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Third meeting**

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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**International cooperation and coordination: other
international organizations and bodies**

Update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out an update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme, which serves as the secretariat for the Strategic Approach. The update is presented as received, without formal editing.

* UNEP/MC/COP.3/1.

Annex

Update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

1. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was initiated in 2006 with the overall objective “to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so 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.” Implementation of SAICM is overseen by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) – a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder forum. The fifth session of the Conference (ICCM5), will be hosted by the Government of Germany from 5-9 October 2020 in Bonn and will be presided over by the President of the International Conference, Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany).
2. SAICM provides a unique platform for sectors and stakeholders to work together voluntarily to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals and waste across the lifecycle. SAICM exists within and supports the broader context of global sound management of chemicals and waste that includes legally binding approaches such as the related chemicals multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the International Health Regulations (2005), and certain International Labour Organization Conventions, among others.
3. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the SAICM secretariat collaborate in a number of areas. Representative(s) from the SAICM secretariat regularly participate in Minamata Convention meetings including regional meetings and the Conference of the Party (COPs). The SAICM secretariat is planning to hold a side event during Minamata COP3 in Geneva on Thursday 28 November 2019.
4. The SAICM secretariat interacts with the Minamata Convention in other working meetings such as the Joint Task Force on Programmatic Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste. Efforts of the joint task force resulted in a number of tangible projects which have brought greater cohesion and visibility to the chemicals cluster such as the joint installation of the display “Making the Invisible, Visible: Detox my Home” at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention COPs.
5. Other relevant meetings in which the secretariats have interacted include stakeholder workshops on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In addition, the SAICM secretariat also participates in conjunction with the Minamata secretariat to review projects submitted under the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level and to contribute to the InforMEA initiative. Since many stakeholders and delegates are common to both secretariats, back-to-back meetings often take place on a regular basis to reduce administrative and travel costs.

I. Third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3)

6. The third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) was hosted by the Government of Uruguay and took place in Montevideo from 2-4 April 2019. The meeting covered a number of key areas to the Strategic Approach including: progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management; setting the scene for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; emerging policy issues and other issues of concern; activities and budget of the secretariat and preparations for ICCM5.
7. Information about the OEWG3 meeting, including the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group (SAICM/OEWG.3/9), is available, in the United Nations languages, at the following link: <http://www.saicm.org/About/OEWG/OEWG3/tabid/5984/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

II. The intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

8. At its fourth session held in 2015, ICCM4 through resolution IV/4 decided to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In resolution IV/4, the Conference noted the value of a voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to mobilize all actors, which can enable flexible and timely action to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste. The intersessional process is tasked with preparing recommendations for the consideration at ICCM5 in 2020.

9. The intersessional process is open for participation by all stakeholders. Stakeholders are invited to participate in the intersessional process meetings and also to engage in efforts to inform the process by correspondence and/or by electronic means.

10. The third meeting of the intersessional process (IP3) for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 took place from 1-4 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. This meeting made progress towards on the instrument for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Judith Torres (Uruguay) and David Morin (Canada) co-chaired the meeting that had just over 300 participants representing a range of sectors and stakeholders. IP3 was structured around four important thematic areas to support the work: targets, milestones and indicators; institutional arrangements; mechanisms to support implementation; and financial considerations.

11. As an outcome of IP3, the secretariat was requested to consolidate outputs of the process to date into a draft document for deliberation at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. In addition, the secretariat was requested to prepare proposals for the name of the future instrument for stakeholder consideration.

12. For targets, milestones and indicators, the secretariat was requested to work with key actors to collect existing data to inform development of targets, indicators and milestones. A technical working group will be established to support further work in this area as requested by the IP3. The group will work electronically and may meet face-to-face, subject to availability of resources.

13. With respect to institutional arrangements, stakeholders and sectors are requested to develop their contributions to achieve enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement for beyond 2020 and send to SAICM secretariat by 3 December 2019 (to saicm.chemicals@un.org). The secretariat was requested to summarize known obstacles and possible incentives to promote multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation for beyond 2020. Furthermore, Germany offered to host a special workshop prior to IP4 to discuss a possible enabling framework for beyond 2020.

14. With respect to financial considerations, the co-chairs of the thematic group prepared 'Capacity-Building Principles' based on the discussions in the thematic group (found in the Appendix I to this report). Stakeholders are asked to provide input on the 'Capacity-Building Principles' to support preparations for the fourth intersessional meeting. Input may be sent to the SAICM secretariat by 3 December 2019 (to saicm.chemicals@un.org).

15. Further information concerning the IP3 meeting is available at the following link: <http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/ThirdIntersessionalmeeting/tabid/8024/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

16. The fourth and final meeting of the intersessional process (IP4) for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 will be held in Bucharest, Romania from 23-27 March 2020.

III. Quick Start Programme

17. The Quick Start Programme (QSP) will officially close on 31 December 2019 as per the decision of the fourth session of the ICCM.

18. The QSP includes a voluntary multi-donor trust fund, administered by UNEP which supports the aims of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Since its establishment in 2006, the Quick Start Programme has mobilized over US\$47.6 million. This amount includes approximately US\$37.8 million in cash contributions to the Trust Fund and over US\$9.8 million in cash and/or in-kind contributions from project implementers and Executing Agencies. In

addition, US\$88.5 million in non-Trust Fund contributions were reported over the period 2006 to 2017.

