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**African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach
to International Chemicals Management**

Cairo, 11–14 September 2006

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Preparation for the second session of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management: reporting to the International Conference
on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM**

Modalities for reporting on SAICM implementation

Note by the secretariat

1. Reporting on SAICM implementation will be a key tool in assessing progress towards the achievement of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation's goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 and the individual objectives set out in the SAICM texts. As noted below, it is envisaged in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy that the function of reviewing SAICM will be carried out by the International Conference on Chemicals Management and by intersessional regional meetings. Reporting to the Conference by all stakeholders will be facilitated by the SAICM secretariat.
2. The Overarching Policy Strategy, in paragraph 24, provides that the Conference will undertake periodic reviews of SAICM. In doing so, it will receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in SAICM implementation; evaluate the implementation of SAICM with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary; and evaluate the performance of the financing of SAICM. Paragraph 26 of the Overarching Policy Strategy assigns to regional meetings a role in reviewing progress in SAICM implementation. The functions of the SAICM secretariat, which are set down in paragraph 28 of the Strategy, include reporting to the Conference on implementation of SAICM by all participants.
3. In order to assist the development of appropriate reporting modalities, the Government of Canada has prepared a draft proposal for a project to develop guidance for the secretariat in consultation with stakeholders. It is intended that the guidance address the preparation of an initial report on the current state of chemicals management, indicators for subsequent progress reports and arrangements for gathering information from stakeholders, which would be considered by the Conference at its second session. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the draft proposal prepared by the Government of Canada for the consideration of participants in the African regional meeting on SAICM. The annex has not been formally edited.

* SAICM/RM/Afr.1/1.

Annex

Modalities for reporting on SAICM implementation

Clarifying an Approach for Monitoring Progress to Implement SAICM and a Commensurate Reporting Format for Meetings of the ICCM: draft proposal by Canada

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this project is to begin a process for clarifying:

1. An approach for measuring progress to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM; the Strategic Approach) emphasizing user-friendly, yet informative and comprehensive, indicators;
2. A mechanism and associated process for reporting on that progress by all SAICM stakeholders and the SAICM Secretariat to the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM); and
3. Methods that can be used to compile and analyze the SAICM indicators, including finding ways to aggregate country data in a meaningful way, overcoming problems of comparability and, even more importantly, providing a meaningful analysis of the aggregate figures that represents the local situations of countries and other stakeholders such as industry.

The products of this project will inform deliberations and decision-making at the second meeting of the ICCM (ICCM-2) scheduled for 2009. It is anticipated that the ICCM will adopt criteria and indicators to measure progress for implementing SAICM, and the reporting process and format that the Conference wishes to carry forward towards 2020.

2.0 Rationale

Given the enormous efforts by all relevant stakeholders to develop SAICM, it will be critical to measure how well the international community is doing to achieve the overall objective of the Strategic Approach – *to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.*

The Governments of Canada strongly support the need to provide guidance to the SAICM Secretariat regarding how to facilitate reporting by all relevant stakeholders on progress for implementation of the Strategic Approach consistent with the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS), Section VII (Implementation and Taking Stock of Progress), Paragraphs 24, 26 and 28 (see Appendix 1 for relevant excerpts from these paragraphs).

It is likely, though not yet formally decided, that the SAICM Secretariat's first report to the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) at its second meeting (ICCM-2) scheduled for 2009 will provide a "baseline snapshot" of current conditions relative to the strategic objectives of SAICM; such as a brief initial progress report focussing on easily described advances such as projects being undertaken under the QSP auspices. The baseline report will be used as one basis to assess progress for SAICM implementation in subsequent years. Outstanding questions, however, are:

- (a) What indicators should be used to establish this baseline snapshot for ICCM 2?
- (b) What indicators should be carried forward to measure subsequent progress under SAICM for future meetings of the ICCM heading towards 2020?

- (c) How will the reporting function work under SAICM with respect to gathering information on the indicators adopted by the ICCM and other information that stakeholders might wish to provide within SAICM's voluntary framework, consistent with OPS Paragraphs VII-24, 26 and 28?

3.0 Approach

3.1 Indicators

The indicators to be developed should enable a consistent and comparative assessment of progress to implement SAICM over the period from 1996 to 2020, when it is expected that the overall objective and supporting goals of SAICM will be met. The six elements that make up the SAICM OPS should be reflected in the indicators, including: i) Measures to support risk reduction, ii) Strengthening knowledge and information, iii) Governance: strengthening of institutions, law and policy, iv) Enhancing capacity building, v) Addressing illegal international traffic, and vi) Improved general practices.

