Survey on priorities for the investigation phase
of the Project on Chemicals in Products
October 2009

Introduction:

In May, 2009, the second session of the International Conference of Chemicals Management (ICCM2) adopted a resolution agreeing to implement a project on Chemicals in Products (see attached resolution text) 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. 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.

This survey is designed 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 also collects information about existing information systems or information systems under development. The survey outcome will be used to help focus the analytical part of the project. It is NOT meant to limit the focus of the project or any future cooperative action on information system(s). It is anticipated that any limitations in scope will be decided at a much later stage, probably after ICCM3.

Your contact information
Please provide contact details for the person(s) who contributed to the response to this survey (add additional boxes as needed):

Name: Organization: Address: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Organization website:

Name: Organization: Address: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Organization website:

```
Name:
Organization:
Address:
Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:
Organization website:
```

```
Name:
Organization:
Address:
Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:
Organization website:
```

Please indicate which government agencies / departments have lead responsibility for the issue of chemicals contained in products:

Type of Product	**Responsible Ministry**

Before continuing to the substantive questions we ask you to reflect on what we mean by an information system on chemicals in products. Considering that the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 15 seeks to ensure that knowledge and information on chemicals and chemicals management addresses chemicals from a life-cycle perspective, such an information system could be either one or several that contribute to the understanding of chemicals contained in a product and how to manage potential risks that these chemicals may present to human health and/or the environment. Examples of information systems may include or build on the following system types:

- o Product labels
- o Databases, either publicly available or of limited access (i.e. when information is confidential or proprietary)
- o Safety data sheets (SDS)
- o Regulatory systems requiring information disclosure

Specific examples are referenced in Annex II to this Survey

Section 1: Product-based information systems

In this section, please indicate up to four product groups that are a priority for your country / stakeholder group vis-à-vis chemicals in products information needs and rank these according to priority with 1= lowest priority and 4= highest priority.

	Priority			
Product or sector (Select a maximum of 4)	1 (low)	2	3	4 (high)
Children products including toys				
Clothing & apparel (including shoes, leather & textiles)				
Computers, cellular phones and other electronic goods				
Electrical goods and household appliances				
Batteries				
Construction materials				
Furniture and bedding				
Food containers and food packaging				
Motorized vehicles (personal automobiles, buses and trains, airplanes, boats, etc.)				
Paper and printed materials				
Non-food packaging				
Other(s): (Please specify below)				

Please give an explanation here why the selected products groups are of priority for your country or stakeholder groups:
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………

Section 2: Type of information needed

Which information do you propose should be included in a future chemicals in products information system?

Information Categories	Specify what type of information is needed (several are possible per category)	Who would need this information? (several are possible per information type)	Explain the stakeholder's need / use of the information (e.g. for hazard information or to enable informed decision making)
Manufacturing related information (e.g. manufacturers name; date, location)			
Chemicals related information (e.g. chemical identity of ingredient(s); quantity; hazards identified for the chemical(s))			
Supply chain information (e.g. number of suppliers, suppliers' names, locations)			
Use & handling related information (e.g. application and health and environment protection instructions and warnings)			
End-of-product-life related information (e.g. recycling and disposal, safe waste handling information)			
Other(s): (please specify below)			

Section 3: Current chemicals in products information system involvement and activities

This section seeks to collect information on *existing* information systems on chemicals in products and looks for insights and lessons learned – the why, who, what and how for these existing systems – that will provide valuable experiences to the current project.

Please provide the details below for each information system separately (copy / paste the text fields below as needed).

Name of information system: ………………………………………………………………………..
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Contact Information:
- Name:
- Organization:
- Phone number:
- Email:

Background information (Contact's involvement in the information system): …………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Please summarize briefly:

a) Why the system was formed and if the system is achieving its goals
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

b) Status of the system (e.g. under formation, in pilot stage, fully functional, etc.)
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

c) What information is provided
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

d) The major stakeholders involved
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

e) Please note any data gaps / needs identified
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

f) How the system functions and requirements regarding information transfer, including how information is verified
……………………………………………………………………………………………………….
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

g) Highlight any elements of the system which might be used as a model for the current work. This could include communication strategies, stakeholder networks, etc.
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

h) Where to find further information (Website; Principal background document links or references):
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Section 4: Other useful references and contacts

……
……
……

UNEP Chemicals thanks you for responding to this survey.

<center>

C

Chemicals in products

</center>

The Conference,

Recalling the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach and its provisions on knowledge and information, which state, among other things, the objective of ensuring that information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user-friendly, adequate and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders,

1. *Agrees,* with a view to taking appropriate cooperative actions, to consider further the need to improve the availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle, recognizing the need for further action to fulfil the overall objective of the Strategic Approach that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

2. *Decides* to implement a project 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 with reference to relevant portions of the Global Plan of Action;

3. *Agrees* that the project will:

(a)   Collect and review existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices;

(b)   Assess that information in relation to the needs of all relevant stakeholders and identify gaps;

(c)   Develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the Strategic Approach with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms;

4. *Recommends* that proposals for cooperative actions should take into account the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and avoid any duplication of efforts under that system;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of its programme of work, to lead and facilitate the project in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, for instance through use of the Strategic Approach clearing-house mechanism and to constitute a steering group to advise it on the development and implementation of the project;

6. *Requests* each member of the Bureau of the Conference, following consultation within the member's region, to nominate one expert each from the respective region to the steering group, and the four representatives of non-governmental participants and one representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals participating in discussions of the Bureau in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 15 of the rules of procedure to nominate one expert each and decides that the steering group should be established no later than 15 July 2009 and should operate to the extent possible using electronic means;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare relevant background documents and to facilitate a workshop to implement the objectives indicated in paragraphs 3 (b) and (c);

8. *Encourages* interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support to the project, including by developing and using relevant information and guidelines and compiling case examples, approaches and tools;

9. *Requests* all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including from the private sector, to provide expertise and financial and in-kind resources on a voluntary basis to support the project;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to report on the project and its outcomes to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting andand to the Conference at its third session for consideration and possible decision on cooperative actions

Annex II: Specific information system examples

In the background report for the February, 2009 Informal Workshop on Stakeholders' Information Needs on Chemicals in Articles/Products (*Toxic Substances in Articles: The Need for Information, see full report at http://www.norden.org/da/publikationer/publikationer/2008-596/*) part II of the report (p 47) contains descriptions of government systems (mandatory reporting systems) and a variety of voluntary systems such as those cited below.

Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC) (USA, government, multi-state system)
http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc/notification/index.cfm

China RoHS
http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/policyrelease/domesticpolicy/200605/20060502132549.html

California Proposition 65 (USA, government, single state system)
http://www.oehha.org/prop65.html

BASTA (Swedish, non-profit, University/Industry Trade Group)
http://www.bastaonline.se/english/bastaonline/aboutbasta

GoodGuide (USA, for-profit company)
http://www.goodguide.com/

Healthy Toys (USA non-profit)
http://www.healthystuff.org/departments/toys/product.using.php

Skin Deep - a safety guide to cosmetics and personal care products Environmental Working Group (USA non-profit)
http://www.cosmeticsdatabase.com/

For information about the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) please go to:

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html