvement in the field of SAICM implementation mainly addresses capacity building and information dissemination of the relevant Cleaner Production related stakeholders, implementation in industries (especially SMEs) and among end-users, as well as liaising with suppliers and advice in environmentally friendly technology transfer. Furthermore, the Cleaner Production Programme has been active in the provision of advice to facilitate management of life cycle by closed loops approaches and work with governmental institutions on policy development, changes and regulatory framework improvement. Further information on: www.unido.org/cp.

34. The strong involvement of the Cleaner Production Programme in the area of Chemicals Management has been reflected in the new strategy for the implementation of the Cleaner Production Programme at global level, jointly developed with UNEP. The Programme strategy focuses on four thematic priorities for its implementation, one of which is Cleaner Production and environmental sound management of hazardous substances and waste, including chemical leasing, e-waste, chemicals safety and risk assessment.

35. In cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of the Environment, UNIDO's worldwide Cleaner Production (CP) Programme has launched in March 2005 a project to promote Chemical Leasing business models in developing and transition countries. *Chemical Leasing* business models represent an innovative approach to respond to the global changes in international policies of the chemical sector. The key element is a shift in paradigm away from the focus on increasing sales volume of chemicals towards a more service-oriented and value-added approach. The producer no longer sells the chemical but the associated merit and know-how. This relates to conditions of use, recycling concepts and disposal. In addition, while in the traditional model the responsibility of the producer stops when the chemical is sold, in the current approach, the producer remains responsible throughout the use and treatment, disposal and recycling phases. Experience obtained in developing and transition countries shows that applying these new models contributes to reducing ineffective use and over-consumption of chemicals and helps companies to enhance their economic performance and efficiency.

36. UNIDO has been providing an active contribution in the *Global Mercury Partnership*, where the organization has been taking a leading role in the areas of artisanal mercury gold mining through the introduction of cleaner artisanal gold mining and extraction technologies while enhancing gold production and the artisanal mining sector, the implementation of training and awareness campaigns, assisting in national and international mercury and artisanal gold mining policy improvement, the introduction or continuation of health and environmental monitoring, and through the promotion of sustainability initiatives.

37. UNIDO's involvement in the implementation of the *Stockholm Convention* has been covering the implementation of three main interventions. Up to date, UNIDO has been assisting more than 40 countries in the preparation of their National Implementation Plans, meeting the requirements of the Convention. UNIDO is developing initiatives that promote capacity-building for Governments, sectoral institutions and wider stakeholders. An important element of UNIDO's work is to promote the take up of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) in industry through, for example, demonstration projects to test the local feasibility of innovative technologies and methodologies.

Activities under the SAICM Quick Start Programme

38. UNIDO has been strengthening its support to developing and transition countries in the formulation and implementation of projects submitted to the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the SAICM Quick Start Programme, as executing agency and in partnership with other executing agencies.

39. Up to date, four projects, targeting country specific priorities, have been approved for the organization's implementation. The majority of the projects have been benefiting from the role of facilitators and technical assistance of the Cleaner Production Centres.

40. The projects target the implementation of life cycle analysis for priority chemical product and substances in El Salvador, the establishment of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in the area of sound chemicals management in Peru, the formulation of an integrated approach to national chemicals management in Sudan, and the safe handling of mercury containing products (such as mercury lamps) in Uruguay. UNIDO is also providing a supporting role in two regional projects in the area of artisanal gold mining, respectively in Cambodia and Philippines and in Bolivia and Peru.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

41. UNITAR's Chemicals and Waste Management Programme supports capacity building in developing and transition countries in a wide range of SAICM-related areas to protect human health and the environment from toxic chemicals and wastes. This includes:

- National Chemical Management Profiles—providing guidance, training and technical support to assist countries in assessing their existing legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructures for sound chemicals management;
- National SAICM Pilot Projects/Integrated National Programmes for Chemicals and Waste Management—assisting countries to establish and strengthen a collaborative framework at the national level which can provide a foundation for effective and coordinated action to address both national chemicals and waste management priorities as well as the implementation of international chemicals and wastes-related agreements and initiatives; and
- Specialised training and capacity building addressing, for example, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), Risk Management Decision Making, and Stockholm Convention implementation.

42. UNITAR is the international executing agency for projects with 44 countries/entities under the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF) and continues to assist with QSPTF proposal development and implementation. Many of the projects comprise developing/updating of a National Profile, development of a National SAICM Capacity Assessment, and holding of a National SAICM Priority-Setting Workshop. Other activities, *inter alia*, include: development of National Chemicals Management Databases, national policies for SAICM implementation, PRTRs, and enabling activities for implementation of the GHS. In addition, UNITAR has participated at all SAICM regional meetings to date and is willing to examine further, additional support for future regional meetings.

