



## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде      برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

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### **The Workshop of the Chemicals in Products Project 16-18 March, 2011 : Geneva, Switzerland**

#### **Background**

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. The project has the overall goal of promoting the implementation of paragraph 15 (b) of the Overall Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) concerning the availability of information on chemicals throughout their life-cycle including, where appropriate, chemicals in products (CiP). ICCM2 recognized that further action are needed to fulfill the SAICM goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. With the view to take appropriate cooperative action, the Conference agreed to consider further needs to improve information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle.

The Conference invited UNEP to lead and facilitate the project and to constitute a Steering Group (SG) to advise on the project development and implementation. The Conference further agreed that the following tasks be undertaken:

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

UNEP will report on the project implementation and its outcomes to the SAICM Open-Ended Working Group (in mid 2011) and to ICCM3 (in mid 2012).

This Background note will focus on the 16-18 March, 2011 Workshop of the Chemicals in Products Project. Further background on the Workshop (including hotel information and venue location) and on the CiP project and its activities to date can be found on:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cip/default.htm>

## **CiP Project activities overview**

During the first phase the CiP project undertook a general study of existing information systems related to CiP and of stakeholders' needs and gaps. During this phase activities also aimed at determining the scope of further studies (i.e. which product sectors to concentrate on) SAICM stakeholders were surveyed to determine which products should be prioritized for more in-depth analysis. The results were considered at a Scoping Meeting in December, 2009 that identified six priority products:

- Children's products including toys
- Computers, cellular phones and other electronic goods
- Clothing and apparel (including shoes, leather and textiles)
- Construction materials
- Cosmetics and personal care
- Food containers and food packaging

Available resources allowed the project to carry out in-depth case studies in the sectors of electronics, textiles, building products and toys. These case studies had several key objectives:

- to provide reviews of the state-of-the-art for CiP information exchange in the sectors;
- to identify the specific needs for CiP information of the different stakeholders groups,
- to map out the information flows in the sector and perform a gaps analysis and;
- to identify obstacles in providing / accessing information.

As a part of these case studies a small Sector-expert Consultation for the Chemicals in Products Project was held on December 2010 to exchange findings and conclusions between the individual institutes carrying out the studies and experts in the relevant product sectors. The conclusions of this meeting, together with the case study summaries, will form the basis for a Synthesis Report to be prepared for the March Workshop.

### **The goals of the Workshop of the Chemicals in Products Project are:**

- to report on the CiP Project to a wider audience of SAICM stakeholders;
- raise the awareness and understanding of the progress and findings of the project carried out so far;
- to discuss identified gaps and issues and possible options for addressing them and finally;
- to recommend topics and points to be covered in the draft recommendations to be presented to the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of SAICM to be held late August 2011. Based on the OEWG discussions the recommendations for cooperative actions will then be finalized for consideration by ICCM3 to be held in 2012.

The Workshop will review the outcome of the previous phases of the project, especially the global project report and the reports of the in-depth case studies and the Sector-expert Consultation. Based on these outcomes and identified issues and obstacles, the workshop will discuss options for addressing these and what possible cooperative actions to promote the exchange of CiP information could entail. It will consider objectives, possible scope and focus for the next phase of the project (the CiP issue is vast so it can

be expected that there will have to be initial limitations in terms of sectors to cover and scope of activities). The ultimate aim is that the Workshop, based on these discussions, will identify important elements to address in the recommendations to ICCM3. It may also recommend further tasks to be undertaken in order to better prepare for the decisions by the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) and ICCM3. Workshop output and conclusions will hence form a major statement on which to build the draft recommendations for cooperative actions on CiP.