The following list represents examples of what should, at a minimum, be considered for inclusion in indicators to assess SAICM implementation:

- National and/or regional action plans developed to implement the Strategic Approach;
- Legislative or administrative measures taken or in place to enable implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- Strengthened national institutions and infrastructure for the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach (e.g. establishment of national registers and databases to provide public access to information relating to chemical safety);
- Actions to improve the sharing of information and knowledge about chemicals, their properties and their safe production, use and end of lifecycle treatment;
- General practices for the treatment of chemical wastes, such as improved initiatives for waste separation and treatment by waste category; and
- Cooperation in promoting technical assistance, and the nature and amount of technical assistance, either directly within the SAICM Quick Start Programme or other indirect multilateral and bilateral arrangements.

The indicators will become the basis for questions that will be used in a ICCM-adopted reporting and analysis process. For this reason, five main criteria should guide the selection of indicators. The indicators should:

- Provide relevant and robust measures of progress towards prominent SAICM goals set out in the six elements of the SAICM OPS;
- Be clear and straightforward to interpret and provide a basis for international comparison;
- Be broadly consistent with other related global lists of indicators and avoid imposing an unnecessary burden on country teams, Governments and other SAICM partners;
- Be based to the greatest extent possible on international standards, recommendations and best practices including the industry Responsible Care initiative which is recognized in SAICM; and
- Be quantitative as far as possible and be consistent to enable measurement over time.

3.2 Reporting Mechanism and Process

If momentum for the implementation of SAICM is to be maintained, it will be important for the ICCM to adopt a clear reporting mechanism and process based upon a questionnaire. The ICCM is a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives of governments meet together with inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with the aim of integrating and consolidating national and international efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals. However, despite the fact that the Strategic Approach is a voluntary mechanism, meetings of the ICCM

will be the principal opportunity for all stakeholders to come together to discuss SAICM in sessions of the ICCM to be held every three years. In light of this, the Strategic Approach will gain in effectiveness if all stakeholders prepared regular reports on their implementation of the Strategic Approach in a format based on standard and comparative indicators.

The adoption of a common reporting mechanism and process will further the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach for the following reasons:

- Stakeholders will submit reports at regular intervals, and each of them would be able, over time, to assess to what degree it has fulfilled key goals under the elements of the SAICM OPS, identify areas where improvement is needed, and if so, bring about the necessary changes;
- It would make it easier for other Stakeholders, and for the ICCM to undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach, as called upon under paragraph 24 of the OPS, to assess the extent to which Stakeholders, either individually or generally, are making a positive contribution towards the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- The reports by Stakeholders as well as those eventually prepared by the regional groups for the ICCM could determine over time whether the Strategic Approach is effective or whether some aspects of the Strategic Approach need to be reviewed; and
- A reporting system contributes to raising public awareness as to the objectives of the Strategic Approach and the means taken to implement its various voluntary objectives.

The usefulness of a reporting system in contributing to implementation explains why the vast majority of environmental conventions have a provision dealing with this issue; albeit recognizing that SAICM is not an environmental convention. However, its objectives once implemented will contribute either directly or indirectly to implement a number of provisions of existing environmental conventions pertaining to the chemicals and wastes cluster.

The Recommendation for ICCM-2 to endorse indicators and a reporting mechanism and process based upon a questionnaire should make clear the necessity and benefit of timely completion and submission of the questionnaire. As such, the reporting mechanism and process developed under this project should indicate that:

- The questionnaire is to be completed every three (3) years, and/or at least six (6) months prior to the ICCM or as otherwise directed by the ICCM.
- The questionnaire is to be submitted, through the Secretariat, to the ICCM, as directed by the regional focal points (bureau);
- The Secretariat is to generate a compilation report based on information contained in the completed questionnaires, including noting which stakeholders have not submitted questionnaires, that shall be available for the ICCM and, as directed, to the regional focal points (bureau); and
- The Secretariat, with direction from the ICCM and the regional focal points (bureau) as appropriate, undertake periodic reviews and adjustments to the questionnaire so that it meets the needs of the ICCM for the purposes of Paragraphs 24 and 26 of the OPS.

4.0 Project Implementation Approach

4.1 Consultant Support

An Expert International Consultant with close familiarity with SAICM and related international chemicals and waste management agreements and decisions will be hired to propose options for:

- (a) Indicators to be used to establish a baseline report for ICCM 2, and for subsequent monitoring of and reporting on SAICM implementation towards 2020;
- (b) A reporting mechanism and process under SAICM, including a draft questionnaire based on the proposed indicators;

- (c) Methods that can be used to compile and analyze the SAICM reports, including options for aggregating country data in a meaningful way, overcoming problems of comparability, and providing a meaningful analysis of the aggregate figures that represents the local situations of countries and other stakeholders such as industry.

4.2 Consultant Oversight, Technical Comment and Peer Review

The Consultant's work will be supervised by the SAICM Secretariat under the direction of an International Project Steering Committee, with whom the consultant will work in an iterative fashion at key stages in the development of project deliverables. A detailed work plan in this regard will be developed by the Consultant and approved by the SAICM Secretariat upon awarding of the contract to complete this work.

The Project Steering Committee will be comprised of two representatives from each regional group, to be nominated by regional group focal points, two representatives of the QSP Executive Board, to be nominated by the Board (different from the regional representatives), two representatives of the QSP Implementation Committee, to be nominated by the Committee, two industry representatives, two NGO representatives not from industry, and one representative from each of the country financial sponsors of this project. Meetings of the Project Steering Committee will be held via conference call. Comments on the draft products of the consultant will be commented on in conference calls or via email.

5.0 Deliverables

The consultant will be responsible for the following final deliverables under this project:

- A detailed project workplan to be approved by the SAICM Secretariat in consultation with the International Project Steering Committee;
- A report on possible indicators suitable for use in regional group consultations;
- A draft annotated outline for the baseline report to ICCM 2 building on proposed indicators;
- A report on a reporting mechanism and process that could be used to monitor implementation of SAICM going forward to 2020, including an annex containing a proposed reporting questionnaire;
- A report that provides options for methods regarding how to compile and analyze the SAICM reports, including options for aggregating country data in a meaningful way, overcoming problems of comparability, and providing a meaningful analysis of the aggregate figures that represents the local situations of countries and other stakeholders such as industry.

In addition, the Consultant, as far as project resources permit, will be expected to attend regional group meetings under the SAICM process to brief and consult with the regional groups regarding the deliverables of this project. The Consultant might also be requested to attend one or more other meetings depending upon available project resources including, for example, a meeting of the QSP Implementation Committee.

6.0 Budget

Between \$100,000 - \$150,000 USD depending upon project revenues raised.

Appendix 1

Selections from the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) Directly Applicable to Reviewing Progress and Reporting Under SAICM:

OPS Paragraph VII-24

“24. The International Conference on Chemicals Management (hereafter referred to as the Conference) will undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach. The functions of the Conference will be:

- (a) To receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and to disseminate information as appropriate;
- (b) To evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary; ...
- (i) To evaluate the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach; ...
- (k) To promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation;”

OPS Paragraph VII-26

“26. It will be essential that implementation of the Strategic Approach continue effectively between meetings of the Conference, building on its open, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral methods. There will be a number of elements for achieving this:

- (a) Regional meetings have played a significant role in the development of the Strategic Approach and it will be important to build on this commitment and expertise, taking into account the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, countries with economies in transition and developed countries. Regional meetings will facilitate input on Strategic Approach activities, preparation for future meetings of the Conference and exchange of regional expertise and exchange of information. As with the Conference itself, such meetings could be held back-to-back with relevant regional or global intergovernmental organization meetings, subject to extrabudgetary funding;
- (b) The functions of the regional meetings will include:
 - (i) To review progress on implementation of the Strategic Approach within the regions;
 - (ii) To provide guidance on implementation to all stakeholders at a regional level;
 - (iii) To enable technical and strategic discussions and exchange of information to take place;...”

OPS Paragraph VII-28

“28. The functions to be performed by the secretariat will be:

- (a) To facilitate meetings and intersessional work of the Conference, as well as regional meetings, with maximum multi-stakeholder participation, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the Conference;
- (b) To report to the Conference on implementation of the Strategic Approach by all participants; ...
- (f) To provide information clearing-house services such as provision of advice to countries on implementation of the Strategic Approach, referral of requests for information to relevant sources, and facilitation of access to information and expertise in support of specific national actions; ...”