43. UNITAR is executing five in-depth country pilot projects—Belarus, Mongolia, Pakistan, Panama, and Tanzania— over a 3-year period (2006-2009) related to SAICM implementation with financial assistance from the Government of Switzerland, as a contribution to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP). Progress made will be reported to ICCM-2.

44. To support engagement of civil society in SAICM implementation, UNITAR is supporting the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) to develop and disseminate SAICM guidance materials for NGOs. And as part of its QSPTF support, UNITAR is also serving as the international executing agency for a civil society project in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia.

45. To support national SAICM implementation and enabling activities, UNITAR is developing/ revising or already pilot testing a number of key guidance materials, including: Developing a Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation (available in English, French, Spanish, and Russian); Preparing a National Profile to Assess the National Infrastructure for Management of Chemicals; and Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management (which could also form the basis for the development of further guidance for SAICM implementation). Other guidance materials on relevant topics may also be developed. With the input of all other IOMC organizations, UNITAR developed the document on “National Implementation of SAICM: A Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Materials of IOMC Participating Organizations” (currently available in English, French, and Spanish).

46. UNITAR also executes a number of supporting services for capacity building, including the provision of ‘virtual libraries’ on CD-Rom on a variety of topics (National Profiles, GHS, PRTR) and the organization of global thematic workshops to facilitate an exchange of experience and to identify practical steps which countries can take to systematically address certain topics of national chemicals management.

47. The Thematic Workshop on Governance, Civil Society Participation and Strengthening Partnerships for Chemicals and Waste Management and SAICM Implementation was held from 10-21 June 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland, addressed issues related to SAICM, and also served as a major preparatory event for the National SAICM Pilot Projects (see above). Over 100 persons from a wide and diverse range of governments, NGOs, industry groups, IGOs, labour organizations, and academia participated in the workshop. Sponsors and partners for the event included the Government of

Switzerland, OPCW, and organizations collaborating in IOMC. For more information:
<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/tw/tw10.html>.

48. In April 2006, UNITAR's Board of Trustees officially endorsed SAICM. This will assist with ensuring UNITAR's continued involvement as a partner in the implementation phase of SAICM. For a copy of the endorsement as it appears in the record of the meeting, please see:
<http://www.unitar.org/cwm>.

World Health Organization

Endorsement of SAICM

49. The World Health Organization (WHO) coordinated the active participation of its global health partners in the development of SAICM encouraging Member States to take full account of chemical safety. This led to a series of WHO contributions to regional discussions and SAICM preparatory meetings including a set of health-sector priorities.

50. The completed SAICM was considered by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2006. The Resolution of the Assembly (WHA59.15) welcomed SAICM and urged Member States to: take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in national implementation of SAICM; to participate in national, regional and international efforts to implement SAICM; and to nominate a national Strategic Approach focal point from the health sector, where appropriate, in order to maintain contact with WHO. The Resolution included a request to the Director-General of WHO to facilitate implementation by the health sector of the Strategic Approach, focusing on human health-related elements.

Health-sector priorities

51. The detailed health sector priorities advocated by WHO during the SAICM negotiations and reflected in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and Global Plan of Action, can be summarized under the following headings:

- Actions to improve ability to access, interpret and apply scientific knowledge.
- Filling of gaps in scientific knowledge.
- Development of globally-harmonized methods for chemical risk assessment.
- Development of better methods to determine impacts of chemicals on health, to set priorities for action and to monitor progress of SAICM.
- Building capacities of countries to deal with poisonings and chemical incidents.
- Strategies directed specifically at the health of children and workers.
- Work to promote alternatives to highly-toxic and persistent chemicals.
- Strategies aimed at prevention of ill-health and disease caused by chemicals.

52. WHO provides regular reports to the SAICM secretariat on its planned and recent activities in each of these chemicals-related health-sector priority areas. These reports reflect the status of the work programmes coordinated by WHO Headquarters and Regional Offices and identify a range of opportunities for collaboration.

Provision of the SAICM Secretariat

53. In September 2007, WHO assumed its lead role in the SAICM secretariat in its respective area of expertise in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, and resolution I/1 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM).

Health sector engagement in SAICM

54. Following endorsement of SAICM, WHO has disseminated the WHA Resolution on SAICM to its Regional Offices for distribution to health-sector contacts in Member States, drawing attention to the need to ensure multisectoral participation, to encourage engagement in processes for implementing SAICM, to disseminate guidance and application materials for the SAICM Quick Start Programme and to help identify initial capacity-building activities that reflect identified health-sector priorities.

55. WHO is also working with the health sector through non-governmental organizations to promote health sector involvement in the implementation of SAICM including: those active in its global health-sector networks of poisons centres, emergency alert and response operations for incidents of public health concern, and risk assessors; non-governmental organizations which are in official relations

with WHO; and scientific bodies such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, (IUPAC) and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX).

