



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
10 November 2009

Original: English

Scoping Meeting for the Study of Stakeholder Needs for Information on Chemicals in Products
17 - 18 December 2009
Geneva, Switzerland

Background

1. In May, 2009, the second session of the International Conference of Chemicals Management (ICCM2) adopted resolution II/4 on emerging policy issues (see the ICCM2 meeting report on www.saicm.org) and in paragraph C of the Resolution agreed to implement a project on Chemicals in Products with the overall objective of promoting the implementation of paragraph 15 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

2. The Conference invited UNEP to lead and facilitate the project. The Conference agreed that the following tasks be undertaken:

- collect and review existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices;
- assess that information in relation to the needs of all relevant stakeholders and identify gaps;
- develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the SAICM with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms.

3. UNEP began work on the Chemicals in Products (CiP) project in mid-2009. Recognizing that the field of chemicals in products is vast and considering that limited resources would be available to address the multiple issues implicit to the field, the first objective of the CiP project (i.e. for the intersessional period leading up to ICCM3 in 2012) is to develop proposals for cooperative actions for consideration by the Conference based on a comprehensive overview of existing information systems in the field of CiP and the elements of these systems which, according to identified stakeholder needs, may potentially be used in or models for CiP information system(s). The work in the intersessional period can be viewed as taking place in three phases:

- i. Assessment phase: Stakeholder priorities are defined and existing CiP systems are identified and characterized. A Needs Survey and a Scoping Meeting (detailed in this information note) will take place in this phase.
- ii. Analytical phase: with initial priorities established, project activities will concentrate on the in-depth research, in particular in stakeholders' priority areas, of existing potentially-applicable information systems and existing CiP information resources, needs and gaps. The results of this research would be brought to the Workshop called for in Resolution II/4, tentatively scheduled for June 2010. Among its conclusions, the Workshop would recommend which CiP project information system(s) should be more-fully defined as well as the relevant stakeholders for the system(s).
- iii. Drafting phase: Concepts and outlines for possible CiP information system design(s) will be developed based on the outcome of the Workshop and experiences from existing systems.

K0763420 081107

These concepts will include main features, main stakeholders and the key information they would require, as well as options for data exchange, modes of transfer and information format / access, and will be submitted for consideration by the ICCM Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) scheduled to take place approximately one year prior to ICCM3. Based on comments from the OEWG these draft concepts will be further refined and final proposal(s) for cooperative actions developed for consideration by ICCM3.

4. UNEP formed a Steering Group for the Chemicals in Products (CiP) project in accordance with the guidance of Resolution II/4 and in coordination with this Steering Group finalized and distributed a "Survey on priorities for the investigation phase of the Project on Chemicals in Products" to all SAICM focal points in October, 2009. The purpose of the survey was to collect thoughts and views from SAICM stakeholders on product groups and information categories that should be considered to be prioritized in the assessment of stakeholder needs for information on chemicals in products. The survey further collects information about existing information systems or information systems under development. Survey results will be a major input to the Scoping Meeting which also takes place in the assessment phase.

5. The "Scoping Meeting for the Study of Stakeholder Needs for Information on Chemicals in Products" will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 17-18 December, 2009. Further details are given below.

I. Objectives

6. The goal of the Scoping Meeting is to provide focus to the work to take place in the analytical phase of the CiP project. This requires the meeting to consider relevant inputs generated specifically for the meeting as well as the broader body of knowledge on chemicals information and information systems and their design and function.

II. Structure

7. The Meeting will have before it the report containing the results and the analysis of the Needs Survey, the report on existing information systems identified through the survey; reports on other systems which are of potential relevance to the CiP project, a report on the subject prepared by the council of Nordic Ministers "Toxic Substances in Articles: the need for information" and other relevant documents.

8. The first half-day of the meeting will be focused on the review of the reports prepared for the Meeting, including analysis of the survey results regarding priority areas and stakeholder information needs, one or more presentations on information systems and discussions.

9. Approximately two half-days are scheduled for working group sessions. These groups will discuss:

- a. Priority product sectors and information categories, including considerations for use by different stakeholder groups throughout the life cycle;
- b. Information required for the assessment of existing information systems versus stakeholder needs;
- c. Based on meeting documents and participants' knowledge, advantages / disadvantages of existing systems or information transfer practices relative to CiP project needs;
- d. Discussion about further work required for the development of proposals for consideration by ICCM3

10. The last half-day will be used for reports back from the working groups, discussions, and drafting of conclusions and recommendations.

III. Expected outcomes

11. The meeting will raise awareness about the development of the project; it will provide recommendations as to priority areas and focus for the work to take place in the analytical phase of the CiP project and it will provide suggestions and ideas for further work during the later phases of the project. The proceedings of the meeting will be published. They will summarize the main discussions, the working groups' results and the meeting's conclusions and recommendations.

IV. Meeting details

A. Date and venue

12. The meeting, which will be held in English only, will take place on 17-18 December 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. The CiP project webpage: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cip/default.htm> contains links to related events, background documents and resources of use in preparation for the Scoping Meeting.

13. The meeting will immediately follow the "Meeting of Environment and Development Partners - Global trends in chemicals management and the role for integrating the sound management of chemicals into development policies and plans: Assessing status and building consensus on next steps in a global work programme" on 14-16 December, 2009, held at the same venue.

B. Participation

14. The meeting will have a limited number participation with representatives from the different SAICM regions and from other constituencies participating in the SAICM bureau. Interested stakeholders have the opportunity to identify their interest to the appropriate member of the Steering Group (coordinates available on the meeting website) through 16 November, 2009. All SAICM focal points have been sent notification of the meeting nomination procedure.

C. Meeting support

15. The Government of Sweden has provided financial support for the workshop.