19. Since its establishment, there have been 14 application rounds to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, with 184 approved projects covering 108 developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including 54 Least Developed Countries and/or Small Island Developing States. All projects funded by the QSP Trust Fund have finalized their activities and have contributed to the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management by building national and regional capacity on sound chemicals management and supporting the implementation of SAICM with a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.

20. While most of the QSP projects have had some relevance to the sound management of mercury through general capacity-building efforts, appendix II sets out a list of QSP projects that are directly relevant to the management of mercury or to the Minamata Convention.

IV. Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project

21. The Global Environment Facility has approved an 8.19 million USD project ‘Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)’. The aim of this global project is to accelerate progress and measure the adoption of national activities on emerging policy issues to achieve the SAICM 2020 goal and support planning for chemical management in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

22. The project will be implemented in over 40 countries over a 4-year period with the aim of presenting early project results at ICCM5 in 2020. The UNEP GEF unit is the implementing agency and SAICM secretariat is the executing agency. The project work focuses on three components: lead in paint, chemicals in products, and strategic planning and knowledge management. The project was approved for implementation by the GEF in August 2018 and the project inception meeting was held in January 2019.

23. A total of 65 countries have confirmed their interest in the project and nominated focal points for lead in paint in Ministries of Environment and/or Health. Four regional lead paint workshops took place between March to June 2019, marking the initiation of project activities in the regions. Participants were the nominated national focal points for environment and health, together with project executing partners, and industry and civil society. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were selected in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Jordan and China for industrial pilot tests on paint reformulation, using the technical guidelines developed by the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) in Serbia. Launching workshops were organized as part of the project which took place between March to October 2019. Since the inception of the project, Bangladesh and Israel have announced that they have successfully established Lead in Paint laws.

24. Since the projects inception, there has been significant progress in the identification of chemicals of concern in the three sectors including identification of key product sub-sectors. Additionally, the summer school on “Characterizing human toxicity and ecosystem toxicity with the scientific consensus model USEtox: Theory, practical application, and new research” was successfully held in Singapore from 3-7 June 2019. The ten individuals who participated have successfully passed the course.

25. The SAICM knowledge management strategy was provided to OEWG3 as an information document (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/28). SAICM stakeholders and project partners were given an opportunity to comment and provide input. The SAICM knowledge management website will be launched before the fourth meeting of the intersessional process (IP4) in March 2020. Anyone that would like to contribute to the SAICM Knowledge Management Strategy, through providing information and databases for sharing and dissemination, are invited to notify the SAICM secretariat.

26. A proposal for a medium size project was submitted to the GEF for review and CEO approval on 11 October 2018. This 2 million USD project is to be implemented in 11 countries over a 4-year period. The UNEP GEF unit is the proposed implementing agency and SAICM secretariat is the proposed executing agency with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization as key project partners.

Appendix I

Proposal from the Co-Chairs of the thematic group D on financial considerations

Capacity Building Principles¹

Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of the outcome of [beyond 2020] according to priorities decided by the [Governing Body].

Collaboration

Country driven process, including mutually beneficial partnerships.

Take a multistakeholder and multisectoral approach, including partnership and mechanisms for technical cooperation that incorporates all relevant disciplines.

North-South and South-South networking and sharing of experiences.

Collaborate with existing initiatives on chemicals and waste management, including multilateral environment agreements, United Nations bodies, private sector, civil society and academia, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication.

Knowledge and information

Recognition and sharing of knowledge and expertise within and among regions

Recognize the need to promote coordination of and access to information for the sound management of chemicals and waste in all relevant aspects.

Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional information and knowledge, as appropriate, to inform global decision making.

Participation

Full and effective participation of all stakeholders and balanced regional representation and participation.

Gender

Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work.

¹ The co-chairs of the financial considerations thematic group of IP3 prepared 'Capacity-Building Principles' based on the discussions in the thematic group. Stakeholders are asked to provide input on the 'Capacity-Building Principles' to support preparations for the fourth intersessional meeting.

Input may be sent to the SAICM secretariat by 3 December 2019 (to saicm.chemicals@un.org).

Appendix II

Round	Project Title	Country	Region	Executing Agency	Start Date	End Date	Funding
3	Integrated regional campaign on minimization of mercury domestic sources with actions of intervention in the community to protect children and women's health	Regional: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay	GRULAC	None	June 2008	May 2010	\$240,625
4	Protecting human health and the environment from mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Asia	Regional: Philippines and Cambodia	Asia-Pacific	UNEP	30-Sep-09	31-May-11	\$250,000
4	Sound Management for Mercury Products	Uruguay	GRULAC	UNIDO	1-Feb-10	31-Aug-12	\$249,801
9	Reducing mercury risks from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Mali	Mali	Africa	UNIDO	4-Jul-11	28-Feb-16	\$237,600
11	Reducing Mercury Risks from Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Côte d'Ivoire"	Côte-d'Ivoire	Africa	UNIDO	26-Oct-12	17-Sep-16	\$206,600
12	Sound management of mobile phones containing lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB (polybrominated byphenyls), PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers)	Uruguay	GRULAC	BCCC LAC	30-Apr-13	30-Apr-14	\$82,374
13	Chemical Risk Assessment Training and Updating the National Chemical Profile to include Mercury	Yemen	Asia-Pacific	UNEP	17-Jun-14	17-Jun-15	\$66,920