56. WHO and its Regional Offices have contributed to SAICM regional and sub-regional meetings in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and to meetings of EU-JUSSCANNZ countries. WHO has worked with its regional counterparts in South East Asia and the Western Pacific in the development of the Asia-Pacific Health and Environment Ministers Forum and its Technical Working Group on chemicals, informing this initiative of developments in the implementation of SAICM. Similarly, WHO Headquarters worked jointly with UNEP and the WHO Regional Office for Africa in the convening of the first Inter-Ministerial Conference for Health and Environment in Africa, held in Libreville, Gabon, 26 -29 August 2008. The Conference adopted the Libreville Declaration which commits governments to take measures to stimulate the necessary policy, institutional and investment changes that should be effected to optimize synergies between health, environment and other relevant sectors. This will include the establishment of a new African network for surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those with environmental determinants.

57. WHO is working with the SAICM secretariat in preparing for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and in particular effect a public-health theme for the high-level segment of the Conference. This is planned to include a round table on public health, the environment and chemicals management.

58. WHO is the Executing Agency for a project supported by the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust entitled "Technical Support to Strengthening National Capacities for Sound Management of Priority Industrial Carcinogens in Indonesia and Thailand" and is supporting a project being executed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to strengthen the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention, the International Health Regulations (WHO, 2005) and other relevant multi-lateral environment agreements.

59. Additional SAICM QSP proposals by countries reflecting health-sector priorities are currently before the SAICM QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee, these include a number with WHO proposed to act as Executing Agency, including projects on the recycling and disposal of long-lasting insecticidal bednets in Madagascar, strengthening of national capacities for the public health management of chemical incidents and emergencies in Angola, technical support to strengthen national capacities for the sound management of priority industrial chemicals in Sri Lanka, and strengthening national capacity in the safe management of public health pesticides in Morocco.

60. WHO continues to work with countries and civil society partners in developing applications for SAICM QSP Trust Fund support and welcomes participation in projects in areas of work consistent with its work programmes and expertise.

Observer Organizations

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

61. UNDP promotes the sound management of chemicals as an important component of the global poverty reduction effort. In line with its role as the UN's development network, UNDP advocates the importance of addressing issues related to chemicals management and chemically linked pollution in developing countries by encouraging integration of rigorous chemicals management schemes into MDG-based national development policies and plans. UNDP also works with countries to identify necessary resources and sources of funding to improve their chemicals management regimes to achieve desired results.

62. UNDP has been supporting SAICM development process through participation and contributions to preparatory meetings as well as the ICCM. UNDP together with IOMC is a member of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Implementation Committee and the Executive Board.

63. Furthermore, with SAICM adoption, UNDP realigned its chemicals' programming to enhance its support to countries with SAICM implementation in order to adequately reflect SAICM priorities in its technical assistance strategy. Responding to priorities outlined in the OPS and activities set forth in the GPA, its SAICM implementation support programme consists in provision of assistance in the following areas:

64. Support countries efforts with mainstreaming SAICM implementation and SMC priorities into MDG-based national development planning processes. (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/mainstreamingsmc>)
- Pilot projects that aim to provide assistance and guidance to countries with their efforts to mainstream SAICM implementation in their national development plans. Projects are currently being implemented in partnership with UNEP: Cambodia, Ecuador, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Zambia. In addition, funding has been approved for implementing similar mainstreaming projects in Belarus and Belize. Further to these projects, funding has been requested for Honduras and Liberia for embarking on a chemicals mainstreaming exercise.
 - **Technical Guide for Mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) in MDG-based Policies and Plans.** The guide aims to help national governments and UN Country Teams to recognize and assess opportunities for mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals in Millennium Development Goal-based national development policies and plans, as well as in projects. (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/>)
 - UNDP- UNEP Partnership Initiative that seeks helping countries to improve their chemicals management while drawing on the experience and capacities of both agencies (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/initiatives/UNDPUNEPpartnershipinitiative>).
65. Support countries in their efforts to meet targets under other chemicals related MEAs
- **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/montrealprotocol.htm>)
UNDP works with public and private partners in developing countries to assist them in eliminating ozone depleting chemicals and complying with the targets of the Montreal Protocol. With cumulative approvals of US\$ 516 million, UNDP is one of the implementing agencies of both the Multilateral Fund and the GEF, and assists through the following means:
 - developing more effective national policies and programmes to meet compliance targets for eliminating ozone depleting substances (ODS),
 - Institutional strengthening projects; and development of country programmes,
 - Preparation of HCFC Phaseout Management Plans (HPMP) and associated HCFC elimination activities in the different sectors, as well as preparation of national and sector plans,
 - Provision of technical support and dissemination of information regarding ozone friendly alternatives through practical, hands-on training sessions and in-field demonstrations; and in validating new emerging technologies through pilot projects,
 - Provision of services, including financial and technical assistance to allow enterprises and governments to adopt alternative production processes and environment friendly technologies, aiming at protecting both ozone and climate,
 - Assistance in identifying cross-cutting initiatives building on cross-convention synergies
 - Assistance in identifying finance opportunities and finance partners to cover for non-eligible project costs.
 - **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, POPs** (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/pops.htm>)
UNDP, as one of the GEF Implementing Agencies, assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition to reduce and eliminate POPs, under the Stockholm Convention. UNDP manages over US \$50 million in POPs projects already approved, and another US\$50 million to be submitted, in more than 40 countries, that support activities such as:

