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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



**World Health
Organization**

Third Meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
New Delhi, 24 September 2014

Extract from Resolution III/2: Emerging Policy Issues: Lead in Paint

Note by the Secretariat

The present document is an extract of the Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management Third Meeting in relation to lead in paint.

**Extract from Report of the International Conference on Chemicals
Management on the work of its third session in relation to lead in paint**

III/2: Emerging policy issues

1.

A

Introduction

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to take account of current and ever-changing social needs in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the importance of having procedures that allow due attention to be given to issues that may not have been generally recognized or sufficiently addressed,

Committed to implementing the open, transparent procedures for dealing with emerging policy issues, which include effective dialogue with all Strategic Approach stakeholders,

Expressing appreciation for the cooperative actions undertaken by relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials,

Recalling its request that the secretariat report on the progress made on the work on emerging policy issues at its third session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports on progress made on the work on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;¹

2. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference at its fourth session on further progress made on the work on emerging policy issues;

B

Lead in paint

Noting that lead is a toxic metal whose widespread use has caused environmental contamination and extensive public health problems in many parts of the world, that it can have profound and permanent adverse health effects on children, that while its greatest impacts are on children, it also causes harm in adults, including workers, that there is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe, and that lead paints have been identified as a significant source of childhood lead exposure,

¹ SAICM/ICCM.3/13, SAICM/ICCM.3/14, SAICM/ICCM.3/15, SAICM/ICCM.3/16 and SAICM/ICCM.3/17.

Noting also that good and affordable substitutes for lead pigments and other lead compounds that are used in decorative paints have been widely available for decades,

Noting further that paints containing lead, including decorative paints used in homes and schools, are widely available for sale and use in many countries, especially in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recalling the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to protect children's health from exposure to lead as set out in paragraph 57 of the Summit's Plan of Implementation,²

Having reviewed the implementation of its resolution II/4 B and its endorsement in that resolution of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of the use of lead in paint,

Noting the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint as the global partnership referred to in resolution II/4 B,

Welcoming section I of decision 26/3, on lead and cadmium, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, among other things, to continue to promote and facilitate work in relation to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization and the report on its progress to date;³

2. *Also welcomes* the completion of the business plan for the Global Alliance, which includes specific goals, clear milestones and indicators of progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint;

3. *Recognizes* that national initiatives to eliminate lead paint serve also as examples of a practical enabling demonstration of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

4. *Welcomes* the support for the Global Alliance expressed by participants at Strategic Approach regional meetings in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific;

5. *Also welcomes* the support provided to the Global Alliance by the Global Environment Facility as part of its strategy on sound chemicals management;

6. *Encourages* all Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to contribute to the Global Alliance's work and to provide technical and financial assistance wherever possible, including in the following areas:

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.

³ See SAICM/ICCM.3/14.

(a) Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives, including filling information gaps on the presence or absence of lead paint on the consumer market of those countries where little or no data are now available and expanding information on lead exposure pathways for vulnerable populations (e.g., children under 6 years of age, paint users and workers in paint production facilities) associated with various paint categories;

(b) Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure, including building capacities to conduct blood lead testing and surveillance programmes, to assess residential and occupational risks and to implement public and professional education on the mitigation of lead poisoning;

(c) Promotion of international third-party certification of new paint products to help consumers to recognize paint and coatings without added lead, consistent with international obligations;

(d) Prevention programmes to reduce exposure, in particular in and around housing, childcare facilities, schools and other buildings where lead paint has been used in the past and in industrial facilities producing or using paint that contain added lead compounds;

(e) Promotion of national regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, to stop the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints;

(f) Encouraging companies to substitute lead compounds added to paint with safer alternatives;

7. *Expresses support* for the Global Alliance's proposal to establish an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, with an initial focus on the elimination of lead in paints, and encourages all Governments, industry and civil society organizations in all regions to organize related activities in cooperation with the Global Alliance;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, as the secretariat of the Global Alliance, to report on progress in the implementation of the business plan of the Global Alliance to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session;