Knowledge-Sharing Meeting on Stakeholder Implementation of the SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme
10 February 2017 – Brasilia, Brazil


Summary

The CiP Programme became operational following ICCM4 in October 2015. Since then four stakeholders have joined the Programme. Efforts continue at UN Environment and through the Chemicals in Products Steering Group to raise awareness of the Programme and build participation.

Participation in the CiP Programme

As of January 2017, four organizations have formally joined the CiP Programme. These are listed on the UN Environment web site for the Programme.1

Secretariat functions

Stakeholder outreach materials

UN Environment has developed a series of information and outreach materials. All are available on the CiP website. Significant materials and events for stakeholder outreach include:

- a 2-page introduction and promotional summary of the CiP Programme was developed (in 5 languages) and distributed during the May 2016 meeting of UN Environment’s governing body (the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, or UNEA2);
- a video aimed at informing the general public on the issue of chemicals in products, of the broad needs for information for everyday products and linking to the CiP Programme as a means for meaningful actions on the issue (target release early-February 2017);
- webinars and in-person meeting presentations on the CiP Programme to audiences representing various stakeholders in China, Germany, Canada, Belgium, Austria and Sweden.

Email awareness raising campaigns have also been coordinated through the network of contacts maintained by the SAICM Secretariat.

Tracking and bringing visibility to stakeholder initiatives

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UN Environment has continued to research stakeholder programs, initiatives and use of CiP information systems. Summaries of these research results will be used to reach out to the owners of these systems and initiatives and encourage them to join the CiP Programme.

Support to the Steering Group

Main items of support to the CiP Programme Steering Group since ICCM4 include:

- Assisting in the development of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Group, as called for in ICCM4 Resolution IV(2) on Chemicals in Products. A first TOR were agreed to in April 2016. An update to the TOR are an agenda item for the 11 February 2017 meeting of the Group in Brasilia.
- One teleconference for the Group was organized in this period, on 1 March 2016. The summary of the call is on the CiP Programme website.
- Organization of the Meeting of the Steering Group of the CiP Programme, 11 February 2017.
- Facilitation for changes in the Steering Group membership. The regional government representative from the Western Europe and others Group (WEOG) was handed over from Ms. Astrid Telasco of Canada, to Ms. Xin Gao of Canada in late-2016. The regional government representative seta for the Asia-Pacific region is currently vacant. Discussions to find a new member for the region are ongoing.

Projects supporting stakeholder implementation of the CiP Programme

Project implementation

China CiP textiles project – The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved in 2014 a project for “Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products”. China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection – Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (MEP-FECO) is the executing agency for this project. UN Environment has a supporting role in bringing international actors, experience and tools in CiP information exchange to contribute to the project. To date the national situation has been benchmarked and a mapping of available tools to national needs in the textiles sector has been carried out. Next steps are that best practices for carrying out CiP information exchange will be defined and demonstrated. The project is scheduled for completion end-2017.

Project proposal preparation

UN Environment has engaged with stakeholders in the textiles and building products sectors with the aim of assisting implementation of CiP information exchange in supply chains and among other sector stakeholders. Project proposals are in preparation.

Coordination with related initiatives

Within UN Environment a number of activities under the programmatic area of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) have been identified where linking in
chemicals in products information would provide a notable added value. Coordination has been ongoing since 2013 and targeted inputs to key publications and sharing of information, insights and contacts with the Consumer Information Programme, the Small and Medium Enterprise Partnerships for sound management of chemicals and waste, the Eco-Innovation Project and SWITCH-Asia project activities involving textile manufacturers in China. In the future, as information becomes available through the CiP Programme it will be integrated into and contribute to these SCP activities.

ICCA-UNEP workshop: Over one hundred stakeholders from governments, industry, civil society and international organizations, with representation from all geographic regions, gathered in Shanghai, China from 11-13 September 2016 for the ICCA-UN Environment Workshop “The Role of Chemistry in Achieving Sustainable Development. The workshop was organized through cooperation of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)”, hosted by the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation (CPCIF). A specific session on Chemicals in Products was held and featured case examples from the automotive, textiles, building products and chemicals sectors. The case examples presented specific initiatives and management actions taken to advance CiP information exchange, including the drivers that led to the initiatives and actions, progress made, results achieved, key factors for success and challenges encountered.