- National Implementation Plan (NIP) programme development and dissemination of best practices;
- Strengthening capacity for NIP implementation; enhancing capacities to develop and enforce regulations; and assisting in project development and implementation to reduce and eliminate POPs.
- Technical and financial assistance for the sound management and final disposal of PCBs, pesticides and other controlled POPs; dioxins and furans emission control;
- Sharing lessons learnt and demonstrating innovative technologies and practices for POPs reduction, such as non-combustion technologies.
- SAICM related activities

66. Reduce and prevent chemical pollution of lakes, rivers, groundwater, coasts and oceans (<http://www.undp.org/gef/05/portfolio/iw.html>)

A sizeable portion (50%) of UNDP's large (~\$450 million) GEF International Waters portfolio has a strong focus on reducing chemical pollution of shared river basins, lakes and marine ecosystems. Projects address a wide range of chemical pollution threats, from nutrient pollution in the Danube/Black Sea basin to mercury pollution from artisanal gold mining to industrial pollution from small scale industries in the Dnipro River basin. Capacity building support is provided in areas such as problem analysis and priority setting; legal, policy and institutional reforms; demonstrations of innovative pollution reduction technologies and practices; and establishing monitoring and indicator systems (http://www.undp.org/gef/undpgef_focal_areas_of_action/sub_international_water.html). —

The World Bank

67. The World Bank's work focuses on achieving the MDGs, which aim for poverty elimination and sustainable development. Ensuring sound chemicals management is an important element of this agenda given the critical linkages between chemical production, use, and emissions and the major sectors of developing economies including agriculture, energy, and industry. The Bank's ongoing support to its developing country partners through project lending, analytical and advisory services, and global partnerships frequently includes chemical-based initiatives. To promote an overall understanding of the need for integrated chemicals management at the country level and to create the enabling environment for sustained results, it is vital that the development-chemicals link continues to be recognized in the work of the IOMC and the SAICM, and the rest of the international chemicals management community.

Project Activities Related to Chemicals Management

68. World Bank project work often coincides with the chemicals agenda in normal infrastructure, rural development, and agriculture lending. The Bank has instituted safeguard policies that ensure environmental and social impact assessments are done and appropriate measures are taken. Two important policies relate to pesticides and adherence to a country's international obligations under environmental treaties including the major chemicals-based conventions. There are also projects working directly to mainstream chemicals management into country assistance strategies, programs, and projects, e.g., mitigation of mercury exposure from artisanal gold mining in Ghana and Tanzania, and arsenic mitigation of the water supply in Bangladesh and India.

Analytical and Advisory Services: Building Capacity for Mainstreaming

69. The process of mainstreaming environmental and health issues into country poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs) or national development planning relies heavily on knowledge. A significant portion of the Bank's assistance to countries starts with analytical and advisory work to provide a foundation for defining strategic environmental and health priorities and informing policy dialogue and decisions on projects and programs. These also feed into the Bank's country assistance strategies, which are the basis for Bank development assistance. Examples of more broad-based chemicals-related analytical and advisory activities of the World Bank Group include publication of the *Toxics and Poverty* and *Phasing Out Lead in Gasoline* reports and of the *Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook*, and the *Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines* for industrial pollution management performance in projects.

Global Partnerships on Chemicals-Related Issues

70. The World Bank fosters important partnerships through its own Development Grant Facility which has provided funding for SAICM development, and through high-profile initiatives such as Roll Back Malaria in which chemicals management plays a role. The Bank has also acquired significant experience in chemicals-related projects and activities as an implementing agency under the GEF and the MLF for more than fifteen years. The nature of the World Bank's work puts it in a unique position to leverage funds, develop cross-cutting programs, and multiply the scope and effectiveness of investments for crucial but typically underfunded initiatives. It is therefore now concentrating on building upon synergies among chemicals-based multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to develop innovative projects that maximize overall environmental benefits through the mobilization of multiple sources of funds. An example is the Global Chiller Replacement Project that targets emission reductions of both ozone depleting substances and CO₂ using GEF, MLF, CDM, and private sector financing.

71. For more information and links to chemicals-related sites of the World Bank, see: www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment
