



Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - Emerging Policy Issues

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Informal Workshop on Stakeholders Needs on Chemicals in
Articles/Products

Geneva. 9-12 February 2009

Objectives

- Provide brief background to SAICM & the key achievements of the first 3 years
- Describe preparations for second session of the ICCM (Geneva, 11-15 May 2009)
- Provide a status report on the work & expectations for consideration of emerging policy issues at ICCM2

What is SAICM?

- SAICM is an international non-binding policy framework to support efforts to achieve the **Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (WSSD) Goal**
- Described by SAICM "Core texts" which include **Dubai Declaration**, the **Overarching Policy Strategy** and the **Global Plan of Action**
- SAICM governing body – the **International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM)**



SAICM was established in 2006



- Established following three sessions of a multi-stakeholder & multisectoral Preparatory Committee **2003-2005**
- The **Dubai Declaration** on International Chemicals Management provides the **political commitment to SAICM & its implementation**
- Adopted by Ministers, heads of delegation & representatives of civil society & the private sector

"The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty & disease, the improvement of human health and the environment & the elevation & maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development"

Where are we at the end of the first 3 years?

- Establishment of SAICM secretariat
- Establishment of focal points in over 160 Governments; 60 NGOs, 12 IGO
- Establishment of Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund to support initial capacity-building activities in developing countries
- Implementation of first 5 rounds of SAICM QSP – total value of approved projects > US \$14 Million. 73 developing countries to benefit incl. 34 least developed countries
- Completion of extensive cycle of regional consultations
- Formal recognition by governing bodies of seven IGO
- Implementation activities and planning at national and regional levels

ICCM2 will be held in Geneva from 11 – 15 May 2009



- ICCM 2 will be the first opportunity for stakeholders to **review progress with initial implementation** – take stock & necessary actions
- Back-to-back with 62nd session of the World Health Assembly – health dimension highlighted
- Approximately 700 delegates expected
- Planning includes full programme of side-events & two high-level round tables (public health & Financial arrangements)
- ICCM2 will be the first opportunity to carry out some of the Conference's functions e.g., **emerging policy issues**

Functions of ICCM are found in Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

- Paragraph 24 (j) describes the function “to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”.
- Also relevant are following OPS paragraphs
 - paragraphs 14 (g) “to ensure that existing, new and emerging issues of global concern are sufficiently addressed by appropriate means
 - Paragraph 15(g) which calls for an acceleration of the pace of scientific research on identifying and assessing the effects of chemicals on human beings and the environment, including emerging issues.

Preparatory work on emerging policy issues began in June 2008

- A simple questionnaire was developed for stakeholders to nominate emerging policy issues for ICCM2.
- Questionnaire sought following information:
 - Description of the issue
 - Summary of the actions taken so far
 - Nature of the proposed actions requested from ICCM2
- Submissions were invited by end of August 2008.

14 June 2008

<p>Questionnaire for Governments and organizations on emerging chemicals management issues for possible consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session</p>	<p>Please return by 18 August 2008 to:</p> <p>SAICM Secretariat 11-11 Avenue des Nations 1215 CH-1202 Geneva, Geneva Telephone: 0041 22 797 8411 Fax: +41 22 797 8410 E-mail: saicm@chem.unep.ch</p>
<p>Issuer: SAICM/UNEP</p>	<p>Submitter: Government or organization address, contact name</p>
<p>State the problem (Briefly describe the emerging issue and why it is a priority for cooperative action. Use any key studies or activities that are relevant in the region, attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</p>	
<p>Action so far (Describe any action taken so far, including, for example, guidance issued, preventive actions undertaken, laws or regulations at the national level, or current consideration of the international level by bodies such as the Stockholm Convention Review Group, Pollution Review Committee or the Stockholm Convention Chemical Article Committee, and other inter-governmental working groups, attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</p>	
<p>Proposed cooperative action (Describe the proposed cooperative actions, or options, for each action, which SAICM is requested to consider, attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</p>	

Emerging policy issues were proposed from 21 stakeholders

- The African region – from its second regional meeting on SAICM, held on 16-17 July 2008
- 10 Governments: Bahrain, Belarus, Burkina Faso, France (EU Presidency), Japan, Macedonia, Peru, Samoa, Ukraine & the US
- IFCS
- IOMC
- UNEP and WHO
- 6 non-governmental organizations & groups: BIAC, CENN, EcoTox, OEHRU, Toxics Link & Zambian Consumers Association

Overview of nominations

- 36 emerging policy issues were submitted for further consideration
 - **Issues** include chemicals with specific characteristics, e.g. PBT, PFOS or life-cycle-related risks e.g. heavy metals in waste; risk management needs in specific locations, or specific sectors
 - **Reasons for cooperative action** – magnitude & importance of problem, risks to vulnerable groups, lack of cooperation on shared problems, need for better implementation of international policies & legal agreements, need to accelerate risk assessment
 - **Actions proposed depend on issue described** incl. national measures, need for guidance, development of scientific criteria and testing strategies, regional cooperation development of voluntary actions and initiation of cooperative international work

A definition emerged Rome informal discussions

“An issue involving the production, distribution, and use of chemicals, which has not yet been recognized or sufficiently addressed but may have significant adverse effects on human beings and/or the environment”

Annotated list of submissions on emerging policy issues

- Annotated list of submitted emerging policy issues prepared following the request made during the informal discussions
 - Available on the website, as a reference tool
 - Summarizes available background information on each issue
 - Identifies other relevant work
 - Cluster or groups issues – 21 sets of related topics
- Used by stakeholders in selecting emerging policy issues for additional preparatory work ahead of Conference

Four emerging policy issues identified for further preparatory work



- **Nanotechnology & manufactured nanomaterials (IOMC, IFCS & Japan)**
 - Facilitators: Georg Karlaganis, Switzerland & Jim Willis, US
- **Chemicals in products/articles (EU, Japan, IFCS (Toys))**
 - Facilitator: Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Sweden
- **Electronic Waste (African region & Peru)**
 - Facilitator: Oladele Osibanjo
- **Lead in paint (Toxics Link, US (Hg & Cd))**
 - Facilitators: IFCS, Executive Secretary, Judy Stober & Maria Doa, US

* Note: Remaining submitted issues not addressed by ICCM2 could be considered in the prioritization process in next intersessional period

Facilitators to lead completion of additional preparatory work



- An **information paper** setting out
 - the issue, consistency with definition
 - background, proponents & work followed in preparing the paper
 - how the issue meets each of the selection criteria
 - any other relevant information e.g. workshop reports

An information paper on each emerging policy issue will be made available to the Conference.
- A **shorter 1-2 page document** setting out possible cooperative actions
 - For ICCM2 consideration

The secretariat will compile the set of proposed actions on each emerging policy issue into a single document.

The information paper should explicitly address six selection criteria



- **The magnitude of the problem/issue**
 - Summarize available information incl. impact on health &/or environment taking into account vulnerable subpopulations & and information gaps
- **The relevance of the issue**
 - How the issue is relevant to countries/regions & stakeholders.
- **The extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature**
 - Any sectoral issues to note also to life-cycle of chemical e.g. downstream use, waste management

.....which are expected to be at the heart of the future process



- **The level of knowledge about the issue**
 - Focus on general level of understanding – not proponents
 - Refer to any existing information sources
- **The extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies**
 - Are other bodies actively addressing the issue?
- **The feasibility of the action(s) proposed**
 - Identify the cooperative actions originally proposed & any subsequently identified together with rationale
 - How the actions contribute to SAICM implementation
 - Any alternative options
 - Range of views that exist among those consulted

ICCM2 will be invited to establish a future procedure for emerging policy issues

Based on preparatory work & experience secretariat will propose that ICCM2 considers the following 4 step future procedure:

- Periodic call for nominations
 - Open call, published on SAICM website, every 18 mths 9-12 months ahead of Conference?
- Submission of initial information by proponents
 - Why issue is emerging policy issue, how it meets selection criteria, rationale for proposed actions, full range of actions to be considered
- Screening of nominations by secretariat
 - Screening against selection criteria, gathering of background information, clustering of issues
- Consultation & advice from stakeholders
 - Selection of issues for further elaboration, engage full range of , consultation, bureau, regional meetings & means for developing further considerations e.g. working groups, secretariat &/or consultants, subsidiary body

Conclusions

- Based on submissions and consultations with stakeholders four emerging policy issues are being prepared for detailed consideration at ICCM2 in May 2009
- ICCM2 will also be requested to establish a longer-term procedure to meet its functions on emerging policy issues
- This present workshop will be a key part of the preparatory work for considering "Chemicals in Products" at ICCM2
- In addition to the INF document being prepared by Sweden, there will be a document setting out proposed cooperative actions
- A technical briefing on Sunday 10 May will set the scene for ICCM2 considerations & introduce the supporting documents. Side events during the week will also take place to provide further discussion of selected aspects

SAICM contact information

Please visit the SAICM web site at:
www.saicm.org

or contact:

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Thank you

**We wish the workshop every
success in helping to prepare this
emerging policy issue**

